



2025 Call for Reviewers

The editor and editorial board of the [*Review of Disability Studies: An International Journal*](#) invite your participation in peer review of manuscripts as a member of our Manuscript Review Board.

The contributions of our Manuscript Review Board are critical to the publication process. As a reviewer, you will gain valuable experience in publishing and help shape global discourse around disability. Individuals with expertise in disability studies and a commitment to social justice are invited to become reviewers for this quarterly, peer-reviewed journal that has been serving the global community since 2003.

Entering its third decade, the [*Review of Disability Studies: An International Journal*](#) is open access and committed to accessibility in all domains and contexts. We encourage clearly written submissions that demonstrate a commitment to social justice and help add to a global conversation about the role of disability in human life. We believe furthering such a dialogue will lead to more meaningful inclusion.

- If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, please complete:

(1) **RDS Review Board Application** below or click on [this link for a copy](#) and submit it to rdsj@hawaii.edu with **Review Board** as the subject line of your message;

(2) **Brief Statement of Interest:** Applicants should also submit a brief statement of interest (fewer than 350 words) explaining their experience with issues of disability studies; and

(3) **Current resume/CV.**

More guidelines and ethical considerations for Manuscript Review Board members may be found at the end of this document.

Reviewer application; interest statement, and resume/CV may be sent to rdsj@hawaii.edu. These will be accepted until **March 31, 2025**.

Should you be invited to serve as a reviewer, you will be asked to create an account profile in the journal's submission portal with your application information.

Questions may be directed to rdsj@hawaii.edu.



Guidelines for Manuscript Review

Timelines

We appreciate receiving referee comments within four weeks. RDS is committed to prompt editorial decisions and publication. We therefore ask that reviewers indicate within two weeks upon issuing of a request whether or not they will be able to complete a review. Reviewers may opt out of up to three reviews per year. If they anticipate a delay in the completion of their review, we ask that they notify the editor at rdsj@hawaii.edu before the due date of the review, which allows us to keep the authors informed. Failure to respond to a request for review or failure to inform us of a late review will constitute an “opt-out.” Reviewers with more than three opt-outs in a year may be asked to leave the Manuscript Review Board at the editor’s discretion.

Evaluation Content

Typically, article evaluations for RDS are about 500 to 1,000 words in length, but reviewers may use their own judgment about the appropriate length of the appraisal. Please indicate clearly whether you think the manuscript should be accepted, accepted with revisions required, revised and resubmitted, or rejected (see Manuscript Review Definitions and Ethical Considerations below). The ideal report should include an initial paragraph that summarizes the major findings and the reviewer’s overall impressions. The next section should address the manuscript’s strengths and weaknesses and explain the reviewer’s perspective in greater depth. Please be specific about the problems in the submission and make suggestions as to how the manuscript could be improved. When referencing specific sections of the manuscript, please use page, paragraph, and line numbers to indicate where the section is located.

As an interdisciplinary disability studies journal, our criteria for evaluation must be general; however, the following issues should be given particular attention:

1. The relevance and originality of the manuscript, its interest to scholars of Disability Studies, and its contribution to knowledge in the field. Put another way: does the article make a significant contribution to the literature in its subject area? Does the paper stand out in some way from others in its field?



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How relevant is the submission to the mandate of RDS?

2. Does the article frame disability in such a way that it embraces non-medicalized, socio-cultural perspectives of disability? If not, are there simple changes that the authors could make to revise their approach (such as use of language and inclusion of more relevant citations) or is the article in need of a greater shift of perspective that would require significant redevelopment? Are there other journals that might be a better fit for the article?
3. Does the article strike a reasonable balance between meeting the specialist standards and language of Disability Studies, and being accessible to general readers?
4. Are the claims appropriately discussed in the context of earlier literature?
5. The quality of arguments, the soundness of methodology and reasoning, the quality of data, and the validity of analysis. How convincing is the argument?
6. Is the argument balanced? Would the manuscript benefit from shortening or expanding any sections? Have any relevant points not been considered?

