

CREA's 8th Disability, Sexuality, and Rights Online Institute

30th August – 8th October, 2021

(Completely online, 6 weeks, 8-12 hours per week)



Applications are due on or before **22nd July 2021**.

CREA's Disability, Sexuality, and Rights Online Institute is a six weeks long online course begun in 2010, which focuses on a conceptual study of disability, gender and sexuality, and its inter-linkages with issues of feminism, race, public health, development, violence, media, representation and law, amongst others. It is intended for practitioners and has a strong component on activists' initiatives that integrate disability, sexuality, and rights.

This year we have a new accessible online learning platform!

To apply, use the online application form <https://dsroi.creaworld.org/apply/>. This is preferred but if you would like to complete the form manually ([click here to download it](#)) and email it to Sushma Luthra at dsroi@creaworld.org. If you require accessibility accommodations in completing the application, please let us know at dsroi@creaworld.org. We can also accept applications sent by video or through Zoom in Sign Language. Attach a copy of your latest resume or CV. All questions must be answered — your resume or CV cannot substitute for an answer.

About the Course

The Disability, Sexuality, and Rights Online Institute provides a study of theory and practice on the intersection of disability, gender and sexuality. It is a theoretical and practical study of the intersections of disability, gender, and sexuality with a focus on perspectives from the global South.

The Institute is aimed at activists, practitioners, academics and human rights actors working in areas such as disability rights, gender rights, development, sexual and reproductive health, sexuality, media, and law. The aim is to create awareness about how disability, sexuality and rights intersect, build a political perspective on how the sexual rights of persons with disabilities can be upheld, and provide knowledge on mechanisms for building more inclusive sexual rights advocacy. Participants develop their ability to work in inclusive and holistic ways that further human rights and social justice. CREA coordinated the first Disability, Sexuality, and Rights Online Institute in 2010. After seven successful institutes, we now have a wide-ranging alumni base spread across the globe.

Why take this course?

Here's what our alumni had to say about it

“This course provided a great opportunity for me to systematically grasp knowledge and good practices about disability and sexuality. At different points it also prompted me to reflect on my personal experience as a woman with disability, and to use that as a resource of learning.”

– Zhying Ma, DSROI Alumni, 2016

“It has been a transformative experience for me - one where I now navigate the intersection of disability, sexuality and gender rights from a more nuanced perspective. I learnt so much from this experience and will carry forward many new strategies and ways to explore this intersection.”

– Joanna Marbaniang, DSROI alumni 2020

“I wish to let you know that the Institute had a big impact on my perspective as a gender and disability activist. Very timely, I was tasked to make a proposal for a regional policy document anchored on the CRPD. There is a section focused on intersectionality and the purpose of building a coalition to promote the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. I responded to this section from the knowledge I acquired from the Institute. Also, we are required to identify CSOs whom we could work with to popularize the policy. I remember a fellow participant in the Institute, our fellow in the Institute, I reached out to her with a hope that we could work together in the future and she quickly gave a positive response. So, I suggested to our team to work with LGBTQI community and was excited on our plan. According to them, we are the first organization there to be working with LGBTQI group.”

– Gina Rose Balanlay, DSROI alumni 2020

Disabled people are often excluded or discriminated against in relation to their sexuality by health, development, and rights organizations because they are not considered to be sexual or they are thought to be sexually vulnerable or uncontrolled. Sexuality issues and rights of disabled people are often disregarded in favor of issues that are considered more pressing and appropriate like employment and physical access.

This course will look at why sexual and disability justices matter to us all, with or without disabilities. It will look at evolving theories of sexuality, disability, disability justice and human rights, including embodiment, intersectionality and crip theory.

- We will consider the diversity of representations of disability and sexuality across the globe, and ask why and how representation is important.
- We will examine violence against disabled women, and consider barriers and potential in providing sexual and reproductive healthcare for women with disabilities.
- We will discuss how to put rights into practice, from the local to the global level: UN Conventions and their limitations and use; and mobilization of women with disabilities in different regions

around the world at these intersections and their strategies for cross-movement activism.

- Over the years the course has been adapted for accessibility across varying disabilities. We endeavor to keep working with participants to provide differing reasonable accommodations as per the needs of the participants.
- Our faculty are activists, practitioners, academics, from across the globe who have years of engagement in the field of disability and sexuality.
- Our Teaching Assistants work with a group of dedicated participants, along with the CREA team, to ensure mentoring and support is provided to the participants.

This year we will also be offering a self-paced mode, allowing participants to engage with the material at a pace compatible with individual time frames. The self-paced mode, however, will involve participants working on their own without the benefit of faculty input and live interactions.

Format and Workload

The course will be conducted entirely online, and entirely in English. The online learning platform is fully accessible and lectures will be held using Zoom with live captioning in English and country specific Sign Language interpretation on the basis of requests from selected participants. There will be two live lectures in real time each week and all lectures will be recorded and available for participants who are unable to attend the live session. The course content will be available on the online learning platform for participants to review at their own pace each week. There will be some discussions and group exercises planned in real time. The Institute will use diverse methodology such as power points, videos (with subtitles), readings, chats/ discussions and video conferencing via Zoom. Participants will also be required to submit a final project. Although the course is introductory, the work will be challenging, including reading and discussion of complex theory. We encourage active engagement so participants can learn from each other's thoughts and experiences.

Course participation will require between 8-12 hours per week, depending on participants' capacity. Each week's requirements can be completed at the convenience of participants as long as it is within broader time parameters. Participants will be expected to participate in the entire course and complete all assignments, as far as possible.

Participants

The Disability, Sexuality, and Rights Institute is an introductory level course on the intersections of these issues. Independent activists and practitioners in development, sexuality, health, media, and rights NGOs and GOs worldwide are encouraged to apply. Sixty to sixty-five participants will be selected based on demonstrated interest in disability and sexuality, and applicability to their work. Practitioners will be given preference over students, researchers, and academics.

Accessibility

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply for the Institute. The course has been designed and

tested to be accessible to people with different types of disabilities. The online learning platform is accessible to those using screen reader software and all course materials are provided in accessible formats. All live lectures via video conferencing will have CART and country specific Sign Language interpretation upon request for selected participants. CREA staff are available to support additionally as needed.

Costs

Participants are required to pay a registration fee of **USD 60** to contribute towards course expenses. Fee waiver is available on request for a very small percentage of participants on need basis (please refer to the application form).

Resource People

The Institute is designed and taught by an international group of academics and activists working at the intersections of disability, gender and sexuality with backgrounds on a range of issues including: sexual and reproductive health rights, sexual and gender-based violence, art and culture, and social justice from a global South perspective.

Additional input from activists working on representation in art and culture, intersex rights, queer theory and disability, feminist disability organizing, and more!

Organizer

CREA's mission is to build feminist leadership, advance women's human rights, and expand sexual and reproductive freedoms. CREA is a feminist human rights organization, based in New Delhi, India.

It is one of the few international women's rights organizations based in the global South, led by Southern feminists, which works at the grassroots, national, regional, and international levels.

Applications are due on or before **22nd July 2021**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applicants will be informed about the selection decisions shortly after the application deadline closes, and will have sufficient time to familiarize themselves with course material and the online platform.

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