

**FALL 2014 DHA Newsletter**  
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- 2           MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR  
*Penny Richards*
- 3           ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 8           UPCOMING CONFERENCES
- 9           Buddhism and responses to disability, mental disorders and deafness in  
Asia. A bibliography of historical and modern texts with introduction and  
partial annotation, and some echoes in western countries  
(M. Miles)
- 10          ‘Differences in the depiction of disability in popular print culture’ in the  
Bodleian Special Collections  
(Kate Macdonald)
- 11          Anne Borsay: A Short Tribute  
(Mike Mantin)
- 12          Enrico Toti (1882-1916)  
(Penny Richards)

**MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**  
**Penny L. Richards**

**WELCOME!**

Notice anything different? I'm writing this introduction as the editor of the DHA Newsletter, as usual, but it's no longer a Message from the President. After five wonderful years, I'm happy to say the presidency is now in the very capable hands of Sandy Sufian. At the same board meeting, we elected Sara Scalenghe as our new treasurer, succeeding Phil Ferguson, who served faithfully and well on the DHA board for many years. The Disability History Association moves into its second decade with fresh leadership and I have no worries about its future.

(Did you notice I said "second decade" in that first paragraph? It's true! The first official board meeting of the Disability History Association happened in December 2004.)

I'm staying on to edit the newsletter, because it was my favorite part of the job, and (surprise!) nobody objected to letting me continue.

*Penny Richards*

*Other newsletters you might like:*

**Perkins School for the Blind Archives:** <http://www.perkinsarchives.org/>  
(click the "eNewsletter" link in the left sidebar to get regular email news, or enjoy their blog)

**Longmore Institute on Disability:** <http://longmoreinstitute.sfsu.edu/>  
(click "Join our Mailing List" in the right sidebar to get regular email news, or enjoy their blog)

**Have you renewed your DHA membership for 2015? Please consider doing that right now, while you're enjoying the newsletter, it won't take but a moment. And if you already have your membership, perhaps make a surprise gift to a colleague or student?**

<http://www.dishist.org/join.htm>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **DHA 2014 Outstanding Publication Award: Best Book**

We are pleased to announce that the following work has been selected as the DHA Outstanding Publication Award recipient for 2014:

Barsch, Sebastian, Anne Klein, and Pieter Verstraete, eds. *The Imperfect Historian: Disability Histories in Europe*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2013.

The selection committee's comments: "Drawing primarily, but not exclusively, on the provocative and far-reaching insights of the French philosopher Michel Foucault, *The Imperfect Historian* makes important methodological contributions to the field of disability history. Its temporal and geographic breadth and its deliberate engagement with theory and the methodologies of disability history are refreshing and provide a powerful framework for future historical investigation. Although the stated focus of this edited collection of historical essays is on Europe, various chapters explore disability history in Argentina, Brazil, and Spain and British Mandate Palestine and Israel, challenging the way we think about national boundaries. The seemingly disparate collection of essays that span Medieval and Early Modern European societies and late-twentieth century HIV/AIDS discourse are held together nicely by the volume's strong focus on postmodern theorizations of identity, bio-politics, narrative, and governmentality. In clearly written, accessible prose, the contributors to this innovative volume challenge existing historiography and frameworks for understanding disability history."

The award includes a cash prize of \$600.

### **Call for applicants – AHA Disability History Mentorship Program** (Mike Rembis and Sandy Sufian)

The American Historical Association's Disability History Mentorship Program is entering its second year. In this program, graduate students doing work in history of disability or closely related historical fields are matched with established faculty mentors. History graduate students with disabilities focusing on disability history are especially encouraged to apply.

Volunteer mentors are matched with students and communicate either through email or by phone, or Skype in order to nurture the mentor-mentee relationship. Frequency and mode of contact may vary but we like to encourage approximately 1-2 hours every 4–6 weeks for at least one year.

The mentor-mentee relationship is an informal connection in which the graduate student could ask the faculty member for advice on how to handle challenges they may face on the job market, in the classroom, during exams, doing research, dealing with administrative roadblocks, and the like. This is not a formal advising relationship, like that of a committee member, but rather an informal chance to learn from and make connections through more experienced, well established faculty, especially with regard to professionalization issues. It is the obligation of the graduate student to initiate and maintain contact with their mentor.

Who qualifies for the program?

Graduate students pursuing a PhD in history, history of science, or history of medicine with a specialization in disability history who have a demonstrated interest in developing a career as a researcher and teacher/faculty in the history of disability. Faculty who work or teach in history, history of science, or history of medicine with a specialization in disability history who would like to mentor future historians of disability.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and matching is commonly subject to availability of mentors.

