

## **Paralympism: an ideology that leads to empowerment?**

Paralympism is an ideology celebrated by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) that has been developed in an attempt to establish a universal ethos that extends beyond the Paralympic Games in much the same manner that Olympism has transcended the more established Olympic Games. While Paralympism has a degree of virtue on a global scale its conceptualisation does not stand up to scrutiny at the level of sporting practice. In particular this paper will ask whether those working within Paralympic sport, who control the structure of competition, through the process and production of classification, are acting in the best interests of the athletes.