



Society for the Study of Social Problems

In Pursuit of Social Justice

Disability Division Spring Newsletter May 2021

Greetings from the Disability Division Co-Chairs

Hello!

First, we would like to begin by saying we hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. It has been over a year since the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and we know that so many lives have been impacted in various ways. We hope that you've been able to find some moments of solace and support throughout these trying times.

In this editions newsletter, we will be highlighting the accomplishments of various division members. Various members of the disability division have produced publications ranging from journal articles to book chapters, and we want to highlight and celebrate these exciting achievements! There are references and or links to different articles and websites related to our division members content!

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Co-Chair Spotlight!

Dr. Loren Wilbers is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She coordinates the Family, Health & Disability Studies minor program and the Disability Studies program. She teaches a number of courses, including Sociology of Disability and Sociology of Health & Illness. Her research interests include chronic pain and family experiences with disability. She has published in *Humanity & Society*, *Research in Social Science & Disability*, the *Journal of Social Service Research*, and *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*. She is co-author of the new 2020 edition of the "Introducing Disability Studies" textbook with Ronald J. Berger. She resides in Madison, WI with her husband, Travis, and their dog, Weezy. She is excited to be serving the Disability Division of SSSP in the role of co-chair.



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Disability Division Election Results

***The winner of the
Disability Division
Election is:***

**Catherine M.
Voulgarides!**



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Disability Division Student Paper Award winner:

Melinda Maconi for her paper, "“When you get into this world, you’re constantly connected to things”: Creating and reproducing cultural capital for people with disabilities participating in the arts.”

She will be presenting this at the SSSP annual conference.



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Member Publication Highlight:
Rebecca Blackwell

Background: Donileen Loseke (1947–) is an American sociologist who taught at the University of South Florida from 1990 until her retirement in 2019. Her primary areas of specialization include constructionism, symbolic interactionism, social psychology, research methods, social problems, and the sociology of emotions. Her research explores the narrative production of reality, addressing the relationships among narrative, emotion, and the symbolic representations of types of people in public policy, public service organizations, and political discourse. Loseke’s work uncovers patterns in the way social actors use storytelling to make sense of their lived experiences at the cognitive, emotional, and moral levels.

Reference: Blackwell, Rebecca and William Force. 2020. “Donileen Loseke,” in *SAGE Research Methods Foundations*, edited by P. Atkinson, S. Delamont, A. Cernat, J. Sakashaug, and R. Williams.
doi:10.4135/9781526421036896556



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Member Publication Highlight: **Stephanie J. Lau**

Abstract: This paper focuses on interviews conducted with women veterans with disabilities in Virginia and how they feel their needs would best be met as they transition to civilian college life. The interview questions were designed to capture the basic experiences of women veterans with disabilities who were enrolled in higher education. Those interviewed responded to 13 questions, which focused on background information, how their disability affected their education, what resources they used, and how schools can best meet their needs as women veterans with disabilities. Two members of the project staff conducted independent thematic content analyses, then discussed and agreed on common themes identified. Those themes were: cultural differences, military identity, bureaucracy, experiences, and disability influence. These women veterans revealed that they have difficulty transitioning from the highly structured military world to the less-structured civilian world; their disabilities have an impact on their education options: they seek out quiet spaces, they need more communication and direction on resources and accommodations, and they would like women-specific support groups. Project staff concluded that women veteran students should be treated as a cultural group with specific needs, such as quiet spaces, transition training and mentoring by women peers, and increased communication about veteran-eligible services.

Reference: Lau, S. J., McKelvey, S., Groah, C. H., & Getzel, E. E. (2020). Unique Needs and Challenges of Women Veteran Students with Disabilities: Conceptualizing Identity in Higher Education. *Journal of Veterans Studies*, 6(3), 101. <https://doi.org/10.21061/jvs.v6i3.212>



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Member Publication & Achievement

Highlight:

Laura Maldin

Dr. Laura Maldin, Ph.D is an associate professor at the University of Connecticut in the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality studies, and the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences.

Dr. Maldin was awarded an "SSRC Rapid Response to COVID-19" for her book project on Spousal Caregivers. She then published an essay from the book project in Real Life Magazine. Dr. Maldin published a two-part essay on conducting fieldwork during a pandemic on the Sociology blog "Scatterplot". And finally, Dr. Laura Maldin published a short write up of some of her study results with the national organization "Caring Across Generations".



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Member Publication & Achievement Highlight: New Narratives of Disability: Constructions, Clashes, and Controversies.

In 2020, series editors, Sara Green and Donileen Loseke produced an edited volume of "*New Narratives of Disability: Constructions, Clashes and Controversies.*"

This research volume contains chapters that were contributed to by multiple members of the disability division. Below is a description provided by Sara Green about this new work.

New Narratives of Disability explores questions about narrative frameworks in disability research. Narrative is an omnipresent meaning-producing communication form in social life that is both cultural and personal. Public understandings of disability tend to follow a medical storyline in which disability is a tragedy to be fixed. This narrative has been heavily critiqued by a social narrative of disability that draws attention to ways in which people with bodies and minds that do not conform to notions of normality are oppressed by negative attitudes and social barriers. A growing chorus has been raising concerns that this social frame of disability may neglect the telling of disability stories that include pain, suffering and episodic disability. Such critiques call for new and more complex narratives that include voices and experiences missing from the social narrative of disability. This volume answers that call by exploring how narrative inquiry leads to richer understandings of disability that can serve as a platform for dismantling prejudices and discrimination in order to promote positive social change.

Reference: *New Narratives of Disability: Constructions, Clashes, and Controversies*. Vol. 11, *Research in Social Science and Disability*. Sara E. Green and Donileen R. Loseke, editors. UK: Emerald Publishing (2020)



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Call for Publication Highlight:
***Research in Social Science and Disability
(RSSD)***

Volume 13 of RSSD will be titled Disability in the Time of Pandemic- The editors, Allison Carey, Sara Green, and Laura Mauldin, are seeking abstracts for possible chapters. The volume is under contract with Emerald Publishing, and we anticipate it will be published in 2022. Chapter abstracts are due June 15th, 2021 and can be sent to Allison Carey at accare@ship.edu.

The full call and timeline is attached and can also be found [here](#). Additional information about the RSSD book series can be found at the following link:

<https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/series-detail/Research-in-Social-Science-and-Disability/>

We welcome submissions from a variety of disciplines and epistemological perspectives in the social sciences from contributors around the world. Please disseminate the Call to your colleagues as well.