

Alyson Patsavas, PhD

Department of Disability and Human Development
University of Illinois at Chicago (MC 626)
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

- 2018-present Assistant Professor The Department of Disability and Human Development, UIC.
Associate Director of Graduate Studies (2020-present)
Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies (2017-2019)
- 2017-2018 Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor, The Department of Disability and Human Development, UIC.
- 2016-2017 Visiting Lecturer, The Department of Disability and Human Development, UIC.
- 2010-2012 Instructor, History and Philosophy of Medicine, Medical Humanities, UIC.

International Experience

- 2013 Visiting Instructor, The Department of Sociology, The University of West Bohemia, Plzen, Czech Republic.

EDUCATION:

- 2017 PhD in Disability Studies, University of Illinois, Chicago, Department of Disability and Human Development. Concentration in Gender and Women's Studies.
Dissertation: *The Logic of Accounting: Pain, Promises, Prescriptions*
Dissertation Supervisor: Carrie Sandahl
Conferred Date: 8/6/2017
- 2012 MS in Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois, Chicago Department of Disability and Human Development.
Thesis: *Suffering Cyborgs: Inhuman Pain, Human Subjects*
- 2004 BA English and Creative Writing, University of Arizona

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Pain in Relation: On Cripistemologies, Chronicity, and Crip Evidence, University of Michigan Press, *forthcoming* 2025

Winner of the 2023 Tobin Siebers Prize for Disability Studies in the Humanities

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2023 Patsavas, Alyson. "Good Doctors, Bad Lovers, and the Desire for Biomedical Authority in *The Pain Chronicles* and *Pain: The Science and Culture of Why We Hurt*," *Chronic Illness and Representation*, special issue of *Journal of Literary*, edited by Ana Bê Pereira and Emma Sheppard. May 2023. muse.jhu.edu/article/893117.
- 2023 Danylevich, Theodora and Alyson Patsavas. "With Grief and Joy: Crip Pandemic Life: A Tapestry II" *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, iss. 12, no 1 Spring 2023 <https://doi.org/10.25158/L12.1.6>
- 2022 Patsavas, Alyson and Theodora Danylevich. "Introduction: Crip Pandemic Life: A Tapestry," *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, iss. 11, no. 2, Fall 2022. <https://doi.org/10.25158/L11.2.5>
- 2021 Danylevich, Theodora and Alyson Patsavas. "Cripistemologies of Crisis: An Introduction," *Cripistemologies of Crisis: Emergent Knowledge for the Present*, special issue of *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, iss. 10, no. 1, Spring 2021. (Authorship listed in alphabetical order) <https://doi.org/10.25158/L10.1.7>
- 2019 Patsavas, Alyson. "Posledni tanec": bolest, postizeni a smrt Jeriky Bolen. Eng: "The last dance": Pain, Disability, and the case of Jerika Bolen. *Sociologický časopis / Czech Sociological Review*, vol. 55, no. 5, 2019, pp. 641-660. DOI: 10.13060/00380288.2019.55.5.480
- 2014 Patsavas, Alyson. "Recovering a Cripistemology of Pain: Leaky Bodies, Connective Tissue and Feeling Discourse." *Cripistemologies: Part 1*, Special Issue of *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, Edited by Merri Lisa Johnson and Robert McRuer, vol. 8, no. 2, 2014. <https://doi.org/10.3828/jlcds.2014.16>.