Mentors and mentees, please go to the following URL to submit your application:

<https://secure.historians.org/disability/mentorship.cfm>

If you have any questions, please contact Mentorship Program Officers: Sandy Sufian ([sufians@uic.edu](mailto:sufians@uic.edu)) or Mike Rembis ([marembis@buffalo.edu](mailto:marembis@buffalo.edu)) of the Advisory Committee on Disability.

## **DHA Sponsored Session at AHA 2015**

The Disability History Association is pleased to co-sponsor a session at the upcoming American Historical Association meeting. Look for “Living with(and without) the ADA: Reflections, Refractions, and Reactions in Disability History” chaired by Frances Bernstein (Drew University), with speakers Mike Rembis (Buffalo), Cathy Kudlick (SFSU), Fikru Negash Gebrekidan (St. Thomas U.), Julie Nack Ngue (USC), and Sara Scalenghe (Loyola). It’s scheduled for Friday, January 2, from 3:30 to 5:30pm in the New York Hilton’s Concourse D.

## **Announcing Formation of the Critical Disability Studies Caucus within the American Studies Association**

(Kathleen Brian)

The Caucus on Critical Disability Studies (CCDS) within the ASA will encourage critical investigation of disability’s central role in the study of American history, society, and culture, while also increasing the visibility and participation of scholars and students with disabilities within American Studies. It will provide a venue through which scholars of disability can share ideas, build networks to increase the quality of disability-related panels at the ASA, and facilitate the development of emerging scholars in the field.

Please send queries or comments to Liat Ben-Moshe ([Liat.BenMoshe@utoledo.edu](mailto:Liat.BenMoshe@utoledo.edu)), Kathleen Brian ([kbrian@gmail.com](mailto:kbrian@gmail.com)), or Diana Paulin ([Diana.Paulin@trincoll.edu](mailto:Diana.Paulin@trincoll.edu)).

## **New Website on Canadian Eugenics History**

(Claudia Malacrida)

Under funding from the Canadian federal government, Dr. Claudia Malacrida and her team have

produced a website on eugenics and newgenics that might be of interest to researchers, teachers and students. The website (and the broader project) is focused on continuities between historical eugenic practices in Alberta, Canada and beyond, and current practices relating to the sexual and familial control of people with disabilities. Please check the website out: [www.eugenicsnewgenics.com](http://www.eugenicsnewgenics.com)

## **Disability History Gift Ideas to support the ADA Legacy Project**

(Robin Stephens)

<http://www.createphotocalendars.com/Store/ADA+Legacy+Bus+Tour-3007509529>

“This calendar showcases iconic black and white photos from Tom Olin which honor grassroots efforts leading to the 1990 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Important dates in the disability rights movement are included showing some of the actions, organizations and points in history, leading up to the ADA's signing and continuing struggles for inclusion of people with disabilities.”

<http://www.thenthdegree.com/?product=ada-25th-anniversary-shirt>

An ADA 25th anniversary t-shirt is available at the above link, through The Nth Degree, with sales supporting the ADA Legacy Project.

## **Exhibit: “How We Read: A Sensory History of Books for Blind People”**

(Matthew Rubery and Heather Tilley)

We're delighted to invite you to our upcoming exhibition, “How We Read: A Sensory History of Books for Blind People”: <http://www.howweweread.co.uk/>

This will be a free exhibition exploring the history of assistive technologies that have been designed to help blind people read. From raised print to talking books and optophones, a fascinating array of historic artefacts will be on display from museums and other centres dedicated to preserving the heritage of blindness. There will also be a series of hands-on activities, interactive workshops, and live performances allowing visitors to try out for themselves alternative ways of reading.

The exhibition runs from 17-23 November 2014, with a special reception and other events planned for Saturday November 22. Full details can be found on the website. Please do let us know if you would like to attend the events on Saturday.

The exhibition is part of the Being Human Festival (<http://beinghumanfestival.org/>), the UK's first national festival of the humanities.

contact us for more information:

[m.rubery@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:m.rubery@qmul.ac.uk); [h.tilley@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:h.tilley@bbk.ac.uk)

## **Course: Disability History and Culture, from Homer to Hip-Hop**

(Steve Brown)

<http://www.cds.hawaii.edu/news/10202014/cds-offers-course-disability-history-and-culture>

DIS 383: DISABILITY HISTORY AND CULTURE: FROM HOMER TO HIP HOP

(Writing Intensive Focus Course)

Spring 2015 (Jan. 12-May 15, 2015)

from the Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa

An online (asynchronous-access at your own time) 3 credit course

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Steven Brown, Professor (retired)

Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Email: [sebrown@hawaii.edu](mailto:sebrown@hawaii.edu)

Overview to the history of disability from a disability studies perspective, a multidisciplinary and global approach to studying disability perspectives, focused on personal and collective responses to difference(s) based on disability.

