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## Letter From the Disabilities Division Co-Chair...

Dear SSSP Disabilities Division Colleagues,

We had a lively annual meeting in Denver, CO this past summer, and it was my pleasure to welcome Co-chair Brian Grossman, Assistant Professor, Health Science and Director, Gerontology Program, San Jose State University and share our division's leadership responsibilities at the meeting. Several of our division's co-sponsored sessions were well attended, and we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring an enticing group of sessions for next year. See the call for papers for more information.

Even as economies around the world continue to be challenged by the global economic downturn, calls for fair treatment of individuals living with disabilities continue. In this issue see an article on US Senator John Kerry's support of the Treaty for Disabled People and a statement by the White House Press Secretary blasting Senate Republicans for blocking the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. You will also find announcements of new publications and other resources, and two new job and research announcements for disability researchers.

It has been my pleasure to serve as our division Co-chair for the past two years, and now it is time to pass the baton to another member. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague to stand for election this year. The job requirements are not burdensome, and the rewards are great. Email Brian ([Brian.Grossman@sjsu.edu](mailto:Brian.Grossman@sjsu.edu)) or me ([llorenz@brandeis.edu](mailto:llorenz@brandeis.edu)) for more information.

Last but not least, please join me in thanking Mona Whisler Smith, our new graduate student editor, for our newsletter's great new look!

I hope that your fall semester has gone well, and I wish you a happy holiday season.

Regards,

Laura Lorenz

Please send new content items to Mona at [masmith@palomar.edu](mailto:masmith@palomar.edu) or to me at [llorenz@brandeis.edu](mailto:llorenz@brandeis.edu).

63rd Annual Meeting | August 9-11, 2013  
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

**RE-IMAGINING**  
SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
MOVING BEYOND SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM



NYC 2013  
The Westin New York at Times Square

SSSP's 63rd Annual Meeting, to be held August 9-11, 2013 at the Westin New York at Times Square in New York City. This year's theme selected by President R.A. Dello Buono is Re-imagining Social Problems: Moving Beyond Social Constructionism.

More Info: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageID/1243>

# In The News...

Monday, November 12, 2012

## Kerry Promotes Treaty for Disabled People Seeks international policies on equal access

By Lisa Hagen SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM & GAZETTE  
<http://www.telegram.com/article/20121112/NEWS/121119922/0>

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., is seeking to extend the work of his late colleague through ratification of a treaty that would guarantee equality for people living with disabilities.

Marking more than two decades since passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law that was sponsored by the late U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., Mr. Kerry is hoping to move the Treaty on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the full Senate.

It would set international standards and seek to provide disabled Americans with equal rights and accommodations when they travel, live, or study abroad.

It was approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which Mr. Kerry chairs, in late July.

Mr. Kerry is seeking a vote during the post-election, lame-duck session that begins Tuesday. Some Massachusetts groups that represent disabled individuals are pushing for the treaty and have lined up bipartisan support, including from Mr. Kerry's current Massachusetts colleague, Republican Sen. Scott Brown.

"This is about who we are as Americans," Mr. Kerry said in a prepared statement. "We lead the world to make sure people are treated with dignity and respect. This is the right thing to do."

According to Alec Gerlach, a spokesman for Mr. Kerry, the senator has been shepherding the treaty since 2009, when it was drafted by the United Nations and later accepted by U.S. officials.

Until last spring, it was at a bureaucratic standstill due to U.S. interagency review, Mr. Gerlach said; however, to date, 153 countries have signed on to the treaty, while 125 of those have ratified it.

Mr. Brown, although defeated for re-election last week, supports the bill and "is a strong supporter of ensuring equal opportunities for all and supports bringing international standards in line with existing U.S. law," Marcie Kinzel, his communications director, said in a prepared statement.

Alluding to possible obstacles to Senate passage of the treaty, Mr. Kerry cited the need to "overcome treaty-phobia" on the part of some senators.

He said ratification of the treaty would not necessitate any changes to federal or state law.

"By joining the treaty, we would help set the tone for countries across the globe, be in a position to apply pressure to those that have neglected individuals with disabilities, and help countries better understand their obligations," Mr. Kerry said.

