Catherine Kudlick believes growing up with vision impairment allowed her to think more creatively about the world around her. “I had some sight, but not like other people,” the professor of history says, “so I started to think of my constantly-changing focus as a way not to take any one perspective for granted.”

As director of the Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University, Professor Kudlick pursues social justice through projects that cast people with disabilities as resourceful experts. Spearheading the Superfest: International Disability Film Festival and exhibits like “Patient No More: People with Disabilities Securing Civil Rights” Kudlick and the Institute model innovative forms of access that go beyond complying with standards to get everyone to think differently about what they’re experiencing. “It’s full-body learning,” Kudlick says.

Kudlick is a leading historian of disability nationally and internationally. Her books, articles, and many invited lectures explore the places where medicine and disability intersect. She is a regular blogger, has appeared on live radio, and has been profiled on ABC television. Whether studying the past or exploring the future of technology, her aim is to get at least one person a day to say, “Whoa, I never thought of that!”

Founded in 1996 by historian and scholar-activist Paul Longmore, the Institute that bears his name uses public education and community events to teach disabled and nondisabled people alike how disability can enrich our world, from technology to the arts.

Kudlick has been quoted in:

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