## **Canadian Disability Studies Association Student Paper Competition**

CDSA-ACEI 2015 Student Paper Competition

Abstract Due Dec. 15, 2014; Full Paper due April 1, 2015

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- Students may be at the undergraduate or graduate level at any Canadian college or university
- Students must be the sole author of the submission
- Students must be a member of the CDSA-ACEI. If you are not already a member, please email [cdsa.acei@gmail.com](mailto:cdsa.acei@gmail.com) <<mailto:cdsa.acei@gmail.com>> to request a membership form (memberships are \$20 for students)

### **SUBMISSIONS:**

- Submissions should follow the guidelines of The Canadian Journal of Disability Studies, a peer-reviewed journal (please see <http://cjds.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/cjds/about/submissions> <<http://cjds.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/cjds/about/submissions>>)
- Only original work is to be submitted
- Work should aim to make substantive contributions to knowledge
- Students should demonstrate how their work is situated within the discipline and within existing literature, specifically regarding this year's conference theme of "capital ideas." Submissions should not exceed 7,000 words including references.

### **REWARD FOR TOP THREE SUBMISSIONS:**

- Monetary reward (first place: \$500, second place: \$300, third place: \$200)
- Reserved spot to present at the 2015 CDSA-ACEI Conference
- Acknowledgment on CDSA-ACEI website and other promotional materials
- Opportunity to submit to Canadian Journal of Disability Studies for peer-review

\*Note that should there be no suitable entries, prizes will not be rewarded\*

**Abstract Submission Deadline:** December 15, 2014 (Submit a complete abstract submission form for the CDSA-ACEI conference and note that you want to be considered for the Student Paper Competition)

Deadline for Full Paper Submission: April 1, 2015 (Email to [cdsa.acei@gmail.com](mailto:cdsa.acei@gmail.com) <<mailto:cdsa.acei@gmail.com>> with Student Paper Competition in the subject line)

Please direct any inquiries to Kelly Fritsch, CDSA-ACEI Student Representative: [cdsa.acei@gmail.com](mailto:cdsa.acei@gmail.com) <<mailto:cdsa.acei@gmail.com>>

## **Audio Recordings from Disability History Festival at Swansea**

A Disability History Festival focused on sport was held in August 2014, in conjunction with the IPC Athletics European Championships, sponsored the the Disability and Industrial Society project at Swansea.

<http://dis-ind-soc.org.uk/en/disability-history-festival.htm>

Audio from talks by David Turner, Mike Mantin, and Daniel Blackie can be accessed at the link above, either as a podcast through iTunes or as YouTube recordings.

## **Call for Disability History Bloggers**

(Mike Mantin)

The [Disability and Industrial Society blog](#) is looking for contributions for a new series of posts looking at all aspects of disability history for **Disability History Month, 22 November – 22 December**. These will follow [last year's successful first blog series](#) which brought together academics, charities and students for a varied and often personal series of blogs about the importance of writing disability history. More details here:

<http://dis-ind-soc.org.uk/en/dhm-2014.htm>

## **Mobility Histories: A Wheelchair History of Disability in Canada**

A new online exhibit on the history of wheelchairs is up now, from Carleton University, a collaboration involving scholars in the history of technology, disability studies, and social work. Visit it here:

<http://www.mobilityhistories.ca/>

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

DHA members who attend any of the following conferences, or others of interest, are invited to write a report on the proceedings, for a future issue of this newsletter.

13-14 April 2015

### **Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Ability**

Columbus OH

This year's conference will celebrate the progress we have made and the journey still ahead. What have we learned? Where are we going? What are the important questions for the next 25 years? Proposals due 5 January 2015. For more information:

<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2015Conf/2015conf.html>

2-4 June 2015

### **Canadian Disability Studies Association-Association Canadienne des Études sur l'Incapacité**

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

"Capital Ideas" is the theme for this year's annual conference. Proposals due 15 December 2014. For more information:

<http://www.cdsa-acei.ca/conference.html>

4 June 2015

### **Fictions of Corporeal Diversity: A Symposium on Literary Disability Studies**

Lancaster UK

Keynote speaker is David Bolt. Proposals due 16 January 2015. The full CFP:

<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/59018>

10-13 June 2015

### **Society for Disability Studies**

Atlanta GA

"Getting it-right/s" is the theme for this year's annual meeting. Proposals are due 8 December 2014.

