

# Disabilities Division

Society for the Study of Social Problems

## Statement from the Chair

Val Leiter

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Just a few more weeks before the end of the semester, so it must be time to start thinking about papers to submit for next year's meeting! There is a broad range of panels for next year, plus we've added a roundtable session this year which will allow scholars whose work may not fit into one of the panels to still have the opportunity to present. Please see page 4 for our detailed call for papers.

Being a SSSP co-chair is one of the best opportunities for professional service within the field. You share the work with a co-chair, so it's not too onerous. You get connected to colleagues, through working with your co-chairs. It's a great way to get to get involved with SSSP as an organization, though the Council of Chairs at the annual meetings. And you oversee giving out a graduate student award each year, helping the next generation get started in the field. It's a meaningful and enriching

experience, and Jeremy Brunson (my co-chair) and I are looking for co-chair candidates, to replace me. This is a two-year term, which runs from 2011-2013. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have about running. You can e-mail me at [valerie.leiter@simmons.edu](mailto:valerie.leiter@simmons.edu).

SSSP is also asking sections to encourage their members to run for slots in the general election. It would be great to see more people from our division in leadership positions in the organization, so please consider running or nominating others who would like to run. Additional information about the general election nominations is provided on page 2.

Good luck with the rest of the semester, and I hope that you enjoy a well-deserved mid-semester break.

Best,

Val Leiter

Renewing your SSSP membership soon? There is now an opportunity to make contributions to the SSSP accommodations fund, to help pay for accommodations for participants with disabilities at the annual meetings. Look for this new way to contribute to accessibility on the on-line renewal system.

## Call for Nominations

Please consider nominating yourself or a SSSP colleague for one of the following offices:

President elect  
Vice president elect  
Committee on Committees  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Budget, Finance and Audit  
Committee  
Board of Directors  
Board of Directors, student member  
Editorial and Publications Committee  
Membership and outreach committee

Contact Val Leiter at [valerie.leiter@simmons.edu](mailto:valerie.leiter@simmons.edu) by November 30<sup>th</sup> for nominations or more information.



## Call for Co-Chair Nominations

We are currently soliciting nominations for the position of Co-Chair for the Disabilities Division. Co-Chairs serve overlapping two year terms, and are jointly responsible for: developing the Division program (identifying sessions and organizers) for the annual meeting; running the Division business meeting at the annual meeting; working with the newsletter editor to assure publication of the annual newsletter; and other Division business.

If you are interested in learning more or in nominating yourself or another individual for this rewarding position, please contact Val Leiter at [valerie.leiter@simmons.edu](mailto:valerie.leiter@simmons.edu) by November 30<sup>th</sup>

## Call For Papers

### Special Issue of Disability Studies Quarterly

Topic: Mediated Communication

Guest Editors:

Jeremy L. Brunson and Mitchell E. Loeb

Individuals who experience disablement are often left without complete participation in the society in which they live. This can take different forms and have varying consequences depending the specific type of disability and the environmental accommodations that are available. Individuals whose communication modality differs from the rest of society are often dependent on assistive technologies to facilitate their communication or an intermediary to communicate on their behalf in order to fully participate in society. This Special Issue of Disability Studies Quarterly will focus on mediated communication.

Submissions can include but are not restricted to:

- Theoretical/empirical papers
- Cultural/social commentaries
- Creative works
- Book/film reviews
- Policy/legal analyses

Mediated communication is a cross-cutting subject area that can be explored through literal applications, such as sign language interpreting for deaf people, the use of communication boards and facilitated communication for autistic individuals or individuals with intellectual disabilities; or more figurative/creative representations. Scholars from all disciplines are encouraged to submit an abstract by December 15, 2010. Authors will be notified by January 15, 2011 with an anticipated publication date of fall 2011.

Submissions can be sent to:

[jeremy.brunson@gallaudet.edu](mailto:jeremy.brunson@gallaudet.edu) and  
[mloeb@cdc.gov](mailto:mloeb@cdc.gov)

Disability Studies Quarterly (DSQ) is the journal of the Society for Disability Studies (SDS). It is a multidisciplinary and international journal of interest to social scientists, scholars in the humanities, disability rights advocates, creative writers, and others concerned with the issues of people with disabilities. It represents the full range of methods, epistemologies, perspectives, and content that the multidisciplinary field of disability studies embraces. DSQ is committed to developing theoretical and practical knowledge about disability and to promoting the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society.

