

# Access in the Making (AIM) Lab Principles

## Acknowledgement<sup>1</sup>

As we write our Lab Principles, we want to acknowledge in bold letters that it was the methodological work of **the Civic Laboratory for Environmental Action Research (CLEAR)** that has inspired and guided us throughout the process.<sup>2</sup> We are extremely grateful to CLEAR Lab for the incredible amount of work that they have done in how to run a feminist and anti-colonial lab,<sup>3</sup> and their generosity in sharing this know-how with others. **We cannot cite you and thank you enough.**

## Citation

Inspired by CLEAR Lab's work, AIM Lab has worked on this document over almost a process of ten months (and we are still and will be working on it). This document is the

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that in our *Manifesto* and *Protocols*, we make the deliberate decision to use, not endnotes, *but footnotes*. In order to subvert the design hierarchy scripted into footnotes (which automatically decreases their font size vis-a-vis the font size of main text) we choose to use the same font size for both footnotes and the main body of the text, with the same line spacing. These design choices reflect our commitments to feminist ethics of citation. Through these choices, we seek to emphasize the shoulders we stand upon, and the various intellectual genealogies, activist, and artistic traditions that we draw from. Thank you, Annemarie Mol, Sara Ahmed, and Max Liboiron for teaching us about the importance of citations and the politics of footnotes (Mol, *The Body Multiple*; Ahmed, "Making Feminist Points,"; Liboiron, *Pollution is Colonialism*).

<sup>2</sup> CLEAR, *CLEAR Lab Book: A living manual of our values, guidelines, and protocols*.

<sup>3</sup> For methodological projects of the CLEAR Lab, see:

<https://civiclaboratory.nl/methodological-projects/>

result of *labour*, including doing research, collective conversations, and editing. This document is a research output. This document is a *publication*. If you quote, use, or in any way benefit from this document, cite it.

Cite as:

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As a lab committed to disability justice and feminist citational practices, we are especially concerned that the intellectual labour of marginalized folks (including BIPOC, disabled artists, activists, scholars) and those occupying precarious positions in the academia (graduate students, adjuncts, emerging scholars) are not properly (sometimes, never) recognized. Our own citational practices seek to dismantle that ignorance and erasure, and we hope that you, the reader, will do the same.

### **Principles publication co-authorship**

This publication emerged out of a series of numerous conversations within AIM as well as from a litany of members' own experiences in various academic and community spaces as well as activist and social movements. The writing of this manifesto was by and large produced by Arseli Dokumacı, Amy Mazowita and Nicholas Goberdhan and in consultation with AIM's Steering Committee.

## Principles

Principles are our foundations. They are what we are committed to, what we will not give up on (our non-negotiables), and what we say no to (our outright refusals).

- We follow the principles of:
  - “Nothing About Us Without Us” (From: Disability activism)<sup>4</sup>
  - “No one left behind” (From: Disability justice)
  - “I won’t go, if you are not there” (Inspired by disability justice activist Mia Mingus<sup>5</sup>). We understand this statement to mean: if access is not provided for *one* person at an event/activity/etc., we, *as a group*, will not attend and/or support it even if there are no access barriers limiting us from doing so.
  
- We are committed to:
  - Anti-oppressive work including but not limited to anti-ableism, anti-colonialism, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-ageism, anti-homo/transphobia, anti-xenophobia, etc.
  - A feminist ethics of citation and recognition. We strive to recognizing and honour our lineages, as well as people’s time, skills, contributions, and ideas.
  - Fostering, what Mia Mingus calls, “Access intimacy”.<sup>6</sup>
  
- Without exception, we say NO! to:

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<sup>4</sup> Charlton, *Nothing About Us Without Us*.

<sup>5</sup> Mingus, “Wherever You Are Is Where I Want To Be: Crip Solidarity.”

<sup>6</sup> Mingus, “Access Intimacy.”

- o Tokenism
- o Knowledge extractivism and/or idea theft
- o Event invitations where access is not provided
- o Assumptions of any kind. Here we refer to our commitment to never assume anything about another person's ability, disability, or access needs.<sup>7</sup> We acknowledge that we cannot claim to know another person's experience. We always give others the benefit of the doubt and leave room for the unknowable.

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<sup>7</sup> See Piepzna-Samarasinha, *Care Work*, 73.

## References

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- Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi. *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018.