

Disability and Shame Special Issue Forum: Creative Works

LD ShAMe

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Abstract: The poem, *LD shAMe*, is the first of five Learning Disability poems about my Learning Disability shame at my intersections of power and identity in educational contexts as critical autoethnographic texts.

LD ShAMe


What is LD shAMe's weight on my soul and psyche?
ALMOST infinite
At the cellular, cosmos and spirit levels
Rooted in cultural-historical, institutional, and interpersonal levels

LD Shame's stain is not on my own doing
It's rooted in cultural construction and the hegemony of rationality
Causing post-traumatic stress DISorder
Played out daily; heavy on my heart

Heavy like solidified liquid metal inside my heart
Heavy like the seas' mass inside my heart
Needing to let go from my heart like breathe to live
Heavy LD shame led to dissociation and fragmentation of self

Spinal cord communicating threat and fear
Due to LD shame
Society communicating LD shame
System is in shock due to LD shame; this is my LD shame deep down

David I. Hernández-Saca, PhD, is an assistant professor at the University of Northern Iowa and the nucleus of his research agenda is problematizing the common sense assumptions of what learning disabilities are as it relates to the following lines of research: 1) the emotional impact of learning disability labeling on conceptions of self; 2) the role of emotions and affect in teacher learning about social justice issues, and 3) transition plans and programming for historically marginalized youth with disabilities at their intersections and their families. Lastly, Dr. Hernández-Saca examines violence within the academy against historically multiply marginalized and non-hegemonic scholars at their intersections of power and identities for their wellbeing and healing.

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