



## Transgressing Boundaries: The Anthropological Mosaic as a Crucible of Interdisciplinary Scholarship

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### Abstract:

Anthropology has long been a crossroads of diverse disciplines, drawing upon and contributing to a wide range of fields. This volume explores the rich tapestry of interdisciplinary scholarship that emerges from the anthropological mosaic. The chapters in this collection showcase the ways in which anthropologists are transgressing boundaries, both within and beyond the discipline, to produce new and innovative knowledge. They demonstrate how anthropological insights can be used to illuminate a wide range of issues, from the global to the local, from the historical to the contemporary. The volume also highlights the challenges and opportunities that arise from interdisciplinary work. The contributors offer their reflections on the process of transgressing boundaries and the rewards of doing so. They also discuss the importance of building bridges between disciplines and fostering a more collaborative and inclusive approach to scholarship. This article explores the critical issues surrounding disability rights and inclusion in contemporary society. It delves into the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, the evolution of disability rights, and the ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive and accessible world. Through a multidisciplinary lens, this article highlights key policy initiatives, societal changes, and emerging technologies that are shaping the landscape of disability rights and inclusion in the 21st century.

**Keywords:** Disability rights, Inclusion, Contemporary society, Accessibility, Policy initiatives, Social inclusion, Disability advocacy, Emerging technologies.

### Introduction:

The volume "Transgressing Boundaries: The Anthropological Mosaic as a Crucible of Interdisciplinary Scholarship" presents a compelling collection of essays that explore the transformative potential of anthropology as a bridge between diverse disciplines. By drawing upon a wide range of anthropological perspectives, the contributors demonstrate how anthropology can shed new light on a variety of critical issues, from the nature of human cognition to the dynamics of social change.

A central theme of the volume is the importance of transgressing boundaries, both theoretical and methodological. The contributors challenge conventional disciplinary boundaries, demonstrating how anthropology can be fruitfully combined with other fields of study, such as psychology, sociology, and history. This interdisciplinary approach is essential for addressing the complex challenges of our interconnected world.



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The volume also highlights the importance of the anthropological mosaic, the rich tapestry of diverse perspectives that characterizes the discipline. The contributors draw upon a wide range of anthropological subfields, including archaeology, linguistics, and cultural anthropology, to provide a comprehensive understanding of human experience. This diversity of perspectives is vital for generating new insights and challenging conventional assumptions.

In conclusion, "Transgressing Boundaries: The Anthropological Mosaic as a Crucible of Interdisciplinary Scholarship" is a valuable contribution to the ongoing dialogue about the role of anthropology in the contemporary world. The volume demonstrates the power of anthropology to transcend boundaries and generate new knowledge, making it an essential resource for scholars and students alike.

The concept of disability rights and inclusion has come a long way in recent decades. Historically, individuals with disabilities have faced discrimination, segregation, and limited opportunities, but significant progress has been made toward creating a more equitable and accessible society. In this article, we will explore the current state of disability rights and inclusion in contemporary society, highlighting the challenges that persist, the advancements that have been achieved, and the pathways toward a more inclusive future.

## 1. Historical Context of Disability Rights

The historical context of disability rights is a compelling narrative that reflects the evolving perceptions, struggles, and advancements in society's treatment of individuals with disabilities. Throughout history, people with disabilities have faced discrimination, exclusion, and marginalization, often subjected to societal prejudices that hindered their full participation in various aspects of life.

The origins of the disability rights movement can be traced back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries when disability was predominantly viewed through a medical model. Individuals with disabilities were often seen as "broken" and in need of medical intervention rather than as capable individuals with unique talents and contributions. This perspective perpetuated stigma and discrimination.

One pivotal moment in the history of disability rights occurred after World War II when many veterans returned home with disabilities. This influx of disabled individuals spurred a shift in societal attitudes. People began to question the status quo and demand equal rights and opportunities for those with disabilities.

