

THERE IS A WORLD THAT WE DON'T SEE: PSYCHOLOGY OF BLINDNESS AND DISABILITIES

*Psychology in Everyday Life:
The Past, the Present, and the Future*

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Blindness

noun

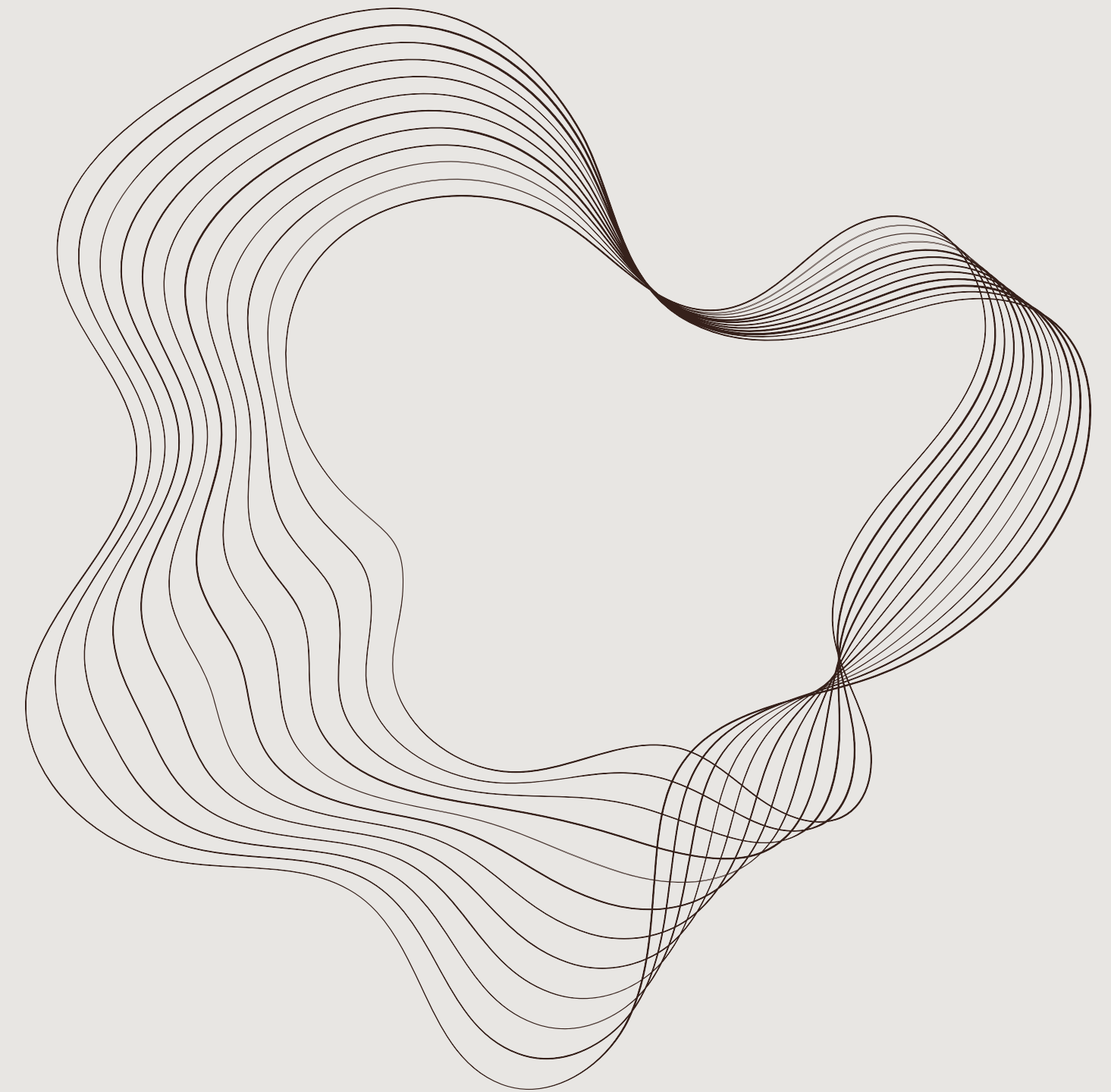
noun: **blindness**; plural noun: **blindnesses**

1. the state or condition of being unable to see because of injury, disease, or a congenital condition.
"a leading cause of blindness in the elderly"
2. lack of perception, awareness, or judgement; ignorance.
"this policy is based on willful blindness to economic reality"

- Source: Oxford Languages via Google

To be **blind**

- **inability to see**
- lack of perception
- lack of awareness
- lack of judgement
- **ignorance**



