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SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In America we use this month to pay tribute to the accomplishments of those with disabilities whose work helps keep the nation's economy strong and to reaffirm commitments to ensure equal opportunities for all citizens. Part of disability justice means accepting and honoring each person's uniqueness and seeing it as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity. Psychology plays an important role in movements and research to advocate for intersectional approaches to meeting the needs of people with disabilities, which are connected to race, class, gender, etc. Take time this month to commemorate the varied contributions of people with disabilities to American society. Please take advantage of your free time and read through this informative and entertaining newsletter to learn something new.



INTRODUCTION



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UNCC RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Alyssa McGonagle

Dr. Alyssa McGonagle is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Organizational Science at UNC Charlotte. She teaches graduate-level classes in Quantitative Methods, Job Attitudes, Occupational Health Psychology, and Macro Organizational Science and undergraduate courses in Research Methods and Industrial-Organizational Psychology.

Dr. McGonagle's research focuses on worker health, safety, and well-being. She is currently working on research related to preventing disability discrimination at work, understanding factors that relate to workers' perceptions of their work ability, and designing an intervention to promote work ability and quality of work life for workers with chronic health conditions.

[Click here to look at her lab and research](#)



Brittany Price, MA

UNCC Clinical Health Psychology graduate student interview

Ethnicity and response to racism: The influence of context of origin dissertation study

1. Can you tell us more about your research?

- I am studying how internalized racism and perceived discrimination impacts the health of Black individuals and their reactivity to discrimination differentially depending on where they were raised. Specifically, I want to determine whether the racial context in which someone was raised impacts how discrimination and racism impacts their health.

2. Why is this study important?

- This study is important because it highlights the need to examine the diversity of the Black race when studying factors that impact health and when trying to understand health disparities. This is important to consider because where someone was raised or their culture can impact how they perceive social stressors such as racism and discrimination. Ultimately, this study might help in understanding the mechanisms through which social stressors impact health and reactivity to discrimination.

3. Who is your target population for the study?

- African Americans and Black individuals who have recently moved to the United States from countries in Africa and the Caribbean.

[Please click here to view StressWAVES Biobehavioral Research Lab](#)

PODCASTS



Disability Is Diversity with Dr. Kathleen Bogart

Dr. Kathleen Bogart is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Oregon State University and a blogger at Psychology Today. As a person with a disability, she is passionate about researching, educating, and writing about ableism, or disability prejudice. Her research focuses on the psychosocial implications of living with disability, rare disorders, or facial differences such as Moebius syndrome. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Time, and the Financial Times.



The Be My Eyes Podcast - Inside the Mind of a Blind Psychologist

Blind psychologist Heidi Joshi gives advice for better mental health, finding the right therapist, and her own experience navigating the medical profession. Dr. Joshi works closely with physicians in the WMed's primary care residencies to teach residents about behavioral health and psychosocial issues that may come up while providing care for their patients. Dr. Joshi says she is the brains of their operation, but Lake, her 4-year-old German Shepherd and guide dog, is her eyes and a helpful navigator, always there to keep her safe.



Psychology of Disability with Dr. Dan Gotlieb

Dan Gottlieb is a practicing psychologist and therapist with more than 40 years of experience. Best known as the host of "Voices in the Family," a weekly radio program heard for more than 30 years on WHYY-FM, Philadelphia's NPR affiliate. In 1979 Dan was in a near fatal automobile accident which left him paralyzed from the chest down. He experienced loss on top of loss as his wife left the marriage and passed away several years later. And in the ensuing years he mourned the loss of his sister and his parents.



VIDEOS



Brain differences are not always deficits

Thinking in terms of differences, not deficits, is also important when it comes to quality of life. Behavioral research shows a clear correlation between a person's acceptance of disability and that person's psychological well-being.



Brain Differences Are Not Always Deficits

psychologicalscience.org

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Disability as a Diversity Variable: A call to action within Psychology

The APA Office on Disability Issues in Psychology hosted a diversity training session featuring Julie L. Williams, PhD, and Linda Mona, PhD.



