

STEPHEN J. MEYERS, PhD.

Law, Societies, and Justice Department & Jackson School of International Studies
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Academic Positions

University of Washington, Seattle

Associate Director, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies	2025-Present
Director, Center for Global Studies	2021-Present
Chair, Masters of International Studies—General	2021-Present
Associate Professor (Joint Appointment)	2021-Present
Assistant Professor (Joint Appointment)	2015-2021
Law, Societies, and Justice Program; and Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies	
Core Faculty	2015-Present
Disability Studies Program	
Adjunct Professor	2016-Present
School of Law	

University of West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Visiting Lecturer	Summer, 2019
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University of California, San Diego

Instructor in Sociology	2014-2015
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Education

University of California, San Diego

PhD in Sociology	2014
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University of Massachusetts, Amherst

MA in Political Science	2007
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Harvard University

MTS (Masters of Theological Studies) in Ethics	2002
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Loyola University, New Orleans

BA in English, <i>cum laude</i>	1998
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Books: Monographs

Meyers, S. (2019) *Civilizing Disability Society: The UN Disability Convention socializing grassroots disabled persons organizations in Nicaragua*. Cambridge University Press, Disability Law & Policy Series.

Books: Edited Volumes

Meyers, S., M. McCloskey, G. Petri, Eds. (2023). *Routledge International Handbook on Hierarchies of Disability Human Rights*. London, UK: Routledge Press

UN Reports

Meyers, S. & M. McCloskey (2021). *Violence and Bullying in Educational Settings: The experiences of young people and children with disabilities*. Paris: UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000378061>

Meyers, S. & M. McCloskey (2018). *Young Persons with Disabilities: Global Study on Ending Gender-based Violence and Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*. New York: UN Population Fund. <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/young-persons-disabilities>

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Meyers, S. (2024). Disability rights and disability justice in prison: the limits of state-protected rights and the possibilities of mutual support. *Disability & Society*, 1-22.

Meyers, S. (2022). “History and Divisions in Nicaragua’s Disability Rights Movement.” *Current History*. V.121 (832): 63–68.

Meyers, S. (2021). “Allies, Enemies, or Indifferent? The disability and older persons movements in Jamaica” *Research in Social Science and Disability: Alliances, Allies, and Disability*. 12

Meyers, S. (2020). “Rethinking Citizenship, Self-Help, and Disability in Local Context: *Solidaridad* as disability citizenship in Nicaragua.” *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 40(3).

Niewohner, J., S. Pierson, and S. Meyers. (2019). “‘Leave no one behind’? The exclusion of persons with disabilities by development NGOs.” *Disability & Society*.

Pineda, V.; S. Meyers; and J. P. Cruz. (2017). “The Inclusion Imperative: Forging an Inclusive New Urban Agenda.” *Journal of Public Space*. 2(4): 1-20.

Meyers, S. (2016). “NGO-ization and Human Rights Law: The CRPD’s Civil Society Mandate.” *Laws: Special Edition on Disability Human Rights Law*. 5(2).

Meyers, S. (2014). “The Social Model under the Shadow of the Revolution: Ex-combatants negotiating disability identity in Nicaragua.” *Qualitative Sociology*. 37(4): 403-424.

Meyers, S. (2014). “Global Civil Society as Megaphone or Echo Chamber?: Formalizing voice in the international disability rights movement.” *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*. 27(4): 459-476.

Meyers, S. and E. Lockwood. (2014). “A Tale of Two Civil Societies: Expectations regarding public resources and disabled persons organizations in Nicaragua and Uruguay.” *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 34(4).

Meyers, S. (2014). “Disabled persons associations at the crossroads of two organizational environments: Grassroots groups as part of an international movement and a local civil society.” *Research in Social Science and Disability: Environmental Contexts and Disability*. 8: 3-31.* **

* Notable Publication Award, American Sociological Association Disability and Society Section, (2015).