PEER-REVIEWED EDITED COLLECTIONS

- 2023 Danylevich, Theodora and Alyson Patsavas. "Crip Pandemic Life: A Tapestry: Part 2" of the *Cultural Studies Association*. Special Section of *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, iss. 12, no. 1, Spring 2023. <https://csalateral.org/archive/section/crip-pandemic-life/>
- 2022 Alyson Patsavas and Theodora Danylevich. "Crip Pandemic Life: A Tapestry," Special Section of *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, iss. 11, no. 2, Fall 2022. <https://csalateral.org/archive/section/crip-pandemic-life/>

- 2021 Danylevich, Theodora and Alyson Patsavas. "Cripistemologies of Crisis: An Introduction," *Cripistemologies of Crisis: Emergent Knowledge for the Present*, special issue of *Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, iss. 10, no. 1, Spring 2021. (Editorship listed in alphabetical order)
<https://csalateral.org/archive/section/cripistemologies-of-crisis/>

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2013 Patsavas, Alyson. "Intertextual Reveals: Disability, Deviance and A Military Coup in *Battlestar Galactica*." *Different Bodies: Disability in Film and Television*. Ed. Marja Mogk. Mcfarland and Company Press.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 Patsavas, Alyson and Theodora Danylevich, Margaret Fink, Aimi Hamraie, Mimi Khúc, Sandie Yi, and Corbin Outlaw. "Crip Pandemic Conversation: Textures, Tools, and Recipes." *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, iss. 11, no. 2, Fall 2022. <https://doi.org/10.25158/L11.2.6>
- 2022 Tan, Pelin, **Aly Patsavas**, and Eva Egermann. "My Mind is Going to a Lot of Places": A Conversation on Archiving, Pain, Social Movements and Crip Evidence. *Crip Magazine: The Fermented Issue*, The Istanbul Biennial 5th Edition.
- 2017 "An Archive of Pain." *Crip Magazine*, 2nd Edition. Ed. Eva Egermann. Berlin, Germany.
- 2013 "Disability Studies Gains Cultural Capital. And Now What?" *The Feminist Wire* 22 Nov. 2013.

REVIEW, REFERENCE, and EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Sufian, Sandra; **Patsavas, Alyson**; Hirshfield, Laura; Phillips, Shay; Garden, Rebecca; Blackie, Michael (2021): The Medicalization of Trans Lives Health Humanities Portrait Reading List. University of Illinois at Chicago. Educational resource. <https://doi.org/10.25417/uic.13641152.v2>
- 2021 Sufian, Sandra; **Patsavas, Alyson**; Hirshfield, Laura; Phillips, Shay; Garden, Rebecca; Blackie, Michael (2021): The Medicalization of Trans Lives Health Humanities Portrait Teaching Guide. University of Illinois at Chicago. Educational resource. <https://doi.org/10.25417/uic.13641125.v2>
- 2021 Sufian, Sandra; **Patsavas, Alyson**; Hirshfield, Laura; Phillips, Shay; Garden, Rebecca; Blackie, Michael (2021): The Medicalization of Trans Lives Health Humanities Portrait PowerPoint Presentation. University of Illinois at Chicago. Educational resource. <https://doi.org/10.25417/uic.13641119.v2>
- 2019 "Exile and Pride." *Disability Experiences: Memoirs, Autobiographies, and Other Personal Narratives*, Edited by Couser, G. Thomas, and Susannah B. Mintz, Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, a part of Gale, a Cengage Company, 2019.

- 2018 “Crip and Crip Culture.” *Disability in American Life: An Encyclopedia of Policies, Concepts, and Controversies*. Edited by Tamar Heller, Sarah Parker Harris, Carol Gill, and Robert Gould, Santa Barbara, Ca: ABC-CLIO, pp 147-149.
- 2018 “Medicalization.” *Disability in American Life: An Encyclopedia of Policies, Concepts, and Controversies*. Edited by Tamar Heller, Sarah Parker Harris, Carol Gill, and Robert Gould, Santa Barbara, Ca: ABC-CLIO, pp 460-466.
- 2017 Patsavas, Alyson. “Review of A Body Undone: Living on After Great Pain.” *Disability Studies Quarterly*, vol. 37 no 1.
<https://doi.org/10.18061/dsq.v37i1.5423>.
- 2016 Patsavas, Alyson. “Review of Biopolitics of Disability: Neoliberalism, Ablenationalism, and Peripheral Embodiment.” *Somatechnics*. 6.2 (2016): 262-264. <https://doi.org/10.3366/soma.2016.0195>.

