

TIMOTHEUS (T.J.) GORDON, JR.

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<https://linktr.ee/TimotheusGordonJr>

Research and Advocacy Interests

- Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Sexuality & Gender Identity Pride, Parenting, Nerd/Geek Culture, Higher Education, Entrepreneurship, Content Creation, Finance, and Arts/Entertainment/Media/Sports
- COVID-19 Awareness in BIPOC Disability Communities
- Mental Health and Police Violence in BIPOC Disability Communities
- Media Representation of People with Disabilities
- Arts, Sports, Writing, and Entertainment within Disability Community
- Disability Acceptance and Self-Advocacy in BIPOC Disability Communities
- Intersection on Disability and Race, including Blackness and Autism

EDUCATION

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|------------|---|-------------|
| MS | University of Illinois Chicago, Disability and Human Development
Thesis: “Evaluation of Training on Disability Acceptance in Communities of Color”
Advisor: Dr. Akemi Nishida | August 2019 |
| MFA | Savannah College of Art and Design Atlanta, Writing
Thesis: “Autism as a Superpower”
Advisor: Dr. Catherine Ramsdell | March 2014 |
| BA | University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, English
Area of Concentration: Poetry
Minored in African and African American Studies & Comparative U.S. Race and Ethnicity Studies | August 2010 |

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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| Crain’s Chicago Business 2022 Notable Black Leaders and Executives | 2022 |
| AUCD Leadership Institute Fellowship | 2022 |
| Chicago Beyond Rapid Response Fund | 2022 |
| Crossroads Grant | 2022 |
| Disability Lead Institute Fellowship | 2022 |

Dinah F.B. Cohen DREAM Fellowship	2021 - 2022
Morley – Williams Community Advocate of the Year	2021
Healing Illinois Grant	2020
National COVID-19 Resiliency Network Mini-Grant	2020
National Disability Mentorship Coalition Hall of Fame	2020
SARTAC Fellowship	2020 – 2021
College of Applied Health Sciences Achievement Award for Outstanding Person	2019
Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship Program (DFI)	2017 - 2019
Van Doren Scholarship	2017
Page – El Scholarship	2017
Annie B. Hopkins Youth Award	2016
UCEDD Diversity Fellowship	2016 – 2018
Illinois LEND Fellowship	2016 – 2017
Ronald E. McNair Fellowship	2009

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Brandeis University- Waltham, MA	2023 - Present
Peer Researcher	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize background of lived experience as a disabled person of color to interview participants of a research study observing “Nursing Home Transitions Towards a Community-Living/Home-Based Care Model” • Have conducted 2 qualitative interviews and regularly assist in community-based data collection • Proficient in data analysis, coding, and memoing tasks through Atlas.ti • Associated Certifications: CITI Responsible Conduct of Research Certification & CITI Social and Behavioral Research Certification • Moderated the “Fire Through Dry Grass Team” panel in January 2024 	
Institute on Disability and Human Development, Chicago, IL	2021 to Present
Visiting Research Associate II	

- Helped secure Crossroads grant to fund Chicagoland DPOCC for FY 2023
- DEI and accessibility consultant for several projects, such as BEST Project, We Walk 4 Health, and AgeOptions
- Assisting with developing curriculum for virtual Future is Now course series for families, caregivers, and individuals with I/DD
- Develop and present webinars on intersectionality, COVID-19 in the disability community, and inclusion of people with disabilities in schools, workplace, and parenting, and sexual education
- Co-coordinate Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition events and campaigns
- Mentor and assist with supervising DHD 400 students who are doing service learning capstone projects
- Subcontracted by Brandeis University to interview BIPOC people of color with disabilities who transitioned from institutions to the community
- Co-lead two advocacy projects involving interviewing people with lived experiences: the Long COVID-19 project and Black Inclusive Wall Street project

Institute on Disability and Human Development, Chicago, IL 2019 to 2021

Research Assistant II

- Present and coordinate training sessions on autism and race, plus disability acceptance & activism on behalf of IDHD
- Assisted in securing Healing Illinois Grant and NCRN Mini Grant for COVID-19 and racial justice projects
- Developed plain-language materials on COVID-19 awareness, updates, resources, and vaccine hesitance
- Guest Lectured DHD courses on topics such as race and disability, and my advocacy in addressing police violence towards people with disabilities
- Created social media content and presentations to encourage people with disabilities to take the 2020 U.S. Census

Institute on Disability and Human Development, Chicago, IL 2016 to 2017

2018 to 2019

Graduate Research Assistant

- Gathered and organized data on Medicare demographics nationwide and in New York State
- Researched and organized articles on the intersections of race, gender, and care work
- Scanned book pages for class assignments
- Proofread IRB application