Sending the Evaluation

Your anonymous comments will be forwarded to the author. If you have recommendations for the editors only, please submit these separately. Please return the manuscript evaluation form (required) and manuscript with track changes or comments embedded (optional) via the RDS online manuscript evaluation system. Reviewers should bear in mind that the editorial team may have to make a decision based on conflicting advice. The most useful reviewer reports, therefore, are those that state clear, substantiated arguments.



Manuscript Review Definitions and Ethical Considerations

Definitions

Accept

The submission (i) has a clear argument that is (ii) supported convincingly by sufficient evidence; (iii) is aware of existing literature in the field; and (iv) through its argument and evidence makes a contribution to the field. Only small textual changes are necessary for the manuscript to be ready for publication.

Accept with Revisions Required

The submission (i) has a clear argument that is (ii) supported convincingly by sufficient evidence; (iii) is aware of existing literature in the field; and (iv) through its argument and evidence makes a contribution to the field. More significant changes are needed then for “accept” in order for the manuscript to be ready for publication, but with revisions the manuscript is of publishable quality.

Revise and Resubmit

The manuscript merits eventual publication provided revisions (sometimes extensive) are carried out satisfactorily. Examples of the sorts of revisions commonly required include the following:

- Development of the argument and analysis;
- Sharpening of the focus;
- More supporting evidence;
- Greater knowledge of relevant existing literature/publications in the field;
- Fuller documentation and/or answers to queries on specific points of fact;
- Rhetorical improvements, especially those affecting clarity, e.g., excessive use of the passive voice, vague pronouns, weak transitions, etc.;
- A reduction in the overall length through elimination of redundancies and wordiness

Reject

The manuscript is deemed unsalvageable. This decision could be reached for a variety of different reasons, including methodology, argumentation, evidence, or prose. Please note: if the style is thoroughly confusing (to the point where a decision to “reject” has been reached), examples should be cited. If the



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submission makes no original contribution, this point should be made with reference to existing studies.

Ethical Considerations

Confidentiality

This manuscript is a privileged document. The review process is strictly confidential. Referees should not discuss the manuscript with anyone not directly involved in the review process. After review, please destroy the article.

Conflict of Interest

Referees are expected to disclose conflicts of interest when they are first invited to review a manuscript. The following may constitute a conflict of interest:

- Recent or ongoing collaboration with the author.
- Having seen a draft of the manuscript before submission.
- Having previously reviewed the same manuscript for another publication.

Publishing Ethics

Despite our best efforts to identify breaches of publication policy or ethical conduct, such as plagiarism or duplicate publications, reviewers who are familiar with the field are more likely to recognize such problems and should alert the editorial team to any potential problems in this regard.



Manuscript Review Board Membership Application

Please fill out the information below, and your areas of interests/expertise on the next page, and return with a current curriculum vitae to rdsj@hawaii.edu.

Are you currently on the Manuscript Review Board? If yes, check here: ____

Name:

Institution or Organization:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Social Media Links

Twitter:

Facebook:

LinkedIn:

Check if you are willing to:

__1. Evaluate 2-4 manuscripts a year and determine if the manuscripts are publishable without revisions, (b) publishable with simple revisions that can be made by the editors, (c) publishable with revisions made by the author, or (d) not publishable.

__2. Provide specific feedback to the editors and the authors about style, presentation, and content.

__3. Serve on the Manuscript Review Board for a period of three years.

__4. Conduct anonymous peer reviews, which involve an extra level of scrutiny, and require reviewers to follow a specific set of guidelines.

Please fill out your areas of interests/expertise on the next page.



RDS Reviewer Interests and Expertise

Your name:

Your interests and areas of expertise (mark with an X; select all that apply):

- ☐ Arts (art, dance, theater, film, music) (specify area) _____
- ☐ Culture
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Ethics
- ☐ Families
- ☐ Gender
- ☐ Health and Medicine
- ☐ History
- ☐ Independent Living and Community
- ☐ International Policies and Human Rights
- ☐ Law and Civil Rights
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Media and Communications
- ☐ Professional Practices and Training
- ☐ Psychology and Mental Health
- ☐ Regional Studies (specify area) _____
- ☐ Rehabilitation
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Sexuality
- ☐ Sociology
- ☐ Specific Disability (specify type) _____
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Theoretical Foundations
- ☐ Other (specify) _____
- ☐ Are you fluent in a language other than English? (specify) _____