TRANSLATIONS OF WORK

- 2022 “An Archive of Pain.” 17th Istanbul Biennial Public Programming and Acik Radio, translated into Turkish, originally published in: *Crip Magazine*, 2nd Edition. Ed. Eva Egermann. Berlin, Germany, 2017.
- 2019 Uzdravit mrzakologiu bolesti_Presakujuce tela, spojivove takaniva a distkurz o pocitoch, Slovak translation of “Recovering a Cripistemology of Pain: Leaky Bodies, Connective Tissue and Feeling Discourse,” edited by Zuzana Jaklová, Hana Janečková, *apart*, 2019.

CREATIVE WORKS

Feature Length Documentary Film

- 2020 Co-producer, writer, researcher, and interviewee, *Code of the Freaks*, Kino Lorber, 2020. (International Distributor, Reservoir Docs).

75-minute documentary film created over the course of 10 years by a collaborative team called WPDA Collective, which included Salome Chasnoff, (director, producer), myself (writer, producer, interviewee), Carrie Sandahl (writer, producer, interviewee), Susan Nussbaum (writer, producer, interviewee), and Jerzy Rose (editor, director of photography, producer). Our team shared the work equally. In addition to the above, my role included researcher, interviewer, interviewee, and workshop leader for community events.

Code of the Freaks is a feature-length documentary film that seeks to stimulate critical discussion among diverse movie lovers about images of disability in Hollywood Film. Tracing themes of disability representation from the 1920’s to the present, the film examines how these images shape the public’s understanding of disabled people and how disabled people critically and irreverently respond.

- Trailer with audio description transcript, <https://vimeo.com/395343515>
- Kino Lorber, <https://www.kinolorber.com/film/code-of-the-freaks>
- Reservoir Docs (International Distributor), <https://reservoirdocs.net/films/code-of-the-freaks/>

- ReelAbilities, <https://reelabilities.org/film/code-of-the-freaks/>
- Code of the Freaks Website, <https://www.codeofthefreaks.com/>
- Code of the Freaks Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/CodeOfTheFreaks/>
- Code of the Freaks Twitter, @CodeOfTheFreaks

Awards/Premiers

- ReelAbilities Opening Night (New York, 2020)
- Midwest Film Festival Premiere, Gene Siskel Film Center, June 7, 2022 Chicago IL
 - Q and A with Alyson Patsavas, Carrie Sandahl, Salome Chasnoff, Tekki Lomnicki, Candace Coleman, Mike Ervin, TJ Gordon, Tsehaye Hebert

Selected Screenings

- March 28th, 2024, Wake Forest University, North Carolina
- March 9th, 2023, Whitewater University, Whitewater WI
- Sep 9-11, 2022, Gene Siskel Screening, Chicago IL
- Sep 2-Sep 4, 2022, KynnysKino 13, Festival Helsinki, Finland
- March 17, 2022 XXII Exhibition of Cinema Made by Women, Spain
- Dec 1, 2021, Disability Justice @ Columbia University, New York

Television Screenings

- April 22, 2022, Link TV, Link Voices 2022
- SBS Television, Australia
 - Dec 1, 2022
 - Dec 3, 2021
- Prime Time on Be Cine, Belgium, BETV
 - June 17, 2021
 - May 30, 2021
 - May 26, 2021
- BE1, Belgium, BETV
 - June 20, 2021
 - June 14, 2021
 - May 18, 2021

Selected Virtual Screenings

- Feb 22, 2023, Ohio State University
- Sep 30, 2022, Disability Network
- May 14, 2021, Legacy Film Festival
- May 5, 2021, ReelAbilities Film Festival Denver
- Feb 25, 2021, USC Cinematic Arts, Los Angeles
- Feb 24, 2021, Western Kentucky University
- Feb 24, 2021, High Point University, North Carolina
- Feb 23, 2021, Bologna Performing Arts Center/Delta State University
- Feb 22, 2021, ReelAbilities Houston.
- Feb 21, 2021, Tropic Cinema, Key West Florida
- Feb 19, 2021, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
- Feb 18, 2021, Bardo Center/Western Carolina University

