

# Disabilities Division

Society for the Study of Social Problems

## Statement from the Chair

Laura Lorenz

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Please join me in welcoming Brian Grossman to our division's leadership as co-chair for 2012-2014! Let me express my heartfelt thanks to Brian for taking on this important responsibility.

I look forward to connecting and reconnecting with you in Denver for our annual meeting, August 16-18. Our division is sponsoring or co-sponsoring two sessions (details in this newsletter). And on Saturday August 18 (4:30-6:10 PM), Brian Grossman, Thomas Horejes, and I will discuss Valerie Leiter's new book *There Time Has Come: Youth with Disabilities on the Cusp of Adulthood* in a panel organized by Michael Maly. Join us in reflecting on this new book by a beloved division and society leader.

The White House Disability Group holds monthly conference calls with the public to raise concerns and ideas surrounding Americans with disabilities. Recent significant announcements from the Group include the FCC launching two major accessibility initiatives, the

Department of Justice obtaining its largest-ever disability-based housing discrimination settlement, the President announcing a delegation to the opening ceremonies of the Olympics that includes a Paralympian, HHS announcing availability of funding to support Americans with disabilities living in their communities, and FEMA awarding contracts to provide Personal Assistance Services to individuals with access and functional needs in congregate facilities. Find out more about these efforts in this newsletter, and find out more about these and other White House disabilities-related initiatives at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/disabilities>.

For a final time, please join me in thanking Laura Mauldin for taking on the role of division newsletter editor! Laura successfully defended her dissertation this year (congratulations, Laura!), and we seek a new newsletter editor for 2012-2013. Please contact me by email or in person at the SSSP conference if you would like to find out more about this valuable division role.

Best,  
Laura Lorenz

**Don't forget! REGISTER for the 2012 SSSP Annual Meeting**

[http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/459/2012 Annual Meeting/](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/459/2012%20Annual%20Meeting/)

## Division News

**NEW CO-CHAIR:** Congratulations to our new co-chair Brian R. Grossman, Assistant Professor, San Jose State University! Please give a warm welcome to Brian at our annual meeting in Denver.

### **BOOK DISCUSSION WITH VAL LEITER AT SSSP 2012!**

*Their Time Has Come: Youth with Disabilities on the Cusp of Adulthood* published by Rutgers University Press.

**Author Meets Critic Session, Organized by Michael May, on Saturday, 8/18 at 4:30pm**

### **Disability Division Sessions at the SSSP Annual Meeting**

Thurs, 8/16, 12:30pm: Disability Activism: The Art of Grassroots Movements  
Organizers: Timothy Lillie & Laura Mauldin

Sat, 8/18, 12:30pm: Disability, Voice and Power  
Organizers: Thomas Horejes & Val Leiter

## CFP: Research In Social Science and Disability

### Volume 8: Families and Households: Impact of Members with a Disability

The 2000 Census results indicated that approximately 72.3 million families in the United States (28.9% of all families) had a disabled member (Wang, 2005). Some of these families had an adult member with a disability, others had a child with a disability, and some families had more than one member with a disability. While there is an extensive literature on caregiving for disabled family members (particularly elderly or children), there is less information about the impact of disabled member/s on other aspects of family or household life. For example, what is the impact on children of having a disabled parent? The return of so many wounded soldiers from our continuing military actions in the Mideast is almost certainly influencing family dynamics, income, stability and other factors affecting relatively young children. Furthermore, what is the impact on the family or household of having more than one disabled member? How are family functioning, financial stability, health care access and participation in the community impacted? And will families or households with more than one disabled member increase as the large baby boomer population ages?

There are many data sets that allow for the examination of families or households (which may contain multiple families). Additionally, families and households may be distinguished by types based on relationships (e.g., marital status), numbers of generations, size, etc. We solicit papers that quantitatively address issues pertaining to the study of disability at the family or household level. Authors must explain the definition and measurement of disability clearly since measures available across data sets can be quite different. They should also be clear about how they identified family members, in particular children versus adults.

