

## Ronnie (Karon) Thibault

Teaching Portfolio

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### EDUCATION

- 2016-Present **University of Washington**, Seattle, Washington  
Interdisciplinary PhD, Geography, History, and Disability Studies (expected August 2022)
- 2012-2014 **University of Washington Bothell**, Bothell, Washington  
Master of Arts in Cultural Studies  
Capstone Project: Articulating the Cultural Politics of Representation, Global Development & Developmental Difference
- 2010-2012 **University of Washington Bothell**, Bothell, Washington  
Bachelor of Arts Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, *summa cum laude*  
Thesis Topic: The Cultural Politics of Autistic Activism

### DISSERTATION

“Re-Locating the Exemplary Feeble-minded Subject in Humanitarian, Charity, & Global Development Empires in the United States.” *A study of the global and cultural politics of developmental and intellectual disabilities through transnational disability studies, comparative history, and cultural studies frameworks. This project engages digital and cultural tools of exploration to understand the multiple ways that socially and culturally constructed notions about developmental and intellectual disabilities are adapted in discourses that marginalize race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and religion. As a political and intellectual project, the digital dissertation seeks to explain the material ways in which the cultural discourses that conjured the ‘exemplary feeble-minded subject’ influence current-day legislative policies and cultural practices.*

### ACADEMIC PUBLICATION

“Can Autistics Redefine Autism? The Cultural Politics of Autistic Activism,” *Trans-Scripts Journal in the Humanities and Social Sciences at UC Irvine*. (04) 2014.

### SELECT ACADEMIC AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

- 2019 – 2020 Harlan Hahn Disability Studies Research Endowment.
- 2019 – 2020 Elizabeth Kerr Macfarlane Endowed Scholarship.
- 2018 – 2019 Harlan Hahn Disability Studies Research Endowment.
- 2019 – Pamela E. Yee Gender and Disability Studies Research Award.
- 2013 – Master of Arts in Cultural Studies Meritorious Award.
- 2012 – Mary Gates Undergraduate Research Scholarship.
- 2011 – 2014 University of Washington Bothell Disability Awareness Civic Fellowship.

### SELECT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor and Course Design:

Spring 2018: Pre-doctoral Instructor & Course Curriculum Design: CHID/DIS-ST 430 A: *Disability Studies, Feminist Theory & Representation*, University of Washington Seattle.

- This course explored the tensions and intersections between Disability Studies and

feminist thought. Students were introduced to postcolonial and transnational disability scholarship that address the cultural representation of disability in histories of U.S. nationalism, race, ethnicity, eugenics, and global development and world health agendas.

Winter 2015: Primary Course Instructor: BCUSP 290 A: *Research in Action* University of Washington Bothell.

- Focused on introducing multiple research methods and modalities to first-year undergraduate students.

Summer/Autumn 2014: Co-Facilitator and Course Design: B IMD 390 *Story as Art, Interactivity & Community Engagement*. Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren. University of Washington Bothell.

- This participatory course moved through three creative-arts and practice-based collaborative workshops: 'embodied movement,' 'material handling,' and 'digital storytelling.' Each workshop engaged story-arts methods to help students appreciate the multitude of perspectives on campus and to understand the social and institutional processes that ultimately recognize or delegitimize those experiences.

## Teaching Associate and Teaching Internships

Winter 2021: Predoctoral Course Design Assistant/Reader Grader: *CHID 335 A Sex, Gender and Disability*.

- This course examined the ways that disability, race, sex, and gender are connected as socially constructed categories. Through group collaboration, lectures and organization research students addressed questions of representation, history, embodied experience, policy, and social justice. Students were asked to think about disability, race, gender, and sexuality as intimately related social identities.

Autumn 2021: Predoctoral Teaching Associate *GEOG 245: Geodemographics Population, Diversity, and Place*, University of Washington Seattle.

- The study of the geodemographics of the US population through the use of digital tools and methods. Students examined internal migration within, and transnational migration to, the United States, the concept of race in the US census, fertility and mortality, political redistricting and gerrymandering, and racial segregation in the city of Seattle.

Spring 2020: Predoctoral Teaching Associate *CHID 230: A/Introduction to Disability Studies*, University of Washington Seattle.

- This survey of disability studies investigated and critiqued Western-centric understandings of disability. The course introduced students to critical frameworks for recognizing how people with disabilities have experienced disadvantages and exclusions because of personal and societal responses to difference. The course curriculum centered on the social-political perspective and emphasized diversity, pride, rights, and accessibility.

