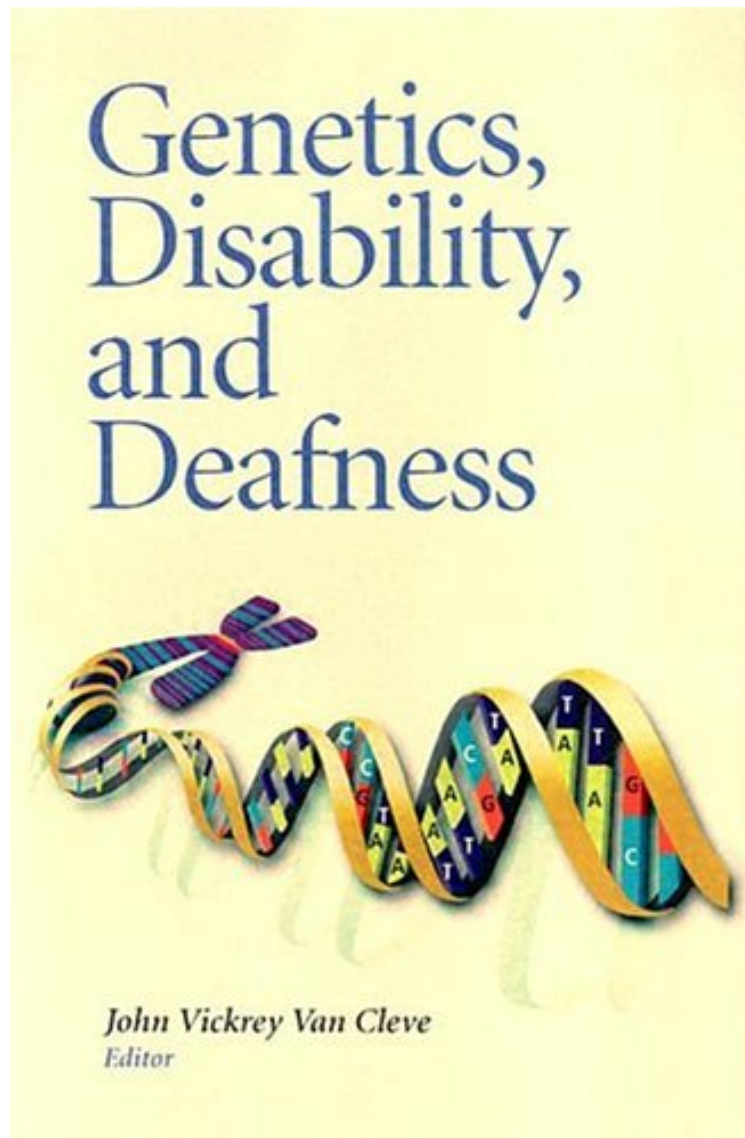


Genetics, Disability, and Deafness

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From Brand: Gallaudet University Press : Genetics, Disability, and Deafness before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Genetics, Disability, and Deafness:

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Louis Menand begins this wide-ranging volume with an essay that extols diversity and warns of the dangers of modifying the human genome. Nora Groce reviews the ways that societies have defined

disability and creates an interpretive framework for discussing the relationship between culture and disability. In essays devoted to historical perspective, Brian H. Greenwald comments upon the real toll taken by A. G. Bells insistence upon oralism, while Joseph J. Murray weighs the nineteenth-century debate over whether deaf-deaf marriages should be encouraged. John S. Schuchmans chilling account of deafness and eugenics in the Nazi era adds wrenching reinforcement to the impetus to include disabled people in genetics debates. Mark Willis offers an intensely personal reflection on the complexities of genetic alteration, addressing both his heart condition and his blindness in surprisingly different ways. Anna Middleton extends Williss concepts in her discussion of couples currently considering the use of genetic knowledge and technology to select for or against a gene that causes deafness. In the part on the science of genetics, Orit Dagan, Karen B. Avraham, Kathleen S. Arnos, and Arti Pandya clarify the choices presented by genetic engineering, and geneticist Walter E. Nance emphasizes the importance of science in offering individuals knowledge from which they can fashion their own decisions. In the concluding section, Christopher Krentz raises moral questions about the ever-continuing search for human perfection, and Michael Brub argues that disability should be considered democratically to ensure full participation of disabled people in all decisions that might affect them.

"This handsomely presented volume... will be necessary reading for all interested in the genetics and heredity of deafness and the ethical and public policy issues associated with genetic screening and engineering, and useful also for those interested in the disability field generally." (Disability Studies Quarterly)"About the AuthorJohn Vickrey Van Cleve is Professor Emeritus of History, Gallaudet University, Washington, DC.