- Feb 16, 2021, The Capitol Arts Center/SKyPAC—Bowling Green, Southern Circuit Tour, Digital Festival.
- Jan 13-15, 2021, ReelAbilities Film Festival Columbus
- Nov 22, 2020, Fordham University
- Nov 12-22, 2020, Film Pittsburgh Fall Festival
- Nov 7, 2020 Mezipatra Queer Film Festival.
- Nov 6, 2020, InTaKT Festival, Graz Austria
- Nov 2020, ReelAbilities at Three Rivers Film Festival
- Oct 23-30, 2020 ReelAbilities Cleveland.
- Oct 22, 2020, ArtsEmerson
- Oct 17, 2020, ReelAbilities Los Angeles.
- Oct 16-19, 2020, Kerry International Film Festival.
- July 21, 2020, ReelAbilities New York
- July 17-24, 2020, Kino Marquee and ReelAbilities New York.
- June 6, 2020, Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture Presents: Still, Life. A Digital Festival.
- May 20, 2020, ReelAbilities Toronto
- April 1, 2020, ReelAbilities New York (World Premiere)
- March 24, 2020, ReelAbilities Boston

Consultation

2021 Collaborator/Consultant. Rozhovory s monstrem / Interviews with the Monsters. Exhibition by Eva Kořátková *Meet Factory*, Prague Czech Republic. <http://www.meetfactory.cz/en/program/detail/eva-kotatkova-rozhovory-s-monstrem>

RECENT INVITED INTERNATIONAL TALKS

- 2024 “Making, Screening, and Traveling with *Code of the Freaks*,” KU Leuven, Belgium, May 24, 2024.
- 2023 “Code of the Freaks.” Filmovy Klub, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University Prague, June 1, 2023.
- 2020 “Archiving Pain: On Crip Queer Evidence.” American Studies Colloquium. University of Warsaw. May 7, 2020.
- 2019 “An Archive of Pain.” Ambulatisme Ambulatoire: Hysteria, Imitation, Performance, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. September 28, 2019.
- 2017 Multilogues on the Now: On Health. Tranzitdisplay, Prague, Czech Republic. June 15, 2017

RECENT INVITED TALKS:

- 2024 “Disability Studies Across Disciplines,” Wake Forest University, North Carolina, March 29, 2024
- 2023 “Code of the Freaks” Whitewater University, Wisconsin, March 3, 2023
- 2022 “Code of the Freaks Discussion.” L.A.D.S.E, La Grange, IL, March 25, 2022.
- 2021 “Code of the Freaks Discussion.” Georgetown University, Washington DC. November 1st, 2021.

- 2021 "Screening of Freaks." Disability Cultural Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago IL. Oct 28, 2021.
- 2021 with Robert Gould. "People with Disabilities as their Own Experts: Disability Studies, Identity, and the Post-Pandemic Workplace. National Rehabilitation Counseling Association Conference Oct 15, 2021. Chicago, IL. Virtual Keynote.
- 2018 "Artist Talk: Code of the Freaks." School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL. April 24, 2018.
- 2018 "Making Code of the Freaks." University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. March 27, 2018. Skype Discussion
- 2018 "The Romance Novel Within: Pain Memoirs and the Rehabilitative Power of Love." University of Whitewater, WI. April 09, 2018.

