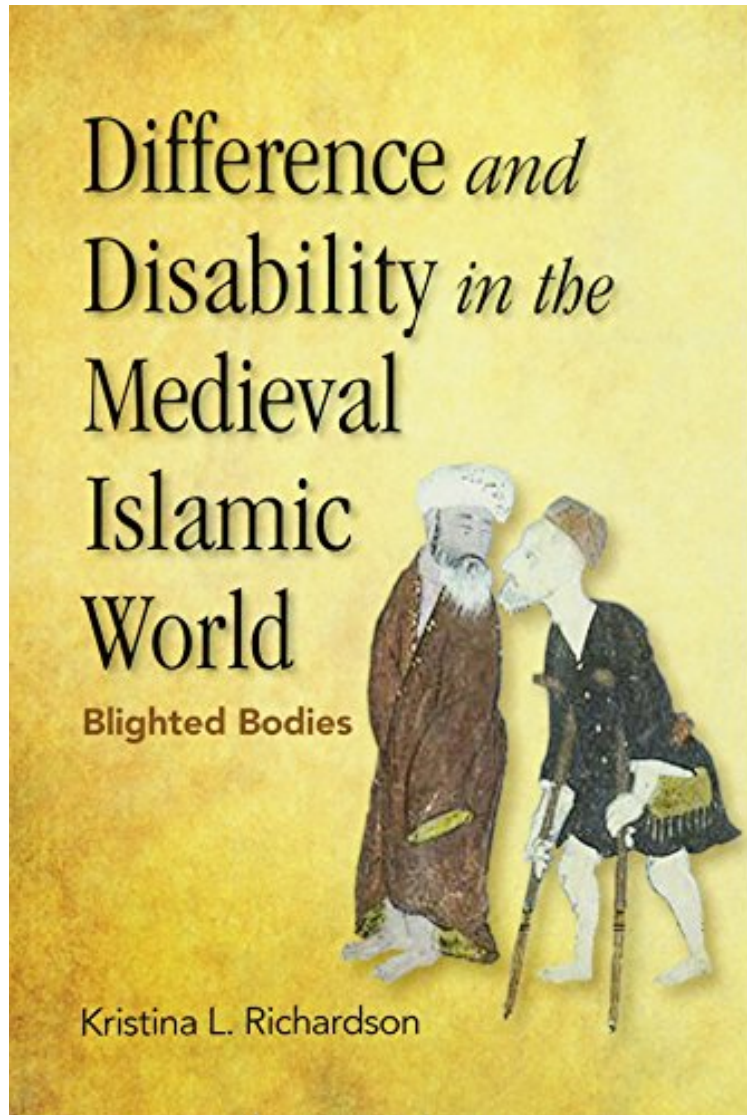


Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World: Blighted Bodies

Kristina Richardson

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Kristina Richardson : Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World: Blighted Bodies before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World: Blighted Bodies:

Medieval Arab notions of physical difference can feel singularly arresting for modern audiences. Did you know that blue eyes, baldness, bad breath and boils were all considered bodily 'blights', as were cross eyes, lameness and deafness? What assumptions about bodies influenced this particular vision of physical difference? How did blighted people view their own bodies? Through close analyses of anecdotes, personal letters, (auto)biographies, erotic poetry, non-binding legal opinions, diaristic chronicles and theological tracts, the cultural views and experiences of disability and difference in the medieval Islamic world are brought to life.

"Richardson has written an original and highly learned first book that reveals much about the cultural construction of difference and disability and about scholarly friendships and communities that shaped that culture." -- H-Disability, H-Net s "Kristina Richardson focuses on the disabled body in the Mamluk Middle East ... among the topics discussed are the development of a body aesthetic in the late medieval period; the body as a site of interaction of sexuality, aesthetics, Sufism, disability, and illness; consolation to people with marked and diseased body parts; the shame of being exposed publicly as disabled; and the moral and legal implications of 'outing' the disability of another." -- Miri Shefer-Mossensohn, Tel Aviv University, of Middle East Studies "Kristina L. Richardson offers us invaluable insight [in her new book] which discusses disability, friendship, drug abuse, scholarly scandal, and love." -- Taraneh Wilkinson, LA of BooksAbout the AuthorKristina Richardson is an Assistant Professor of History at Queens College, City University of New York, and is Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institut fr Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft, University of Mnster, Germany.