Disabled Parenting in an Ableist World | Kara Ayers | TEDxCincinnatiWomen

Kara Ayers, PhD, is the Associate Director and an Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD). She is Director of the newly formed Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities and also a co-founder of the Disabled Parenting Project.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING 2022 ELECTIVE COURSE

TOPICS IN PUBLIC HEALTH: INTERPROFESSIONAL APPROACHES TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

HLTH 4000-001 / HLTH 5000-090
Tuesdays 5:30 – 8:15 PM

WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS COURSE?

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE, RESEARCH, SCHOOLS, LAW, POLICY, COUNSELING, CASE MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

- ☒ Enhance your resume and job competitiveness
- ☒ Create work products, gain skills, and earn a Suicide Prevention Resource Center credential
- ☒ Learn about suicide prevention-related ethical issues, attitudes and social norms, vulnerable populations, risk and protective factors, mental health services, and public health approaches to suicide prevention

INSTRUCTOR: MS. ANDREA KANIUKA
 COURSE SUPERVISOR: DR. ROBERT CRAMER
 EMAIL: AKANIUKA@UNCC.EDU

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Department of Sociology Present: A Fall Learning Series Workshop 2
 Sponsored by the Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund

Mastering a JEDI Mindset

JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
A JEDI Mindset:

- Centered in justice, equity, diversity & inclusion
- Honors the diversity that exists around us
- Understands the importance of being a critical thinker and practitioner

Wednesday, October 27
9am-10am, via Zoom
[Click here for registration link](#)

Dr. Stephanie Helms Pickett
 Leadership consultant, author, and motivational speaker

Contact: Kendra Jason, kjason@uncc.edu, CLAS race and social justice advocate

CAMPUS CLUBS HIGHLIGHT

- **Indivisible** - Inclusive group of disabled and non-disabled students who meet together to deepen discussions on accessibility, inclusivity, and broaden awareness of disability experiences.
- **Active Minds**- A mental health advocacy organization that works to promote mental health discussion, provide students with various resources and opportunities related to mental health care
- **Advocates for change**- The goal of Advocates for Change is to enhance the quality of life for oppressed and vulnerable populations through advocacy, human services delivery, and research.
- **Coloring for chemo**- Their mission is to supply chemotherapy units with baskets filled full of coloring books, crayons, paints, markers, etc. Coloring for Chemo is a non-profit foundation focusing on bringing art therapy to cancer patients and their families.

RESOURCES

- [National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021](#)
- [Guidelines for Assessment of and Intervention with Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [North Carolina Disability Resources and Advocacy Organizations](#)
- [The Mental Health of People with Disabilities](#)
- https://linktr.ee/DARN_Disability
- <https://www.goodtherapy.org/learn-about-therapy/issues/disabilities>

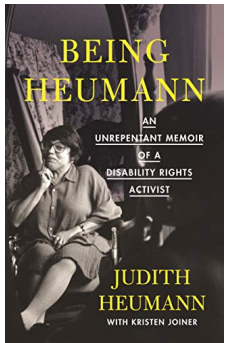


ADDITIONAL READINGS



Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist

One of the most influential disability rights activists in US history tells her personal story of fighting for the right to receive an education, have a job, and just be human. A story of fighting to belong in a world that wasn't built for all of us and of one woman's activism—from the streets of Brooklyn and San Francisco to inside the halls of Washington—Being Heumann recounts Judy Heumann's lifelong battle to achieve respect, acceptance, and inclusion in society.



Consequences of Confronting Patronizing Help for People with Disabilities: Do Target Gender and Disability Type Matter?

Dr. Wang's research broadly focuses on the role of stigma as a psychosocial determinant of mental and behavioral health disparities among diverse marginalized population. Dr. Wang is also involved in a number of projects that examines the health inequities facing people with disabilities, including a mixed-method study on the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the disability community. Please, click on the below link for the full article.



<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7316393/>