Please note: This volume series has an interdisciplinary focus on social science research. As a result, it is very important that authors avoid the jargon of their discipline and write to an audience that is knowledgeable about disability issues but may not be as familiar with discipline-specific terminology.

Submissions are due no later than December 31, 2012 and should be sent to BOTH Barbara Altman, [B.altman@verizon.net](mailto:B.altman@verizon.net) and Sharon Barnartt, [Barnartt@aol.com](mailto:Barnartt@aol.com), co-editors of the series.

## Calls for Papers

### **Families and Disabilities: Implications for Policy and Practice**

GUEST EDITORS: Anne F. Farrell and Gloria L. Krahn

It is estimated that one in seven people globally lives with some form of disability. The past half-century has witnessed enormous paradigmatic shifts in laws and policies that have greatly impacted individuals with disabilities and their families. People with disabilities are not only children in families; they are spouses, partners, parents, and wage-earners. To promote contemporary understanding of the relationship of disability with the development and well-being of children, adults, and families over the life span, Family Relations is planning a "Special Edition" focusing on families and disabilities from interdisciplinary perspectives. For a complete description go

to: [http://www.ncfr.org/sites/default/files/downloads/news/families\\_disabilities.pdf](http://www.ncfr.org/sites/default/files/downloads/news/families_disabilities.pdf)

Please direct inquiries to [anne.farrell@uconn.edu](mailto:anne.farrell@uconn.edu).  
Deadline for Paper Submission: December 15, 2012.

### **Special Issue of Disability Studies Quarterly! Improving Feminist Philosophy and Theory by Taking Account of Disability**

Guest editor: Shelley Tremain, PhD

Submissions should be no more than 8,000 words in length, inclusive of notes and bibliography, and should be prepared for anonymous peer review, with no identifying elements in the text or reference material, and accompanied by an abstract of 200 words. Submissions and all inquiries about the issue should be sent to Shelley Tremain at: [s.tremain@yahoo.ca](mailto:s.tremain@yahoo.ca) with the subject line "DSQ FEMDIS".

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: September 1, 2012.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCES: on or before November 30, 2012.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: Projected for late 2013.

## ASA Section on Disability and Society News

Congratulations to **Alexis Bender**, Army Institute of Public Health, newly elected Program Chair for the ASA Section on Disability and Society!

There will be an informal social gathering of the ASA Section on Disability and Society on Sunday, August 19, following the end of the final Section session at 6:10 pm.

The **ASA Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology** is sponsoring a paper session entitled “'Neuro': Interventions, Entanglements, Futures” on Saturday, August 18th, from 12:30 to 2:10 PM. Division co-chair **Laura Lorenz** will present the second paper, “Contesting Health Policy: Toward a Utopian Vision of Community-based Rehabilitation for Brain Injury.”

Paper Abstract: Brain theory and findings from brain research are coalescing. The adult brain's capacity for recovery from injury is now seen as dynamic, with formation of new cells playing a role in recovery of and compensation for lost function. Yet the dominant narrative in brain injury rehabilitation policy remains that adult access to cognitive therapies is not warranted, thus limiting rehabilitation prospects for the more than 5 million individuals in the U.S. living with disabilities from traumatic brain injury, or any injury to the brain from a blow or other outside force. This paper provides a brief review of brain injury epidemiology, rehabilitation policies, and the different entities contesting them; and proposes a view of community-based rehabilitation for chronic brain injury that is grounded in clinical research and reflected in photographs and captions created by individuals with brain injury during a participatory research project to investigate their lived experience. The paper concludes with a call to incorporate evidence from “real world” experience into policy development, and a utopian vision for closing the community integration gap for individuals with brain injury by engaging community entities in efforts to prevent brain injuries and support brain fitness (emotional, social, cognitive, and physical) for all.