## Call for Papers Graduate Student Paper Award

**Deadline: May 1, 2011**

The Disabilities Division is pleased to announce its 2011 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers may be empirical or theoretical, may concern any social aspect of disability, and should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages. They should be prepared for anonymous review. Current graduate students and recent graduates (who received their degrees after December 2010) may submit a paper if it was written while still a student. Co-authored papers are acceptable as long as all the listed authors are current graduate students. Double submission to other SSSP award competitions will be disqualified. The award recipient will be required to present the winning paper at the 2011 SSSP Annual Meeting in Chicago. Thus it is strongly recommended that an abstract of the paper be submitted to a Disabilities Division session by the January 31st deadline. The recipient will receive a monetary prize of \$100, student membership in SSSP, SSSP conference registration, and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet. Send an electronic copy of the paper (in Word format) and a cover letter identifying your graduate program to:

Val Leiter at [valerie.leiter@simmons.edu](mailto:valerie.leiter@simmons.edu).

### Division and Co-Sponsored sessions 2011 Annual Meeting – Submission Deadline 1/31/11

**Disabilities, Sexuality, and Social Change** (co-sponsored with Conflict, Social Action and Change and Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities)

Organizers: Morrison, Linda J. ([morrison2841@duq.edu](mailto:morrison2841@duq.edu)) and  
Timberlake, Maria ([mariat@brandeis.edu](mailto:mariat@brandeis.edu))

**Victims and Victimization** (co-sponsored with Crime and Juvenile Delinquency)

Organizer: Steele, Paul D. ([pd.steele@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:pd.steele@moreheadstate.edu))

**Disability Rights Movements: A Tribute to Paul Longmore**

Organizer: Leiter, Valerie ([valerie.leiter@simmons.edu](mailto:valerie.leiter@simmons.edu))

**Disabilities Roundtables**

Organizers: Brunson, Jeremy L. ([jeremy.brunson@galludent.edu](mailto:jeremy.brunson@galludent.edu)) and  
Chiri, Giuseppina ([gchiri@brandeis.edu](mailto:gchiri@brandeis.edu))

**Service, Advocacy and Disabilities - THEMATIC**

Organizer: Lillie, Timothy ([tlillie@uakron.edu](mailto:tlillie@uakron.edu))

**Aging and Disability** (co-sponsored with Youth, Aging, and the Life Course)

Organizer: Bender, Alexis A. ([alexisbender@gmail.com](mailto:alexisbender@gmail.com))

Go to [www.sssp1.org](http://www.sssp1.org) to submit abstracts and for more information about the annual meetings.

### **Congratulations to our new Co-Chair!**

Jeremy Brunson is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Jeremy's work focuses on issues of disability and access, professionalization of sign language interpreting, changing nature of work of sign language interpreters, and the identity of deafness.

Jeremy was the recipient of the 2009 Irving K. Zola Emerging Scholar in Disability Studies award. In addition to his work in sociology, Jeremy is a certified sign language interpreter and a member of the ACLU.

Congratulations, Jeremy!

### **Are you attending the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings? If so, don't miss this great panel!**

#### **Intersectionalities and Complex Inequalities**

Philadelphia, PA  
February 24-27, 2011

Thematic Session: Intersectionality in Disability Studies  
Organizer and Presider: Val Leiter, Simmons College

Liat Ben-Moshe, Syracuse University  
Resistance to Incarceration in Prisons and Institutions: an Intersectional Approach

Allison Carey, Shippensburg University  
Contradictions of Ideology and Commerce: Race, Idiocy, and Treatment, 1800-1930

Reshawna Chapple, Arizona State University  
Intersecting the Margins: d/Deaf African American Women in Higher Education

Jay Chaskes and Anthony Sommo, Rowan University  
Examining the Intersectionality Paradigm: The Exceptional Case of Disability

## Call For Papers!

# Beyond Access: From Disability Rights to Disability Justice

Society for Disability Studies  
23rd Annual Conference  
San José California, Doubletree Hotel  
June 15-18, 2011

Deadline for submissions: December 15, 2010

<http://www.disstudies.org>

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and 2008 witnessed both the passage of the ADA Amendments Act and, on the international stage, the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). In passing the ADA Amendments Act, the U.S. Congress sought to redress nearly twenty years of rulings that severely narrowed the scope of protections afforded in the original bill. The Convention formally marks a paradigm shift towards considering people with disabilities as subjects who must be able to exercise their own rights, rather than objects of medical inquiry or charitable intervention. These developments seem to suggest gains in the history of disability rights, and yet many disability activists contend that real gains can only be made if disability is conceptualized as part of an intersecting network of historic and contemporary power structures that must be addressed holistically and systemically.

We invite conference participants to reconsider the issues of rights and access in light of local, national and global commitments and resistance to achieving disability justice. We welcome proposals in all areas of disability studies, as well as submissions premised on this year's theme.

### News of Note

Please send any news of note to Alexis Bender, newsletter editor, at [alexisbender@gmail.com](mailto:alexisbender@gmail.com) or Val Leiter at [Valerie.leiter@simmons.edu](mailto:Valerie.leiter@simmons.edu)