

***Various capacities, different dis-abilities:
sensory relativism and plasticity of perception***

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Abstract:

In this article a historical and anthropological review on different ways of conceiving sensory perception, intimately linked to the concrete circumstances of every human group is offered. This determines different individual forms of perception and, hence, the definition of what a disability is, as happens, prominently, in the Western culture, with blindness, if we take into account the current primacy of the visual.

Furthermore, we question the reductionist concept of disability for a more comprehensive approach of the various ways of perceiving reality, taking into account the enormous plasticity of the human being, capable of turning a sensory limitation into an original and powerful development of new skills.

Key words: Sensory perception, disability, blindness, relativism.