Winter 2020: Predoctoral Teaching Associate *GEO 258: A/Digital Geographies*, University of Washington Seattle.

- This class explored digital phenomena such as "fake news," the rise of digital media, and technological advances in everyday lives such as facial recognition and growing digital surveillance and the policing of digital space. Students explored these phenomena and the worldwide debates about them as digital geographies.

Spring 2019: Predoctoral Teaching Associate *CHID 230 A/Introduction to Disability Studies*, University of Washington Seattle.

- Repeat Course description Spring 2020

Autumn 2018: Predoctoral Teaching Associate: *GEO 123 Introduction to Globalization*, Department of Geography University of Washington Seattle

- This course examined how the term 'globalization' is often used in political speech in order to achieve particular political goals. Students worked with digital mapping tools and methods to explore the material component ties that connect the world together.

Spring 2017: Predoctoral Teaching Associate: GEO 123 Introduction to Globalization, Department of Geography University of Washington Seattle

- Online version of the above course.

Autumn 2014: Assistant Instructor: BIS 340 A: Approaches to Cultural Research, University of Washington Bothell

- Examined questions about identity, interests, and politics. Considered how cultural rules and norms structure existing relationships and perpetuate inequality, and how cultural literacy and reflective cultural practices can offer possibilities for social, political, and economic transformation.

Spring 2014: Graduate Assistant Instructor Internship: BIS 340 B Approaches to Cultural Research, University of Washington Bothell

- Description above

### Invited Guest Lecturer

Winter 2021: CHID 335 A Sex, Gender and Disability: *Disability, Gender, Sexuality & Representation*, University of Washington Seattle.

Autumn 2020: CHID 230 A: Introduction to Disability Studies: *Disability & Representation*, University of Washington Seattle.

Spring 2020: DIS ST 435 Advanced Seminar in Disability Studies: *Disability, History & The Archive* University of Washington Seattle.

Spring 2020: CHID 230 A: Introduction to Disability Studies: *Disability & Representation*, University of Washington Seattle.

Winter 2020: GEO 258: A/Digital Geographies, *Is Twitter a Postcolonial Archive?* University of Washington Seattle.

Autumn 2019: BCULST 510 Engaging Cultural Studies: *The Postcolonial Archive*. University of Washington Bothell.

Winter 2019: CHID 230 A/Introduction to Disability Studies: *Disability & Representation*, University of Washington Seattle.

Autumn 2019: DIST/CHID 430 The History of Human Differences *Disability, Eugenics & Representation*. University of Washington Seattle.

Winter 2018: BCULST 589B/Topic in Global Cultural Studies: *Digital Mapping as a Research Methodology*. University of Washington Bothell.

Spring 2018: DIST/CHID 338 Redesigning Humanity: Science Fiction and the Future of the Body *Disability, Feminist Thought & Representation* University of Washington Seattle.

Autumn 2018: GEO 123/Introduction to Global Development *U.S.: Nationalism & Global Development*. University of Washington Seattle.

2016 – 2018: BIS GT 303 History and Globalization, Google MYMap student research methods guide and facilitated Google MyMaps workshops. University of Washington Bothell.

2014 – 2017: BCULST 589 B: Multiple sessions and quarters. Topics in Global Cultural Studies; History and Globalization Digital Mapping as a Research Methodology, University of Washington Bothell.

## SELECT ACADEMIC COMMITTEES AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2019—Present: UW Disability Studies Program Affiliate.

2017—2019: Cultural Studies Association Pedagogies 2018/19 Conference Committee Co-Chair.

2018—2019: Association of Pacific Coast Geographers.

2017—Present: Disability History Association.

2015—2020: Society for Disability Studies.

2014—University of Washington Policy Journal Editorial Board.

2012—2017: American Association of Geographers.

## SELECT ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

2018—Present: University of Washington Disability Studies Program Affiliate.

- Broad DSP involvement across all three campuses that includes guest lectures and mentorship of DSP students.
- Curriculum Committee: worked with committee members to develop goals for future DSP curriculum, and review and identify relevant national DS curriculum, finalize UW DS course offerings, and to strategize methods for including DS focused courses across disciplines on three UW campuses.
- “Virtual Pedagogies: Equity and Access” Disability Pedagogies Submission, *University of Washington Simpson Center for the Humanities*. May 18, 2020. Co-Authored with Joanne Woiak, Disability Studies Lecturer, and Shixin Huang, PhD Candidate.
- UW DSP Teaching Associate Assignments

2015—2016: Digital Project Design Coordinator Simpson Center Faculty Summer Fellowship. University of Washington Seattle.