<https://www.disstudies.org/conferences/atlanta>

28-30 June 2015

### **Blind Creations: An International Conference on Blindness and the Arts**

London UK

Plenary speakers will include Georgina Kleege, Stephen Kuusisto, and Zina Weygand. The proposal deadline has passed. For more information:

<http://blindcreations.blogspot.co.uk/>

1-2 July 2015

### **Disability and Disciplines: The International Conference on Educational, Cultural, and Disability Studies**

Liverpool UK

Sponsored by the Centre for Culture and Disability Studies, Faculty of Education, Liverpool Hope University; keynote speakers include Julie Allan, Peter Beresford, David Mitchell, and Sharon Snyder. Proposals due 1 February 2015. For more information:

<http://ccds.hope.ac.uk/ourconference.html>

**"Buddhism and responses to disability, mental disorders and deafness in Asia. A bibliography of historical and modern texts with introduction and partial annotation, and some echoes in western countries"**

M. Miles

The above-named bibliography now appears online, full-text, at  
[www.independentliving.org/miles2014a](http://www.independentliving.org/miles2014a)

It is hosted in the US at:

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/bibliography/buddhism/>

The 220 titles listed here (mostly in English, some French and German) can be skimmed in half an hour, the annotation digested in a day. (The materials took me 20 months to find!) For a quick view, try the 'Shorter Visit', hopping down 10% of the material, across many countries and different kinds of material.

Recently I realised something new about the series of annotated bibliographies hosted at the Independent Living Institute and CIRRIE, on how two-thirds of the world has responded to disability and PwD. This group, PwD, can act as a surrogate for the much vaster group of people who are poor, oppressed, vulnerable, having minority status, lacking voice. Across the world there have been many unjust and cruel responses to such groups, or overprotection or misconceived activities. What is interesting is that in every civilisation, some records and accounts exist of more imaginative treatment, better behaviour, more just and liberating interpretations of law and religion, in this or that period of history.

Two or three billion mostly younger people are now searching the web, hoping to find peaceful and imaginative ways of solving the problems of different countries trying to live with their neighbours, different ethnic groups trying to live together, different religious groups putting away their anger and trying to recall the deep things they hold in common. In the wider search for peace and justice, there is much to be learnt from the more positive response to disability and vulnerability, which can be found amidst the cultural riches of the world's major civilisations.

Almost all the material has been open online since Nov. 2013; and a google of "Buddhism, disability Asia" gets the first, second or third spot, and sometimes all three (presumably because the materials are from 300 authors, not just one compiler / annotator!) Yet it took some months to coordinate 106,000 words of highly detailed material between two sites with different formats and requirements of accessibility. CIRRIE, which is US Federally funded, launched a version in March 2014 on Facebook. The latest Independent Living Institute version has some tiny tweaks. Both are notified now (Oct. 2014) to various interest groups (e.g. 'History of Disability', 'DisabilityResearch', 'Disability and Religion', 'Disability Studies India', and any onward forwarding that may occur. Feel free...

## **‘Differences in the depiction of disability in popular print culture’ in the Bodleian Special Collections**

Kate Macdonald

My research at the Bodleian identifies and analyses depictions of physical impairment in popular culture from 1914-18, hoping to establish a new empirical basis for understanding how social attitudes towards the physically impaired person developed in Britain during the First World War, and how hierarchies of disability came to be constructed. I am investigating how popular culture records how some kinds of physical impairment became more deserving than others, to produce new readings of the literature and culture of the period. I am working on the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera, since popular print culture can reveal a more nuanced understanding of how society constructs disability to determine the lives of ex-servicemen, and impaired civilians.

I am looking for references to the blind, the congenitally impaired, the industrially injured, the war-wounded soldier and the human body that did not fit accepted physical norms, and evidence of public acceptance or rejection of these images and these bodies, and how these perceptions may have changed over time. Material produced during the First World War and after will be particularly valuable in showing how bodies and physical conditions were presented on the stage, in the cinema, in song, in newspapers and other periodicals, and in advertisements, at a time when the national demographic of the physically impaired changed so dramatically.

