

Adrienne Asch

DISABILITY AND BIOETHICS: CAN CONTROVERSIES BE RESOLVED?

For the past forty years, the fields of bioethics and disability scholarship have developed with both points of convergence and points of conflict. Disability scholars have criticized bioethics for its over-medicalized view of illness and disability and for its equating a high quality of life with a particular level of health and physical/cognitive functioning. The talk explores reasons for disagreement and suggests how shared interests in self-determination, patient empowerment, respect for persons, and commitments to justice for disadvantaged minorities and for improving human capacity for flourishing should promote future collaboration.