

Notes from the Field

Call for Art Submissions: Disability and Shame

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The Review of Disability Studies: An International Journal is issuing a Call for Art Submissions to be included in the special forum on the subject of shame and disability, broadly conceived. It is hoped that through critical discourse addressing the historical and current contexts, contributing factors, effects, and responses to shame, greater understanding of this phenomena will diminish discrimination and violence.

- **May 1, 2019 - Art Online Submissions Due.** Please submit to the category “Forum - Disability and Shame” at www.rdsjournal.org
- **June 1, 2019 - Guest Editors Review & Publication Due**
- **June - August, 2019 - Publication Process**
- **September 1, 2019 - Anticipated Publication Date**

For questions about the content of the Forum, please contact the guest editors Stephanie Patterson, stephanie.patterson@stonybrook.edu, John Jones, jjones@truman.edu, or Dana Lee Baker, bakerdl@wsu.edu. For questions about the submissions process, please contact rdsj@hawaii.edu. Prospective authors & artists are encouraged to consult the RDS website at for more information about the journal and its formatting guidelines. Authors are encouraged to review previous issues of RDS in preparing their submission. Please note that initial acceptance of an article does not guarantee publication in RDS.

Disability and Shame Forum Overview

Shame plays a powerful role in social interactions, beliefs, and institutions. Shame and shaming take varied and quite diversely motivated forms. Shame exists as both a cultural and psychological construct, stimuli for and reactions to which are heavily context-dependent. For much of history and across varied cultural contexts, disability provoked shame. Whether understood as the result of personal failings, sins of a family, misapplication of scientific findings, or empirical evidence of an unhappy deity, experiencing disability involved largely unquestioned shaming. During the last decades of the twentieth century, progress much attributed to disability rights movements finally created expanding space between disability and shame.

Yet, shame remains a powerful and often-accepted tool of social control, an incorporated pillar of our social infrastructures along with cultural norms, popular culture, and public policy. For example, in September 2016, Satoshi Uematsu killed 19 patients at a center for disabled people outside Tokyo. In the aftermath, many family members of the deceased declined to speak to the media and asked not to be identified out of shame that others would know that their family members had a disability (Ha & Sieg, 2016). Such a tragic outcome in

Japan in response to fear of disgrace signifies a decided need to examine the role of personal and societal shame and how it affects the lives of people with disabilities.

Topics to be Explored (suggested, but not limited to):

- Shame, disability, identity
- Labelling and shame
- Shame and relationships
- Shame and dependency/interdependency
- Shame and culture
- Shame and access to public programs
- Historical connection between disability and poverty
- Historical shame
- Diversity and shame
- Intersectional approaches to understanding shame
- Reclaiming shame
- Shame and employment
- Societal and family shame resulting in violence against disabled people

The *Review of Disability Studies: An International Journal* RDS is a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary, international journal published by the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. The journal contains research articles, essays, creative works and multimedia relating to the culture of disability and people with disabilities.



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