

# D.R.E.A.M.-U

MAGAZINE ISSUE 11

November 2025

Photo by Jennifer W  
Johnson @jtknoxrox

June 6th 2020 in Wash  
D.C. at the #BlackLivesMatter  
& #BlackDisabledLivesMatter  
Protest

Black Lives Matter  
@BlackLivesMatter

Racial Justice  
Equality  
Disability Justice



[dreamcollegedisability.org](http://dreamcollegedisability.org)

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### **About and Social Media**

DREAM acts as an online disability cultural center. Learn about DREAM's mission. Get connected via social media and email.

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Consider applying to online multicultural training, Revolution special issue, and research fellowship.

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Join the Neurodiversity Alliance webinar, San Francisco Disability Cultural Center virtual event, and ADAPT training.

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We recommend the Anti-ableism in Higher Education report, Mad Scholars book, A Place for Us recording, PubMed article, Docs with disabilities book club recordings, and the Horror and disability zine.

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### **DREAM-U Zine**

#### **Submission**

Consider contributing to future DREAM-U zine issues!

# From Jennifer White-Johnson

In solidarity with my [Jennifer White-Johnson] 7-year-old Black Autistic son and in virtual protest with my Black disabled community, I [Jennifer White-Johnson] felt compelled to use my art to bring visibility to the facts. More than half of Black/Brown bodies in the US with disabilities will be arrested by the time they reach their late 20s.

We don't see many positive stories or acts of #AutisticJoy among Black/Brown bodies because they don't make headlines. 'To Be Pro-Neurodiversity is to be Anti-Racist': this statement carries a lot of truth, which directly influenced the need to create the graphic.

This symbol, created by disabled designer Jennifer White-Johnson in 2020, combines a black fist—representing protest and solidarity—with the infinity symbol, which Autistic communities use to depict the breadth of the autism spectrum as well as the larger neurodiversity movement.



Logo Created By Jennifer White Johnson ©2020  
@jtknoxroxs

Logo Created By Jennifer White Johnson ©2020  
@jtknoxroxs



# Mission

**Advance the interests of student rights, increased accessibility, social and policy change, support, and mentorship to disabled students and their allies in higher education institutions across the United States.**



**DREAM - Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring**



**dreamdisability**



**<https://tinyurl.com/fuchjwff>**



## A national organization for and by disabled college students

**D**

Disability is more than physical and invisible impairments but an “experience... within all walks of life”, intersectional to LGBTQIA+ folks and “whose bodies do not conform to our culture(s)’ notion of “normal” or “functional.” \*



**R**

“Moving beyond individual legal rights to collective human rights”\*, every campus in the nation has disabled folk in their student populations and need to feel assured and protected moving forward in their studies.



**E**

Education is vital for creating community change. Our community events and resources will discuss disability, the intersections of disability, and higher education. In addition, unlearning harmful barriers in pedagogy that aim for inclusion.



**A**

Advocacy includes actively working towards an intersectional approach to disability culture, community, and pride. Speaking out on the injustice and harm of disabled people in academia, local communities, outside regions, and on a global scale makes advocacy necessary in our work in higher education.



**M**

Mentoring means empowering disabled students by providing a platform to share experiences and connect with others, especially when other disabled scholars and professionals support the next generation of brilliant disabled leaders.



# DREAM-U ZINE TEAM



**Em Doffing, M.A.**  
(She/They)

They are a queer and neurodivergent, psychologically disabled/Mad Master's graduate. They are certified as a proactive disability inclusion ambassador and mentor from the University of Kansas's Disability Inclusion Program. She currently manages the Disability Justice research lab at California State University in Long Beach. Their thesis is "Chronically Pained Webcomic Readers with Endometriosis Collectively Coping and Resisting Medical Ableism."

Their ongoing project centers disabled graduate students' (DGS) lived experiences in a Participatory Action Research (PAR) project. They are also a co-author on the book, *Disability Life Stories: Unfiltered Voices on School, Family, Career, and Finding Purpose*. She is also the Project Coordinator for Linfield's School of Nursing.



**Jessica King, B.A.**  
(She/They)

Jessica is a neurodivergent and chronically ill disability scholar-activist. She graduated as a first-generation, low-income student from California State University, Long Beach with two bachelor degrees in creative writing and comparative literature and two minors in health humanities and human development.

