Race, Disability & Technology news updates

Liz Diether-Martin, <u>lizdm@uw.edu</u>

- Published occasionally; when we have a full outline or quarterly
- Platform: Brevo
- Special edition to all CREATE email recipients?
- Project reports if any are ready

• The State of Critical Race Disability Studies A White Paper Report from the Disabled Scholars of Color Collective (Disability Visibility Project). The Disabled Scholars of Color Collective (DSCC) is a group of disabled scholars of color working in the field of disability studies and beyond. The Collective was created in the context of a gathering of disabled scholars of color in San Francisco, California over Labor Day weekend 2025. Dr. Schalk's central aim in planning the gathering was to create an accessible and pleasurable experience for thinking together so that critical race disability studies and disability justice were not just the topics of conversation but also shaped the process of the gathering as well.

Autumn 2025

New copy. Edited for brevity.

We are happy to report that in academic year 2024–25 we received more applications for the RDT grants than in previous years—and more came from outside of CREATE. Both are signs of our increased outreach and visibility on campus, and an indication of the importance of this grant mechanism to research efforts across the university.

Race, Disability & Technology Initiative: A community conversation

Spark new ideas | Collaborate | Discuss future work

We invite researchers and community partners to our annual convening of the Race, Disability, and Technology Initiative. Current and past grantees will discuss their research and community partnerships, and together we'll brainstorm possible new topics and avenues of research. There will also be a short overview of grant opportunities.

- Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 12 1:30 p.m.
- Gates/CSE2, room 371
- Register <u>here</u> by October 28. Lunch will be provided, and we depend on the registration to help us plan for the food order.

•

RDT grant submission deadlines

Tier I proposals for up to \$15,000

Can be used to support pilot research and capacity building efforts to develop leadership of relevant people/organizations.

• Proposals due February 9, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Tier II proposals for up to \$35,000

Must have community support and strong stakeholder representation.

- Letters of Intent are due January 12, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.
- If invited for a full proposal, these will be due February 9.

Research at the Intersection of Race, Disability & Technology

Much-needed research that CREATE's Race, Disability & Technology (RDT) Grant has funded.

[a single row of photos of Aaleyah Lewis, James Fogarty, Jonathan Warren, Rute Maia, Carmen Gonzalez]

CREATE Ph.D. student Aaleyah Lewis, with her advisor James Fogarty, received a Tier I grant for research about how multilingual and multicultural people engage practices of code-switching and masking when using generative AI.

Jonathan Warren, a UW professor of International Studies, and Dr. Rute Maia, researcher of Social Sciences, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, received a Tier I grant for a project about health equity and telemedicine in a rural mining community in Brazil.

The first Tier II RDT grant ever awarded went to a team led by Carmen Gonzalez, an associate professor in the UW Department of Communication and director of the UW Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity. Dr. Gonzalez seeks to reimagine accessibility technology in special education through a community-based approach to support students and families of color.

• Read more about these projects [link to article: https://create.uw.edu/?p=10613&preview=true]

Events

Unpacking Legacy: From the Personal to the Systemic

[photo]

A powerful and deeply personal talk by Dr. Uché Blackstock. Blackstock explores the personal and institutional legacies that shaped her journey. She reflects on following in her mother's footsteps to medical school and confronts a broader, systemic legacy of racism woven into every aspect of the medical field.

- October 9, 2025 6:30 p.m.
- Town Hall Seattle, Livestream (Hybrid)
- Details and registration

The Power of Visibility and Community Advocacy

Join the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center for "The Human Experience of Black People with Disabilities and Their Rights Under the ADA." This webinar will inspire and empower participants to embrace visibility as a tool for personal and societal change, and to effectively engage in community advocacy to create a more just and equitable world.

- Tuesday, Dec 2, 2025, 9 10 a.m. Pacific time
- Details and registration

What Does Law Mean in Crisis? How Crip Feminist Technoscience Will Save Us

[photo]

Ly Xīnzhèn M. Zhǎngsūn Brown explores crip feminist technoscience as a tool for survival and resistance—offering disabled wisdom to reimagine justice, regulate AI, and challenge empire, white supremacy, and late-stage capitalism through a disability justice lens. CREATE co-sponsors this UW Graduate School lecture.

- May 21, 2026 at 6:30 7:30 p.m.
- Details and registration (registration opens on March 10)
- Town Hall Seattle

The CREATE Calendar lists events hosted by CREATE, the UW, our partners, and the accessibility community.

Update your email preferences to receive event announcements and invitations. Or email us with events to share.

What we're reading

Crip Screens: Countering Psychiatric Media Technologies (Duke University Press)

[Photo: Olivia Banner, a white woman with a warm smile and smiling eyes.]

A new book by CREATE's Director of Strategy and Operations and affiliate faculty in the UW Disability Studies Program! Dr. Banner draws on unknown cultural texts from the 1960s and 1970s to illustrate how women and communities of color challenged psychiatry and psychiatry's use of media and technologies.

