

ALEKSA L. OWEN, MSW

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Education

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

Ph.D. in Disability Studies (anticipated 2018)

Dissertation: "The Knowledge Production of Cell-Free Fetal DNA Screening: Implications for Cultural Constructions of Disability"

M.S.W., Community Health and Urban Development concentration, *with honors* (May 2012)

Gordon College, Wenham, MA

B.A., Majors in Psychology and Sociology (May 2006)

Awards

Provost's Award for Graduate Research (April 2016)

Inaugural Charlotte A. Tate Award for Multidisciplinary Research (May 2015)

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Student Scholarship (April 2015)

Rue Bucher Memorial Award for Qualitative Research in Social Process, Honorable Mention (May 2014)

Academic Experience

Research Specialist in Developmental Disabilities, Institute on Disability and Human Development, UIC (August 2015-Present)

Administered department-wide data collection efforts for annual report to the Institute's Federal funders. Presented on the Institute's mandates, goals and events to numerous University and community audiences. Oversaw multiple open IRB protocols. Conducted independent evaluations of community-based interventions. Developed training materials for ongoing and single training events. Led trainings on future planning and relationship building with people with developmental disabilities. Provided technical assistance at individual, organizational and national levels.

Graduate Research Assistant, Institute on Disability and Human Development, UIC (August 2012-July 2015)

Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team to write and carry out two research and practice grants, titled "Sexual-Self Advocacy for Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: A Community Forum" and "Siblings of Individuals with Disabilities and Advocacy." Developed the capacity of the Institute through working with the Director of Community Development to optimize the Institute's communication and dissemination to families and communities. Assisted the

Associate Director with 5-year continuation grant in addition to annual reporting narrative.

Instructor, Department of Disability and Human Development, DHD 202: Disability, Health and Society (January 2015-Present)

Developed course content and delivered lectures. Facilitated critical discussion of social issues related to disability and health among 110 students. Mentored undergraduate students in scholarship related to disability and health. Evaluated students on their comprehension and engagement with course materials.

Research Assistant, Gordon College Sociology Department (August 2005-May 2006)

Assisted in the development of a nationally administered survey instrument designed to capture faculty and staff development outcomes at seminaries and divinity schools. Processed, recorded and analyzed data under project PI's supervision.

Teaching Assistant, Gordon College Sociology Department (August 2004-May 2006)

Facilitated a weekly seminar for 10 introductory sociology students. Developed original course content designed to engage students in critical thinking skills. Evaluated student work including weekly papers. Participated in weekly discussion sessions with lead instructor and four other TAs to evaluate and develop my pedagogical approach. Synthesized my yearly progress through extended writing assignments.

Clinical Experience

Re-entry Counselor, Westside Health Authority (August 2011-May 2012)

Assisted individuals in their transition from incarceration to the community. Counseled individuals using client-centered approaches. Connected clients with employment and housing opportunities. Helped facilitate weekly support group. Expedited re-entry process by conducting group meetings with inmates at Sheridan Correctional Center. Updated administrative system. Wrote grant proposal for women's re-entry center project. Conducted weekly group intake sessions and input data.

Case Manager, Central West Case Management Unit (August 2010-May 2011)

Supported older adults through transition from nursing home to community based living arrangements. Referred clients to partner organizations and services when needed. Determined clients' support needs levels by conducting in-depth home visits. Developed rapport with clients in order to optimize client outcomes. Provided administrative support within Case Management Unit. Conducted intake and follow-up phone calls with clients. Initiated site visits to partner organizations to ensure quality assurance. Collaborated with supervisor to streamline intake process.

Publications

Owen, A. (in press). Prenatal Testing/Selective Abortion. In *Disability in American Life: An Encyclopedia of Concepts, Theories and Controversies*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC CLIO.

Owen, A., and Rizzolo, M.C. (in press). End of life care. In *SAGE Encyclopedia of Intellectual and Developmental Disorders*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

Burke, M.M., Lee, C., Arnold, C.K., and Owen, A. (in press). The Perceptions of professionals toward siblings of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

Friedman, C. and Owen, A. (in press). Sexual Health in the Community: Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. *Disability and Health*.

