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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