Dedicating her education and career to disability advocacy, she began her graduate program in disability studies at the City University of New York and her employment as a DSS Educational Coach at North Orange Continuing Education. Through her disability empowerment organization, White Dove Disability Advocacy, Jessica is initiating various projects, including a digital archive for chronic pain/illness and a guidebook on increasing access to student leadership roles.



**Chloe Marbell Davidson**  
(She/Her/Ella)

She is neurodivergent-chronically ill Latina and disability advocate from Orange County, California. After graduating from UC Irvine, she provided recreational programs for the City of Irvine's Disability Services and is now an administrative assistant for Easterseals Southern California's Behavioral Health Services Department.

Chloe has researched at the iSchool Inclusion Institute (i3), based at the University of Texas at Austin, where her team's poster proposal on university patient health portals was presented at the iConference 2023 in Barcelona, Spain. She aims to apply for graduate school to improve college access policy and services to ensure disabled high school students are supported as future scholars.

DREAM Spotlight

# Itzel Yagual

“I help women stop performing survival and start leading in ways that fit who they really are.”

Unfolding Room™ is a women-centered practice helping neurodivergent and culturally complex women design leadership, work, and lives that fit who they are.

An Afro-Latina, Indigenous, and Spanish-Panamanian scholar, feminist, and identity strategist. A proud AuDHDer and PhD candidate in Industrial–Organizational Psychology, she’s a 2025–2026 Research Fellow with the Neurodiversity Foundation.

Her work bridges I/O psychology, feminist theory, and lived experience to reimagine leadership and well-being across race, gender, and neurotype. She’s collaborated with organizations like 92NY, Psi Chi, and Divergently, and her essay “The Identity Cost of Being Reliable” explores the emotional toll of over-reliability among neurodivergent women of color.

Outside work, Itzel is a mom, spouse to a Marine veteran, and dog mom to two Frenchies who often join her meetings.

- Capella University – PhD Candidate, Industrial–Organizational Psychology
- Neurodiversity Foundation – Research Fellow (2025–2026)
- Founder, The Unfolding Room™

[www.theunfoldingroom.co](http://www.theunfoldingroom.co)



Calling all university Faculty, Staff,  
and Students residing in the US  
who are 18 years or older:

**UNDERSTAND OTHER CULTURES  
BETTER**

# Online Multicultural Training

**LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE EARN A  
CERTIFICATE**

Watch short videos on cultural humility &



best practices



Reflect with interactive questions



Earn a certificate of completion (like SafeZone!) & up to 5 SONA credits



No registration needed—start anytime! 2 Hours of In-Depth  
Training Videos

**TO  
PARTICIPATE,**

click the link below or go to  
<https://tinyurl.com/CIRCLEtraining>

**2025**

CIRCLE Training: Cultural Immersion &

Reflection  
through Contact with Lived Experiences

For questions: please contact:  
[jay.d.de\\_la\\_garza@okstate.edu](mailto:jay.d.de_la_garza@okstate.edu)



Approved 6/30/25  
Expires 6/30/26  
Protocol #: IRB-25-  
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Approved: 07/11/2024  
Expires: 07/10/2025  
Protocol #: IRB-24-70

# REVOLUTION

**THE FIDDLEHEAD'S SPECIAL  
SUMMER 2026 DISABILITY ISSUE**

**“Send us your fiction, creative nonfiction,  
poetry, and review pitches that call for change  
— change in the world we know and change in  
the world that might come to be.**

What might a world beyond the revolution  
look like, especially for disabled people?”

**[www.thefiddlehead.ca/revolution](http://www.thefiddlehead.ca/revolution)**



# Marcus Autism Center Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Opportunities for Seniors and Recent Graduates



JANUARY 6TH, 2026



Our research fellowships are intended for college graduates to dedicate two intensive years to research in autism prior to entering graduate studies.