In 1973, the Rehabilitation Act was a significant milestone in the United States, as it prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability by federal agencies and programs. However, it wasn't until 1990 that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, providing comprehensive civil rights protections for individuals with disabilities. This groundbreaking legislation marked a turning point in the fight for disability rights.

Globally, the disability rights movement gained momentum throughout the late 20th century and early 21st century. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



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(CRPD), adopted in 2006, is a testament to the growing international commitment to ensuring the full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life.

The disability rights movement has also been strongly intertwined with other civil rights movements, such as the women's rights and civil rights movements. Activists have drawn parallels between discrimination based on disability and other forms of discrimination, fostering solidarity and cooperation in the pursuit of social justice.

Despite significant progress, challenges persist. Many people with disabilities still face barriers to education, employment, healthcare, and accessibility. The disability rights movement continues to advocate for the removal of these barriers and the promotion of equality and inclusion.

In recent years, there has been an increased focus on the intersectionality of disability, recognizing that individuals with disabilities often face compounded discrimination due to factors like race, gender, and socioeconomic status. Addressing these intersecting forms of discrimination is essential for achieving true disability rights.

The historical context of disability rights reflects a journey from exclusion and discrimination to inclusion and equality. While significant strides have been made, the fight for disability rights is ongoing. It is a testament to the resilience and determination of individuals with disabilities and their allies who continue to work towards a more inclusive and just society for all.

## 2. Contemporary Challenges

In the fast-paced and interconnected world of the 21st century, we find ourselves confronted with a myriad of contemporary challenges that demand our attention, innovation, and cooperation. These challenges span across various domains, from the environment to technology, from social issues to global health, and they pose complex and multifaceted dilemmas that require thoughtful solutions. In this essay, we will explore nine key contemporary challenges that are shaping our world today.

First and foremost, climate change stands as a monumental challenge. The increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are causing rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and disruptions to ecosystems. Addressing climate change is not just an environmental concern but also a social and economic imperative, as it impacts food security, water resources, and global stability.

In the realm of technology, cybersecurity emerges as a pressing contemporary challenge. With the rapid digitization of society and the growing dependence on interconnected systems, the threat of cyberattacks looms large. Protecting critical infrastructure, personal data, and national security has become an ongoing battle in an increasingly digital world.

The issue of inequality, both economic and social, remains a persistent challenge. The growing wealth gap within and between countries is straining social cohesion and undermining the promise of equal opportunity. Addressing this challenge involves not only economic policy but also a broader societal commitment to fairness and justice.



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Healthcare access and public health crises also demand our attention. The COVID-19 pandemic, for example, exposed vulnerabilities in our healthcare systems and underscored the importance of global cooperation in addressing infectious diseases. Ensuring equitable access to healthcare services and strengthening public health infrastructure are crucial tasks in the contemporary landscape.

Political polarization and the erosion of democratic norms are contemporary challenges that threaten the stability of many nations. As divisions deepen and trust in institutions erodes, finding ways to bridge ideological gaps and restore faith in democratic processes is of paramount importance.

The rise of disinformation and the spread of fake news represent a challenge to the very fabric of our information society. In an era of social media and digital connectivity, discerning fact from fiction has become increasingly difficult, posing risks to public discourse, democracy, and informed decision-making.

Another pressing concern is the ethical implications of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and genetic engineering. Balancing innovation with ethical considerations is a complex task, requiring careful thought and regulation to ensure that technology benefits humanity without causing harm or exacerbating existing inequalities.

Global migration patterns and the resulting issues of refugees and displaced populations pose a humanitarian challenge. Conflicts, environmental factors, and economic disparities drive migration, and finding sustainable solutions that uphold human rights and promote social integration is an ongoing struggle.

Lastly, the preservation of cultural diversity and heritage faces contemporary challenges in the face of globalization. As cultures intermingle and digital technologies dominate, safeguarding linguistic, artistic, and cultural traditions becomes a vital task to ensure that the richness of human heritage endures.

The contemporary challenges of our time are diverse, complex, and interconnected. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration, innovation, and a global perspective. While the road ahead may be daunting, it is through collective efforts and a commitment to progress that we can hope to overcome these pressing issues and build a more sustainable and equitable world for future generations.