He said the treaty also would "set an example for the rest of the world," especially when disabled servicemen and women and veterans are traveling.

After their commitment to military service, "we owe it to each of them to fix this," Mr. Kerry said.

Leo Sarkissian, executive director of the Arc of Massachusetts — a group that works to oppose discrimination against those with intellectual and developmental disabilities — said his organization contacted Mr. Kerry late last spring to arrange a hearing on the treaty in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Acknowledging this was "a tough timeline to get it done," Mr. Sarkissian said, "We knew the senator and his team would be responsive and we worked with a national group on this issue as well as our national office... We got the word out to our constituents asking them to encourage him."



**"This is about who we are as Americans. We lead the world to make sure people are treated with dignity and respect. This is the right thing to do."**

—U.S. SEN. JOHN F. KERRY

Once a hearing was officially scheduled, Mr. Sarkissian said, his organization broadened its lobbying efforts, since Mr. Kerry was seeking a particular vote count in favor of the treaty to expedite it being brought to the Senate floor.

Mr. Kerry said the treaty has the support of Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a fellow Vietnam War veteran.

"It is also strongly supported by Republicans like President George H.W. Bush, former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, and former Attorney General (Richard) Thornburgh who, alongside Sen. Kennedy, made the ADA a possibility," Mr. Kerry said.

Another Massachusetts-based organization — the Independent Living Center of the North Shore & Cape Ann — has been promoting the treaty around the state and throughout New England, according to Executive Director Mary Margaret Moore.

For 25 years, the group has advocated for the rights of the disabled along with providing peer counseling and seeking to further independent living skills.

With almost 20 percent of the population living with disabilities, Ms. Moore said, her group's role also extends to helping disabled women and ensuring that they are "valued citizens

# In The News...

Wednesday, December 5, 2012



## Statement by the Press Secretary on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/12/04/statement-press-secretary-convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

We are disappointed that the overwhelming majority of Senate Republicans today blocked the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which would enshrine American standards that have been developed through decades of bipartisan cooperation. Ratification would require no changes to U.S. law, as the United States already leads the world in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. However, it would position the United States to support extending across the globe the rights that Americans already enjoy at home. This in turn would improve the lives of Americans with disabilities -- including our wounded service members -- who wish to live, work, and travel abroad. It would also allow our businesses to operate on a more level playing field and reaffirm American leadership on disability rights. For these reasons, and others, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate and across the country -- as well as disability advocacy groups, wounded warriors, veterans groups and business groups -- have supported this treaty. We commend former Senator Dole and the bipartisan coalition of Senators who worked to secure the treaty resolution's passage, including Senators Reid, Kerry, Lugar and McCain. We hope the Senate will reconsider this treaty soon in the next Congress. As President Obama declared in a written statement read in tribute to Senator Dole just before the vote, disability rights should not stop at our nation's shores.

## Publications...

**Social Constructions of Deafness: Examining Deaf Languacultures in Education** by Thomas P. Horejes, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology, Assistant Professor at Gallaudet University, Washington D.C.). Publisher: Gallaudet University Press .

"Horejes contends that schools as social institutions play powerful and exacting roles in the creation and maintenance of social constructions such as language and culture for deaf children." For more info visit <http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/bookpage/SCODbookpage.html>

**"Overcoming Discomfort with Disability"** by Ronald J. Berger (Sociology Dept., University of Wisconsin-Whitewater), David Travis (Associate Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater), and Jon Feucht (founding director of Authentic Voices of America), Publisher: The Society Pages, Social Science that Matters. Sept. 28, 2012, at 01:02 pm. "Benevolence may breed pity, and the pitied are still stigmatized as "less than." Hence, the disability rights movement has advanced a social model of disability that advocates policy reforms aimed at the institutional contexts of disability and seeks strategies to expand people's "personal comfort zone" with disability." Link to article: <http://thesocietypages.org/specials/overcoming-discomfort/>

