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Doctoral candidate's research project description:

- Theme of the research project: **Violence and Disability**

Description

The project includes research on real and symbolic violence against disabled people and their families as a cultural construct. The research topic combines the exploration of violence in the face of disabled and dependent people in Poland and abroad. The project will examine: the construct of cultural violence, a mechanism for constructing violence against people with disabilities in the context of intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge about disability. In addition, the project includes studies on hate speech against the disabled, hate crimes against disabilities, dominant culture and disability cultures. The project will concern both violence in real cultures and cybercultures. The purposive sample will contain at least 100 informants/interviews and additionally secondary qualitative data analysis of existing data in the internet.

Violence and abuse against people with disabilities is a major issue – international academic literature has consistently shown that they experience much higher rates of bullying, physical and sexual abuse, rape, assault, intimate partner violence, and other forms of crime victimization.ⁱ Disability hate crime – where the individual is targeted for criminal victimization because of their disability identity – is another area of increasing attention; many studies also suggest that there is a much higher rate of hate crime aimed at disabled victims than their nondisabled peers.ⁱⁱ Violence against people with disabilities is be present both in residential care institutions and in the community, and crosses the span of physical, intellectual, sensory, and psychosocial disabilities.ⁱⁱⁱ Verbal abuse and disability hate speech (targeted verbal abuse about the person's disability) is also common across a variety of disabilities.

Unfortunately, however, the Polish literature has not sufficiently explored this topic. This will be groundbreaking research, that will address this serious gap in the literature. As well, it will not only identify and analyze the multiple dimensions of violence against people with disabilities in Poland, it will also suggest ways of addressing this problem in terms of changing those policies and practices which make people with disabilities more likely to be victims of violence. This research project is supervised by two of the world's leading scholars in the field. The primary supervisor for this research has conducted the only published study of disability hate speech in a Polish context, as

well as other studies of abuse in Poland. The foreign advisor is also a world-renowned scholar on disability abuse and criminal victimization, having written the first book on disability hate crimes and having published on disability and violence since the 1990s.

Some of the questions which will be addressed in this research include:

- What are the experiences of people with disabilities in Poland with regard to violent victimization?
- What forms of violence do they experience?
- Where does this violent victimization occur most frequently?
- Are there different rates or forms of violent victimization among people with different disabilities?
- Are there different rates or forms of violent victimization according to other characteristics, such as gender or age?
- What are the current policies and practices being implemented in Poland concerning violence and disability and how could they be improved?

The research will identify best practices in Poland, and will also involve a review of similar policies and practices in the international literature, highlighting areas for improvement.

Disciplines

- Education - basic discipline
- Sociology - additional discipline

Supervisors:

- **Supervisor from Poland:** Assoc. Professor Beata Borowska-Beszta (educator, special educator, disability researcher)
- **Foreign advisor from USA:** Professor Mark Sherry, University Toledo (OH), USA (sociologist, disability researcher)

PhD Candidates:

I am looking to supervise PhD Candidates grounded in disability studies concepts, experienced in ethnographic or general qualitative research, interested in the intersections between some of the following areas:

- Violence and abuse. Bullying. Cyberbullying. Symbolic violence.
- Culture and disability. Disability culture. Disability cyber-culture. Social model of disability
- Disability identity. Representations of disability, attitudes towards disability.
- Disability hate speech and disability hate crimes.
- Transmission of cultural knowledge about disability in real cultures and cyber-cultures in Poland and abroad
- Media, visual culture, technology, social networks and disability and dependence
- Gender and disabilities
- Trauma. Intergenerational trauma.
- Social movements, kinship, generational family, procreative, social movements disability and dependence.
- Formal and informal education, policy and support systems for adults with disabilities
- Qualitative research (ethnographic, nethnographic, autoethnographic, duoethnographic, microethnographic, visual research, discourse analysis, secondary qualitative data analysis and various qualitative research).

ⁱ (Baladerian, 1991; Basile, Breiding, & Smith, 2016; Blake et al., 2014; Bonomi, Nichols, Kammes, & Green, 2018; Chandra, Carey, Carey, Shalinianant, & Thomas, 2003; Clement, Brohan, Sayce, Pool, & Thornicroft, 2011; Conway, 1994; Hasan, Muhaddes, Camellia, Selim, & Rashid, 2014; Hassouneh-Phillips, 2005; Hutchison & Stenfert Kroese, 2015; Mitra & Mouradian, 2014; Mueller-Johnson, Eisner, & Obsuth, 2014; Murphy, O'Callaghan, & Clare, 2007; Neille & Penn, 2017; Nosek, Howland, & Young, 1997; Øksendal, Brandlistuen, Holte, & Wang, 2019; Pinquart, 2016; Plummer & Findley, 2012; Rich, 2014; Sentenac et al., 2011; Sobsey, 1994; Sobsey & Doe, 1991; Wissink, Van Vugt, Moonen, Stams, & Hendriks, 2015; Zeedyk, Rodriguez, Tipton, Baker, & Blacher, 2014).

ⁱⁱ (Chakraborti, Garland, & Hardy, 2014; Clement et al., 2011; Emerson & Roulstone, 2014; McCarthy, 2017; McClimens & Brewster, 2017; Peckitt, 2016; Quarmby, 2008; Ralph, Capewell, & Bonnett, 2016; Richardson et al., 2016; Alan Roulstone

& Mason-Bish, 2013; A Roulstone & Thomas, 2009; Alan Roulstone, Thomas, & Balderston, 2011; Shah & Giannasi, 2015; Shakespeare, 2012; Sherry, 2010; Sherry & Neller, 2016; Smith, 2015; Taylor, 2017; Tyson & Hall, 2015).

ⁱⁱⁱ (Admire & Ramirez, online ahead of print; Brunes & Heir, 2018; Dean et al., 2018; Euser, Alink, Tharner, van IJzendoorn, & Bakermans-Kranenburg, 2016; Gür & Albayrak, 2017; Kamavarapu, Ferriter, Morton, & Völlm, 2017; Khalifeh et al., 2015; McCarthy, Hunt, & Milne-Skillman, 2017; Wilczynski, Connolly, Dubard, Henderson, & McIntosh, 2015).