

Abstract

Starkly over-represented in Canadian prisons, Indigenous and disabled people face high rates of adverse treatment. Attempts to ameliorate this, by accommodating diverse needs, have ultimately reinforced state authority: support hinges on prison assessment, and access to sanctioned “proof” (e.g. medical documents) influenced by class, racism, and discursive differences between settler and Indigenous conceptions of identity and wellness. This thesis centers disability justice as an intersectional lens for examining prison policies and documents: what reforms have worked? And how have prison reforms failed? This analysis suggests that punitive logics conflict with the stated aim to accommodate differences.