



Society for the Study of Social Problems

In Pursuit of Social Justice

Disability Division • Fall Newsletter • November 2017

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Welcome from the SSSP Co-Chairs

Hello Dear Membership!

We hope this finds you all well as the semester winds down and the holiday season ramps up. Before the end of semester/holiday rush is upon you, take a gander at the CFP for the Summer 2018 Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, due January 31st, so your brain is prepared to make good use of the grading-induced day dreams of finals (or traveling, baking, or cooking) ahead. What will you tell us about this year? We're excited to find out!

And the conversation does not have to be limited to the annual meeting. We are very excited to announce the emergence of the Disability Division into the wide world of social media. We encourage you to use our new Facebook and Twitter platforms to share teaching/research materials and activist initiatives, as well as engaging in conversation around pressing issues, be they scholarly, pedagogical, or democratic.

We are also continuing out-going co-chair Deb Little's work to expand the content of our newsletters. Please see Doron Dorfman's discussion of adventures in teaching disability studies. Thanks Doron! And heartfelt thanks to Deb for all her efforts to enrich and grow our Division. Last year saw a 38% increase in membership! Help us keep the momentum up by: submitting for our Graduate Student Paper Competition, submitting to our Division sponsored sessions, contributing newsletter items, joining conversations in social media, and, of course, renewing your annual membership!

Want to be a part of our awesome leadership team? To help shape the Division? Nominations (self-nominations welcome) for the 2018-2020 Division Co-Chair position are being accepted until January 31st. Email Jessica.p.barnett@wright.edu.

Cheers,

Jes & Scott

Jessica Penwell Barnett, PhD
Scott Landes, PhD



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**The Society for the Study of Social Problems
87th Annual Meeting
August 10-12, 2018
Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems:

SSSP President Luis A. Fernandez writes: As we face modern social problems, we can find inspiration in the Abolitionist Movement. As we see Latino, Black, and Indigenous youth killed and imprisoned at disproportionate rates, we need strategies to stop racial subjugation. As we witness the call for larger walls at our borders, we need new thoughts of liberation. As we confront patriarchy and economic inequality, we require stronger practices. To that end, the theme for the 2018 SSSP Annual Meeting is **Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems**.

The SSSP has a long history of experimentation, inviting critique of ideas and concepts as it pushes towards a continual re-imagining of social justice. In the current incarnation, we invite participants to help us develop ways to abolish social problems entirely, to think through what is required to eliminate systems of subjugation, and to document the current struggles that are already leading the way in these efforts. This will require not just a rethinking of how to confront social problems, but also a rediscovering of buried histories, of hidden struggles, and of ideas that are submerged below the surface. It is time, once again, to remember that what is right is practical and to be unafraid of principles that are unpopular.

To this end, the program committee will be inviting speakers, organizing thematic sessions, and assembling panels of scholars-activist who are confronting capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy, and other forms of subjugation. We also invite you to submit proposals that match the theme. It is our hope that this year's theme provides us with an opportunity to have an earnest discussion on the possibilities of developing and implementing strategies that eradicate subjugation. We invite you to engage in our efforts. We hope to see you in Philadelphia, a city steeped in an abolitionist tradition.

Call for Papers: Each participant is permitted to submit one sole-authored paper and one sole-authored critical dialogue paper, but additional co-authored papers may be submitted. Critical Dialogue sessions include short (5 minute) presentations by up to 8 authors followed by facilitated dialogue that critically explores connections among the papers. The audience will have an opportunity to participate in the dialogue as well. Emphasis is placed on exploring interesting connections between papers with a broadly similar theme. The hope is that both presenters and the audience will have an opportunity to make new and deeper connections from their unique insights and presented ideas. Critical Dialogue sessions will not have audio-visual equipment.

All papers must be submitted by midnight (EST) on January 31, 2018 in order to be considered.

SUBMIT TO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING DISABILITY SESSIONS:

Session #	Session Title	Sponsor(s)	Organizer(s)
28	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Limits of Existing Socio-Legal Approaches to Regulating Disability	Disability	Robert Gould rgould3@uic.edu
29	Disability and Schooling	Disability Educational	Sara Green sagreen@usf.edu
30	Global Migrations of Sexualities and Disability	Disability Global Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities	Melissa Jane Welch mjwelch@mail.usf.edu Ying-Chao Kao yckao0512@gmail.com (co-organizers)
31	Disability and Police Violence	Disability Ethnic and Racial Minorities Society	Ashley Volion avolio2@uic.edu
32	Disabling Sport	Disability Sport, Leisure, and the Body	Madeleine Pape madeleine.pape@gmail.com
33	Abolishing Exploitive Labour Practices- THEMATIC	Disability Youth, Aging, and the Life Course	Kate Caldwell kcaldw3@uic.edu
34	Institutional Social Controls of Disability	Disability Youth, Aging, and the Life Course	Scott Landes sdlandes@maxwell.syr.edu

Student Paper Competition

Deadline: 1/31/18

The Disability Division is pleased to announce its 2018 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 May 2017) 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 a Disability Division sponsored session at the 2018 SSSP Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Thus it is also a requirement that an abstract is submitted through the annual meeting Call for Papers process to a Disability Division session by the January 31st deadline. The recipient will receive a monetary prize of \$50, a one-year student membership in SSSP (\$30), SSSP 2018 conference registration (\$60), a plaque, 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:

Jessica Penwell Barnett
jessica.p.barnett@wright.edu





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Announcements and Notable Publications

Call for Art!

