



# Society for the Study of Social Problems

*In Pursuit of Social Justice*

Disabilities Division  
Spring Newsletter  
May 2014

## Welcome from the Disabilities Division Co-Chairs

Dear Members of the SSSP Disabilities Division,

Spring has Sprung! We hope that this time of year is bringing warmth and some respite from the school year for those of you in academia. This newsletter is filled with good news and important information to help you feel informed and ready for the 2014 SSSP Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

## In this issue

1.) Announcements

2.) News and Notes:

\* 2014 SSSP Annual Meeting

\*Call for Resolutions

\*Committee on Division  
Naming

3.) Disability in the News

The Disabilities Division will be holding an election for the Division Co-Chair position for the 2014-2016 term. In our division, co-chairs serve overlapping two-year terms, so the incoming co-chair will join Alexis Bender for the 2014-2015 year. Please be certain to look for an email from the Administrative Office announcing the election and the candidates. You will have an opportunity to read about the candidates and choose the future leadership of our Division. Thank you in advance for your participation and your role in ensuring the stewardship and sustainability of the Disabilities Division.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Grossman and Alexis Bender



## News and Notes: SSSP Resolutions

Each year, SSSP encourages its members to craft organization-wide resolutions to be presented for discussion and consideration. Resolutions focus on social problems relevant to specific divisions and are brought by members to the Division Chairs and the Vice President of SSSP. Divisions can co-submit resolutions, as many social problem cross-cut or intersect multiple divisions. Please think about a

**social problems issues** related to the experience of **disability in the US** that would be appropriate for resolutions.

For more information about the process for submitting resolutions and how general membership will offer feedback at the meeting, please read: [http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/578/Call\\_for\\_Resolutions/](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/578/Call_for_Resolutions/) Members are able to develop and submit resolutions on a topic of their choosing. If you are interested in helping to craft a resolution but are not sure what topic you would like to address, please consider volunteering to help craft a statement. Resolutions tend to be broad in scope and integrate data and social issues pertinent to the US and the city/state in which the Annual Meeting is being held (in this case, San Francisco, CA). There are a number of issues/ideas that could be included in a resolution. Three possibilities include:

- \* disability integration and inclusion on the 25th anniversary of the ADA
- \* the inclusion of people with disabilities in the President's initiative for a \$10.10 federal minimum wage (in relation to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1935)
- \* the US's unwillingness to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Human Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCHRPD)

If you are interested in crafting a resolution, please contact Brian Grossman at [brg@uic.edu](mailto:brg@uic.edu) and we can begin to use technology to craft something collectively.



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## Reflecting on our Collective Professional Identity: Are we still the Disabilities Division?

Divisions have the opportunity to revise their division names each year as a part of the election process. Although this year's election process is already under way, it is not too early to think about next year's election and the possibility of changing our name from the DISABILITIES Division to... well, that is part of the discussion. In my role as Co-Chair of the Disabilities Division I am starting an ad hoc committee to consider alternatives to the current division name of Disabilities to something else. Please contact me at [brg@uic.edu](mailto:brg@uic.edu) if you are interested in being part of this effort. At a minimum, the committee will engage in the following tasks:

- \* Review the names of similar sections/interest groups/divisions in other national professional associations
- \* Discuss the possibilities for alternate names
- \* Develop a list of at least two alternate names
- \* Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of keeping the name the same or selecting an alternate name
- \* Present possible alternate names and analysis of advantages/disadvantages to the division
- \* Facilitate a discussion (at the Annual Meeting and/or online) to elicit feedback
- \* Evaluate if the question should go to the ballot (and if so, with what alternate names)

## Seeking: *news to know* for Summer Newsletter!

We will be publishing one more division newsletter this summer before our annual conference. Would you like to advertise any open positions? Submit any feedback or topics of interest for people to know before the SSSP annual conference? News of notes about the disability 'scene' in and around San Francisco? Announce any recent work on disability and social problem? Please send any contributions or suggestions for additions to either the division chairs (Alexis and Brian) or the newsletter editor (Rob Gould, [rgould3@uic.edu](mailto:rgould3@uic.edu)) by June 10.



## Disability In the News

Over the last year, disability has been in the news (and in news-related blogs) quite a bit. Here is an incomplete list of news articles that address disability from the perspective of the sociological imagination, drawing connections between the lived experience of disability and other conditions of life - employment, freedom to choose where and how to live, and the role of state/federal policy on daily living. In addition to being interesting and thought-provoking, these articles may prove useful as starting points for in-class discussions for courses about disability. Take a look and hopefully you will find one or two relevant to your research or to keep on hand for the next guest lecture you offer or course you develop/teach on disability and society.

- Many with Disabilities Find Choices Dwindled with Age:  
<http://www.disabilitycoop.com/2014/05/06/many-dwindle-age/19339/>
- Outdated law needs reform: Many workers with disabilities are paid sub-minimum wage: [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-02-10/business/ct-biz-0210-work-advice-huppke-20140210\\_1\\_minimum-wage-federal-contractors-disabilities](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-02-10/business/ct-biz-0210-work-advice-huppke-20140210_1_minimum-wage-federal-contractors-disabilities)
- University of Illinois constructs new center for wounded veterans:  
[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-11-27/news/ct-met-u-of-i-wounded-veterans-20131127\\_1\\_military-veterans-nugent-hall-wounded-vets](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-11-27/news/ct-met-u-of-i-wounded-veterans-20131127_1_military-veterans-nugent-hall-wounded-vets)
- Federal health law update: Ill-Defined Coverage Muddles Insurance For Developmentally Disabled: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/01/14/262385922/ill-defined-coverage-muddles-insurance-for-developmentally-disabled>
- Actors with Disabilities In Big Roles? 'We Don't Have a Chance' :  
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2013/10/02/228543383/disabled-actors->

**Comments? Contributions?  
Please email the newsletter  
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