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## Greetings from the Disability Division Co-Chairs

### Hello Disability Division Members!

We hope your semester has been constructive and invigorating. We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all organizers, presidors, and discussants from the 2018 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Due to your passion and effort, each of our sessions proved to be informative and generative. Thank you for your help in making this meeting a success. For those of you who attended the Disability Division sessions, we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did, and look forward to hearing about your work and ideas at future meetings. As detailed on page 5 of the newsletter, we have an exciting slate of sessions scheduled for the 2019 Annual Meeting in New York. We encourage you to browse through these topics, submit your work to those that align with your interests, and pass along the list of sessions to colleagues who may share similar interests.

As you are well aware, we are in the midst of a run-off election for our Co-Chair position. We have two well-qualified candidates, each of whom would be a wonderful co-chair. Our membership obviously agrees, as the first round of voting resulted in a tie. We encourage you to vote in the run-off election. Remember, the deadline for voting is December 14. We will announce the winner via email once the election is complete.

To our student members— please consider submitting your research for our SSSP Disability Division 2019 Graduate Student Paper Competition by the January 31, 2019 deadline. You can read more about the paper competition on page 6 of the newsletter.

Finally, we remind you to renew your SSSP membership before the end of the year. SSSP memberships are based on a calendar year and run January 1 to December 31, so please renew before the end of the year. And if you have colleagues or students who are engaged or interested in disability, please encourage them to join us as well.

The best to you during this holiday season.

Scott and Justine

Scott Landes, PhD, Syracuse University

Justine Egner, PhD, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

## Disability division mission statement

The Disability Division is devoted to the critical study of disability in society, including the structural and sociocultural mechanisms through which disability is (re)produced and (re)constructed as an axis of oppression and exclusion. Our concerns are wide-ranging, and include the following:

- 1.** Disability has historically been, and continues to be, overlooked within mainstream sociology. Disability remains understudied and undertheorized as both a phenomenological category of existence and a social category used to disqualify groups of people and deny them access to cultural, economic, and political resources.
- 2.** The historical treatment of people with disabilities and associations of the label disability with disqualification and denial of full citizenship have resulted in a persistent pattern of differential outcomes in many areas, including: housing, income, education, civic participation, voting, incarceration, and self-determination.
- 3.** Disability has emerged as a source of collective identity, around which people have formed multiple social movement organizations that advocate for greater inclusion and social justice for people with disabilities. The disability rights movement, the civil rights movement for people with disabilities, has engaged in significant and meaningful political activities – including nonviolent civil disobedience – as part of this struggle. Counted among their successes are: the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act (1973) and subsequent amendments, the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), and the inclusion of the Community First Choice Option in the Affordable Care Act (2010).
- 4.** In addition to advocating on behalf of their own community interests, people with disabilities have participated in and continue to participate in other social movements working in coalition for a more just world.
- 5.** Ableism, like racism, sexism, ageism, heterosexism, and other institutional and structural forms of prejudice, discrimination, and marginalization, has a significant and pervasive force impacting the lives of everyone in society. Further interrogation is needed into the ideologies and practices that sustain ableism, as well as the immediate, intermediate, and cumulative effects of ableism on individuals, communities, and nations.
- 6.** Historical and contemporary (re)presentations of disability and people with disabilities by the dominant, able-bodied culture have dehumanized people with disabilities and rejected their agency as producers of knowledge. As people with disabilities have come to critique and reject these other-made (re)presentations, new forms of disability culture(s) have emerged that (re)claim bodily and emotional performance and assert people with disabilities as experts on their own lives.

- 7.** As a socio/politico/legal category, disability represents an important claim of citizenship on the State for resources, services, protection, and power. Conversely, the State is constantly engaged in renegotiating the boundaries of the category of disability in order to de-legitimize or mitigate these claims.
- 8.** Environments influence and inform the experience of disability and disabling processes. Social, physical, natural, ideological, and geopolitical environments create unique contexts in which specific types of bodies and minds are validated and others are marginalized.
- 9.** The recognition that disability is a social determinant of life opportunities and of health across the lifecourse. Disability shapes individuals' lives, just like more widely recognized determinants, such as gender, race, ethnicity, and class.
- 10.** Members of the division are interested in how disability intersects with other social characteristics, including but not limited to, gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, veteran and immigration status.
- 11.** Our examination of disability as a social characteristic is grounded in social models of the phenomenon, which address segregation, institutional barriers, and discrimination. Although we do not ignore the body in our work, the primary focus is on how societies treat individuals with disabilities and the consequences of that treatment.