APPLY :



[www.med.emory.edu/departments/pediatrics/divisions/autism/fellow/index.html](http://www.med.emory.edu/departments/pediatrics/divisions/autism/fellow/index.html)



# WEBINAR

with Neurodiversity Wrapped



THE  
NEURODIVERSITY  
ALLIANCE

An end-of-year highlight reel where students share lived experiences, celebrate personal wins (big or small), talk honestly about challenges, and reflect on growth. Storytelling, reflection, and connection – all centered on personal ND journeys. Come listen to our students reflect on their year and ask questions!

**Thursday, 18 December** 

**At 5 pm Pacific Time** 

[www.thendalliance.org/event/neurodiversity-wrapped-webinar/](http://www.thendalliance.org/event/neurodiversity-wrapped-webinar/)



San Francisco



Disability  
Cultural  
Center

# Virtual Event

Cafe Crip:  
Check In

[www.disabilityculturalcenter.org/event/cafe-crip-check-in/](http://www.disabilityculturalcenter.org/event/cafe-crip-check-in/)

Friday, Dec 19  
12 pm PT - 1:30

pm  
Pacific Time

# **Request Training from ADAPT**



From one- to four-day trainings cover disability rights ADAPT style:

- activist tactics,
- leadership,
- strategies,
- negotiation skills,
- and much more...

**Ever wish you could make people in your town make their businesses accessible? Wish you could get your state to act on the need for attendant services? Here's your chance to find out how!**

**ADAPT can put on disability rights trainings for your local community.**

**Trainers focus on proven, successful techniques. Training will include both classroom and hands-on experience, and can be tailored to fit your group's needs. Groups should be kept small to insure all participants will leave with the needed skills to FREE OUR PEOPLE and make sure others recognize that.**

**<https://adapt.org/training/>**

# Resource Center



[ableismguide.com](http://ableismguide.com)

