

Editorial

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We are living in unprecedented times and, more than ever, it is crucial that our overlapping communities find creative ways to support one another. This responsibility extends to those of us at the Center on Disability Studies, College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa who have the honor of publishing this journal, *Review of Disability Studies, an International Journal*. I wish to share with you some changes you may anticipate in the journal and the reasons for them. There are four, all related to expanding and supporting our readership and author pool.

First, I am pleased to announce that Raphael Raphael PhD will be taking over as the editor of the journal on October 1, 2020. He graciously agreed to join our staff as editor on June 16, 2020. He has served on the editorial board of the journal since its inception, so he knows the history of the journal and the multiple efforts to make it as vibrant and useful to the readership as possible. He has done amazing work in tracking the perspectives on persons with disabilities reflected in the media in past positions and has taught online courses in disability studies and history for the Center on Disability Studies for many years. Most recently, he has also served as a researcher for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and their efforts to profile the neglected contributions of individuals with disabilities, as well as other marginalized people in the film industry. I am so pleased that he has joined us. I know he will bring fresh ideas, structure, and innovation to the journal's publication.

Second, as an interdisciplinary publication, we have had an eclectic approach to articles published in the journal over the last several years and have focused only on specific topics, called forum issues, once yearly. To better serve our readers, beginning in December of this year, we will offer readers more thematic ties in the journal. Part of each issue will focus on one specific unified topic. While we will continue to include works in each issue connected to a broad range of topics, we hope these thematic connections will be valuable for readers.

In December, we will focus on the pandemic and how it has impacted people with disabilities in all aspects of their lives. Because we are taking this focused approach going forward, we will be issuing calls for papers addressing a particular topic every quarter. This approach will expand our readership and allow any particular volume issue to become a reference document for many people on an important topic related to disability studies and its intersection with other disciplines, contexts, and social issues.

Third, to better support our increasingly global readership, also beginning in December, we will have two submissions in each issue selected from a range of authors whose native languages is other than English. Their submissions will be printed in their native language, and an abstract of their submission will be translated into English. This is in keeping with our desire to make the journal a truly international vehicle for presenting and triggering conversations about disability studies worldwide.

Fourth, to better support our varied readers, we are making renewed efforts to make our publication platform as user-friendly and as accessible as possible to all people with disabilities. This will also extend to efforts to make our content accessible and relevant for a global readership concerned with creating inclusive spaces for all.

I have enjoyed serving as editor for the past year and I am enjoying helping Raphael with his transition to editor of the journal. Please share our plans with your friends and colleagues so that, especially in these most extraordinary times, the journal may best support as many in all of our intersecting communities as possible. The challenges of this moment have certainly given us all much to do, much to reflect upon, and moreover, they have made clearer than ever all that needs to change for the better. Continuing to bring disability studies into these global conversations and actions is an agenda we here at the journal embrace with enthusiasm.

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Editor



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