

Call for Papers:
Impairment in the Social World
A Graduate Student Conference
MARCH 22-23, 2018
Columbia University in the City of New-York

Extended Submission Deadline: December 22, 2017

Travel funding may be available to conference participants based on need
Assistance is also available to find accommodations for your stay in New York

In 2013 more than one in five American adults had a disability and four percent needed assistance in daily activity. While the experience of living with a disability affects a significant portion of the population, it is relatively understudied in the social sciences. Social science research on disability is caught between a medical model which stresses physiological impairment, and a social model that emphasizes stigma and discrimination without attending to the substantiality of impairment. This opposition between the social and medical models inhibits sociological research on disability. Believing that disability is a meaningful social category worthy of inquiry, we are soliciting papers which take seriously the role of impairment in shaping the social world and the lives of individuals. In this conference we hope to develop a model of disability that attends to the *relationship* between impairment and social life; the ways in which disability shapes and is shaped by the social world. A full list of exemplary themes is included at the end of this call for papers.

The conference, *Impairment in the Social World*, is being organized by graduate students from Columbia University's Department of Sociology under the faculty guidance of Gil Eyal and Adam Reich, with financial support from The Center for Science and Society and the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP). Participants will have 15-20 minutes to present their papers and will have the opportunity to discuss their work with other graduate students and prominent researchers in the field. We invite graduate students to submit a one page abstract by December 22, 2017. Abstracts should be approximately 800 words, include the name of the author(s), and their institutional affiliation(s). Successful applicants will be informed January 2018, and full paper drafts will be circulated among participants in mid-February. Please submit your extended abstract as a PDF to disabilitysocial2018@gmail.com.

We welcome an interdisciplinary conversation and encourage contributions from graduate students in the social sciences. Exemplary themes for papers include but are not limited to:

1. Methodology: How do we, as researchers, navigate the ethics of measuring disability? How can we reconcile the call to empowerment for people with disabilities with their definition as a vulnerable population for research purposes?

2. Citizenship and Rights: How do disability and impairment inform citizenship and political action? How productive is a discourse of rights for supporting people with disabilities?

3. Gender, Race and Class: In what ways does disability intersect with other social categories like gender, race, and class? How is the performance and experience of disability affected by other identities possessed by people with disabilities? In what contexts might it be beneficial to understand disability as a demographic variable, in what contexts might it be difficult?

4. Ethics and Care: What does society expect from people with disabilities in exchange for care? How does the modern welfare state shape the delivery of care and the morality of giving or receiving it?

5. Disability and Significant Others: How does disability shape interactions with social institutions? How do social institutions like the family, school, etc. shape the content of disability or the implications of impairment?

Submissions, as well as further inquiries, should be emailed to: disabilitysocial2018@gmail.com
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Attendance is free, and open to the public. The conference will accommodate all needs and abilities.

We look forward to seeing you in New York City!