

Disability and Shame Special Issue Forum: Creative Works

Where is my LD Pride?

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

Keywords: Social Construction of Learning Disabilities; Learning Disability Oppression; LD Emotions; Student Voice; Intersectionality; Critical Autoethnography; Emotionality; LD Shame

Where is my LD Pride?

Where is my LD pride?
Nowhere to be found
Imposed label lead to fear, mistrust, and constant vulnerability
Psycho-emotional disableism constraining my agency

Courage
Courage
Courage

Be courageous to write and let go of LD shAMe

Does writing help me?
Are my poems helping me?
Dark cloud holding me down
Releasing through poems, but seems to come back and feeling the same

Pride = empowerment
Am I empowered?
Why do I not feel empowered with my LD label?
Because my LD label has shattered my sense of self

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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