Illinois LEND, Chicago, IL 2016 to 2017

Fellow

- Project: “Identifying as an Autistic Person of Color”
 - Link: https://www.implementdiversity.tools/diversity_fellow_project_timotheus_gordon_jr

Ronald E. McNair Scholar Fellowship, Minneapolis, MN
Fellow. Advisor: Alexis Pate

2009

- Assisted in composing catalog of contemporary African American authors, publishers, and literary journals for the Givens Foundation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL 2019 to Present
Guest Lecturer/Presenter, Disability and Human Development

- Present on my experience as an autistic self-advocate, artist, and disability activism in selected classes for various DHD and Co-Op Program courses, as well as disability and human development related courses, including disability and art, at School of the Art Institute Chicago and schools outside of UIC

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL March 2019
Presenter of “Training on Disability Acceptance”, Disability and Human Development

- Developed the curriculum, promoted the training via mailing lists and social media, and spoke to 50+ people about promoting disability acceptance and accessibility in communities of color

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL August 2017 to May 2018
Teaching Assistant, Disability and Human Development

- Created quiz questions based on weekly readings and films, promoted and assisted in Bodies of Work events (DHD 101)
- Graded written work and quizzes of between 10 – 20 students, met with students upon request, guest lectured on writing about my experience as an autistic black male for one class session (DHD 201)

BOOK, ARTICLE, CREATIVE WORK, AND JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL AND AS PART OF A COLLECTIVE)

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition. (2021, July 1). *“building intersectional disability communities through art+conversation” Post-Event interview series* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7wfImCAVKUPYNByEqtXCJ91HkJ0a3yf9>

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition. (2022, July 11). *COVID-19 information and resources* [Video]. YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7wfImCAVKUNjUx30esgIfoVxaWJo_eYK

Gordon Jr., T. (2022). *Creating an inclusive intramural, recreation, and club sports program*

- on campus*. Partners for Youth with Disabilities. <https://learn.pyd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Creating-an-Inclusive-Intramural-and-Club-Sports-Program-2.pdf>
- Gordon, Jr., T. (2017). Introduction to pharaoh 101. In L. X. Z. Brown, E. Ashkenazy, & M. G. Onaiwu (Eds.), *All the weight of our dreams* (p. (pages unknown)). Autism Women's Network.
- Gordon Jr., T. (2018). Book review: *Bodyminds reimagined* by sami schalk. *Ethnic Studies Review*, 41(1–2), 65–68. <https://doi.org/10.1525/esr.2018.411209>
- Gordon Jr, T. (2020, July 27). #BlackAutisticJoy in ADA 30. Disability Visibility Project. <https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2020/07/19/blackautisticjoy-in-ada-30>
- Gordon Jr., T. (2022, May 11). *Seeking and embracing all of who you are*. Organization for Autism Research. <https://researchautism.org/seeking-and-embracing-all-of-who-you-are>
- Gordon Jr., T. [Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition]. (2021, June 20). *Living the autistic life* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTBEpiyQtvo&t=19s>
- Gordon, T., Jr. (2017, February 3). *Remembering stephon watts is essential to neurodiversity*. NOS Magazine. <http://nosmag.org/remembering-stephon-watts-essential-to-neurodiversity>
- Kearl, B. and Gordon Jr., T. (2023 April 15). Black Autistic Joy: or, Special Education Inside Out. Paper presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Retrieved 2024 January 18 from the AERA Online Paper Repository.
- The Harriet Tubman Collective. (2020). Disability solidarity: Completing the “vision for black lives” [E-book]. In A. Wong (Ed.), *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century* (pp. 236–242). Vintage Books. Retrieved August 11, 2022, from https://web.s.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook?sid=0beaba5c-da15-473d-ab8c-45ae2cc5f513%40redis&ppid=Page-_-134&vid=0&format=EK

PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Panels

“Fire Through Dry Grass” Panel Discussion (as Moderator), Online, January, 17, 2024

“Code of the Freaks Film Screening at Midwest Film Festival”, Midwest Film Festival, June 7, 2022.

“THE SELF ADVOCACY MOVEMENT: A CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES” (with Calvin Cook and George Garcia), Online, February 15, 2022.

“Emotional Disturbance: How A Controversial IEP Designation Fails Black Boys” (with Kenya Martinez, Kim Kaiser, and Heather Clarke), Online, 2022.

“Making the Transition” (with Noah Ohashi, Timotheus “T.J.” Gordon Jr., Jae Jin Pak, Brittany King, Esmeralda Fernandez, Corbin Bowen, and Lino Carvajal), Chicagoland DPOCC, December 1, 2020.