## **ANTI-ABLEISM**

### IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

A Changemaking Report

Jessica Lopez,  
*JohnLewisYoungLeaders Fellow*  
and Fletcher Grey

ROBERT F.  
KENNEDY  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS



# BOOK

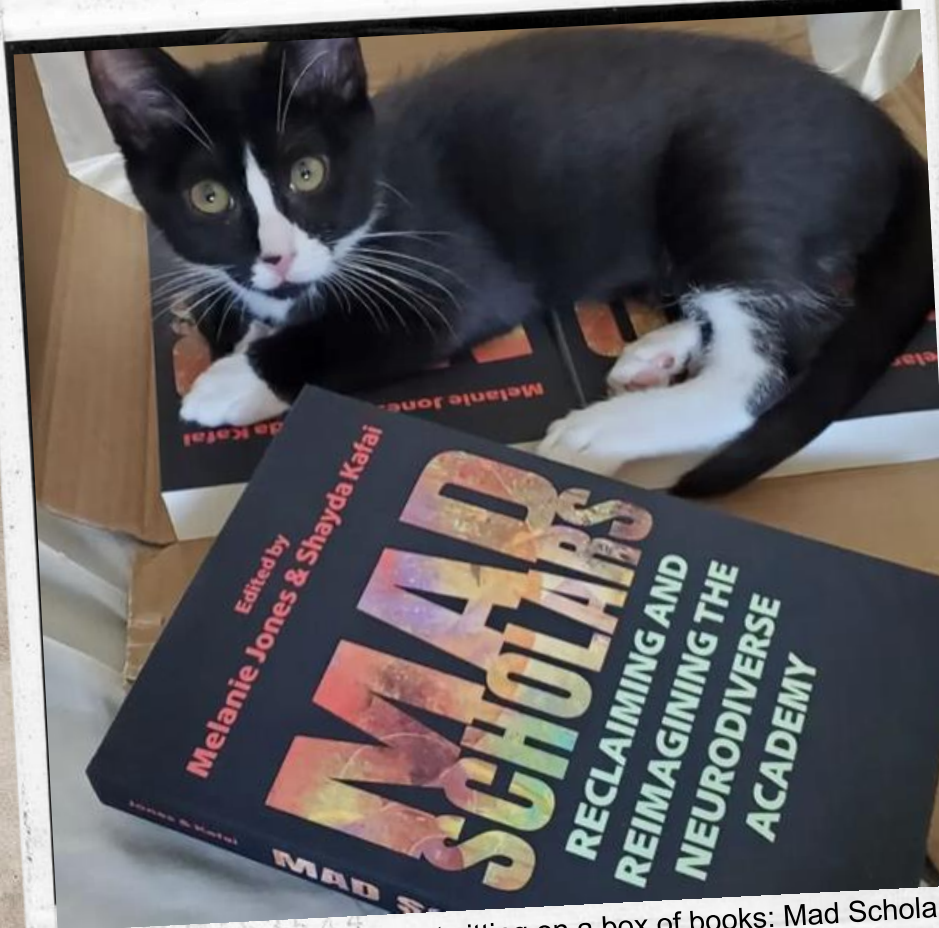


Image Description: a tuxedo cat sitting on a box of books: Mad Scholars:

Reclaiming and Reimagining the Neurodiverse Academy

**“Mad communities develop and flourish  
through shared joy and laughter.”**



# A Place For Us



# Recording

**Narratives of Belonging: Disability,  
Mental Health, and Youth Literature**

<https://youtu.be/gJIYTahJzww>

**roundtable discussion where scholars will  
discuss the importance of disability studies  
and mental health when studying and reading  
young adult literature.**

## **Mission**

**To create a space for students with disabilities and  
their allies to connect, network, and empower one  
another through peer mentoring that spans from  
high school through college.**

# ARTICLE



Haunted by ableism:  
Ghosts of the past,  
present, and future in  
medical education

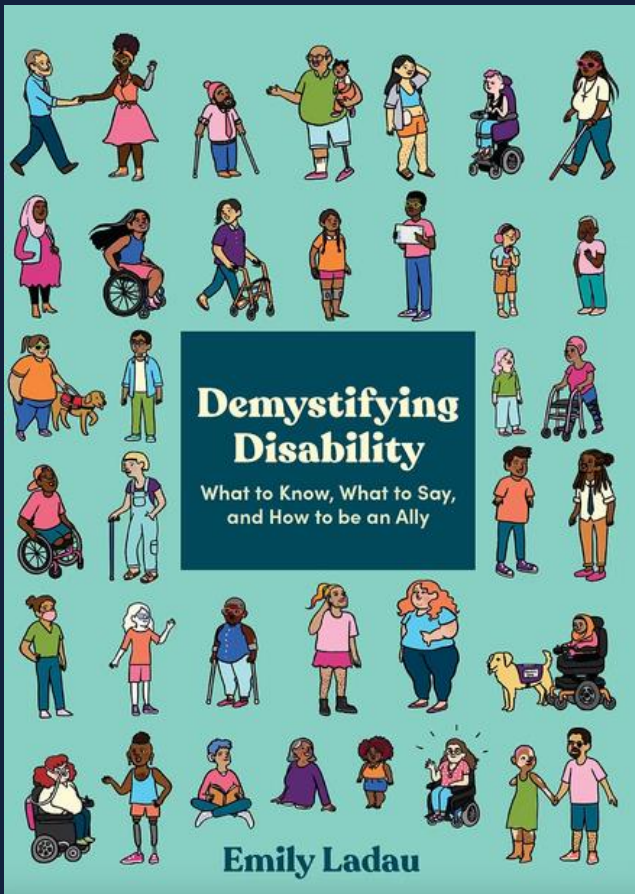
[www.pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40577943/](http://www.pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40577943/)

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# DOCS WITH DISABILITIES INITIATIVE

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## Aim Disability Equity Book Club Recordings



# HORROR & DISABILITY

Read Zine Here:

[www.libcom.org/article/horror-disability](http://www.libcom.org/article/horror-disability)



## Disability Action Research Kollektive

Featuring work by Richard Amm, Aaliyah Bates, Lez Moon, Zephyr Ash Grand, Li Brady, Maria Lightwood, Rhi Belle, Slava Greenberg, Abel Andrade, Lucy Wing, Darren Gray, Alexandra Morris, David Kempe, Dai O'Brien, JA Grier, Joseph Wilk, Grace Alice & Natasha Trotman.

# Submit to the DREAM-U zine!

Have your or someone's disability activism  
to be recognized

Feature your art, writing, and advice

Share your virtual events and opportunities  
for disabled college students

**SUBMIT**



[www.tinyurl.com/DREAM-U](http://www.tinyurl.com/DREAM-U)