Disabilities

noun

1. a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses, or activities.
"children with severe physical disabilities"

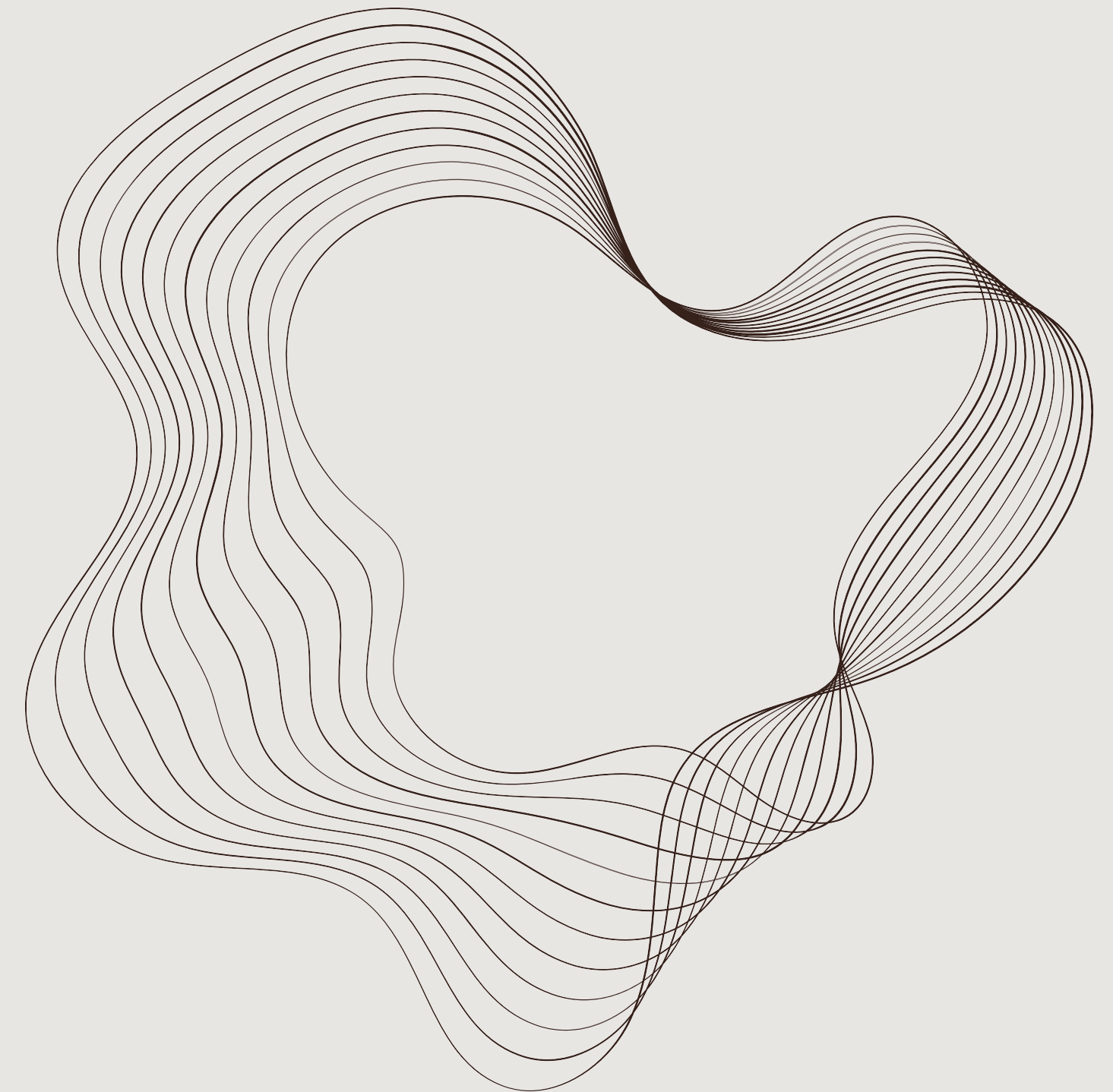
Podobný význam:

2. a disadvantage or handicap, especially one imposed or recognized by the law.
"the plaintiff was **under a disability**"

- Source: Oxford Languages via Google

To be **disabled**

- to be **limited**, physically or mentally
- to be **impaired**, to **lack** a certain ability, sense, or activity
- to be **disadvantaged** x to **have a disadvantage**
- to be **handicapped** x to **have a handicap**
- **condition** ≠ **identity**



