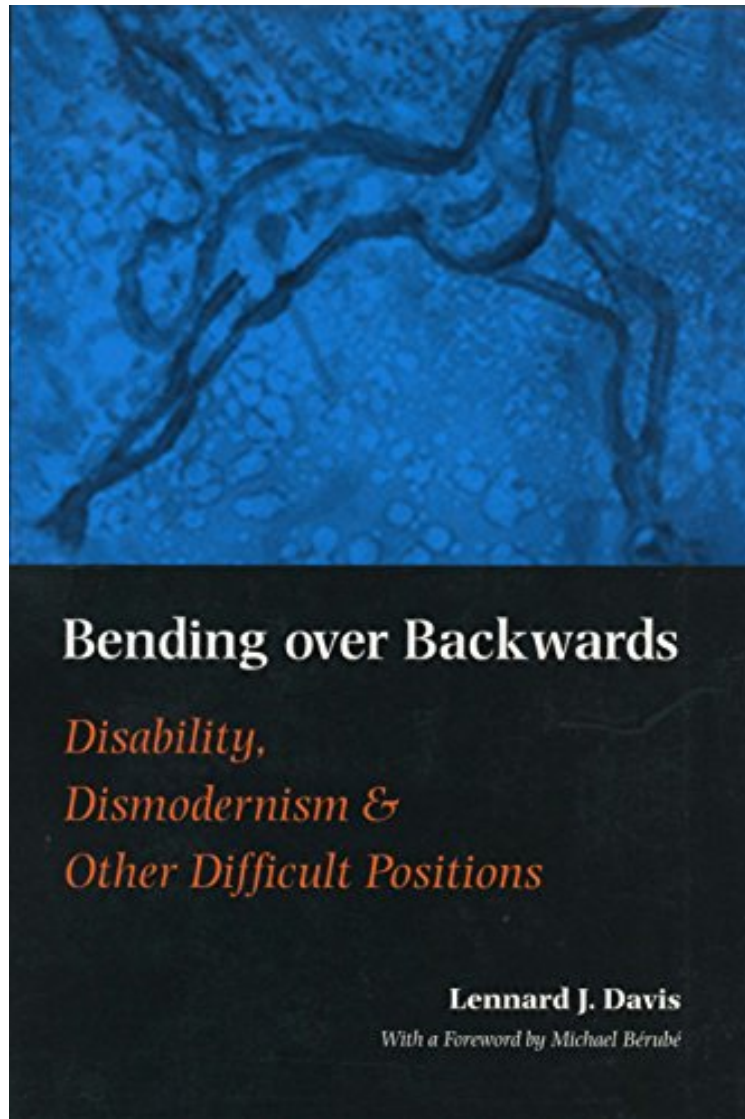


(Library ebook) Bending Over Backwards: Disability, Dismodernism and Other Difficult Positions

Bending Over Backwards: Disability, Dismodernism and Other Difficult Positions

Lennard J. Davis

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Lennard J. Davis : Bending Over Backwards: Disability, Dismodernism and Other Difficult Positions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bending Over Backwards: Disability, Dismodernism and Other Difficult Positions:

With the advent of the human genome, cloning, stem-cell research and many other developments in the way we think of the body, disability studies provides an entirely new way of thinking about the body in its relation to politics, the environment, the legal system, and global economies. *Bending Over Backwards* reexamines issues concerning the relationship between disability and normality in the light of postmodern theory and political activism. Davis takes up homosexuality, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the legal system, the history of science and medicine, eugenics, and genetics. Throughout, he maintains that disability is the prime category of postmodernity because it redefines the body in relation to concepts of normalcy, which underlie the very foundations of democracy and humanistic ideas about the body. *Bending Over Backwards* argues that disability can become the new prism through which postmodernity examines and defines itself, supplanting the categories of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation.

"Lennard Davis is history in the making; for he is one of the foremost proponents of "disability studies," the newest theoretical kid on the block, noteworthy in part because it brings together scholars from the humanities and the medical sciences."-Stanley Fish, in *Chicago Tribune* [Its] uniqueness of thought is this collection's strength as it makes for an interesting and proactive read. -*American Journal of Occupational Therapy* "*Bending Over Backwards* is a welcome dismemberment of all that was unknowingly artificial from the start."-The Minnesota "*Taken all together, the chapters offer an important, theoretically rich introduction to disability issues.*"-*Novel* "Davis's work offers creative and challenging examples that may be useful to our discipline and particularly to Disability historians. *Bending Over Backwards* remains an important and useful work for historians as a template for examining the myriad ways disability and Deafness infiltrate vital aspects of our identity, including laws, cultural icons, literature, and citizenship."-H-Net
About the Author Lennard J. Davis is head of the English Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he is also Professor of Disability and Human Development. His books include *Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness and the Body* and *The Disability Studies Reader*. Michael Brubis Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature and Director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at Penn State University. In 2012, he served as the President of the Modern Language Association. He is the author of several books, including *Employment of English: Theory, Jobs, and the Future of Literary Studies* (NYU Press, 1997), *The Left at War* (NYU Press, 2009), *What's Liberal About the Liberal Arts?: Classroom Politics and Bias in Higher Education* (2006), and *Life as We Know It: A Father, A Family, and an Exceptional Child* (1996).