Our vision of a just world is one where all individuals are supported in their efforts to live to their highest potential in environments that enable opportunity and actively combat all forms of discrimination. Specifically, these environments would afford access for people with disabilities to meaningfully participate in schools and jobs, families, communities, and other social groupings. Our work is focused broadly and seriously addresses both the power of disability as a social category and the lives of people with disabilities and the contexts in which they live them.

Within our division, disability is recognized within the social problems framework. Disability is both something that individuals and groups in society produce (through war and work, for example) and construct (through ideas and representations). Consequently, disability is re-politicized, and the prevailing idea that disability is a personal problem is rejected.

Examples of some of the topics that our members have explored include: Disability policies, community activism and organization, the intersection of race and culture in the experience of disability, disability and war, the medical normalization of disability, and disability and life course.

# SSSP Call for Papers

## The Society for the Study of Social Problems 69th Annual Meeting

### “Illuminating the SOCIAL in Social Problems”

August 9-11, 2019  
Roosevelt Hotel  
New York City, NY

SSSP President Nancy J. Mezey writes: In his book, *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, and Promise*, the late Allan G. Johnson wrote that the most important thing sociology teaches us is that we are always participating in social systems that are larger than ourselves. Because we are constantly shaping and being shaped by social systems, individualistic models do not work for understanding the social world or for solving social problems. Indeed, Johnson tells us that if we want to solve social problems, we need to understand, explain, and address what is “social” about those problems.

The theme for the 2019 SSSP meetings is a call for social justice theorists, empiricists, practitioners, activists, policy makers, and analysts, to draw deeply and widely on sociological teachings to illuminate the social in all aspects of social problems. If our founding scholars were correct, then our ability to illuminate the social in social problems will help solve some of the major social problems of our time.

The move away from individualistic models is critical in such an illumination. Individualist models focus on the characteristics of individuals without looking at the relationships that connect individuals to each other, to groups, or to larger society. Johnson reminds us that people do not exist outside of systems, and systems cannot function without people. And yet, “people are not systems, and systems are not people,” but the relationship between the two is critical to understanding the social world and the problems caused by unequal power relationships institutionalized throughout history. In other words, a forest is not just a bunch of individual trees, but rather “a collection of trees that exist in a particular relation to one another.” Similarly, society is not simply a collection of unrelated individuals, but rather a collection of people that exist in a particular relation to one another; and those relationships create the very essence of what is “social” in our lives. So when we illuminate the social in social problems, we are illuminating the patterned, structural, and institutionalized relationships that exist among us and connect us together to create our larger social world.

Because of an increasing focus on individualistic models, public discourse lacks a social structural analysis regarding race, class, gender, sexuality, nationality, religion, mass incarceration, and immigration, to name a few. For the 2019 SSSP meetings, I call on our membership to reclaim and refocus that public discourse.

Let us carefully consider the connective spaces between the trees that creates the larger forests; the spaces in which social problems are embedded and perpetuated by unequal power relationships. Let us push forward our disciplinary roots to explain what is social about social problems, so that what we understand to be obvious becomes obvious to everyone around us and becomes part of popular thought and parlance.

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, 2019 in order to be considered.**

### Disability Section Sessions

Session #	Session Title	Sponsor(s)	Organizer(s)
29	Disability and the Arts	Disability	Sara Green - sagreen@usf.edu
30	Disability is Not the Problem: Moving Beyond the Social Model	Disability	Brian Grossman - brg@uic.edu
31	PAPERS IN THE ROUND: Disability - Inclusion, Access and Rights	Disability	Scott Landes - sdlandes@maxwell.syr.edu
32	Disability and Relationships Across the Life Course	Disability Family Youth, Aging and the Life Course	Dalton Stevens - jdsteven@syr.edu
33	Disability and Labor	Disability Institutional Ethnography Labor Studies	Jennifer Brooks - Jbro100@syr.edu Doron Dorfman - ddorman@stanford.edu Alison Fisher - alison_fisher@edu.yorku.ca
34	The Invisibility of Disability in Intersectional Approaches	Disability Racial and Ethnic Minorities	Laura Mauldin - laura.mauldin@gmail.com
35	Trans/Queer/Crip: Illuminating Bodyminds	Disability Sexual Behavior, Politics and Communities	Katherine Caldwell - kcaldw3@uic.edu Chris Wakefield - wakefc1@unlv.nevada.edu
36	Neurodivergency and Neurodiversity	Disability Society and Mental Health	Justine Egner - jegner@mail.usf.edu

# SSSP Call for Papers

## SSSP Disability Division 2019 Graduate Student Paper Competition

**Deadline: 1/31/19**

The Disability Division is pleased to announce its 2019 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 2018) 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 2019 SSSP Annual Meeting in New York. 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, a one-year student membership in SSSP, SSSP 2019 conference registration, a plaque, and recognition at the conference awards ceremony.

