



Society for the Study of Social Problems

In Pursuit of Social Justice

Disabilities Division Summer Newsletter July 2014

Welcome from the Disabilities Division Co-Chairs

Dear Members of the SSSP Disabilities Division,

We hope you are all having a wonderful summer so far. The Annual Meeting is right around the corner - San Francisco here we come! We hope you will attend the sessions we have sponsored and co-sponsored for this meeting and that you will participate in the Division meeting (Friday, August 15, 12:30-2:10) so that you can help to plan the Disabilities Division offerings for the 2015 Meeting in Chicago.

And speaking of the future, the Annual Meeting is a time when we say *au revoir* to one leader and *bienvenu* to another. In that spirit, we would like to take this moment and publicly congratulate the newly-elected incoming Division Chair for 2014-2016, Dr. Laura Mauldin, Assistant Professor in Department of Human Development & Family Studies at the University of Connecticut. To learn more about Laura, please check out:

<http://web2.uconn.edu/wgss/?p=2270>. At the end of this meeting, Dr. Brian R. Grossman will complete his two-year term as Division Chair and Dr. Alexis Bender will begin the second year of her term as Laura begins her first of two years as Division Chair (*continued on next page*)

In this issue

1.) Conference Notes:

*2014 SSSP sessions

*2014 ASA Sessions

2.) General announcements

* Section business meeting

* CFP: Journal of Sport for
Development Special Issue

3.) A note on Research and
Advocacy by Alice Wong



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Disabilities Division Summer Newsletter

Welcome from the Disabilities Division Co-Chairs (continued)

In this newsletter, please find information about all the offerings sponsored by the Disabilities Division at SSSP and those sponsored by the Disability & Society section in the American Sociological Association. We hope to increase attendance at disability sessions offered across both meetings to continue to support people who recognize the significance of the scholarly inquiry of disability.

See you all in August!

Sincerely,
Brian R. Grossman and Alexis Bender

The preliminary program for the 2014 Annual Conference is now complete and available at:
<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1673/>

- The 2014 Annual Meeting will be held from August 15-17 in San Francisco, California. This year's theme is the "War on Poverty to a War on the Poor," paying homage to the changing social and political contexts since president Lyndon Johnson declared war on poverty in 1964.
- The Disabilities Section Business meeting will be held from 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM on Friday, August 15 in the Club Room. The meeting is open to all Disabilities Division members and interested members.
- This year the Disabilities division is sponsoring or co-sponsoring a number of sessions:

Friday, August 15

Session 8: Disability, Poverty, and Work: Multiple Locations of Disadvantage

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM

Room: Foothill J

Co-sponsoring division: Conflict, Social Action, and Change

Organizer & Presider: Sara E. Green, University of South Florida

(sessions continued on next page)

Friday, August 15 (continued)

Session 19: War on Disability? Deprivation, Disparities, and Disenfranchisement

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

Room: Foothill J

Organizers: Thomas P. Horejes, Gallaudet University & Deborah L. Little, Adelphi University

Presider & Discussant: Deborah L. Little, Adelphi University

Session 43: Person-Environment Interaction: The Role of Innovative Technology

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM

Room: Foothill J

Co-sponsoring division: Environment and Technology

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Erin E. Robinson, Canisius College

Session 53: Historical Transformations of Constructions of the 'Poverty Problem'

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:10 PM

Room: Foothill G2

Co-sponsoring divisions: Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Social Problems Theory

Organizer: Jack W. Spencer, Purdue University

Presider: Deborah A. Potter, University of Louisville

Saturday, August 16

Session 62: PAPERS IN THE ROUND: Directions in Disability Research

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:10 PM

Room: Foothill E

Organizers: Alexis A. Bender, Army Institute of Public Health & Kate Caldwell, Disability Studies

Discussant: Kate Caldwell, Disability Studies

Date: Sunday, August 17

Session 124: Families, Disability, and Poverty

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

Room: Foothill B

Co-sponsoring divisions: Family; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services

Organizers: Ebonie L. Cunningham Stringer, Wingate University & Laura Lorenz, Brandeis University