Blindness

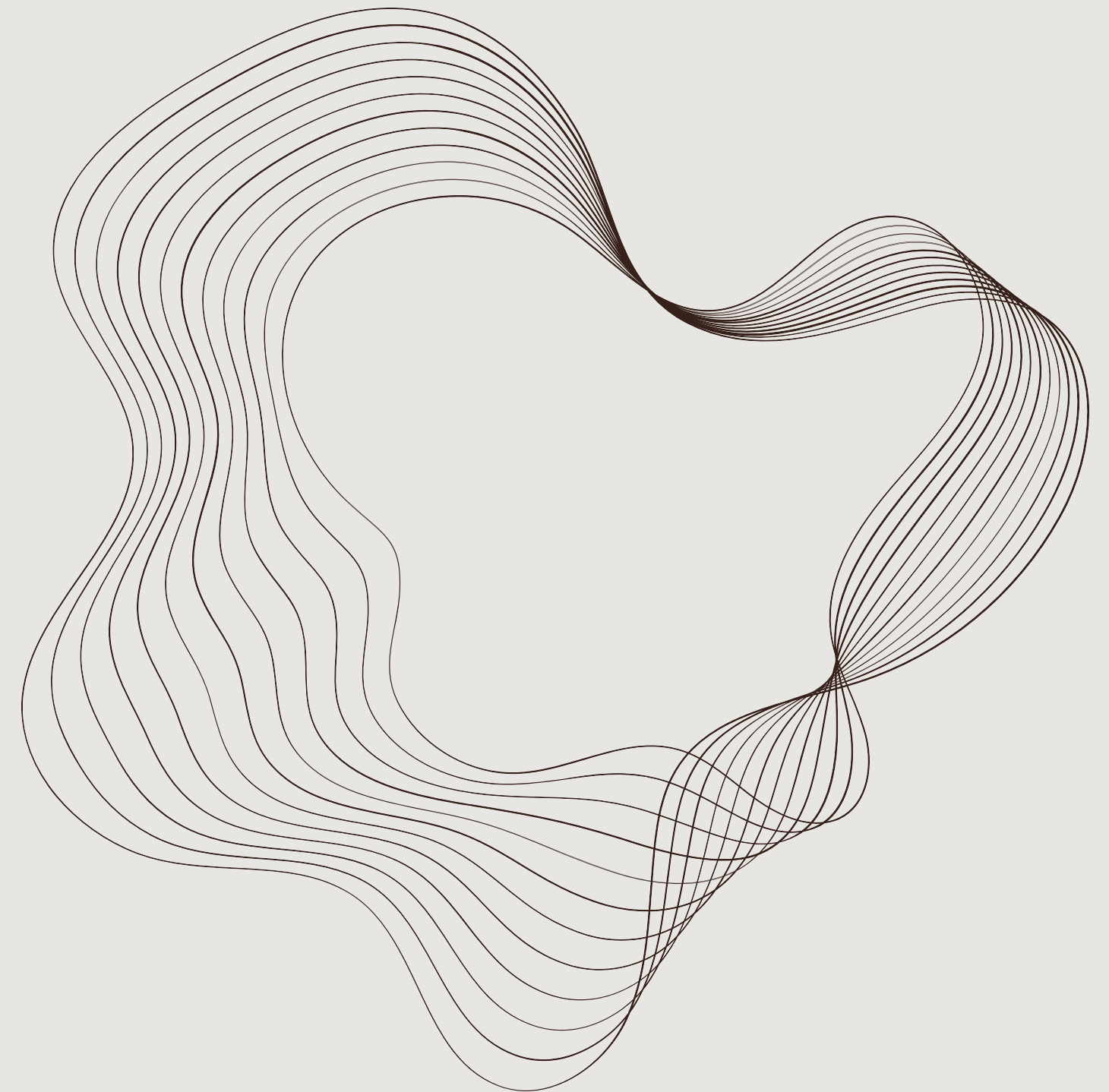
If you were blind or visually impaired and you knew beforehand...

- What would you like to **keep in mind/sight**?
- What would you **miss** the most?
- What **disadvantages** would it bring?
- How would your **everyday life** look like?
- How would you **navigate through everyday activities**?
- Would it bring anything **new** or **positive**?

Sight is one of our most used senses.

We rely on it, more than we may realize.

- How would your life change if you were visually impaired?



Society

Society may seem visually impaired people, handicapped people, or disabled people as someone...