**Picturing Disability, Beggar, Freak, Citizen, and Other Photographic Rhetoric** by Robert Bogdan (Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Social Science and Education at Syracuse University) with Martin Elks and James Knoll. Publisher: Syracuse University Press. A grounded theory approach studying the historical photographic representation of people with disabilities. For more info visit <http://syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/fall-2012/picturing-disability.html>



INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION  
*promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities*  
<http://www.communityinclusion.org/>



New Report Released: **"The National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes"** John Butterworth, Frank A. Smith, Allison Cohen Hall , Alberto Migliore, Jean Winsor, Daria Domin, Jaimie Ciulla Timmons, Institute for Community Inclusion (UCEDD) University of Massachusetts Boston. State Data: the National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes 2011. See where your state stands: <http://statedata.info/statedatabook/>

## Information for Graduate Student Members

# Check it Out!

### Call for Papers/Scholarships...

#### SSSP

2013 Call for Papers:

[http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/509/fuseaction/ssspsession2\\_publicView](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/509/fuseaction/ssspsession2_publicView)

2013 Student Paper Competitions and Outstanding Scholarship Awards:

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1436>

The 2013 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship:

[www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/261](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/261)

### DISABILITIES Division Deadline: 1/31/13

The Disabilities Division is pleased to announce its 2013 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 2012) 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 2013 SSSP Annual Meeting in New York. 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 \$50, student membership in SSSP (\$30), SSSP conference registration (\$60), and recognition at the conference awards ceremony. Send an electronic copy of the paper (in Word format) and a cover letter identifying your graduate program to: Laura Lorenz at [llorenz@brandeis.edu](mailto:llorenz@brandeis.edu).

## RESOURCES

### The SSSP Agenda for Social Justice

The SSSP Agenda for Social Justice is a digital publication produced by SSSP and has some key scholars in SSSP behind it. It is worth checking out, may prove to be useful for class material or for your own research, and perhaps a conversation initiator with one of the authors at next year's conference.

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323>

### Graduate Student Representatives on the SSSP Board of Directors

Sarah Hendricks ([shendri4@utk.edu](mailto:shendri4@utk.edu))  
University of Tennessee

Patrick K. O'Brien ([patrick.obrien@colorado.edu](mailto:patrick.obrien@colorado.edu))  
University of Colorado

### FACEBOOK!



A number of Special Problems Divisions have Facebook accounts and it is increasing... so check them out!

- DRINKING AND DRUGS
- HEALTH
- HEALTH POLICY & HEALTH SERVICES
- SEXUAL BEHAVIOR
- POLITICS & COMMUNITIES
- SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WELFARE

\*Don't forget that SSSP also has a Facebook page!

(<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Society-for-the-Study-of-Social-Problems-SSSP/110886379003560>)

# Job Announcements & Research Positions



**Stephen-Bradford Search**  
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## American Foundation for the Blind

**JOB TITLE:** Senior Policy Researcher  
**DEPARTMENT:** Public Policy Center, Washington, DC  
**REPORTS TO:** Director, Public Policy  
**PURPOSE:** To provide leadership for the development and analysis of research to support AFB's public policy agenda and to support research projects related to AFB's mission.

The American Foundation for the Blind removes barriers, creates solutions, and expands possibilities so people with vision loss can achieve their full potential. AFB helps the 25 million Americans living with vision loss in every aspect of life—their education, their careers, their families, the technologies they use, and the laws that shape their environment. In contrast, in many parts of the world, untold millions of children and adults with disabilities are denied education, opportunities to work, and other basic rights merely because they are blind or visually impaired or have other disabilities.

AFB's Public Policy Center in Washington, DC collaborates with policymakers in Congress and the Executive Branch to ensure Americans with vision loss have equal rights and opportunities to fully participate in society. Through the analysis of published research, interpretation of demographic and related data, and the conducting of quantitative and qualitative investigations, AFB's research function strives to accurately and persuasively understand and describe the characteristics, experiences, needs, and capabilities of people who are blind or visually impaired and to inform AFB's Public Policy strategy.

The Center seeks a skilled researcher with dynamic presentation skills to join a passionate team of advocates in creating and supporting AFB's research and public policy agenda.