Session 138: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Conceptualizing and Operationalizing Disability

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM

Room: Foothill E

Organizer & Presider: Brian R. Grossman, University of Illinois at Chicago

Session 148: Disability and the Labor Force

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM

Room: Foothill B

Co-sponsoring Division: Labor Studies

Organizers: Sarah Parker Harris, University of Illinois-Chicago &

Robert P. Gould, University of Illinois-Chicago

Presider & Discussant: Barbara M. Altman, Disability Statistics Consultant

Session 157: Communities, Disabilities, and Inclusion

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:10 PM

Room: Foothill A

Co-sponsoring division: Community Research and Development

Organizer & Presider: Michael Gibbons, Middle Georgia State College

Congrats and Farewell!!

On behalf of the Disabilities Division we would like to welcome Dr. Laura Mauldin as the incoming co-chair of the Disabilities Division. Laura is a longtime member of SSSP and we welcome her with great anticipation.

We also want to thank the outgoing co-chair Dr. Brian Grossman for his service. Brian's leadership has been exceptional and we know that he will continue to serve and stay active with the Division! Thank you Brian!

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

Disabilities Division Business Meeting
Friday, August 15, 2014 from 12:30-2:10pm

We will discuss

- * Division-sponsored sessions for the 2015 Annual Meeting
- * Possibilities for co-sponsored sessions for the 2015 Annual Meeting
- * Exploring Disability in Chicago for the 2015 Annual Meeting
- * Future of the Disabilities Division

We hope to see you there!

Can't attend the 2014 Meeting? No problem! If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting but have IDEAS for sessions for the 2015 Annual Meeting, please email Brian R. Grossman at brg@uic.edu by August 1, 2014, so they can be brought to the table during the business meeting.

Journal of Sport for Development Special Issue on Disability Sport – Call for Papers

Special Issue Co-Editors:

Dr. Ian Brittain, Coventry University, UK & Eli Wolff, Brown University, USA

In conjunction with the 'Disability Sport: Changing lives, changing perceptions?' conference being held at Coventry University, UK from 15th to 17th September 2014, the Journal of Sport for Development is pleased to announce a call for papers for a special issue around the use of sport to positively impact the lives of people with disabilities around the world. This special issue will be edited by Dr Ian Brittain (Coventry University, UK) and Eli Wolff (Brown University, USA) two leading researchers in the field of disability sport. It is open to submissions from anyone with an interest in the field, regardless of attendance at the Disability Sport conference. The four main conference themes are as follows:

- Disability sport for peace and development
- Disability sport and social inclusion
- The recreational and psychological value of sport for people with disabilities
- Sport and health for people with disabilities

Submissions are welcome under any of these themes. However, authors wishing to submit a manuscript related to disability sport but outside these themes are also welcome to do so. Further details can be found at <http://jsfd.org/2014/06/27/special-issue-on-disability-sport-call/>

Further details of the conference can be found at:

<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/events/disability-sport-conference-2014/>
Closing date for submissions is Friday 31st October 2014.



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Conference announcements

For those of you attending SSSP in San Francisco, you may also be interested in attending the American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting. ASA also has lots of exciting disability-related sessions, and many of the sessions are the days preceding and immediately after our section's presentations.

To assist you in planning for ASA 2014, below are the Disability and Society section events for ASA. Please take note that the ASA section day is **Saturday August 16th**. A number of other sessions that are related to disability (but are not sponsored by the Disability and Society section) occur throughout the conference. The full preliminary program is available online at:

<http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asa/asa14/>

Sat Aug 16th

8:30-10:10am Disability Section Session: Resistance and Resiliency during Hard Times

10:30-12:10 Regional Spotlight: Four Decades of Disability and Independent Activism in the San Francisco Bay Area

2:30-4:10 Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities (not a section event)

4:30-5:30 Disability and Society Section Roundtables

5:30-6:10 Disability and Society Business Meeting, immediately following round tables

Bridging Research and Advocacy through a Social Problems Lens

By Alice Wong

[Alice Wong](#) is a Staff Research Associate at the [Community Living Policy Center](#), a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and a member of the National Council on Disability. You can find her on twitter: [@SFdirewolf](#)

In the early 1990s, I took a sociology class in high school and it was the first time I saw the world through a sociological lens. It helped me understand the discrimination and stigma I faced as a young [Asian-American disabled girl](#). As a person born with a disability, my diagnosis was one of my primary identities, 'the kid with muscular dystrophy,' or worse, one of 'Jerry's kids.' My interactions with educational and medical institutions centered on this one aspect of my identity and the assumptions behind it. I raged against and resisted [ableism](#) throughout my childhood but did not have a name for it until much later in life.

