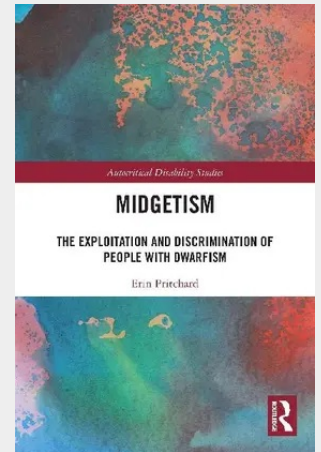


Pritchard

Midgetism

The Exploitation and Discrimination of People with Dwarfism

There exist problematic attitudes and beliefs about dwarfism that have rarely been challenged, but continue to construct people with dwarfism as an inferior group within society. This book introduces the critical term 'midgetism', which the author has coined, to demonstrate that the socio-cultural discrimination people with dwarfism experience is influenced by both heightism and disablism. As a result, it unpacks and challenges the problematic social assumptions that reinforce midgetism within society, including the acceptability of 'midget entertainment' and 'non-normate space', to demonstrate how particular spaces can either aid in reinforcing or challenge midgetism. Drawing on the tripartite model of disability, this book demonstrates how midget entertainment is framed as a non-normative positivism, which makes it an acceptable form of employment. Using autocritical discourse analysis, the book exposes, examines and responds to excuses that are used to reinforce midgetism, thus critiquing the numerous beliefs influenced by cultural representations of dwarfism, such as people with dwarfism being acceptable figures of entertainment. It will be of interest to all scholars and students of disability studies, social history, sociology and cultural geography.



62,50 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781032465951

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-1-032-46595-1

Verlag: Routledge

Erscheinungstermin: 09.10.2024

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 1. Auflage 2024

Serie: Autocritical Disability Studies

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 219 g

Seiten: 134

Format (B x H): 156 x 234 mm