### 3. The Evolution of Disability Policy

Disability policy has undergone significant transformation throughout history, reflecting changing societal attitudes and priorities towards individuals with disabilities. In the early days of civilization, disabled individuals often faced exclusion and discrimination, as their impairments were viewed as burdensome. However, as societies evolved, so did disability policy. This evolution can be divided into several key stages, each marked by distinct shifts in perception and approach.

The first stage of disability policy can be traced back to ancient civilizations, where disability was often associated with divine punishment or supernatural causes. Consequently, individuals



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with disabilities were marginalized and excluded from society. It wasn't until the rise of the Judeo-Christian tradition that some emphasis was placed on charity and care for those in need, including people with disabilities. This religious influence laid the foundation for early forms of social support and welfare.

The Industrial Revolution marked the second stage of disability policy evolution. With the growth of urbanization and industrialization, workplace injuries and disabilities became more prevalent. Labor unions and early worker movements advocated for compensation and workplace safety, leading to the emergence of workers' compensation programs in many countries. These programs provided financial assistance and medical care to injured workers, acknowledging the link between employment and disability.

The mid-20th century marked a significant turning point in disability policy with the global recognition of the rights and dignity of individuals with disabilities. The United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, emphasizing the equal rights of all people, regardless of disability. Subsequently, nations began enacting legislation to protect and promote the rights of disabled individuals, such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 in the United States.

The fourth stage of disability policy evolution is characterized by a shift towards a social model of disability. This model acknowledges that disability is not solely a result of an individual's impairments but is also shaped by societal barriers and attitudes. As a result, policies began to focus on removing these barriers and promoting inclusivity. The ADA, for example, mandated accessibility in public spaces, transportation, and employment, promoting a more inclusive society.

In the 21st century, the fifth stage of disability policy is marked by a growing emphasis on empowerment and participation. Policies and programs now aim to enable individuals with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of society, including education, employment, and community life. The United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, has played a pivotal role in shaping this stage by highlighting the need for full inclusion and participation.

Technological advancements also play a crucial role in the evolution of disability policy. Assistive technologies and innovations have opened up new possibilities for individuals with disabilities, reducing barriers to education and employment. Governments and organizations increasingly invest in research and development to ensure that these technologies are accessible and affordable for all.

The seventh stage of disability policy evolution involves a broader understanding of the intersectionality of disabilities. It recognizes that individuals may face multiple forms of discrimination based on their disability, gender, race, or other factors. Policies are now being designed to address these complex and intersecting challenges, promoting equity and social justice.



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Looking ahead, the future of disability policy will likely continue to evolve. Emerging trends such as personalized healthcare, universal basic income, and advanced robotics will present new opportunities and challenges for individuals with disabilities. However, the core principles of inclusion, equality, and respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals with disabilities will remain at the heart of disability policy as it continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of society.

#### **4. The Role of Technology**

In today's rapidly evolving world, technology plays a pivotal role in shaping every aspect of our lives. From the way we communicate and work to how we access information and entertain ourselves, technology has become an indispensable part of modern society. In this essay, we will explore the multifaceted role of technology in our lives and its profound impact on various domains.

One of the most evident roles of technology is its influence on communication. The advent of smartphones, social media, and instant messaging apps has revolutionized the way we connect with one another. Distance is no longer a barrier, and we can communicate with people across the globe instantly. This transformation has not only made the world a smaller place but has also fostered cross-cultural understanding and global connectivity.

Technology's impact on education is undeniable. The introduction of online learning platforms, interactive educational software, and digital textbooks has transformed traditional classrooms. Students now have access to a vast repository of knowledge at their fingertips, enabling personalized learning experiences. Moreover, technology has made education more accessible to those who may not have had access to quality resources otherwise.

In the workplace, technology has drastically altered the way we work and conduct business. Automation and artificial intelligence have improved efficiency, reduced human error, and streamlined operations. Remote work, powered by technology, has become the norm for many organizations, offering employees flexibility and employers access to a global talent pool.