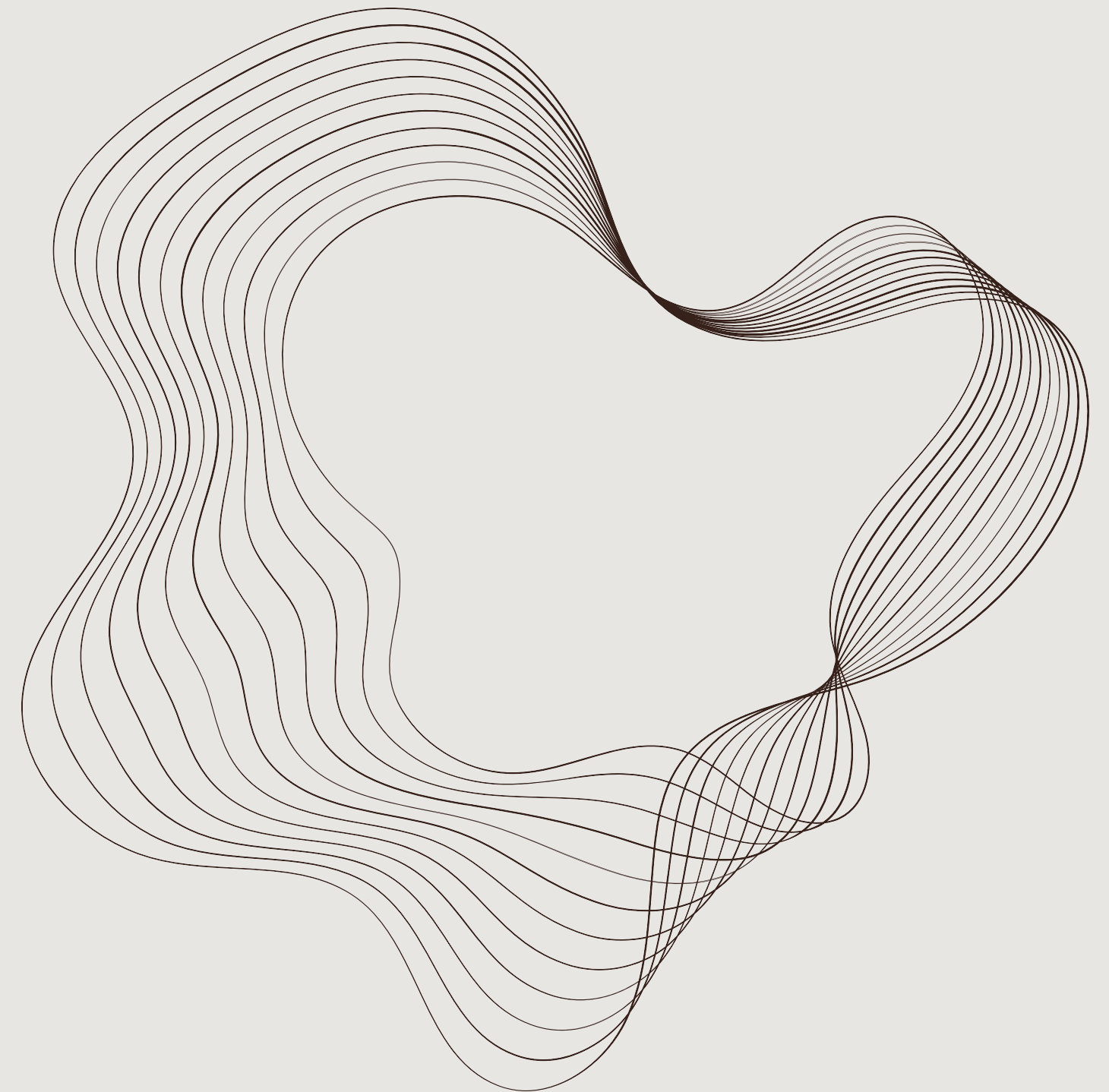
- weak
- of lower value
- less capable
- of higher needs and in need of special treatment
- unequal

What **disadvantages** does it bring?

How are blind or disabled people **discriminated upon**?

- **systematic discrimination**
- **structural discrimination**
- **discrimination** in behavior, approach, opportunities, finances, health care, mental health care, school system...

