An entangled perspective on disability history: The disability protests in Argentina, Brazil and Spain, 1968-1982

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Abstract: This article shows that there are protest movements of disabled people outside Anglo-Saxon countries, which are generally considered the main sites that generate protest and emancipatory projects at an international level. This decade (1968-1982) is marked by the radicalization of disability rights movements in Argentina, Brazil and Spain. The Spanish case differs from those in the other two countries by the higher level of radicalness, seen through the importance and diversity of the number of protests, the high level of conflicts with the police authorities, the importance of conflicts of interpretation regarding the cause of social marginalization of disabled people in the associative debates of 1976-1977, as well as the questioning of religious teaching by different groups. Nevertheless, no questions have been raised over the medical guidance in the process of professional rehabilitation. The results of our research lead us to relativize the originary and the original manner of the Anglo-Saxon protests within the growth of disability rights movements at the international level. To consider western countries as the first protest centers and creators of emancipatory projects for disabled people at an international level means adopting a western-centric point of view.

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