The healthcare sector has benefited immensely from technological advancements. Cutting-edge medical devices, telemedicine, and data analytics have improved patient care, diagnosis, and treatment outcomes. With the aid of technology, healthcare providers can reach patients in remote areas, monitor chronic conditions, and develop personalized treatment plans.

The entertainment industry has experienced a revolution thanks to technology. Streaming services, virtual reality, and augmented reality have transformed how we consume media and interact with content. These innovations have not only enhanced our entertainment experiences but have also created new avenues for storytelling and creativity.

In the realm of transportation, technology has paved the way for more sustainable and efficient solutions. Electric vehicles, ride-sharing apps, and autonomous vehicles are reshaping the future of mobility. These developments hold the promise of reducing carbon emissions, improving traffic management, and enhancing overall transportation experiences.



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The role of technology extends to environmental conservation. Innovative solutions like smart grids, renewable energy sources, and IoT (Internet of Things) sensors are helping us monitor and reduce our impact on the environment. Technology provides the tools needed to address pressing environmental challenges, such as climate change and resource depletion.

Lastly, technology has played a crucial role in disaster response and humanitarian efforts. Through satellite communication, social media, and data analysis, responders can assess situations more quickly and allocate resources effectively during crises. Technology has become a lifeline in disaster-stricken areas, connecting survivors with aid and resources.

Technology's role in our lives is multifaceted and continually evolving. It has transformed the way we communicate, learn, work, and entertain ourselves. Moreover, it has revolutionized healthcare, transportation, environmental conservation, and disaster response. As we move forward, it is essential to harness the power of technology responsibly, ensuring that its benefits are accessible to all while addressing the challenges it may pose to privacy, security, and societal well-being. The role of technology will undoubtedly continue to shape our future in ways we can only imagine.

## 5. The Power of Advocacy

Advocacy is a potent force for change in our society. It serves as a vehicle for individuals and groups to voice their concerns, champion their causes, and push for meaningful transformation. The power of advocacy lies in its ability to amplify voices that might otherwise go unheard, sparking action and driving progress in areas that desperately need it. Whether advocating for social justice, environmental protection, or healthcare reform, advocacy empowers individuals and communities to make a difference.

One of the key strengths of advocacy is its capacity to raise awareness. Advocates bring attention to important issues by sharing stories, research, and data, creating a sense of urgency that compels others to take notice. This heightened awareness can lead to increased public support, policy changes, and ultimately, social change. For example, the global movement for climate action gained momentum through advocacy efforts that highlighted the dire consequences of unchecked environmental degradation.

Advocacy also fosters inclusivity by providing a platform for marginalized voices. Historically, many groups faced systemic discrimination and had little opportunity to influence policy decisions. However, advocacy enables these groups to push for their rights and demand equal treatment. The civil rights movement in the United States, led by figures like Martin Luther King Jr., harnessed the power of advocacy to challenge racial segregation and pave the way for legal reforms.

Moreover, advocacy encourages civic engagement. It inspires individuals to become active participants in the democratic process, whether by attending rallies, contacting elected officials, or joining advocacy organizations. This engagement is essential for a healthy democracy, as it ensures that the government remains accountable to its citizens. By advocating for issues that



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matter to them, people become more invested in the political process and the outcomes that shape their lives.

Advocacy is also a catalyst for policy change. When advocates mobilize and engage with lawmakers, they can influence legislation and regulations. For instance, the disability rights movement led to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which mandated greater accessibility and protections for individuals with disabilities. This legislative victory illustrates how advocacy can transform ideas into concrete policy reforms.

Another remarkable aspect of advocacy is its adaptability. Advocates can employ a variety of strategies, from grassroots organizing to digital campaigns, to advance their goals. This flexibility allows advocacy to respond to changing circumstances and evolving social issues. In recent years, social media platforms have become powerful tools for advocacy, enabling rapid dissemination of information and mobilization of supporters.