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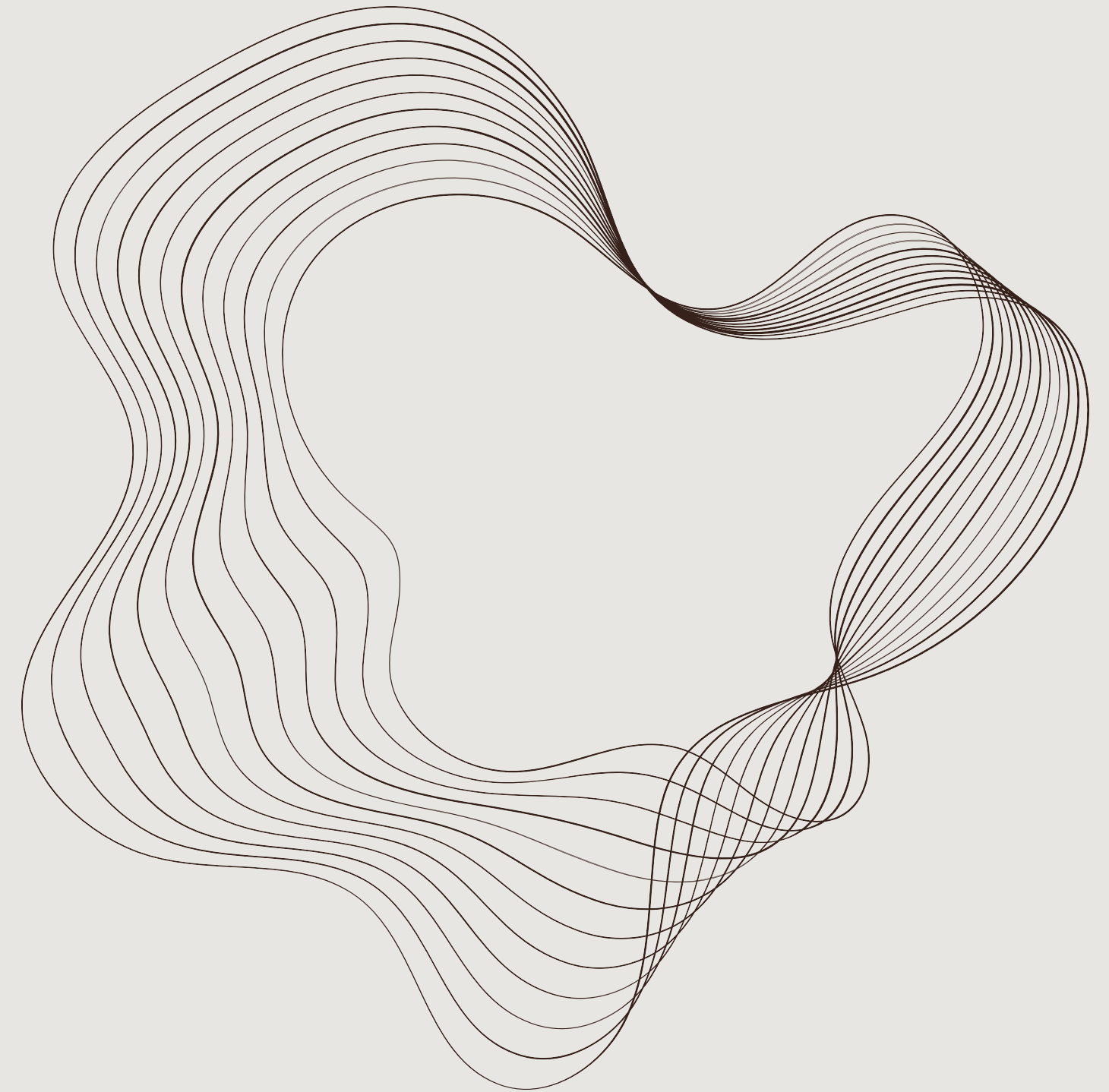
Society

How to achieve equality among people?

- **equity** and its policies?
- **quotas**?
- **structural support** and system?
- **objectivization of assessment** of people in terms of their personality, abilities, knowledge?
- how else?

Many people argue that by giving more opportunities to some, others may be disadvantaged or that efficiency is reduced...

- Does it matter? Should it matter?
- Can the system be equal to all?
- How can we achieve it?