Owen, A. and Friedman, C. (2017). Nominal Group Technique as Participatory Action Research: Adults With Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities' Perceptions of Sexuality. In *SAGE Research Methods Cases*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526411051>

Friedman, C., & Owen, A.L. (2017). Defining Disability: The Relationships Between Understandings of and Attitudes Towards Disability. *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 37(1).

Friedman, C., & Owen, A. L. (2016). Siblings of Disabled Peoples' Attitudes Toward Prenatal Genetic Testing and Disability: A Mixed Methods Approach. *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 36(3).

Burke, M. M., Lee, C. E., Arnold, C. K., & Owen, A. (2016). Correlates of Sibling Relationship Quality and Caregiving Reception of Adults with Disabilities. *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities*, 28(5), 735-750.

Owen, A., Arnold, K., Friedman, C., & Sandman, L. (2016). Nominal Group Technique: An accessible and interactive method for conceptualizing the sexual self-advocacy of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Qualitative Social Work*, 15(2), 175-189.

Burke, M.M., Arnold, C.K., & Owen, A. (2015). Sibling advocacy: Perspectives about advocacy from siblings of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Inclusion*, 3(3), 162-175.

Friedman, C., Arnold, K., Owen, A., & Sandman, L. (2014). "Remember our voices are our tools:" Sexual self-advocacy as defined by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Sexuality & Disability*, 34(4), 515-532.

Selected Presentations

Owen, A. (August 2016). "Expert Knowledge Production of Cell-Free DNA Screening Tests." Paper Presentation at American Sociological Association Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Owen, A. and Friedman, C. (August 2016). "Siblings of Disabled Peoples' Attitudes Toward Prenatal Genetic Testing and Disability: A Mixed Methods Approach." Paper Presentation at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Owen, A., and Paulauski, T. (April 2016). "New CMS Rules." Presentation at The Arc of Illinois Annual Convention, Lisle, IL.

Owen, A. (August 2015). "Productive Possibilities: Disability Studies and Science and Technology Studies." Paper Presentation at American Sociological Association Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Owen, A. and Friedman, C. (August 2015). "Nominal Group Technique: the Sexual Self Advocacy of Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities." Paper Presentation at American Sociological Association Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Owen, A. (June 2014). "The Third Way-ve: Using Critical Realism to Sustain Disability Studies," Paper Presentation at Society for Disability Studies Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Selected Trainings

Owen, A. and Carmody, K. (October 2016). "Home and Community Based Services-Advocates Creating Transformation." Illinois State Independent Service Coordination Agency locations.

Mahar, L., Owen, A, Daniel, M., and Nelis, T. (June 2016). "Future Planning: How Professionals Can Support Families and Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." The Arc of North Carolina, Thomasville, NC.

Mahar, L., Owen, A, Daniel, M., and Nelis, T. (June 2016). "Future Planning: How Professionals Can Support Families and Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." The Arc of Tennessee, Nashville, TN.

Owen, A. and Nelis, T. (2014). "Bridging the Rainbow: Bringing LGBTQ+ and Disability Communities Together." Association of University Centers on Disability Webinar, October 29, 2014.

Sandman, L., Owen, A., Friedman, C. and Arnold, C.K. (March 2014). "Sexual Self-Advocacy." Disability and Sexuality Consortium, Chicago, IL.

Selected Service

- Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, Member (November 2015-Present)
- Association of University Centers on Disability Trainee Liaison (September 2013-Present)
- The Arc of Illinois, Member, Convention Planning Committee (December 2014-Present)
- Illinois Community Inclusion Coalition, Member (January 2015-Present)
- Disability Studies Student Council, Secretary (2013-2014), Vice President (2014-2015), President (2015-2016)
- Reviewer: American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (2014), Journal of Intellectual Disabilities (2016)