Marie Sépulchre, *Disability and citizenship studies*. Routledge, 2021.

Full citizenship for people with disability is a myth in contemporary Sweden: while formal social rights exist, measures to support people with disabilities nonetheless continue to be accorded on the principles of charity or privilege rather than as a legal right. Such is the critique of the status quo that emerges from Marie Sépulchre's newly published book that considers the claims made by disability activists for full and meaningful participation in Swedish society as a question of citizenship.

This clear and well-structured book considers disability activists' claims as articulated in posts to a blog that was established five months prior to the 2010 general election with the explicit aim of exposing to the public gaze the ongoing exclusion of and discrimination against people with disabilities. The twelve disability activists that established the blog – FullDelaktighet.Nu – set out to raise the failure of an earlier government initiative to promote self-determination and social inclusion for people with impairments and to make the rights of people with disability an election issue. As the name of the blog suggests, the activists' key demand was for full and immediate participation in society, impairments notwithstanding. After the general election was over, posts to the blog continued to be published, but in smaller numbers, for a further five years, at which point the blog was put on hold. As a supplement to these blog posts, the book considers debate articles published in the main Swedish daily newspapers over a similar time period to the blog's active life. For the book's purposes, disability activists are defined here as those who identify themselves as members of disability organisations, as having experience of disability themselves or being the relatives of a disabled person or persons.

The book is a revised version of a doctoral thesis, but do not let this put you off, since the thesis, and to an even greater extent the book, is accessible and readable. Sépulchre's authorial voice is engaging and steady in setting out her project, theory, methods and materials and then working through the implications consistently and carefully.

The book is made up of seven chapters, the first of which is an introduction to the relevant intellectual fields, followed by a chapter each in which Sépulchre sets out how citizenship and then disability and activism have been studied, with particular reference to Sweden. The fourth chapter introduces the empirical material used to explore how citizenship is constructed in relation to disability, which consists of 312 blog posts (published online between 2010 and 2015) and 162 debate articles (published in Swedish newspapers between 2008 and 2017). This material is used to examine the construction of citizenship as a formal rights-based institution on the basis of which activists make legal claims in the remainder of the book. Chapter five sets out the sorts of problems that disability activists highlight in the blog posts and debate articles, followed by chapter six in which the sorts of solutions that are offered are described. The final and seventh chapter makes sense of the disability activists' claims around both problems and solutions using the citizenship framework set out in the second chapter. This analysis gets beyond a description of discriminatory situations that should be prevented through the implementation of a set of formal

rights, to underline the complex and multi-dimensional nature of citizenship as it is constructed by disability activists.

Sépulchre explores the contradictions that crop up in the blog posts and articles and interprets these as tensions inherent to the construction of citizenship. Disability activists make inclusionary claims in the sense of insisting on the recognition of disabled people as full and equal citizens, in a way that extends the boundaries of citizenship. The question of whether activists' claims constitute a proactive or a defensive engagement is taken up, concluding that both elements are present.

The implications of this research are considered first for the conceptualization of citizenship and second for how the social division of disability can be compared with other social divisions, including class, ethnicity/race and gender. Future research is advocated in topics where frameworks of citizenship and disability intersect to examine inequality and social justice in specific places and spaces, while maintaining a focus on disability.

This book will be of interest to scholars of disability, of activism and of citizenship, not least for the significant amount of published research that is methodically reviewed. Each chapter finishes with a reference list, rather than collating the references at the end of the volume, which makes individual chapters suitable to use in teaching.

Hannah Bradby

Uppsala universitet