Send an electronic copy of your paper (in Word format) and a cover letter identifying your graduate program to: **Scott Landes, [sdlandes@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:sdlandes@maxwell.syr.edu)**

# Member Publications

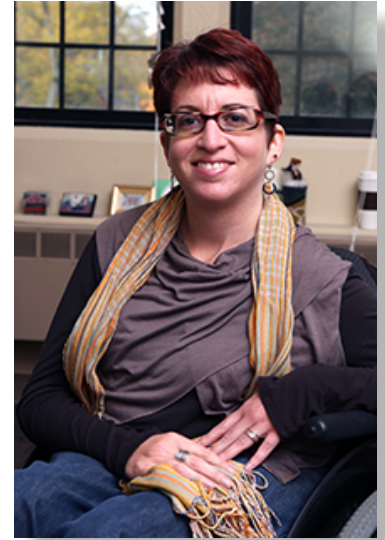
## Dis-epistemologies of abolition

**Liat Ben-Moshe - University of Toledo\***

*Critical Criminology*, Vol. 26 No. 3, August 2018

### Abstract:

There are various critiques laid out against the framework of carceral abolition (as it appears currently in prison abolition and deinstitutionalization): that it is abstract, only critiques but does not suggest specific solutions; that it is a utopian vision of the world; and that it is unrealistic in the world we currently occupy. Throughout this article I will demonstrate how such critiques can be conceptualized as strengths of these movements and frameworks for liberation. I argue that carceral abolition (as it appears in prison abolition and deinstitutionalization) is a form of knowledge, an ethical position. My first claim is that this knowledge is rooted in maroonage and I show the consequences of not engaging with abolition from intersectional frameworks. My second claim is that we can understand abolition as a dis-epistemology that rejects ways of knowing tied to certainty, optimism and certain notions of futurity and temporality.



**\*Liat Ben-Moshe is joining the department of Criminology Law and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago in Spring 2019.**

## "Coming out" rhetoric in disability studies: Exploring the limits of analogy by looking at its fit with the Deaf experience

**Laura Mauldin - University of Connecticut**

*Disability Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 38 No. 2, 2018

### Abstract:

This article takes as its entry point the borrowing of coming out discourse in Disability Studies. It first discusses the limits of using such analogies and then investigates its fit when considering the specificity of the Deaf experience. The research is based on five personal histories garnered through in-depth interviews with individuals primarily discussing their processes of coming to identify as Deaf, but also some discussion of coming to identify as gay/lesbian. Their stories indicate that unlike its deployment in broader disability studies, the discourse of coming out in relation to adopting a Deaf cultural identity does not resonate. Instead, the narratives show that while these Deaf individuals did use a sign for "coming out" to describe their process of identifying as gay/lesbian, they did not use it to describe their Deaf identity development. Their narratives of coming to identify as culturally Deaf instead predominantly use a phrase that can be interpreted from sign language as "becoming Deaf," although some of the same processes and features of identity development are present. It concludes with a discussion of the tensions between Deaf and disability studies, the limits of analogizing disability with other categories and particularly the limits of coming out discourse regarding the Deaf experience, as well as a discussion of the universalizing view of disability studies.



# Member Publications

## Self-Reported ADHD and Adult Health in the United States

**Scott D. Landes and  
Andrew S. London -  
Syracuse University**  
*Journal of Attention  
Disorders*, February 2018



**Objective:** Informed by a social determinants of health framework, we investigate the relationship between self-reported ADHD diagnosis status and adult health, and whether observed associations are attenuated by biomedical and socioeconomic factors. **Method:** Using 2007 National Health Interview Survey data (N = 19,104), we present multivariate logistic regression analyses of associations between self-reported ADHD diagnosis status and five adult health outcomes. **Results:** ADHD diagnosis was significantly associated with higher odds of injury, physical health conditions, functional limitations, fair/poor health, and psychological distress in fully specified models (adjusted odds ratios [AORs] = 1.62-2.36). Inclusion of controls for exogenous demographic characteristics, psychiatric comorbidities and health behaviors, and adult social and economic statuses attenuated but did not eliminate observed associations between ADHD and poorer adult health. **Conclusion:** Research on adult health outcomes for those with ADHD should include consideration of the mechanisms by which a diagnosis of ADHD leads to cumulative social disadvantages that independently contribute to poorer health outcomes.



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