We are looking for members' art to feature on our facebook page banner. If you have disability or disability justice themed artwork, we would love to share it!



Email submissions to: Jessica Penwell Barnett,
jessica.p.barnett@wright.edu

Notable Publication

Barnett, Jessica Penwell. 2017. "Intersectional Harassment and Deviant Embodiment Among Autistic Adults: (Dis)Ability, Gender, Sexuality." *Culture, Health, & Sexuality* 19(11):1210-1224.
doi:10.1080/13691058.2017.1309070.

Disability in the News

In this new section, we will feature disability in current events, politics, research, and pedagogy!

"I am a Man with Down's Syndrome and My Life is Worth Living"



US Capitol Building, Public Domain

Connor Friedersdorf, The Atlantic, Oct 30, 2017

In the US, 67 percent of Down's Syndrome diagnoses result in abortion. In a testimony to Congress, Frank Stephens, a man with Down's Syndrome, shared that his life is worth living. He advocated for funds to be directed to helping people with Down Syndrome, rather than funding prenatal testing that typically results in selectively terminating the pregnancy. <http://theatlantic.com/2z09nHb>

"Why Disability Rights are Central to Social Justice Work—and What We're Doing About it"

Noorain Khan, Equals Change Blog, Nov 1, 2017

By applying a disability lens and viewing identities as intersectional, the Ford Foundation has made great strides to integrate disabilities into all of their work. Believing that disability rights are pivotal in the fight for social justice, they investigate how they can go beyond inclusion through assessing accessibility issues within their organization, and providing grants to programs prioritizing disability rights. <http://bit.ly/2AdeX96>



Public Domain

"Minority Students' Disabilities Less Likely to be Identified in U.S. Schools"



Credit: OJO Images/iStock.com

Science X Network, phys.org, Nov 16, 2017

Researchers at Penn State University uncover surprising trends that counter past research; from their analysis of nationally representative data from 400,000 students, they conclude that minority students with disabilities are now less likely to be identified. While legislation aimed at preventing the discriminatory over-diagnoses of minority students with disabilities could be the cause, the researchers suggest, instead, that past research failed to highlight how minority students were exposed to factors that can often lead to developing disabilities. <http://bit.ly/2hwPbF2>

A Teaching Experience and the Usage of the Word "Crip"

Doron Dorfman

I have 27 undergraduates in my class, "Introduction to Disability Studies and Disability Rights," at Stanford. This is the first ever intro course that officially claims to be a disability studies class and the students enrolled who were not really exposed to DS interdisciplinary scholarship (humanities-critical type, social science-oriented, legal scholarship, etc.) are very active.

The first text I assigned was Alison Kafer's Intro to her *Feminist Queer Crip*. I chose this more critical-theoretical piece not only because it covers a lot of ground, but because I think that at the university, there is much less discussion of this genre of scholarship. When we discussed it in our first class, many students expressed their concerns about the word "crip," which they still find offensive and don't view as being reclaimed. A few students who come from the Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies program were more open to it.

In our fifth class, on the disability rights and independent living movement, I assigned parts of Sin Invalid's *Skin, Tooth, and Bone – The Basis of Movement is Our People: A Disability Justice Primer*, to showcase how ideas of intersectionality and anti-capitalism have entered the field and how the study has evolved. Some students reacted very fondly to this piece and some found it to be too extreme. The critique of the work "crip" continued.

The next class, I assigned Mark Sherry's 2013 short blog post, "Crip Politics?...

Just No," where he talks about how the use of the term "crip" by academics is out of touch with the real experiences of disabled people on the ground, specifically, those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. A similar argument can be found in a recent article published in *Disability & Society*, "Trapped Behind the Glass: Crip Theory and Disability Identity," by Kristin Marie Bone. Many students loved Sherry's piece and identified with it. Some wrote very compelling reflection papers and shared their experiences in class. One physically disabled student said the word "crip" "makes [her] skin crawl" every time someone uses it. They also think it excludes people with non-physical disabilities.

I said to them that the word "Queer" (which is commonly used on campus) had similar connotations in the not too distant past, and that it was primarily used against gay men (not the whole LGBTQ community). Although the students seemed to understand this, I got the feeling that most of them still don't like the term "crip."

I have to say that I was a bit surprised by these notions, maybe because I've been entrenched in our field for so long. I am happy to have gotten the chance to engage in this fruitful discussion with my students and recommend the reading (in that order) to expose complexities the different views within disability studies.

Social Media Notes



Find us on facebook!

"Like" our page to stay connected and learn about disability justice, scholarship, current events, social change initiatives, job opportunities, and much more!

www.facebook.com/SSSPDisability



Follow us on twitter for updates!
[@SSSPDisability](https://twitter.com/SSSPDisability)

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EQUITY.

DIVERSITY.

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