

Speaker Biographies

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Steven E. Brown, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor, Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, Affiliate Graduate Faculty in the Political Science Department, and Co-Founder, Institute on Disability Culture. He earned a 1981 doctorate in history at the University of Oklahoma.



Brown's publications include *Movie Stars and Sensuous Scars: Essays on the Journey from Disability Shame to Disability Pride*; *Ed Roberts: Wheelchair Genius*, a book available via CD that is targeted at readers about ages 9-12; and the monographs, *Independent Living: Theory and Practice*; *Investigating a Culture Of Disability: Final Report*, the result of a prestigious Switzer Fellowship from the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research of the Department of Education, the first funding of its type for research into the field of Disability Culture; *Freedom of Movement: Independent Living History and Philosophy*; *A Celebration Of Diversity: An Annotated Bibliography About Disability Culture, Second Edition*; and *Celebrating Passion, Relentlessness, and Vision: The Manifesto Editorials*, from his online newsletter, the *Manifesto*; and dozens of articles, in both refereed journals and grassroots publications. Brown's writings have been translated into a variety of languages.



Abdelkerim Chtourou is a legal advisor for the Ministry of Social Affairs in Tunisia. He manages all the disputes involving the Ministry. In this capacity, he represents it in court and for various investigation institutions. He also contributes to the development of texts governing the Ministry's activities. He participated in writing the Tunisian Law of promotion and protection of people with disabilities of 2005 and its related regulations.

After his graduation from the Law School, he studied law and public management at the Advanced Cycle at National Administration School. In 2007, he is awarded a Fulbright-Humphrey Fellowship to implement a new framework for the disability community in Tunisia.

James (Jim) D. Dixon Ph.D is a former Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Regional Commissioner with the U.S. Department of Education. He retired after 31 years of federal service serving in five different federal agencies as an administrator, director, supervisor, counselor, advocate and mentor for individuals with disabilities. Dr. Dixon is currently self-employed as a Human Services Consultant. He has dedicated his consulting primarily to assisting the American Indian and Alaska Native communities with administration, technical assistance and evaluation of federal rehabilitation programs funded to Alaska Native Villages and Indian Reservations.



In September 2007, Dr. Dixon he was invited by Disabled People's International (DPI) to represent the indigenous population of the United State at the United Nations World Assembly in Seoul, South Korea. He addressed the issue of the international legal rights for full involvement of indigenous people with disabilities.

Gebane El Sharkawy is a Fulbright Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow from Egypt visiting Washington DC on a 10 months fellowship until June 2008. Before coming to the US, Ms. El Sharkawy was the Disability Coordinator at the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt, where she collaborated between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to draft disability legislation. She was also involved in building the capacities of different disability specialists, as well as supervising projects that target children with disabilities, their families, and communities. Other professional experiences include missions and consultancies with Handicap International, AIFO - Italy, CARITAS, and WHO.

Ms. El Sharkawy holds degrees in anthropology and special education, and received her Master's in Community Disability Studies from University College London in 2002. She also coauthored disability related publications, and has been the honorary of prominent scholarships such as the British Chevening Scholarship.

Deanna Gregorio is the Sectoral Representative of the Persons with Disabilities Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), which advises the Office of the President on legislation and programs that concern disabled Filipinos. Her most recent legislative advocacies include the 1% allocation of national government budget for PWD programs, the 20% discount for PWDs (similar to the Senior Citizens Act) and the establishment of offices for persons with disabilities at the local government units. All of these are anchored on her flagship program at NAPC popularly known as HELP (Health, Education and Livelihood for PWDs). She is also a Sports Commissioner and President of the Multiple Sclerosis Society (MS) of the Philippines.



Aside from being a staunch advocate of PWD rights, livelihood and welfare in the Philippines, Deanna is a successful businesswoman and a champion of PWD and women entrepreneurship. She is also a creative artist who enjoys embroidery, fashion and culinary arts. She regularly teaches livelihood classes to various PWD groups. She has presented papers internationally and has been famous for her innovative livelihood projects and matching clothes and crutches.



Katharina Heyer was raised in what was then called the "American sector" of divided West Berlin, Germany. She has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i and currently is an Assistant Professor in that department. Her dissertation "Rights on the Road: Disability Politics in Germany and Japan" received the best dissertation prize from the Law and Society Association.

