

# Crip Technoscience

Creative work, design, and tech made by disabled people for disabled people



# Liz Jackson

- Critiques The Disability Dongle.  
<https://eejackson.medium.com/a-community-response-to-a-disabilitydongle-d0a37703d7c2>
- Disability as Creative Practice with the method of Design
- <https://www.disabledlist.org/>

Aiga talk

<https://www.aiga.org/inspiration/talks/liz-jackson-honoring-the-friction-of-disability>

"These essays are the heart, the bones,  
and the blood of Disability Rights."

—Gaelynn Lea, musician and activist

# Disability Visibility

FIRST-PERSON STORIES FROM  
THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

EDITED BY

**Alice Wong**

## Alice Wong – Disability Visibility Project

- is a disabled activist, writer, editor, media maker, and consultant. Alice is the founder and director of the [Disability Visibility Project](#), an online community dedicated to creating, sharing, and amplifying disability media and culture.

Aime Hamire Crip  
Technoscience  
Manifesto

Center for Independent Living

- Based on a 1960s era self-help, do-it-yourself ethos similar to that of the Black Panther Party's community clinics and the feminist women's health clinics based in Berkeley.
- The movement also claimed what they called a crip identity as a reclamation of the word cripple.
- These activities undergirded a phenomenon that I call "crip technoscience"—they are acts of designing, hacking, and tinkering as forms of disability politics against norms and social structures.

## Disability technoscience

Disability technoscience reinforces the sense that disabled people are not already making, hacking, and tinkering with existing material arrangements. Disability is cast as an object of innovation discourse, rather than as a driver of technological change.

- Melanie Yergeau (2014) historicizes mainstream disability “hacktivism,” arguing that hackathons have become the “new telethon” in that they frame “disability as pitiable and in need of remediation.”<sup>4</sup>
- Yergeau invokes “criptastic hacking” as a “disability-led movement, rather than a series of apps and patches and fixes designed by non-disabled people who cannot even be bothered to talk with disabled people.”

Designing for  
disability

Not made by  
disabled designers

- Crip technoscience to describe practices of knowing-making: world-building and world-dismantling practices by and with disabled people and communities that respond to intersectional systems of power, privilege, and oppression by working within and around them.
- Disabled people are subject experts
- Invokes disability activism that centers the remaking of the material world as a central protest tactic

**Crip technoscience centers the work of disabled people as knowers and makers**





Cindy

<http://engineeringathome.org/>

Sarah Hendren and Caitrin  
Lynch

**Crip technoscience is committed to access  
as friction.**



- Before disabled rights in the US, crip activists were making a place for themselves

The Independent Living Movement – Founded by Ed Roberts, a post-polio respiratory quadriplegic, when he was a student at Berklee (one of the first)

<https://www.independentliving.org/docs3/zukas.html>

**Crip technoscience is committed to  
interdependence as political technology.**





## The Capital Crawl

- Protest for disability rights on March 12, 1990, might have been the single most important catalyst for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 25 years ago.

**Crip technoscience is committed disability justice.**





## #strawban – Alice Wong

The plastic straw ban is symptomatic of larger systemic issues when it comes to the continual struggle for disability rights and justice.

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<https://www.eater.com/2018/7/19/17586742/plastic-straw-ban-disabilities>