**Outstanding Author Contribution Award, Emerald Publishing Group, (2015).

- Meyers, S., V. Karr, and V. Pineda. (2014). "Youth with Disabilities in Law and Civil Society: Exclusion and inclusion in public policy and NGO networks in Cambodia and Indonesia." *Disability and the Global South Journal*. 1(1): 5-28.
- Meyers, S. (2013) "Wounded Warriors or One of the Crowd?: Civil War, Citizenship, and Disability in Nicaragua." *Peace Studies Journal*. 6(4): 22-36.
- Karr, V.L., S. Meyers (2013). "Reactions to the Rights-Based Approach: Contextualizing the CRPD in Cambodia." *Journal of Disability and International Development*. 6(2): 22-29.
- Meyers, S. (2004) "Missed Opportunities: The Need for Landmine Survivors Rehabilitation in Rural Areas" *The Journal of Mine Action*. 8(2): 37-45.

Book Chapters

- Meyers, S. (accepted). "Disability & International Studies." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*. N. Sandal (Ed.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Meyers, S. (forthcoming). "Alienating local disability movements: The globalization of Western disability rights rhetoric." *Rhetoric & Disability*. E. Brewer (Ed.). London, UK: Routledge Press
- Meyers, S., (2024). "The CRPD's Civil Society Mandate: Articles 4 and 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities." In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Disability*. Bennett, G., & E. Goodall (Eds.) New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Meyers, S., S. Huang (2024). "Global Disability Studies." In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Disability*. Bennett, G., & E. Goodall (Eds.) New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Meyers, S. (2018). "Misrecognizing Persons with Disabilities in the Global South: The need for a comparative disability studies framework." In *Manifestos for the Future of Critical Disability Studies*. M. Kent and K. Ellis (Eds). Ashgate.
- Meyers, S. (2014) "The Past Dividing the Present: Nicaragua's Legacy of War Shaping Disability Rights Today." D. Mitchell and V. Karr (Ed.s) *Crisis, Conflict, and Disability: Ensuring Equality*. (Routledge). Pp. 195-201.
- Karr, V.L., Meyers, S. (2013). "Acceptance or acceptability: Youth inclusion in today's schools." In Azzopardi, A. (Ed.) *Youth: Responding to lives - An international handbook*. (Sense Publishers): 123-136.

Book Reviews

- Meyers, S. (2021). Book Review: Zakiya Luna, 2020 Reproductive Rights as Human Rights: Women of Color and the Fight for Reproductive Justice. *American Journal of Sociology*. 127:2, 673-675.
- Meyers, S. (2021). Book Review: Pettinicchio, 2019 *Politics of Empowerment: Disability Rights and the Cycle of American Policy Reform*. In *Mobilization: An International Journal*.

Current Projects

Monograph/Book:

Meyers, S & S. Huang. (under contract). *What is Global Disability Studies?* Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Edited Volume:

Meyers, S. & J. Naranjo (Eds.) (under contract). *Disability & the Outdoors*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Special Issue of Journal:

Meyers, S. (Ed.). (forthcoming 2026) “Disability Rights and the Law: Ensuring Equal Access and Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities Around the World.” *Laws*.

Professional Experience

UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Paris, France)

Co-author & Technical Advisor

2020

- Co-authored UNESCO report on disability and school violence: *Every Child Should be Welcome: School Violence & Bullying involving Students with Disabilities*.
 - Comprehensive literature review, virtual focus groups with young persons with disabilities in five countries, virtual key informant interviews with experts on inclusive education, bullying, and so forth.

HelpAge International – Asia Pacific Regional Office (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

Consultant

2019

- SANA (Strengthening Ageing Networks in Asia) Phase II
 - Action-based research on OPA (Older People’s Association) model in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

UN Population Fund/International Solutions Group (New York, NY)

Co-author & Technical Advisor

2016-2017

- Co-authored UNFPA flagship report on youth with disabilities: *Young Persons with Disabilities: Global Study on Ending Gender-based Violence and Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*
 - Collection and analysis of laws, policies, and practices affecting adolescents and youth with disabilities in seventeen countries.
 - Development of research instruments to gather good practices in the protection inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights and prevention of gender-based violence of adolescents and youth with disabilities.