Society

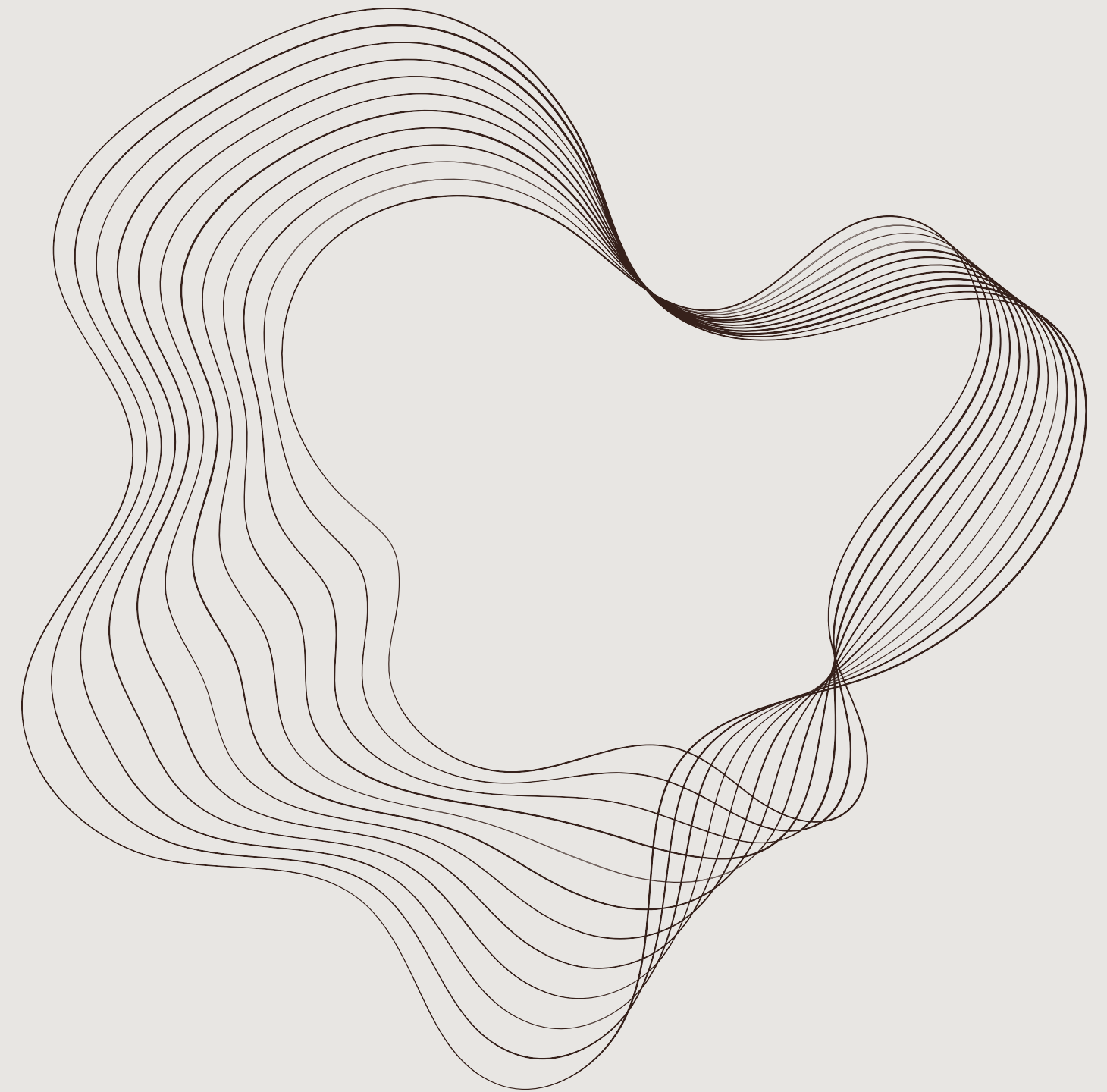
Double standards...

- By treating people differently, and with any special treatment, we may be patronizing them, diminishing their worth and status, infantilizing them.
- If we strive for equality, we should treat each other equally.
- How to support? How to care?
- How to include and not to exclude?
- How to treat people with impairment or disability?

How to create a system which is fair to all?

- Can disabled people take advantage of the system?
- Can blind or disabled people profit from it for their own sake, disadvantaging the others?

