The immigration system is a core Canadian social institution. It includes mandatory HIV screening and a medical examination regime designed to exclude “abnormal” applicants. What is involved for people with chronic illness and genetic and developmental differences who apply to immigrate?

This is the first-ever analysis of the medical, legal, and bureaucratic practices governing the federal immigration medical program. It unfolds from the perspective of the very people toward whom exclusionary health policy is directed.

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“This is a far-reaching work that I hope catalyzes policy change in the direction of a fair and just immigration system.”
– Ross Upshaw, medical doctor and professor (University of Toronto)

“An important and impassioned institutional ethnography of Canadian immigration procedures ... about which the public knows precious little.”
– Alison Mountz, Canada research chair in global migration and professor (Wilfred Laurier University)