

## **TITLE: Associate Professor Fiona Kumari Campbell on 'Disability Jurisprudence'**

### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FIONA KUMARI CAMPBELL:**

Law often is very involved along with medicine, I should say, in the categorisation of different entities and obviously the legality or the non-legality of those entities. So, I was very interested in this notion about what is a legally recognised disabled person.

Initially in 'Disability Jurisprudence' students are introduced to the world of disability theory and the different ways you can think about disability and the ways in which that thinking has seeped into the legal terrain.

And then what we do is we move through a discussion of different ways that disability is enacted and produced within legal systems. Now we're global, because there is some really interesting, kind of, work that's come out of the US for example that says -- and they've narrowed down the definition of disability, its interesting because there's issues to do with economy and employer rights and when money talks it always changes definitions.

They had a view, for example, that disability should be looked at in its unmitigated state -- what do I mean by that? As soon as you look at, maybe, pharmacological drugs or a prosthetic or glasses or indeed a wheelchair -- if that minimises or mitigates the effect of disability then maybe law shouldn't recognise you as a disabled person. So its all really interesting, this relationship between disability and technology.

I endorse the view that was put by Bell Hooks, who said that in theory I found a place of healing, theory helped me make sense of my lived experience. So, I think its important while we can look at disability in terms of rules and regulations and procedures -- is to look at how is disability produced in law and also how does law in turn affect and produced how disabled people live their lives.