**The ideal candidate** is a researcher/evaluator, policy analyst, strategic leader, collaborative team player, project manager, relationship builder, and communicator. (S)he should have a PhD with postdoctoral experience and a strong publication record in a related field. (S)he will have the gravitas to lead the organization's research and public policy agenda and to be able to tactically execute the vision in traditional, political, and new media channels. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of developing and managing knowledge capture/dissemination processes (tool development, accountability, protocols, and incentives, internal and external communication) and systems (online, databases, document management).

### Key Responsibilities:

1. Provides leadership for the proposal, development and conduct of research projects including but not limited to scientific and policy research, demographic studies, and program evaluation.
2. Offers expert guidance to other AFB staff undertaking research-related activities. Formulates research-based public policy and program evaluation recommendations.
3. Serves as AFB's primary national spokesperson communicating data and research findings both orally and in writing for lay and professional audiences. Serves as primary AFB respondent to demographic and related information requests, and coordinates communication of responses with various AFB departments.
4. Writes grant proposals and manages outside-funded projects (federal, state, or private), helping to advance and implement AFB's research objectives. Serves as principal investigator for AFB-administered research grants as

New York Office: 261 Madison Avenue | New York, NY 10016 | tel 212-221-6333 | 800-720-0922 | fax 212-391-7826

San Francisco Office: 35 Red Hill Circle | Tiburon, CA 94920 | tel 415-889-5196 | 800-720-0922 | fax 415-889-5197

[www.stephenbradford.com](http://www.stephenbradford.com)



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- assigned; monitors and expertly assesses potential grants and other new research revenue; serves as grant peer reviewer for federal agencies as appropriate and assigned.
5. Prepares original research and research-based knowledge through public presentations, discipline-specific seminars, professional peer-reviewed publication, and consultation.
  6. Provides leadership for the design and delivery of research-related sessions and roundtable activities at AFB/other sponsored events, via the Internet to foster discussion, debate and information sharing.
  7. Serves as an authority on AFB's behalf participating in disability-based and discipline-based coalitions and other venues to advance AFB's public policy agenda and to promote partnership opportunities among interested stakeholders for conducting and disseminating research.
  8. Represents AFB before the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch through formal and informal written/oral communications, testimony, comments on proposed regulation, etc. for the purpose of articulating support for AFB's public policy agenda with appropriate evidence from relevant fields of research.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Doctoral degree or enrollment in doctoral studies program in public administration or other social science, education, public health, information science, or disability-related field required
- 3+ years of professional work in the candidates' subject matter expertise or equivalent (that includes professional peer-reviewed publication) required
- Must possess demonstrable professional/academic proficiency in research methods and policy analysis (including proficiency with SPSS/SAS and related software)
- Demonstrated exceptional speaking and writing skills
- Knowledge of and experience in vision loss/disability studies a plus
- Ability to manage multiple competing priorities and projects simultaneously in a fast-paced environment under deadlines

**Compensation:** Commensurate with experience, plus benefits  
Some travel required

Please contact:

Elyse Barbell  
Senior Director, Nonprofits  
Stephen-Bradford Search  
646-728-2309 (Direct)  
[elyseb@stephenbradford.com](mailto:elyseb@stephenbradford.com)  
[www.stephenbradford.com](http://www.stephenbradford.com)



## UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

### **Postdoctoral Research Associate Position**

#### **Summary**

The Institute on Disability (IOD), a University Center of Excellence in Disabilities (UCED) with over seventy faculty and staff members, is pleased to announce the availability of a postdoctoral research associate position under the joint mentorship of the Dr. Charles Drum, Director of the IOD and a Professor of Health Management and Policy, and Dr. Andrew Houtenville, IOD's Director of Research and Associate Professor of Economics. The Postdoctoral Research Associate will have primary responsibilities related to two research projects: the *Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project: Health and Health Care Disparities among Individuals with Disabilities Project* and the *Health Disparities & Intellectual Disability Project*, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), respectively. This individual will also have access to the IOD Health and Genetics Research Team, which includes eight additional disability and health projects in its portfolio.

