Topic Area: Independent Living: Living In(ter)dependently: Present Actions, Future Visions

I propose that there is another kind of power based not on resources, things, or attributes, but rooted in the social and cooperative relations in which people are enmeshed by virtue of group life.— Frances Fox Piven

To enable all disabled people to achieve a meaningful autonomous lifestyle necessitates the eradication of all forms of structural and cultural disadvantage.

The Independent living movement has paved a sturdy pathway for the achievement of self-determination, equal opportunities, self-worth and happiness. As a social justice movement, it has broadened living choices for persons with disabilities, and provided choices to achieve an autonomous lifestyle while liberating millions from the confines from institutionalization.

This year at Pac Rim, Living In(ter)dependently will focus on how we are evolving and adapting to live interdependently and independently in communities that are still often built and organized for the able-bodied. How have we changed this detrimental line of thinking and what more do we have to do? What have we accomplished and what do we need to think about for the next 50 years?

The following are questions and topics for consideration.

- Community based approaches in independent living models which incorporate socio-economic development, inclusion and multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- What is being done or has been done in communities to ensure that people with disabilities are not forgotten in times of disaster?
- Challenges and solutions facing young people as they transition into young adulthood and independence;
- Best practices for caring for and providing proper training to care givers and personal assistants;
- Best practices for how communities realize and utilize the strengths of persons with disabilities so they can be included and viewed as contributing members of society?
- What are the repercussions of budget cuts on independent living centers and the independent living movement? What are some solutions to the problems that have surfaced because of these repercussions?
- How have families adapted to today’s society and implemented independent living?
- How is community leadership and ownership encouraging or discouraging independent living?
How is accessible tourism, or lack of, encouraging or discouraging those who live independently to travel?

Why is it important to participate in sports/recreation, laughter, healthy interactions with others, or alternative means of healing and what are the effects that these things have on the success of independent living?

How can international communities utilize each other’s independent living movements and what are some best practices that can be transplanted and fulfilled from country to country, community to community?

Current initiatives being taken for older persons with disabilities to continue to participate in the socio-economic and cultural life of society;

Current research to making acquisition of services more streamlined, implementing person centered planning as an organizational standard, and providing formal and informal mechanisms for sharing resources and integrated services;

Current progressive policies that focus on the oversight of independent living centers, and the policies employed within them which promote and make independent living safe, free from abuse and exploitation;

What is the nature of our responsibility to one another in order to ensure that all diverse humans are cared and provided for?

Additional proposals are welcomed on other topics relevant to Living In(ter)dependently. We welcome creative ideas and workshops.

We welcome proposals in any presentation format. Please see presentation formats on our webpage at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/presenters/formats/. Please check the criteria for each format and ensure that you have the appropriate number of presenters for your chosen format. You may submit proposals online at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions or send your proposals via email to prcall@hawaii.edu.

For more information about this topic area, contact the Pac Rim team at prcall@hawaii.edu.

For general information on the conference, please contact Charmaine Crockett at cccrocke@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-7539.

For registration questions please contact the registration desk at (808) 956-8816, fax (808) 956-4437 or email prreg@hawaii.edu.