This will continue the research I conducted in autumn 2013 as a Visiting Research Fellow at King’s College London, during which I spent some weeks at the Bodleian recording the fiction and images in First World War fiction magazines that depicted physical impairment. My background is in British literary-historical research and print culture studies, on which I have published extensively for the early part of the twentieth century.<sup>1</sup> I have led the development of middlebrow studies in the UK, in which category many of the texts that reflect popular culture for the First World War can be located. More recently I have been working in disability theory, and investigating the reflection of early twentieth-century social history in popular literature.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>‘Writing *The War*: John Buchan’s Lost Journalism of the First World War’, *The Times Literary Supplement*, 10 August 2007, 14-15; ‘Translating Propaganda: John Buchan’s Writing During the First World War’, in Mary Hammond and Shafquat Towheed (eds), *Publishing in the First World War: Essays in Book History* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 181-201; (ed.), *The Masculine Middlebrow, 1880-1950: What Mr Miniver Read* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011); ‘John Buchan’s breakthrough: The conjunction of experience, markets and forms that made *The Thirty-Nine Steps*’, *Publishing History* 68:3 (2011), 25-107.

<sup>2</sup>‘The war-wounded and the congenitally impaired: Competing categories of disability in John Buchan’s *Huntingtower* (1922)’, *Journal of War and Culture Studies*, 4:1 (2011), 7-20; ‘Women and their bodies in the popular reading of 1910’, *Literature and History*, 22:1 (2013), 62-80; ‘Introduction: Feminist Future Fiction’, in *Volume 2. Fictions of a Feminist Future*, Macdonald, K (ed.). Macdonald, K (general editor) *Political Future Fiction. Speculative and Counter-Factual Politics in Edwardian Fiction*, 3 vols (London: Pickering & Chatto, 2013), ix-xiv.

## Anne Borsay: a short tribute

Mike Mantin

as originally posted at the Disability and Industrial Society blog:

<http://dis-ind-soc.org.uk/en/blog.htm?id=34>

*Anne Borsay, head of the Disability and Industrial Society project, sadly passed away in August 2014. Here we present a short tribute to the work of our project leader and friend to everyone involved, written by Mike Mantin.*

The influence of Professor Anne Borsay was felt amongst almost anyone working on the history of medicine. Through her work, she examined institutions of medicine with critical detail, including the exhaustive study of the Bath General Infirmary *Medicine and Charity in Georgian Bath* (1999) which shone light onto the social structures of voluntary hospitals. She also produced countless articles and chapters on the history of hospitals and nursing, including editing the collection *Nursing and Midwifery in Britain since 1700* (2012) with Billie Hunter.

Anne was in particular a pioneer of disability history, contributing a huge wealth of ideas and studies to what is now a flourishing field of history. Her work looked at changes in social, cultural and political attitudes towards disability, bringing out the importance of recording the often-ignored place of disabled people within history. Her definitive book, *Disability and Social Policy in Britain since 1750: A History of Exclusion* (2005), received acclaim and attention both for its historical detail and scope, and its relevance to the continued struggle for disability rights. It remains a crucial text for any disability historian today. Since its publication, Anne wrote regularly about other aspects of disability history and co-edited a volume with Pamela Dale, *Disabled Children: Contested Caring* (2012).

Professor Borsay contributed consistently to societies and conferences and organised the Research Group for Health, History and Culture at Swansea University. Anne taught on many aspects of the history of medicine at Swansea University; her students and those lucky to have her as a PhD supervisor will remember how tirelessly she worked to ensure their success.

*Disability and Industrial Society* was her final major project. She led a team of historians from across Britain to explore the history of disability in the coal industry, aiming to re-examine the historical relationship between disability and industrialisation. The project continues in memory of Professor Borsay, who will be remembered not just as a brilliant historian but as a much-loved friend and colleague.

## Enrico Toti (1882-1916)



Statue of Enrico Toti in Rome; much-larger-than-life muscular male nude, in dark stone, holding a crutch, with his left leg ending mid-thigh. In a park setting, with blue skies. Base is inscribed with his name and other text in Italian. There is some graffiti on the base.

With all the WWI centenary coverage, we were moved to come across this statue at the [Villa Borghese gardens](#), on a recent family vacation in Rome. [Enrico Toti](#) (1882-1916) was a railway worker from Rome; his leg was lost in a workplace accident in 1906. After that, he became a distance cyclist, riding from Rome to Lapland, and down to Egypt, to great acclaim. At the onset of WWI, he was considered unfit for military service, but he volunteered as a bicycle courier, and became an unofficial member of the 3rd Bersaglieri Bicycle Battalion. He died at the [Sixth Battle of Isonzo](#), and is one of the very few civilians awarded Italy's medal for military valor.

*--Penny Richards*