



## Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability (Cultural Front)

By Robert McRuer



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Drawing on feminist theory, African American and Latino/a cultural theories, composition studies, film and television studies, and theories of globalization and counter-globalization, Robert McRuer articulates the central concerns of crip theory and considers how such a critical perspective might impact cultural and historical inquiry in the humanities. *Crip Theory* puts forward readings of the Sharon Kowalski story, the performance art of Bob Flanagan, and the journals of Gary Fisher, as well as critiques of the domesticated queerness and disability marketed by the Millennium March, or Bravo TV’s *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. McRuer examines how dominant and marginal bodily and sexual identities are composed, and considers the vibrant ways that disability and queerness unsettle and re-write those identities in order to insist that another world is possible.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“This well-annotated text invites the uninitiated reader to become involved, to reimagine previously held perceptions of what may be considered ‘otherness,’ to welcome disabilities, to access collectively other worlds and future possibilities.”

-*Journal of American Studies*

“Engaging, expansive, and generous.”

-*Sex Roles*

“A wonderful combination of humor, theory, intellectual, and personal insights . . . A valuable and well-written study.”

-*Disability Studies Quarterly*

“A compelling case that queer and disabled identities, politics, and cultural logics are inexorably intertwined, and that queer and disability theory need one another. . . . Makes clear that no cultural analysis is complete without attention to the politics of bodily ability and alternative corporealities.”

-Elizabeth Freeman, author of *The Wedding Complex*

“McRuer charts new intersections for disability studies, queer studies, and American studies. His work is [at its] most vertiginous and rich . . . as he moves swiftly from cinema to street gangs to coming out Crip.”

-*American Quarterly*

“The members of the Committee were especially impressed by McRuer’s original intervention in the area of queer studies, one that not only sheds light on the important new area of disability studies, but brings it into conversation with a variety of disciplinary perspectives, from composition studies to performance art. McRuer’s book combines the public and the private work of queer studies in surprisingly new ways.”

-Ed Madden, Gay and Lesbian Caucus for the MLA

“Important and significant for its attempt to find the common ground between disability studies and queer studies. This deftly written and very readable book will appeal to a wide range of readers who are increasingly fascinated by the biocultural interplay between the body, sexuality, gender, and social identity.”  
-Lennard Davis, author of *Bending Over Backwards*

#### About the Author

**Robert McRuer** is Professor of English at The George Washington University. He is the author of *The Queer Renaissance: Contemporary American Literature and the Reinvention of Lesbian and Gay Identities* (also available from NYU Press) and co-editor, with Abby L. Wilkerson, of *Desiring Disability: Queer Theory Meets Disability Studies*, a special issue of *GLQ*.

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