World Enabled/Victor Pineda Foundation (Berkeley, CA)

Senior Associate Consultant

2009-2014

- Australian Agency for International Development funded, Youth Empowerment Study analysis of civil and social inclusion of youth with disabilities in Cambodia and Indonesia.
- Socioeconomic Development Department, General Secretariat of the Executive Council of Dubai, UAE. “A City for All” disability strategy development and benchmarking analysis.

International Labour Organization (Geneva, Switzerland)

External Collaborator (Consultant), Disability Team, Employment Sector

2011-2013

- Writer and developer of a CD/internet-based disability training course on disability inclusion for ILO Skills staff.
- Case study writer and researcher on employment options for youth with disabilities.
- Grant writer and researcher for the ILO Global Business and Disability Network.

Disability Team Intern, Employment Sector (6 months)

2011

- Research and development of new tools and documents related to the ILO disability inclusion initiative and maintenance of online knowledge sharing platform.
- Wrote case studies, policy briefs, and news notes on issues concerning disability and vocational training, chronic disease, and the business case for hiring persons with disabilities for the ILO Global Business and Disability Network and ILO Disability Inclusion Initiative.

Polus Center for Social and Economic Development (Worcester, MA)

Director of International Programs

2003-2007

- Project manager of major grants from the US Agency for International Development Leahy War Victims Fund, US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Organization of American States, InterAmerican Foundation, and private foundations supporting two prosthetic outreach centers, a wheelchair manufacturer, micro-credit, and leadership development for grassroots disability organizations.
- Direct supervisor of a team of project coordinators and interns in the US office and central liaison with international personnel, consultants, and partner organizations at project sites in Nicaragua, Honduras, Ethiopia, and Zambia.

International Programs Coordinator

2002-2003

- Grant proposal writer and researcher for community-based rehabilitation services for Nicaraguan and Honduran landmine survivors.

Japanese Exchange and Teaching (Nango-mura, Aomori-ken)

Assistant Language Teacher

1999-2000

- Taught or co-taught English courses on a rotating basis in two middle schools, four elementary schools, and a community center in rural Japan.

Boys Hope (New Orleans, LA)

Residential Counselor

1996-1999

- Full-time caregiver of eight at-risk youth in an academically-oriented small group home.

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations (Selected)

Invited Talk. “Disability Rights in Places without Human Rights.” Disability Studies Workshop. Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. May 19, 2025.

Convener of Global Disability Studies Strand. Nordic Network for Disability Research Annual Conference. Helsinki, Finland. May 7-9, 2025.

Invited Talk. “A Global Perspective on Disability: Insights from Nicaragua and US Prisons.” St. Thomas University, Annual Justice & Society Studies Colloquium. St. Thomas University, St. Paul, MN. February 19, 2025.

Keynote (virtual). “A United Nations Human Rights Convention *for* or *by* Older Persons?” Safeguarding and Practicing the Rights of the Elderly. Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly, Taipei, Taiwan. November 17, 2023.

Session (co-presented with Kyla Mayer). “Empowering First-Year Students for Global Engagement.” AAC&U Conference on Global Learning, Washington D.C. October 13, 2023.

Keynote. “Disability human rights in global perspective.” Reimagining Development & Human Rights Conference. Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong. August 9, 2023.

Invited talk. “Globalizing Disability Studies.” Taiwan Society for Disability Studies Workshop, National Taipei University, Taiwan. August 2, 2023.

Panel presentation. “What does a global disability studies perspective bring to international studies?” With Shixin Huang. International Studies Association Annual Conference, Montreal. March 16, 2023.