#### **Duties/Responsibilities**

Primary responsibilities include a focus on secondary data analysis, participating in a broad range of dissemination activities, and engaging in training and professional development and/or other mentor/mentee assignments.

#### **Minimum Qualifications**

Doctorate or equivalent professional degree, with research leading to Doctorate degree which is closely related to project work.

Knowledge and experienced with SPSS, SAS and/or STATA.

Screening of applications will begin November 1, 2012, and continue until the position is filled. Application materials should be submitted online at: [www.jobs.unh.edu](http://www.jobs.unh.edu). The University System of New Hampshire offers eligible employees an array of benefits and work/life support services. For more information on available benefits, please <http://www.usnh.edu/hr/benefits/benefits.html>

#### ***University of New Hampshire Equal Opportunity Employer***

*The University of New Hampshire is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action institution. The University seeks excellence through diversity among its administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The university prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran status, or marital status. Application by members of all underrepresented groups is encouraged.*



INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY / UCED

*A University Center for Excellence on Disability*



## RESEARCH RAVEN (calls for publications)

<http://www.researchraven.com/calls-for-papers-publications/category/disability-research.aspx>

Topics of research include: assistive technologies and disability; epidemiologic approaches to women's health; chronic diseases and disabilities; societal challenges and opportunities related to autism; experiences of disability from a critical perspective; design, development, evaluation, and scientific investigation of technologies to support individuals with disabilities; integrating accessibility into online higher education; issues relating human rights to disability; managing disability sport; families and disabilities; disability and colonialism; and Feminist Disability Studies.

## RESEARCH RAVEN (calls for meeting & conferences)

<http://www.researchraven.com/calls-for-papers-conferences/category/disability-research.aspx>

Organizations include: Disability Research Interest Group Annual Meeting; Symposium on Disability, Technology and Rehabilitation in Low and Middle Income Countries; Symposium on Reading and Health in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800; The Religion Graduate Organization at the Religion Department of Syracuse University graduate student conference; The Boston College English Graduate Conference; Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies; Study of Social Problems 2013 Annual Meeting; 12th European AAATE Conference (Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe); 12th International Conference on the Care and Treatment of Offenders With Learning Disability; Annual conference of the American Literature Association; Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour (AISB) Annual Convention 2013; RESNA 2013 Annual Conference - Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America; 4th Global Conference Making Sense of Pain; 1st Global Conference--Probing the Boundaries of Reproduction; 2nd Annual Global Healthcare Conference; The World Parkinson Congress 2013; Western Social Science Association Section on Chronic Disease and Disability; Health and Disease in Culture for the Popular Culture Association/ American Culture Association 2013 Meeting; The Five Senses in Medieval and Early Modern Cultures; and Eighth International Conference on Higher Education and Disability.

## LINKS of INTEREST:

### Disability News Stories and Information on Disabilities

<http://www.disabled-world.com/news/>

### DisAbility News & Views Radio:

To be a voice that will build and maintain a leadership position in the media for people with disabilities as we promote awareness, educate and inspire.

<http://www.disabilitynewsradio.com/>

### Disability.gov

is the federal government website for comprehensive information on disability programs and services in communities nationwide. The site links to more than 14,000 resources from federal, state and local government agencies; academic institutions; and nonprofit organizations.

<https://www.disability.gov/news/list>

### Science Daily: Latest disability research

[http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/health\\_medicine/disability/](http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/health_medicine/disability/)

### The New York Times: Articles on Disabilities

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/health/diseasesconditionsandhealthtopics/>

**NOMINATE NOW!**

## Seeking Nominations for Disabilities Division Co-Chair – This Means You!

We seek nominations for a Co-Chair to replace me this summer and join Co-Chair Brian Grossman for 2013-2015. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve and become

better acquainted with SSSP, its leadership, and our division over the past two years. The return on investment in serving our Division is high in terms of relationships, knowledge, and altruism.

*Please feel free to nominate yourself or a colleague.*

Contact Laura Lorenz ([llorenz@brandeis.edu](mailto:llorenz@brandeis.edu)) or Brian Grossman ([BrianRGrossman@gmail.com](mailto:BrianRGrossman@gmail.com)) for information or to discuss possibilities.