

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF

Disability Studies

Published by the Canadian Disability Studies Association · Association Canadienne des Études sur l'Incapacité

Canadian Journal of Disability Studies

Published by the Canadian Disability Studies Association

Association Canadienne des Études sur l'Incapacité

Hosted by The University of Waterloo

www.cjds.uwaterloo

This document has been made accessible and PDF/UA compliant by
AbleDocs Inc. For more information go to <https://www.abledocs.com>



Do You Know Why You're Here?

nancy viva davis Halifax, School of Health Policy & Management
York University
nhalifax@yorku.ca

DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE ?

outside a red brick building a bright
late summer day people kept
cancelled part of
re-development inside a room

inside the building are a dog & a woman
the dog leans the woman's hands rest
beneath the dog's harness people
try to find remember before

they are called to enter the long &
narrow rooms where men sit by closed
windows & patient
chairs sit close to doors

when their turn is called
the woman & the dog slowly walk the hall
the man gestures : sit introduces himself
the woman sits on the close-to-the-door

easywash brown plastic patient chair & the dog leans
“do you know why you're here?” he asks & the woman knows
the question is not alone or hers
she is not sure her mother
a colour she no longer
remembers
his answer

in a room unbroken
by light
 curled into a restless ball
beside the dog
left in a room the woman
thinks something
“my doctor referred me”

something this man
could give her
a harness compounds would adhere
her neurons pharmaceuticals

metabolized & excreted
unregulated
 she remembers some forget her
 as she passes through

“do you know why you’re here ?”
the dog rises
clambers across her knees
leans against her

heart their chests rise & fall
“do you know why you’re here?”