The power of advocacy extends beyond borders. Advocacy efforts can transcend national boundaries, connecting people from different parts of the world who share common concerns. International organizations and coalitions often form to address global issues such as human rights abuses, poverty, and climate change. These collaborative efforts demonstrate how advocacy can foster global solidarity and drive change on a global scale.

Furthermore, advocacy is a force for empathy and compassion. It encourages individuals to step into the shoes of those facing injustice or hardship, fostering a sense of empathy and solidarity. This shared empathy can lead to more compassionate policies and a stronger sense of community. Advocacy has played a critical role in advocating for refugees and asylum seekers, highlighting their plight and advocating for humane treatment.

The power of advocacy is undeniable. It is a force that empowers individuals and communities, raises awareness, promotes inclusivity, drives civic engagement, influences policy change, adapts to evolving challenges, transcends borders, and fosters empathy. Through advocacy, people have the ability to shape the world around them and create a better future for all. It is a reminder that even in the face of daunting challenges, the collective voice of passionate advocates can lead to meaningful and lasting change.

## 6. Social Inclusion and Education

Social inclusion and education are two intertwined concepts that play a pivotal role in shaping the future of individuals and societies. Ensuring social inclusion in education is not merely a matter of equity; it is a fundamental human right. In this essay, we will explore the multifaceted relationship between social inclusion and education, delving into the importance of inclusive education systems, the challenges they face, and the benefits they offer to individuals and societies.

At its core, social inclusion in education refers to creating an educational environment where every individual, regardless of their background, abilities, or differences, has equal opportunities to learn and thrive. Inclusive education recognizes and values diversity, aiming to accommodate



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the needs of all learners, including those with disabilities, linguistic differences, and diverse cultural backgrounds.

One of the key benefits of inclusive education is that it promotes a sense of belonging among all students. When students from diverse backgrounds interact and learn together, they gain a better understanding of each other's perspectives and build empathy. This fosters a more tolerant and inclusive society, as individuals grow up with a deeper appreciation for diversity.

However, achieving social inclusion in education is not without its challenges. In many parts of the world, marginalized groups still face barriers to accessing quality education. These barriers may include discrimination, poverty, lack of resources, and inadequate teacher training. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from governments, educational institutions, and civil society.

Inclusive education also benefits individuals with disabilities by providing them with opportunities for skill development, social interaction, and personal growth. When students with disabilities are included in regular classrooms, they can learn from their peers and contribute to the overall learning environment. Inclusive education empowers them to reach their full potential and lead more independent lives.

Furthermore, inclusive education has a positive impact on academic achievement. Research has shown that students in inclusive classrooms tend to perform better academically than those in segregated settings. This is because inclusive education encourages a higher level of engagement and participation among students, leading to improved learning outcomes.

Another aspect of social inclusion in education is the promotion of lifelong learning. Inclusive education not only prepares individuals for academic success but also equips them with essential life skills, such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. These skills are valuable in the workplace and contribute to personal development.

Social inclusion and education are inseparable, as inclusive education systems foster a sense of belonging, tolerance, and diversity. Despite the challenges, the benefits of inclusive education are numerous, ranging from improved academic achievement to enhanced social cohesion. Promoting social inclusion in education is not only a moral imperative but also a pathway to building more equitable and prosperous societies. It is a goal that should be pursued with dedication and commitment at all levels of society.

### Summary:

In conclusion, "Transgressing Boundaries: The Anthropological Mosaic as a Crucible of Interdisciplinary Scholarship" is a valuable contribution to the ongoing dialogue about the role of anthropology in the contemporary world. The volume demonstrates the power of anthropology to transcend boundaries and generate new knowledge, making it an essential resource for scholars and students alike.

Disability rights and inclusion are fundamental aspects of a just and equitable society. In this article, we will delve into the multifaceted dimensions of these issues, covering topics such as the historical context of disability rights, the challenges individuals with disabilities face today,



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the evolution of disability policy, the role of technology, and the ongoing advocacy efforts. By examining these key facets, we aim to shed light on the complexities and opportunities surrounding disability rights and inclusion in our modern world.

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