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- "Comments on: Critical Disability Studies Methods When the Roof Is on Fire." *American Studies Association*. New Orleans, LA, November 2022.
- "Locating Pain: Jerika Bolen and the Place of Suffering." *National Women's Studies Association*. San Francisco, CA, November 2019.
- "Building an Archive of Pain." *International Health Humanities Conference*. Chicago, IL. March 2019.
- "Thinking Beyond Recovery: Cripistemologies of Continuous Crisis: Comments," *American Studies Association*. Atlanta, GA. November 2018. Critical Disability Studies Caucus Sponsored Panel.
- "Pedagogies of Pain and the Logic of Accounting." *American Studies Association*. Chicago, IL. November 2017. Critical Disabilities Studies Caucus Sponsored Panel.
- "Excess, Access, and Relief: A QueerCrip Restaging of "Too Much."" *National Women's Studies Association*, Montreal, Nov 2016. *Accepted for Presentation*.
- "Bad Romance: Hetero-sexualizing the Overcoming Narratives in Pain Memoirs." *Chicago Disability Studies Conference*, Chicago, IL. April 2016.

Workshops Organized

"Accessible Publishing Workshop: Crip Pandemic Life." with the Institute for the Humanities and the Disability Cultural Center, Feb 15, 2023.

Conference Panels Organized

- Co-Chair of the Critical Disability Studies Sponsored Panel: "Thinking Beyond Recovery: Cripistemologies of Continuous Crisis" *American Studies Association* Atlanta, GA. November 2018.

MEDIA

- "Code of the Freaks Interview-Conversation with Alyson Patsavas. *Picture this Post*. September 25, 2022.
<https://www.picturethispost.com/code-of-the-freaks-interview/>
- "Via Zoom: Director & Co-Writer for 'Code of the Freaks' at Midwest Film Fest, June 7, 2022" *Hollywoodchicago.com*. June 5, 2022.
<https://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/36615/via-zoom-director-co-write>

[r-of-code-of-the-freaks-at-midwest-film-fest-june-7-2022](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-of-code-of-the-freaks-at-midwest-film-fest-june-7-2022)

- Interview. "TikTok Creators Educate while Showing Their Disabilities with Pride" *ABC Nightline News*. April 29, 2021.
<https://abc.com/shows/nightline/episode-guide/2021-04/29-thursday-april-29-2021>

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Undergraduate Teaching

DHD 201: Disability, Rights, and Culture

DHD 204: Disability in the Humanities

DHD/GWS 205: Disability, Race, Class, and Gender

DHD/GWS 404: Disability, Sexuality, and Health

DHD 501: Disability Studies 1

Advisor

Ashley Miller (2024) "Unruly Embodiment: Analyzing Reviewers' Reactions to Roxane Gay's Memoir, *Hunger: A Memoir of (My)Body*" PhD in Disability Studies, UIC

Denise Arnold (2024) "I Love You Just The Way You Are: An Autoethnography About Disability, Belonging, Acceptance, and Inclusion." PhD in Disability Studies, UIC

Committee Member:

Emily Horowitz (2024) "It Starts With the Littlest Things": Young Disabled Women's Experiences Navigating Everyday Ableism." PhD in Disability Studies, UIC

Shruti Vaiyda (2024) "Producing and Maintaining Personhood: An Ethnographic Study of Special Educators and Intellectually Disabled Adults in India," PhD in Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago

Heyburn, Brian (2023) "Dynamic Relationality: Embodiment, identity, and Politics in Life Writing by Authors with Cerebral Palsy." PhD in Disability Studies, UIC

Suraiya Aktar Bably (2022) "Understanding the Rights of Women with Disabilities in Bangladesh." PhD in Disability Studies, UIC

Kim The (2022) "Building More Intersectional disability Activist Coalitions: A Community-Engaged Autoethnography." PhD in Disability Studies, UIC.

Aster Harrison (2022) "Experiences of Bisexual+ Women with Chronic Pain: An Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis." PhD in Disability Studies, UIC.

Chun-shan (Sandie) Yi (2022) "Crip Culture as Radical Care: Fashion, Art Therapy, and Disability Art." PhD in Disability Studies, UIC.

Sara Miller (2021) "Arts-based Appreciative Inquiry with Artists Labeled/with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." PhD in Disability Studies, UIC.