Invited paper. “Including disability in global studies curricula.” Altering Curricula to Address Diversity & Inclusion Issues in International Affairs Panel. International Studies Association Annual Conference. Virtual. April 8, 2021

Invited book talk. “Civilizing Disability Society.” UCLA Disability Studies Program, Los Angeles. March 4, 2020.

Invited book talk. “Civilizing Disability Society.” University of Massachusetts, Boston, School of Global Inclusion and Social Development. December 12, 2019.

Awards, Recognition & Fellowships (Selected)

Nominee. Excellence in Global Engagement Award. Office of Global Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle. 2025.

The Jacqueline Ngesi Award for “promoting disability inclusion in international education and study abroad.” The Amandla Project. 2023.

Nominee. Excellence in Global Engagement Award. Office of Global Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle. 2023.

Jackson School Student Service Award for “outstanding dedication to student learning and community,” Jackson School Student Association, University of Washington, Seattle. 2022.

Principal Investigator, Center for Global Studies, National Resource Center, Department of Education Title VI, Awarded: from 09/2022 to 09/2026, \$263,000 per year over four years, total \$1.05 Million.

Principal Investigator. “Building Bridges to Disability Studies”, Simpson Center for the Humanities, Cross-Disciplinary Research Cluster Award. September 16, 2020 to June 15, 2021, \$8,110.

Principal Investigator. “Disability Law in Latin America: Realizing Rights for All,” Office of Global

Affairs, Global Innovation Fund, January, 2021 – December, 2022. \$20,000.

Principal Investigator. “Disability Inclusive Development Initiative: Building an international collaboration.” Office of Global Affairs, Global Innovation Fund, January, 2020 – December, 2021. \$19,988.

Principal Investigator. “Exploring the Fault Lines of Disability Studies”, Simpson Center for the Humanities, Cross-Disciplinary Research Cluster Award. September 16, 2019 to June 15, 2020, \$7,720.

Principal Investigator. “What difference does a convention make? Comparing the disabled persons and older persons movements in Jamaica,” Royalty Research Fund Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle, June 16, 2019 – June 15, 2020, \$33,913.

Notable Publication Award, American Sociological Association Disability and Society Section, 2015.

Outstanding Author Contribution Award, Emerald Literati Network, Emerald Publishing Group, 2015.

Fellow. Young Scholar in the Study of Social Movements, Center for the Study of Social Movements, University of Notre Dame, 2012.

Fellow. University of California Human Rights Fellowship, UC, Berkeley Law School, 2010.

Fellow. Summer Doctoral Institute in Institutions and Development Fellowship, Center for International Business Education and Research, George Washington University, Summer, 2010.

Departmental Service (Selected leadership roles)

Jackson School of International Studies

Director, Center for Global Studies	2021-Present
Chair, Masters of International Studies—General	2021-Present
Founder & Director, Disability Inclusive Development Initiative	2019-Present
Faculty Adviser, Jackson School Journal	2021-Present

Law, Societies & Justice Department

Graduate Coordinator, Law & Societies Studies Graduate Certificate	2018-2024
Faculty Adviser, First-Generation Pre-Law Leaders (student organization)	2023-Present

Disability Studies Program

Founding Graduate Coordinator, Disability Studies Graduate Certificate	2019-2021
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Courses Taught at the University of Washington

LSJ/JSIS 366: Comparative Law & Legal Cultures
JSIS/LSJ/DIS ST 346: Disability in Global & Comparative Perspectives
LSJ 410: Social Justice through Philanthropy
LSJ 438: Human Rights & International Development

JSIS 599: Law, Rights & Governance
JSIS/DIS ST 538: Global Disability Studies

Study Abroad & Study Away Courses through the University of Washington

LSJ/JSIS/DIS ST Jamaica: Disability, Aging & Development
JSIS/LSJ Geneva: Gender, Disability, and Age at the UN and in international human rights
JSIS/LSJ Rome: Human Rights & Social Inclusion – Disability, Aging & Gender in the EU and Italy
JSIS Washington D.C.: Foreign Policymaking (one-week Spring break program)