- Collaborated with Dr. Benjamin Gardner on his Faculty Research Award for “Selling the Serengeti: The Cultural Politics of Safari Tourism.”
- Digital platform design and development

2013—2018: Cultural Consultant: Reilly’s Life Animated Series Montrose, California.

- Media liaison and messaging content review for ableist language and tone.
- Copywriter and content editor.

2014-2015: Undergraduate Research Program Coordinator, UWB Academic Affairs, Bothell, WA.

- Advised undergraduate students on research methods and design.
- Scheduled and organized Undergraduate Research Symposium, weekly methods course guest lecturers, and undergraduate research special events.
- Instructed interdisciplinary research undergraduate methods course.
- Directed Undergraduate Research Symposium student projects.
- Reviewed student research grant proposals for award of scholarship.
- Hired, scheduled, and supervised Undergraduate Research Office work study students.

2010—2014: Disability Awareness Civic Fellow University of Washington Bothell Office Community Based Learning and Research, Bothell, WA.

- Coordinated special events, meetings and administration discussions for Disability Education and Awareness student group.
- Guided open exchanges between students, faculty, staff, and administrators on accessibility planning and course design.

2010—2011: Undergraduate Internship/Social Skills Mentor Puget Sound Autism Services, LLC, Lynnwood, WA.

- Created and facilitated student activities.

2008—2009: Assistant Community Programs Coordinator, Tessera/Northwest Academy for Exceptional Children. Snohomish County, WA.

- Designed accessible and welcoming recreational events for children, adolescents, and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- Developed marketing strategies and designed press and publicity materials.
- Led activities and assisted participants during special events.
- Coordinated Tessera conferences and events.

2007—2009: Assistant Program Coordinator, The Arc of Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Connecting Families and Parent to Parent Programs, Everett, WA.

- Designed accessible and welcoming recreational events for children, adolescents, and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- Directed Parent to Parent meetings and information sessions.
- Facilitated monthly speaker event series.
- Developed marketing strategy and designed press and publicity materials.
- Press communications and community awareness lead.
- Led activities and assisted participants during special events.

1996—2000: Morning Radio Show Producer. The John Fisher and Mike West Show, KMTT 103.7 FM Seattle, WA.

## SELECT ACADEMIC INVITED SPEAKER AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Spring 2019: Graduate School, Individual PhD Research Mini-Symposium University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Paper Presentation: *Co-opting a Nation's Fear of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Comparative History of Domestic Charity and Humanitarian Empires in the United States*

Winter 2019: Invited Speaker, Simpson Center Disability Studies Roundtable, *Disability Studies Research Across Disciplines*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Autumn 2018: Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting. Paper Presentation: *U.S. Nationalism and the Threat of 'Improper Development.'* University of Nevada, Reno, NV.

Winter 2018: Harlan Hahn Endowment Brown Bag Lunch Series. Paper presentation: *U.S. Nationalism and the Threat of 'Improper Development.'* University of Washington Seattle, Seattle, WA.

Spring 2018: Cultural Studies Association Conference, Carnegie Mellon University. Paper Presentation: *The 'New' Nationalism and Rachel Maddow's Clear Throughline to the Eugenics Movement.* Pittsburgh, PA.

Autumn 2016: Eleventh Annual Critical Geographies Conference Care Session Paper Presentation: *The Cultural Politics of Representation, Global Development & Developmental Disabilities in the United States.* University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Summer 2016: Pacific and Western Disability Studies Symposium, Making Disability Public: Art, Scholarship, and Activism Interactive Paper Presentation and Collaborative Workshop: *Articulating the Historical and Cultural Production of Global Development and Developmental Disabilities.* University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Summer 2015: Simpson Center for the Humanities Digital Projects Showcase: *Radical Digital Cartography as a Cultural Studies Methodology.* University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Spring 2015: Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Geographies of Media IV: Big Data/Technology/Security: *Mapping the Cultural Politics of Development, Representation & Difference.* Chicago, IL.

Winter 2014: 20th Annual Critical Cultural Geography Conference Difference, Diversity, and Critique: A Peoples Geography for the Future; Paper Presentation: *Mapping the Cultural Production of the Child Sponsorship Subject*, University of Boulder, Boulder, CO.

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND SOCIAL PROFILES

Teaching and Research Website: [ronniethibault.com](http://ronniethibault.com)

Academia.edu pages: [ronniethibault](#)

Google Scholar: [citations page](#)

University of Washington Disability Studies Program: [affiliate profile](#)

University of Washington Graduate School: [PhD program profile](#)