Katie O'Neill (2021) UIC, "Becoming Symptom Notation: A Study of Choreography for Mad and Hidden Disability Symptomologies." MS in Disability and Human Development UIC.

Maggie Bridger (2020) UIC, "Scaling Sustainability in Disability Dance." MS in Disability and Human Development UIC.

Rachel Jobson (2020) Carlton University, "Giving In: Chronic Pain, BDSM, and Queer/Crip Utopia." MA in Sociology, Carleton University.

Nicole Sims (2017) UIC, "The Quest for Authenticity in Steven Hawking Representations." MS in Disability and Human Development UIC.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- Academic Affairs Committee Member (2018-2023)
- Undergraduate Subcommittee of Academic Affairs, DHD, UIC. (2016-2023)
- DHD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce (2020-2021)
- IBHE Progress Review Committee Member (2020)
- Health and Diversity Academy Faculty Mentor, AHS, UIC (2017-2018)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Honors College Faculty Fellow (2019-present)
- Applied Health Science Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce (2020-2022)
 - Climate and Culture Subcommittee (2021-2022)
- Applied Health Sciences Senate Representative (2019-2022)

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

- Ad Hoc Review for University of Minnesota Press (2024)
- Ad Hoc Review for *Medical Humanities* (2022)
- Ad Hoc Review for *Space and Culture* (2022)
- Ad Hoc Review for *Journal for Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* (2021)
- Ad Hoc Review for *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research* (2019)
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for the *Society for Disability Studies* Sponsored Stream of the *Multiple Perspectives on Access and Inclusion* Conference, Ohio State, (2018)
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for *Social Science and Medicine* (2017)
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for *Feminist Formations* (2017)
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies* (2017)
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for *Somatechnics* Special Issue on Decolonizing Disability (2016)
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for *Disability Studies Quarterly* Special Issue on Disability Studies Pedagogies (2015)
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for *Society for Disability Studies Annual Conference* (2015)
- Facilitator: Queer Caucus for the Society for Disability Studies (2012-2014)
- Peer Reviewer for *Asexualities: Feminist and Queer Perspectives*, Routledge (2014).

NATIONAL SERVICE

- Chronic Pain and Opioid Task Force. National Council on Independent Living. (2018 –2019).

GRANTS:

- PI, "Curricular Adaptation: Disability, Hollywood Films, and Cultural Context: Collaboration with Charles University, Prague." The European Union Center Title VI award (UIUC), 2022. (9,752)
- PI, "Archiving and Amplifying Crip Pandemic Life," Awards for Creative Activity in the Fine, Performing, and Applied Arts, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2022. (\$7,332)
- PI, "Collectivity, Access, and Archiving: Crip Pandemic Life." UIC Engaged Humanities Initiative (EHI), University of Illinois at Chicago, 2022. (\$6,000)
- Faculty Core: The Human Story of Illness: Health Humanities Portraits for Physicians in Training. National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Initiatives for Hispanic-Serving Institutions. National Endowment for the Humanities. \$100,873. KC Award #090003/IP #00364980. (2018-2020)
- Co-PI with Carrie Sandahl, PI. "Code of the Freaks: A Critical Examination of Disability Representation in Film." Awards for Creative Activity in the Fine, Performing, and Applied Arts. University of Illinois at Chicago, 2020. (\$15,000)

AWARDS:

- Tobin Siebers Prize for Disability Studies in the Humanities, 2023.
- UIC Teacher Recognition Program Award, 2022.
- UIC Teaching Sustainability Fellow, 2021-2022.
- HOPE (Honoring Our Professor's Excellence) Award, 2019.
- AHS Excalibur Award for Teaching Excellence, 2018.
- HOPE (Honoring Our Professor's Excellence) Award, 2018.
- Honorable Mention, Society for Disability Studies Irving K Zola Award for Emerging Scholars in Disability Studies, 2018
- UIC Applied Health Science Achievement Award, 2017.
- UIC Chancellor's Research Award, 2016.