“Code of the Freaks, Disability and the Post-ADA World” (with Alyson Patsavas and Carrie Sandahl), Online, August 27, 2020.

“#ADA30InColor Panel Discussion” (with Andraea LaVant, Reyma McCoy McDeid, Jen Deerinwater, Lia Seth, and Valerie Novack), Online, July 26, 2020.

“Code of the Freaks Screening at Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture Presents: Still, Life. A Digital Festival” (with Tsehaye Geralyn Hebert), Online, June 6, 2020.

“Taking the Privilege Out of Polyamory” (with Coriama Davis, Michaela Lovegood, Laura Madalinski, Polly Williams, Emma Fine, and Marta Collazo), Chicago Non-Monogamy Conference, 2018.

“Navigating and Resisting Compulsory Systems of Oppression” (with Nili Broyer, Hailee Gibbons, and Alyson Patsavas), University of Illinois Chicago, April 15, 2016.

“Police Brutality against Disabled People of Color: Reading of BLACK KRIPPLE DELIVERS POETRY & LYRICS” (with Leroy Moore), University of Illinois Chicago, April 7, 2016.

Paper and Project Presentations

“Building Inclusive, All-American, Campus Intramural Sports and Recreation Programs”, National Disability Mentoring Coalition Presentation, May 26, 2022

“Autistic Identity in the African Diaspora”, Disability and Intersectionality Conference, October 13, 2018.

Keynote and Breakout Session Addresses

“Creating an Inclusive Post-Pandemic Future”, IM4Q Annual Statewide Training, July 26, 2022.

“The Intersection of Race and Disability”, ADA Audio Conference Series, February 15, 2022.

“Inclusive Self-Advocacy”, 2022 NACDD Conference, July 20, 2022.

“Creating an Inclusive and Equitable Post-Pandemic Future,” Disability Justice Week, November 2021.

“#HearOurVoices: Disabled People of Color & Allyship” (with Jae Jin Pak), 2021 Sibling Leadership Conference, June 19th, 2021.

“Disabled I AM” (with Candace Coleman, Speak Up! Speak Out 2020, November 20, 2020.

“SUSO Closing Ceremony...Or Is It?”, Speak Up! Speak Out! 2020, November 20, 2020.

“ADA Anniversary Update: 30 Years, Where Do We Go Now?” (with Jae Jin Pak, Emily Ladau, and Maria Town), ADA Audio Conference Series, July 14, 2020.

“Police Violence against Disabled People of Color” (as member of Advance Youth Leadership Power), 2017 Chicago Disability Studies Conference, April 7, 2017.

“College Bound and Beyond” (with Bill Gename), Chicagoland Autism Connection Spring Fling, April 18, 2015.

Workshops, Trainings, and Webinars

“Capacity to Consent” (with Susan Kahan, Barry Lowy, April Dear, and Sara Wright), Illinois Department of Human Services, May 4, 2022.

“Healthy Sexuality” (with Jae Jin Pak, Linda Sandman, and Teresa Parks), Illinois Department of Human Services, April 27, 2022.

“Fighting Ableism Together” (with Helen Rottier), Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, September 22, 2021.

“Meet the Coaches: Implementing the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan” (with Jenean A. Castillo, Daniel Crimmins, Sally Gould-Taylor, Kimberly Mills, and Eduardo Ortiz). UCEDD Resource Center, June 30, 2021.

“The Big Push for CESSA Presentation”, Online Presentation, May 25, 2021.

“Anti-Racism Training for the Disability Community”, Online, February 24, 2021.

“Coping with Loss During COVID 19 and 2020 Societal Conflicts”, IDHD Webinar Series, October 21, 2020.

“Vote and be Counted!” (with Jae Jin Pak), IDHD Webinar Series, September 23, 2020.

“Create Your Own Emergency Resource Guide”, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, June 22, 2020.

“Let’s Learn About COVID 19 Resources for People with Disabilities”, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, May 26, 2020.

“Friday Fun Day: Stay and Play - All About Games Webinar” (with Krescene Beck), Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance, April 10, 2020.

“Supports For Autistic People From Marginalized Communities”, IDHD Webinar Series, January 22, 2020.

“Training on Disability Acceptance in Communities of Color”, University of Illinois Chicago, March 29, 2019.

Media Appearances (including Interviews)

“Chicagoland DPOCC empowers people of color with disabilities” (with Will Jones and Jae Jin Pak), ABC 7 Chicago, July 21, 2022.

