

Call for Proposals: Reproductive Rights Meets Disability Justice 2024 AALS Annual Meeting

The AALS Section on Disability Law is hosting a program called “Reproductive Rights Meets Disability Justice” at the AALS 2024 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., January 3-6, 2024.

In 1994, activist Loretta Ross helped define the term Reproductive Justice. According to Ross, Reproductive Justice encapsulates “[t]he right to have a child, the right to not have a child and the right to raise your children.” Since its coining, the phrase has begun to appear in mainstream media and academic journals alike. Today, though, the basic tenets of Reproductive Justice have faced deep challenge. In 2022, the Supreme Court issued *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Since then, the list of states limiting or outright banning access to safe and legal abortion has grown dramatically. At the same time, access to safe, non-invasive “abortion pills” have also come under siege in many states. Laws allowing private civil enforcement of abortion bans have also transformed the landscape of access to reproductive health.

In this context, people with disabilities are often under intense pressure not to reproduce or to utilize birth control, and many people with disabilities are excluded from even basic sexual education. Parents with disabilities face the risk that their children will be removed from their care at disproportionate rates.

The main panel will discuss the intersections between reproductive rights and disability justice, exploring how and where these independent areas of law overlap; the effect of the changing reproductive rights landscape on people with disabilities and disability law; the potential tension between disability rights commitments and access to abortion; the extent to which the law acts as both barrier and an avenue to sexual freedom for disabled people; and the legal landscape facing people with disabilities who wish to become parents.

We seek participants to discuss these topics.

Submission Guidelines:

If you are interested in participating, please send a 400-600 word description of what you would like to discuss. We particularly encourage submissions from junior scholars and members of underrepresented groups in legal academia.

Please send submissions to Sarah Lorr, sarah.lorr@brooklaw.edu, by August 15, 2023.

Selected presenters will be notified by August 31, 2023.

Presenters will be responsible for paying their annual meeting registration fee and other expenses.

Questions: Any inquiries about this Call for Proposals should be submitted to D’Andra Shu at dshu@stcl.edu.