

Call for Papers

Disability and the Changing Contexts of Family and Personal Relationships

Research in Social Science and Disability (RSSD), Volume 15

Edited by Gabriele Ciciurkaite and Robyn Lewis Brown

The past 50 years have witnessed a transformation in the structure and function of families and households. The social and demographic catalysts for these changes – including but not limited to delayed marriage, the legalization of same-sex marriage, women’s increased labor force participation, and declines in fertility and mortality – have further impacted norms about family life and the performance of formal and informal family roles. Despite these radical shifts, however, family and personal relationships are not well-represented in disability scholarship.

Conversely, people with disabilities are rarely included in family studies scholarship. The limited attention people with disabilities have received in this field overwhelmingly problematizes disability, which is evident in the predominant focus on difficulties, hardship, despair, etc., families may experience as a result of a family member’s disability. In counterpoint to this approach, and in the interest of expanding disability scholarship on families, the goal for this volume of *Research in Social Science and Disability* is to bring together research and theoretical perspectives that challenge and revise dominant perspectives on disability and the changing contexts of family and personal relationships.

Our approach to this volume topic is rooted in a sociological and anti-ableist understanding of families which recognizes that families are not only shaped by individuals and individual relationships. Concentrating instead on the social contexts in which families exist shifts our focus away from individuals and allows us to engage with the social structures and status hierarchies that may privilege or undermine families and relationships to varying degrees. In addition to showcasing work that is conceptually innovative in this volume, it is our intention to present cutting-edge methods related to the study of families. As such, this volume is poised to present not just a different perspective or perspectives on disability and family life, but also a new paradigm in disability scholarship.

In this call, we seek theoretical, methodological, or empirical papers that center disability in the study of family contexts, from the perspective of, and including literature linked to, a social science. We are open to a wide range of topics, which might include:

1. Childhood family experiences
2. Sexuality and personal relationships
3. Family transitions
4. Union stability and quality
5. Parenthood and parenting
6. Work/life balance and other employment considerations
7. Gendered divisions of labor
8. Food insecurity as well as other forms of material hardship and family roles
9. Family stress processes
10. Intergenerational relationships
11. Kinship and extended family ties
12. Policy or economic analyses
13. Historical analyses
14. Theoretical formulations for studying impairments or disabilities and the family; and
15. Methodological issues in the study of impairments or disabilities and the family.

Consistent with previous volumes in the RSSD series, we welcome submissions from a variety of disciplines in the social sciences and from interdisciplinary teams of authors. We also encourage submissions from scholars around the world, and we particularly encourage research conducted outside of the global north.

As the first step, we are seeking expressions of interest in contributing a chapter to this volume. Interested authors should submit an abstract no later than **October 15, 2022**. Abstracts should contain a commitment to submit a full paper by **April 15, 2023**. Abstracts should be approximately 500-1000 words submitted as a Word document or PDF. Abstracts should be organized in the following sections with sub-titles: Purpose, Approach, Findings (anticipated findings are sufficient at this stage), and Implications. **Please send abstracts to Gabriele Ciciurkaite at Gabriele.ciciurkaite@usu.edu.**

Upon review of abstracts, the editors will invite a subset of authors to submit a completed manuscript by April 15, 2023. The completed manuscripts, revised in final form after peer review, will be due by August 15, 2023. It is anticipated that Volume 15 will be published in 2024. All papers should adhere to the author guidelines for Emerald Press: http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/ebooks/author_guidelines.htm.

Research in Social Science and Disability is a peer-reviewed book series published by Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Bingley, UK. It is multidisciplinary based upon the social sciences and cross-cultural. Submissions should be accessible to readers from multiple social science disciplines and to readers from multiple countries.

About the Volume Editors:

Gabriele Ciciurkaite, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Utah State University. Her research focuses on better understanding of inconsistent access to food as a source of stress in the home that undermines physical and mental health. In expanding the conceptual understanding of food insecurity as an important marker of inequality, her work has also considered family roles as sources of stress with psychological and behavioral health effects among people with disabilities.

Robyn Lewis Brown, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Director of the Health, Society, and Populations Program at the University of Kentucky. She is past chair of the American Sociological Association's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology (2017-2021), and has served in numerous leadership roles for the organization's Section on Disability and Society. A long-standing focus of her research is on gender- and disability-related experiences of stigma and discrimination, and collective trauma or macro-level stressors, which is reflected in her work on the psychological impact of the 9/11 attacks, the Great Recession and, more recently, the Covid-19 pandemic. This research emphasizes the impact of stress and adversity on the performance of family roles and the quality of family and personal relationships.