Her research examines the ways that rights language and rights practices are moving across national and ideological boundaries. She has researched the role of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act in generating or strengthening rights-based disability activism in other countries; specifically in education and employment policies. Her current research project investigates

the disability opposition to physician assisted suicide. Prof. Heyer teaches classes on sociolegal research, constitutional law, law and politics, disability politics, as well as a class on the ADA at the UH Law School.

Roger Jolley is from Aotearoa NZ and is of Tainui, Ngati Pikiaio ancestry. He has a deep commitment to his people and indigenous issues for Maori. His career has evolved through teaching, community and youth work, local government and now public service. He is currently the Manager for Maori Development in the Health and Disability National Services Directorate within the Ministry of Health. Roger is part of a team who's vision is to enable people who have a disability to have an ordinary home life.



Stig Larsson, Ph.D., Chairman of the RI Work and Employment Commission. He is a board member in GLADNET, a network of researchers initiated by the ILO, International Labour Organisation. Professor Larsson took his Ph.D. in sociology in 1983 and he became professor in 1992. Since 1997 he is Director for HAREC, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Centre at Lund University, where he has been close co working with Bengt Lindqvist, the first UN special rapporteur in the disability field, who is the chairperson at HAREC.

Larsson is the author (or co-author) of 18 books and hundreds of articles in scientific journals and anthologies. The most important scientific area where he has addressed his research is maybe social theory, social marginalizing and social policy. Since some years Larsson belongs to the leading Scandinavian researchers in the disability field. In this role he has been engaged in many different programmes in research and higher education. He is president of the Swedish Association of Social Policy. Stig Larsson himself is visually impaired and one of the very few leading international scholars who personally have experienced disablement.

Rana Marza holds a bachelor's degree in Literature and Translation and has completed a course in Business Management. Currently, she is a Human Rights Officer at the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq. She also participates with reporting on the conditions of Iraqi people with disabilities for the UN Mission in Iraq. Ms. Marza has volunteered her time at the Hibatallah Institution for Children with Down Syndrome since 1994 and is a founding member of the Iraqi Down Syndrome Association, which advocates for the rights of people with Down Syndrome. During her Humphrey year, she will focus on the methodology of Human Rights Education, specifically to promote an understanding of disabled people and respect of their human rights.

Dr. Romel Mackelprang is a professor and the director of the Center for Disability Studies and Universal Access at Eastern Washington University where he has worked for 21 years. Previously, he was a social worker at the University of Utah Hospital and was a lecturer for the College of Medicine and the School of Social Work. Active in the disability rights movement for 25 years, Dr. Mackelprang has published numerous articles and two books on disability, health practice and policy,



HIV/ AIDS, and diversity. He serves on the editorial boards of several medical and social science journals. In recent years, he has worked to engender universal access in higher education through the collaboration of multiple diverse groups.



Manulani Aluli Meyer is the fifth daughter of Emma Aluli and Harry Meyer. She is from a large family with roots in Hilo and Wailuku, who grew up on the beach of Kailua, O’ahu.

Ms. Meyer is an outdoor experiential educator and coach who entered the philosophy and teacher-education field because of the needs of our time. She earned her doctorate from Harvard researching Hawaiian epistemology, or an indigenous philosophy of knowledge. She is dedicated to transforming ideas of intelligence, research and life to better address the needs and honor the unique contributions of all people.

She is currently an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Hawai’i in Hilo and founding member of Halau Wanana, a Hawaiian Center of Higher Learning preparing teachers for licensure in the Hawaiian charter school movement. Ms. Meyer’s book: *Ho’oulu: Our Time of Becoming*, is in its second printing.

Patricia Morrissey is the Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to Dr. Morrissey’s appointment, she was a senior associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, an international technology and management-consulting firm. There she oversaw efforts to help federal agencies make their electronic and information technology accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities. During her 26 years in the Washington area, Dr. Morrissey has worked for the Senate, the House of Representatives, and President Ronald Reagan. In 1999, while with the Senate, she worked with then-Wisconsin Governor Thompson’s office on the development and passage of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act. More recently, Dr. Morrissey was a contributor to President George W. Bush’s New Freedom Initiative. She has worked tirelessly for over 30 years to change perceptions, attitudes and living conditions of the disabled community through changes to national legislation.