“Interview Spotlight Series- Autism Acceptance Month”, Great Lakes ADA Center, April 14, 2022.

“Vaccine Confidence Stories”, AUCD, March 22, 2022.

“Timotheus Gordon: Black Autistic Experiences in Our Community”, Autistic Career Pathways, February 27, 2022.

“Code of the Freaks Twitch Watch Party with host Dominick Evans”, Twitch, February 26, 2021.

“The Road to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the AUCD Network” (with Jeiri Flores and Jacy Farkas), Implement Diversity (AUCD Network), October 20, 2021.

“Being Black & Autistic: Mental Health, Bias, and Alternatives to Police Intervention with Timotheus Gordon”, Two Sides of the Spectrum, 2021.

“ADAPT Presents: Community Emergency Services and Support Act” (with Jazmine Coates and Curtis Harris), CAN-TV (ADAPT Productions), 2021.

Code of the Freaks, Kino Lorber. 2020. Credits Link:
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10411858>

“Disability and Mental Health” (with Chuy Campuzano), CAN-TV (Gay Liberation Network), December 13, 2019.

“Tuesdays with Liz: Surveying Autistic People of Color” (with Liz Weintraub), AUCD Network, 2017.

“ADAPT – Effect of Proposed Gun Control Laws on People with Psychiatric Disabilities” (with Gary Arnold and Curtis Harris), CAN-TV (ADAPT Productions), 2016.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society of Disability Studies, 2016 - Present

National Disability Mentorship Coalition, 2020 – Present

Iota Zeta Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity International (as active member and alumni),
2008 - Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

BEST Community Advisory Committee

Committee Member, 2022 - Present

AUTmosphere Equity Network Community Advisory Board

Board Member, 2021 - Present

Speak Up! Speak Out!

Conference Co-Organizer, 2020 – Present

2018 Chicago Disability Studies Conference

Conference Planning Committee Member, 2018

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago

Youth and Racial Justice Advocate, Chicago, IL, April 2015 - Present

Cinema/Chicago (Chicago Film Festival)

Accessibility Advisory Committee Member, Chicago, IL. 2023 - Present

Chicago Disability Pride Parade

Planning Committee Member, Chicago, IL, 2020 – Present

The Trailblazers of the Chicagoland Autism Connection

Member and Advisor, Chicago, IL, 2020 - Present

Chicago Disability Activism Coalition

Member, Chicago, IL, August 2018 – 2022

Board Member, Chicago, IL, 2019 - 2021

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition

Co-Lead, Chicago, IL, August 2018 – Present

Illinois Department of Human Services

Developmental Disability Advisory Board Member, Springfield, IL 2020 – 2023
Sexual Education Workgroup Member, Springfield, IL, 2020 – Present

Community Emergency Services and Support Act (CESSA) Statewide Coalition

Member, Chicago, IL, 2021 – Present

Statewide Independent Living Council

Board Member, Springfield, IL, July 2022 – Present

Changing Children’s World Foundation

Parenting with All Abilities Facilitator, Geneva, IL, July 2022 – October 2023
Parent Advisor, Geneva, IL, July 2022 – Present

Disability Lead

Disability Lead Ambassador, Chicago, IL June 2022 – Present

Chicago Urban League (South Side Community Reparations Coalition/SSCRC)

Community Researcher and Planning Committee Member, Chicago, IL, October 2021 – June 2022

UIC Co-Op Program

Student Life Liaison, Chicago, IL, October 2022 – Present
Special Olympics Coach, Chicago, IL, September 2022 – Present

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language, Intermediate Plain-Language Translation

Spanish: Novice Speaker and Listener, Intermediate Reading

American Sign Language: Novice Speaker and Listener

COMPUTER SKILLS

Fluent in: Social media, Adobe Creative Suite, Google Suite, Microsoft Office

Have basic knowledge in: Qualtrics, Altas.ti

MISCELLANEOUS/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Appeared in the documentary *Code of the Freaks* as an interviewee that gave insights on media representation of disability, Blackness, and autism in movies
- Fluent in social media content creation, public speaking, lecturing, blogging, technical writing and editing, creative writing, creating promotional fliers and brochures, and mentorship

- Master Certificate in Web Design and Development from Illinois Institute of Technology (2016)
- Trained in campus advocacy at Autistic Self-Advocacy Network's Autism Campus Inclusion program (2015)
- Appeared with Chicagoland DPOCC co-founder Jae Jin Pak in ABC 7 Chicago's profile on Chicagoland DPOCC (July 2022)
- Selected as a 2022 cohort member of the Social Justice Portal Project's Maroon University

REFERENCES

Available upon request