

Disability, Mental Wellness, & Social Justice Newsletter

Hello Division Members!!!

Thank you all for a wonderful conference! We were very impressed with all of the submissions and presentations we had. As we prepare for next year's exciting conference in New York City, we wanted to reach out with a few time-sensitive announcements to start preparing!

Call for Nominations for next Co-Chair

We are soliciting nominations for the next co-chair. Self-nominations are accepted. If you are interested in nominating someone for the position, please inform the chairs, Melinda Maconi (melinda.maconi@moffitt.org) and Muhammad Faisal Olaitan (olaitanfaysal@gmail.com) no later than October 15th, 2025. Nominees will need to submit a short bio, which will be visible to members during the voting.

Interested in Organizing a Session?

Let us know! Although we are limited in the number of sessions that our division can sponsor, we are happy to do all we can to support anyone in organizing a session or if needed, connecting interested parties with similar ideas to co-sponsor sessions. Please let us know by Sept 15th, 2025 if this is something you are interested in.

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITY- Research in Social Sciences and Disability (RSSD) Volume 18-Call For Papers

Additionally, Research in Social Sciences and Disability, under Emerald Publishing, has put out a call for papers, attached below! They are seeking papers on Disability Identities and Communities through Media Research. Abstracts should be submitted by October 15, 2025, and full papers must be submitted by April 15, 2026. Submissions should be emailed to Dr. Allison Carey (accare@ship.edu). Guidelines can be found below and at

http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/ebooks/author_guidelines.htm.



Call for Chapters

Constructing Disability, Identities, and Communities through Media Research in Social Science and Disability (RSSD), Volume 18

Edited by Allison C. Carey, Sara E. Green, and Cheryl Najarian Souza

From watching Hollywood films to couch-surfing streaming services and scrolling through social media on one's phone to actively participating in online communities, media pervades our lives. For disabled people, the breadth and power of media representations offer challenges and opportunities. Media can create and reinforce stigmatization by the larger society. Mass media, owned by large for-profit companies, often erases the lives and perspectives of disabled people or uses and exploits various disability tropes for profit. Many avenues of media remain largely inaccessible to and exclusionary of disabled people. However, disabled people are also using, creating, and transforming the media to resist and contest mainstream conceptions of disability, develop their own empowered representations, and create communities of support. The goal for this volume of *Research in Social Science and Disability* is to bring together research and theoretical perspectives rooted in the social sciences to examine the changing production, reproduction, representation, and impact of media for disabled people. In this call for papers, we seek theoretical, methodological, or empirical papers that center disability in the study of media, and that are grounded in the perspectives and literatures of the social sciences.

We welcome submissions from a variety of disciplines and interdisciplinary approaches within the social sciences, and from scholars around the world. We are open to a wide range of topics, which might include:

- Studies of disability representations within specific media forms, such as film, news, art, comedy, publishing, advertising, and social media;
- Accessibility and inaccessibility in media;
- Power and control over media by varied groups, including disabled people, and impact of stratified power over media;
- The use of media in shaping disability culture, activism, and community-building;
- Intersectional analysis of media and disability as connected to gender, sexuality, race, nationality, age, religion, etc.;
- Studies rooted in specific national and international media forms and expressions;
- Theoretical formulations for studying media and disability;
- Methodological issues in the study of media and disability;
- Narrative analysis of disability-based stories in the media;
- Other topics related to media and disability that are grounded in the social sciences

Abstracts should be approximately 500-1000 words, submitted as a Word document or PDF, and organized in the following sections: Purpose, Approach, Findings (anticipated findings are sufficient at this stage), and Implications. **Abstracts are due October 15, 2025**, and should be sent to Allison Carey at accare@ship.edu. Abstracts should contain a commitment to submit a full paper by **April 15, 2026** - if abstract is selected. All submitted papers must adhere to the author guidelines for Emerald Press:

http://www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/products/ebooks/author_guidelines.htm.