Kozue Kay Nagata is the Senior Economic Affairs Officer Development Cooperation Policy Branch, United Nations DESA in New York. She has been involved in promoting “disability inclusive development” during her 24-year career with the United Nations.

Prior to her current position at the United Nations Headquarters, she had served as the disability focal point at the International Labor Office (ILO) Geneva, the UN ESCWA (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon), UNTAET East Timor, and the UN ESCAP (Bangkok).

Ms. Nagata has extensive experience about the International Convention, the Asian-Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2010) and its policy, “Biwako Millennium Framework”, as well as promotion of the twin-track strategy of disability mainstreaming into various sectors of development (cooperation).



Carole J. Petersen is the Interim Director of the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and a Visiting Associate Professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Petersen holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a Postgraduate Diploma in the Law of the People's Republic of China from the University of Hong Kong.



Petersen taught law in Hong Kong from 1989-2006 and served, from 2001-2004, as the Director of the University of Hong Kong's Centre for Comparative and Public Law. While in Hong Kong, Petersen conducted a study of the complaints resolution process for disability discrimination complaints, which was published in the *Disability Studies Quarterly*, Volume 25(4) (2005). Petersen also co-authored (with Jan Currie and Ka-Ho Mok) *Academic Freedom in Hong Kong* (Lexington Books 2006) and co-edited (with Randall Peerenboom and Albert H. Y. Chen) *Human Rights in Asia: A Comparative Legal Study of Twelve Asian Jurisdictions, France, and the United States* (Routledge 2006). Petersen's research interests also include gender and the law and the rights of women migrant workers.

Joakim Peter is the director of College of Micronesia—FSM Chuuk Campus, which is part of a six-campus junior college system in the Federated States of Micronesia. He is from the islands of Chuuk. He is also a member of a local interagency group for advocacy for children with disabilities in Chuuk. His background is Pacific History and cultural/native studies. He graduated from the University at Hawai'i at Mānoa with master degrees in Pacific Island Studies (1994) and History (1997).



Aviam Soifer, professor and former dean of the Boston College Law School is the dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii, Mānoa. Aviam Soifer has taught and written primarily in the areas of constitutional law and legal history. He is a 1972 graduate of Yale Law School, where he also earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. He served as editor of the Yale Law Journal and helped create a clinical program in which law students represented mentally ill residents of Connecticut's largest state hospital.

Soifer's extensive publications include *Law and the Company We Keep* (Harvard University Press, 1995), which was awarded the triennial Alpha Sigma Nu National Jesuit Book Prize in professional studies in 1998. Just last year he received the Boston College university-wide Distinguished Senior Research award. He was recently named a Distinguished Scholar at the University of Wisconsin Legal Studies Institute.

His most recent articles and book chapters concern religious freedom, disability rights, and issues of judging and judgment. Currently, he serves on several boards of trustees and advisory committees of public interest organizations that deal with medical care, human rights, and judicial and legal education in the US and abroad.

Dr. Robert A. Stodden is a past president of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) board of directors. Professionally trained in Psychology, Special Education, and Rehabilitation, he has served more than twenty-five years as a international and national leader in the fields of special education, school to adult community living and transition, postsecondary education, and employment for persons with disabilities. Since 1987, he has served as the founding Director of the Center on Disability Studies (a University Center for Excellence) and professor of special education at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa (prior to that appointment he served as a professor at Boston College).



Over the past 25 years, Dr. Stodden has served as principal investigator/director for more than 100 research and training projects focused upon improving the quality of life for all persons with disabilities. He has been a keynote speaker and invited presenter for many international and national conferences, and has served as a consultant within numerous foreign countries and for more than 20 different states within the United States.



Yevgeniy Tetyukhin of Kazakhstan is a SMSUC veteran since 1999. He is a Professor of Linguistics at North Kazakhstan University. Yevgeniy became disabled at age 3 due to Polio. Yevgeniy began racing 12 years ago and was the first to finish in the Half-Marathon at the First National Wheelchair Championship. Yevgeniy is an Executive Committee Member of the Kazakhstan Association of the Disabled Sports, and speaks regularly to newly disabled people. He has won numerous awards in sports and has competed in over twenty marathons. Recently he won first place for his age group in the Paris International Marathon and the Sydney Paralympic games.