

Volume 13
Disability in the Time of Pandemic

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June 15, 2021 Abstracts Due
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For this volume, we seek papers rooted in the social sciences that explore the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for people with disabilities in their varied communities and across their complex identities.

COVID-19 has once again illuminated the ways in which health risks and negative health outcomes are tied to economic and social inequality. Pre-existing conditions increase risk, as do persistent patterns of segregation, social exclusion, and poverty. Historical patterns of injustice and mistreatment along with inadequate educational opportunities can reduce trust in public health recommendations. Congregate housing also increases the risk of exposure, and institutionalized populations are at highest risk of contracting and dying from COVID-19.

It is well known that disabled people rank among those most disadvantaged in terms of education, income, and social inclusion. Disabled people are also institutionalized far more frequently than non-disabled people. These institutions include centers for people with developmental or intellectual disabilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, shelters for unhoused people, and prisons. Racism, sexism, homophobia, and ableism are embedded throughout medical care and health policy more broadly. Individuals subjected to intersectional oppressions may bear the greatest risk of infection, and neoliberal approaches which underfund social supports may exacerbate the disadvantage. For example, multiple triage policies were released to “guide” providers on rationing care, and some explicitly targeted disability as a reasonable criterion for the denial of treatment. While research on the differential impact of COVID-19 on disabled people is just beginning, we anticipate that there will be multiple ways in which their precarious structural position will be exacerbated by the pandemic.

The differential impact of the pandemic may extend far into the future. The pandemic may result in the radical transformation of work, school and family life, and these transformations may have particularly negative effects on social arrangements that are already precarious for people with disabilities. For example, COVID-19 has increased existing labor market inequalities, and disabled adults are already segregated into low status, precarious work, that can become more precarious under conditions of economic instability. The pandemic may also open opportunities to re-envision accessibility and inclusion.

Disability justice communities have been steadfastly organizing in unique ways. For example, groups like the Disability Justice Culture Club in the San Francisco Bay Area and Crip Fund have been providing direct assistance and money to those facing serious needs. Disability rights organizations such as the American Association of People with Disabilities and the National Council of Independent Living have mobilized nationally to advocate for the

passage of legislation that ensures that the needs of people with disabilities are included in every aspect of social and political response to the pandemic.

In this call, we seek theoretical, methodological, or empirical papers that examine disability and chronic illness as an axis of inequality in relation to COVID-19 from the perspective of, and including literature linked to, a discipline or disciplines in the social sciences. We also encourage papers that explore creative strategies being used by disabled people and their allies during this time of pandemic that highlight resilience and active resistance to oppression. We welcome papers on a variety of topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- The increased vulnerability of disabled people to COVID-19 due to social and economic arrangements;
- Evidence regarding heightened risk for negative consequences of COVID-19 among disabled people, such as social isolation, inadequate care, poverty, and eviction;
- Global analyses of the relationship between disability and COVID-19;
- Intersectional analyses of disability and other axes of inequality and oppressions in relation to COVID-19;
- Ableism expressed in medical care, policy responses (or lack of responses), or media coverage of COVID-19;
- The politics of the COVID-19 response in relation to disability;
- The relationship between disability, educational adaptations, and/or service provision during the pandemic;
- The impact of COVID-19 on identity, families, and/or relationships among disabled people;
- Activism, resilience, resistance, care, and creative innovations in response to COVID-19 among disabled people and their communities;
- Perceived benefits of the increased opportunities for remote interaction and participation associated with the pandemic;
- Cross-cultural or cross-national comparisons of the impact of the pandemic on disabled people;
- Historical comparisons with other epidemics/pandemics in terms of disability issues.

All papers should adhere to the stylistic requirements of Emerald Press:

http://www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/products/ebooks/author_guidelines.htm

Timeline

June 15, 2021 Due date for abstracts. Abstracts should contain expression of interest and commitment to submit a full paper. They should be approximately 500-1000 words and submitted as Word documents or PDFs. Abstracts should be organized in the following sections: Purpose, Approach, Findings (anticipated findings are sufficient at this stage), and Implications.

Send abstracts to Allison Carey at accare@ship.edu.

October 15, 2021 Due date for completed paper. These will be peer reviewed.

March 15, 2022 Due date for manuscripts completed after secondary revision.

December 2022 Anticipated publication date