

EDITORIAL

This journal is a fruit of much labour *and* pain over the last decade – how the idea unfolded and blossomed, can be gleaned from the *Introduction*. We have a long *Introduction*, especially in this inaugural issue in order to situate the beginning of the idea of this journal, also, we wanted all the members of the editorial team – which consists of a lucky balance of gender, age and disability – to have a voice that went into the making of that idea.

The unintentional theme of ableism *in general* emerging in this inaugural issue is a happy coincidence – particular forms or versions of ableism may very well be argued for but many of the articles pay homage to a generalised notion of ableism that too needs to be theorised. When we started, we did not have the idea that ableism will feature so prominently in this inaugural issue.

The three main articles are all invited papers, this being the inaugural issue; coincidentally, all the three authors are also the first three invited experts to the reading group *CDSI* (Critical Disability Studies in India), which is the force behind the final birth of the journal.

And what year it has chosen to be born, when all around we see sharpening of antagonisms between different interest that bring disability issues into even sharper focus. When all around in the world and around us we see death and mourning, we also realise that there is now a greater need to find a voice of our own – a voice that distinctly recognises disability as a central concern.

This has also been the spirit of many (now, too many) webinars responding to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis; this issue picks two of them and partially analyses them within the context of the pandemic – this provides the main *masala* for the two pieces in the Provocations section.

The Commentary section will carry a critical analysis of a paper or manuscript arising out of intensive discussion on that paper in an actual *CDSI* group meeting – it is seen as a mini-workshop for a paper in making – hopefully, such a format will provide pointers that are found useful by the original author(s); this exercise also creates a conversation around disability focussed on *a* particular text that is sometimes missing in the emerging ‘culture’ of critical disability studies (CDS) in south Asia. In this issue we carry a critique of a paper looking at the connections between Gandhi’s many ideas and disability.

Departing from traditional book reviews, this journal encourages – and will do so more through its future issues – reviews of all sorts of events that can be examined with a CDS lens. However, as far as traditional book reviews are concerned, in this issue we highlight the two recent excellent, much needed, books on disability studies within the south Asian, mainly Indian, context.

Since we believe that both the universal and the particular are essential, our initial platter will hopefully give an idea of the many flavours that we plan to bring to the *thali*.

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