### **Disability & Society Section Sessions at the ASA Annual Meeting**

Sun, 8/19, 10:30am: Disability & Social Policy in times of Fiscal Austerity

Sun, 8/19, 4:30pm: Disability, Technology & the Built Environment

Sun, 8/19, 8:30am: Disability & Society Roundtable: Personal Experiences

Sat, 8/18, 2:30pm: Creating Real Utopias for Persons with Disabilities

## Calls for Papers

Special Issue of the *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies* on  
Disability, Media, and Technology

**Deadline: Sept 1, 2012**

### Summary

In this call, we seek articles that explore the cultural, social, and practical issues found at the nexus of disability, media, and technology. We encourage a variety of paper formats including empirical analysis, policy review and discussion. We welcome papers that are multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary in nature and that engage with the complexity and rapidly changing nature of technology.

**INFO: <http://www.planet-of-the-blind.com/2012/05/call-for-papers.html>**

### [Ethnographica Journal on Culture and Disability](#)

Deadline: **30th August 2012**. Articles can also be sent later for following issues. They are inviting articles from different areas of disability studies informed by culture, though they especially welcome papers which take an ethnographic approach. This means research that is especially from a qualitative nature and by which culture is described and data collection is based on methods such as participant observation and interviews. There are many possible topics, the following being just a small sample of suggestions:

- aging intersecting with gender and ethnicity
- public policies in developing and developed countries
- disability as a consequence of work environment
- (bio) technology, transborder and transhuman aspects of disability

More information in the journal, such as its aims, scope and submission information can be found here: <http://soc.kuleuven.be/ejcd>.

## Student Paper Award Winner Announced

Congratulations to **Alex I. Thompson**, for her paper entitled "'Sometimes, I think I might say too much'" Dark Secrets and the Performance of Inflammatory Bowel Disease."

**Abstract:** This study examines the embodiment of chronically ill bodies who must manage "fecal matters" (Weinberg and Williams 2005) in the context of three Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) support groups. Data were derived from a year of participant observation and semi-structured interviews with twelve support group members. The article first succinctly uncovers the contemporary boundaries of Cahill's (2006) notion of the private body. The discussion secondly focuses on the influence of stigma, surrounding this private secret, on IBD support group dynamics. Lastly, I explore the disparate ways in which the members of each group collectively harness language, and its absence, to protect their embodied selves from symbolic fecal contamination. The paper concludes with an examination of the role of support groups in shaping selves and the boundary posed by the private body.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Radio station WBAI airs the disability themed show *The Largest Minority* every Wed at 9pm? To listen or find out more visit:

**[www.largestminority.org](http://www.largestminority.org)**

**Have you published an article lately?**

**LET US KNOW!**

### **Need Accommodation at SSSP or ASA?**

**For SSSP:**

**<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1562/m/499>**

**For ASA:**

**<http://www.asanet.org/AM2012/access.cfm>**

## Member Accomplishments

### **David Pettinicchio was just published in Sociology Compass!**

Pettinicchio, David. "Institutional Activism: Reconsidering the Insider/Outsider Dichotomy." *Sociology Compass* 6:499-510

**Laura Mauldin will be joining the faculty of the Science, Technology and Society/Public Policy department at the Rochester Institute of Technology this fall.**

Her dissertation was titled "Parents of deaf children with cochlear implants: disability, medicalization, and neuroculture."

**Hey, we're looking for a new Newsletter Editor!**

Write to [llorenz@brandeis.edu](mailto:llorenz@brandeis.edu) if you're interested.

### **Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships!**

Information about the **Lurie Postdoctoral research training** program in disability policy research at the Lurie Institute at Brandeis can be found at:  
<http://lurie.brandeis.edu/education/postdoc.html>

Information about the **Lurie Doctoral Fellowship**, a three-year, full-time PhD program can be found here:  
<http://lurie.brandeis.edu/education/fellowships.html>

**Missed the Society for Disability Studies conference this year?  
Access abstracts and speaker info at**

<http://disstudies.org/annual-conference/2012-conference/preliminary-program/>