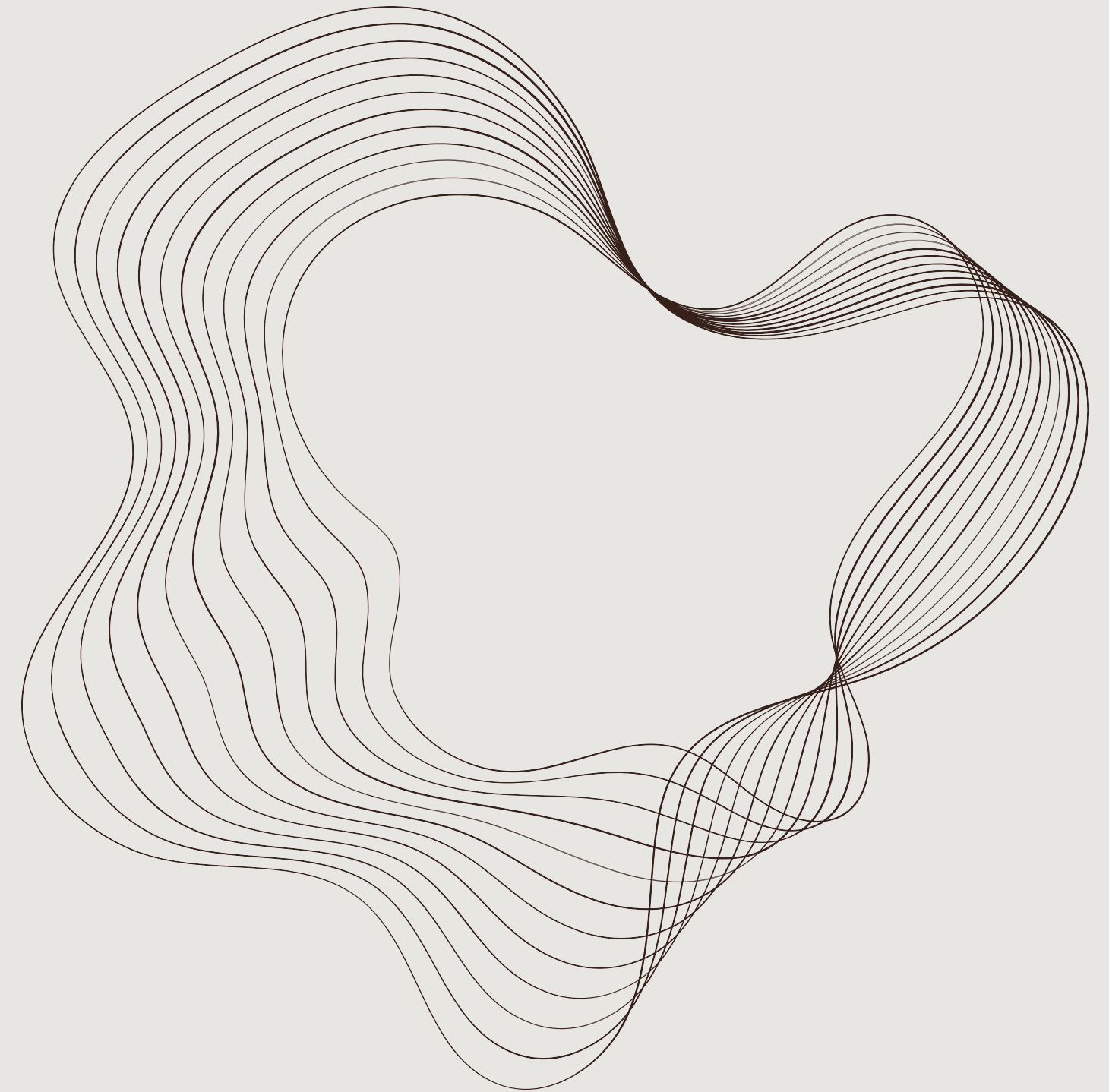
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Once again...

Let's not focus on the differences, but rather build a community.

- What do we have in common?
- How can we help each other?
- How can people with different experience (such as experience of blindness or disability) enrich the perspective of others?
- What can we learn from each other?



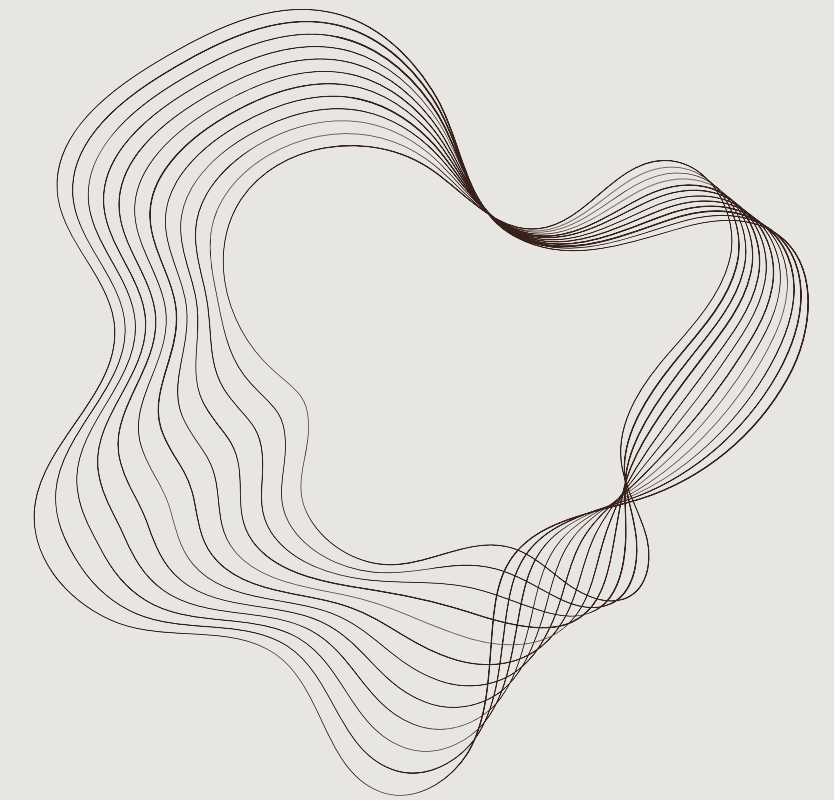
Metaphorically speaking...