I majored in sociology at Indiana University-Indianapolis and started my training in qualitative research thanks to opportunities from early

mentors [Carol B. Gardner](#) and [Linda L. Haas](#). My interest in medical sociology and qualitative research led me to the [Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at UCSF](#) for graduate work where I remain today as a research associate. Faculty advisors and professors such as [Adele E. Clarke](#), [Stephen H. Kaye](#), [Mitchell P. LaPlante](#) and many others supported my research interests and were accommodating to my needs as a disabled graduate student.

Today, I have two unique day jobs—one that produces research about policies and programs that affect people with disabilities and another that advocates on behalf of people with disabilities. My second job started early last year when I was appointed to the [National Council on Disability](#). NCD is an independent federal agency charged with advising the President, Congress, and other federal agencies regarding policies, programs, practices, and procedures that affect people with disabilities.

“I raged against and resisted ableism throughout my childhood but did not have a name for it until much later in life.”

While I am clear on disclosing any potential conflicts of interests in both positions, I enjoy this very unique vantage point. I believe qualitative research of the lived experience of disability is necessary in order for people to understand the complex processes involved in being disabled in a non-disabled world.

I completely agree with the following statement by the [SSSP Disabilities division](#):

The historical treatment of people with disabilities and associations of the label disability with disqualification and denial of full citizenship have resulted in a persistent pattern of differential outcomes in many areas, including: housing, income, education, civic participation, voting, incarceration, and self-determination.

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One example of an issue that illustrates the above statement is the school-to-prison pipeline of students of color with disabilities. NCD wrote [sent a letter](#) to Secretary of Education Duncan in March 2014 about this issue and others facing students with disabilities. Some statistics from the Department of Education's [2009-10 Civil Rights Data Collection](#) should be of interest to numerous SSSP divisions (e.g., Educational Problems, Disabilities, Crime and Juvenile Delinquency, Race and Ethnic Minorities, and Poverty, Class and Inequality):

- Students with disabilities covered under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) are over twice as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions compared to non-IDEA students.
- African-American students with disabilities under IDEA are disproportionately subject to mechanical restraint compared to other students with disabilities

I hope these statistics and other data encourage researchers and advocates to look into the social problem of the school-to-prison pipeline and to examine the issue from an intersectional approach since it is clearly more than just a 'racial,' 'disability,' 'educational,' or 'discipline' problem.

To paraphrase [Korey Johnson](#), a college student, "Recommending and making decisions about policy requires understanding of where people are located socially." In my role as a member of the National Council on Disability, I try to do this everyday.

By the way, I'll be on a panel with some great Bay Area disability activists at the annual [ASA meeting](#): "Four Decades of Disability and Independent Living Activism in the San Francisco Bay Area," moderated by [Richard K. Scotch](#), August 16, 10:30-12:10. Please come by and say hello!

Alice recently launched the Disability Visibility Project: A Community Partnership with StoryCorps. It is a year-long grassroots campaign to encourage people with disabilities to record their stories at StoryCorps (3 locations: Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco and a mobile tour)

celebrating the upcoming 25th anniversary of the ADA in 2015. SSSP members may want to consider recording their stories at StoryCorps in San Francisco while attending the meeting. For more information:

<http://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2014/06/18/press-release-june-16-2014/>

Here's a link on how to participate:

<http://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/how-to-participate/>

Comments? Contributions? Please email the newsletter editor:

Rob Gould, PhD Candidate in Disability Studies
University of Illinois at Chicago
Rgould3@uic.edu