Blindness

- What do you choose not to see in the world around you?
- What do you overlook in your own lives?
- What do you try not to see or to act upon?
- What are you unable to find yet?
- What do you ignore?

Disabilities

- What are you not able to do?
- What are you not capable of doing?
- What are your weaknesses?
- What will you do about it? How do you approach it? Can you do it differently, in a different way?
- If you are unable to achieve something, what do you do? Shall we ask others for help? Should we learn how to achieve it differently? Should we give up the goal and aim for something else?



Upcoming week

Topic

- **Beyond the ordinary: Highs and lows of psychoactive substances**

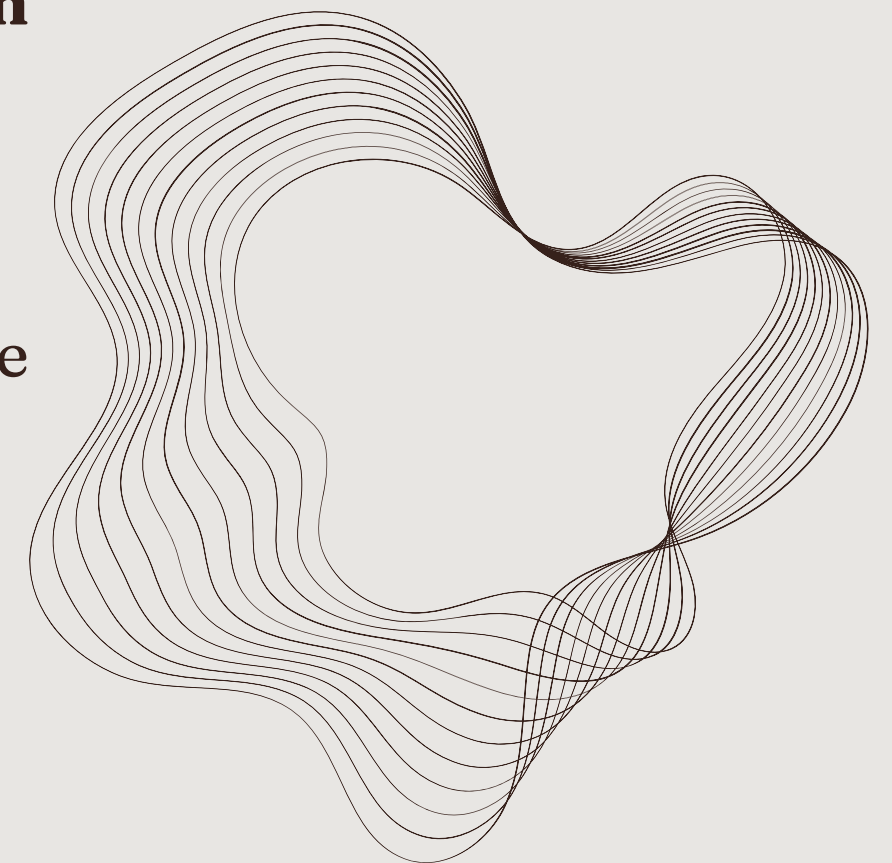
Discussion leaders: Matyáš and Jakub

Readings

- **“Harms and benefits associated with psychoactive drugs: Findings of an international survey of active drug users”**, an article by Morgan et al., 2013
- **“New psychoactive substances: A review and updates”** by Shafi et al, 2020

Reading on the discourse and history of drug use and the “War on Drugs” (optional)

- **“Pathologizing and Criminalizing Intoxication: Addiction, Psychoactive Drugs, and the Ideological Underpinnings of the War on Drugs”**, a thesis by Korostyshevsky (2014)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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