Banner's book adds to the growing literature on disability politics that have occurred alongside but outside of the disability rights movement, with a focus on how people have historically challenged mainstream discourses about "mental health" and "mental illness."

 Register for the Book Tea with Olivia Banner and Nassim Parvin on Tuesday, October 21Learn more and order Crip Screens

"Minor Resistance: The Everyday Politics and Power Dynamics of Assistive Technology Adoptions"

[if edited by send time]

[photo: Stacy Hsueh, an Asian woman. She is smiling, looking away from the camera, against a bright background] In a paper to be presented at the ASSETS '25 conference this month, CREATE postdoctoral researcher Stacy Hsueh goes beyond the idea that adopted accessible technology is a "good fit" and discarded AT is a "bad fit."

With co-authors Danielle Van Dusen, CREATE Associate Director Anat Caspi, and CREATE Director Jennifer Mankoff, Hsueh examines how low-income, racially diverse, and disabled families use and choose AT. They argue that navigating institutional practices and expectations (power dynamics) can result in "minor resistance" and can make access more costly. The authors share how AT designers can listen to community-engaged responses and focus on the right of disabled families to make their own choices.

[stacy's version]

In a paper to be presented at the ASSETS '25 conference this month, CREATE postdoctoral researcher Stacy Hsueh examines why promises of empowerment through AT continue to fall short for many underserved populations, even as new innovations emerge every day. Along with co-authors Danielle Van Dusen, CREATE associate director Anat Caspi, and CREATE Director Jennifer Mankoff, Hsueh found that low-income, racially diverse, and disabled families usually bear higher costs of access due to unequal power dynamics and complex rules and procedures that disproportionately affect them. The authors introduce the concept of minor resistance to capture the everyday strategies families devise to exercise agency within. By focusing on these grassroots practices, the authors show how technology can be reimagined to help communities build collective power.

Preview the ASSETS '25 paper

Digital Culture Shock: Who Creates Technology and Why This Matters (Princeton University Press)

[photo: Headshot of Katharina Reinecke. She has short, blonde hair and is smiling at the camera.]

In her new book *Digital Culture Shock*, CREATE faculty member Katharina Reinecke, a professor in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, spotlights the flurry of unfamiliar values, aesthetics, and language embedded in American-designed technologies. Enforced on other cultures, these attributes can disorient, discomfit, and alienate.

Reinecke argues that technology is never culturally neutral and, in discussing potential remedies for digital culture shock, recommends developing guidelines for cultural difference akin to the WCAG guidelines developed to ensure accessible web experiences.

- Thursday, Oct 23, 2025, 6 7:30 p.m. join the conversation with the UW's Society & Technology Book Salon
- Learn more and order *Digital Culture Shock*

Intro paragraph - nice and professional like Autumn Digest to win praise.

We are happy to report that in academic year 2024–25 we received more applications for the RDT grants than in previous years. In addition, we received more applications from outside of CREATE. Both are signs of our increased outreach and visibility on campus and an indication of the importance of this grant mechanism to research efforts across the university.

In this newsletter, learn about an upcoming RDT Grants Info Session, the three projects CREATE funded last academic year, and more.

Race, Disability & Technology initiative - a community conversation

Spark new ideas | Collaborate | Discuss future work

Join former and current RDT grantees for a panel discussion about the <u>Race</u>, <u>Disability & Technology grants</u> to describe their research and their work with community partners. Community partners are encouraged to share their community needs in this area. And we'll present an overview of the grants, with opportunities for questions. Attendees with shared interests can gather to brainstorm about possible future work and collaborations.

- Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 12 1:30 p.m.
- <u>Gates/CSE2</u>, room 371
- Registration requested by October 28

RDT grant submission deadlines

See the Race, Disability & Technology Call for Proposals web page for details on submitting your proposal.

- **Tier I proposals** for up to \$15,000 can be used to support pilot research and capacity building efforts to develop leadership of relevant people/organizations. Due date: February 9, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.
- **Tier II proposals** for up to \$35,000 (plus community support) must have strong stakeholder representation. Letters of Intent are due January 12, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. If invited for a full proposal, these will be due February 9.

2025 funded projects

[Draft article: https://create.uw.edu/?p=10613 - need to add detail from reports, grant letters]





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<u>Jonathan Warren</u>, a UW professor of International Studies, and Dr. <u>Rute Maia</u>, researcher of Social Sciences, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, received a Tier 1 grant for a project about health equity and telemedicine in a rural mining community in Brazil.



The first Tier II RDT grant ever awarded went to a team led by <u>Carmen Gonzalez</u>, associate professor in the UW Department of Communication and newly appointed director of the UW Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity. Dr. Gonzalez seeks to capture the lived experiences of accessing and implementing accessibility technology in special education settings. Her team will use this information to inform the design of an anti-racist and anti-ableist professional development curriculum that better equips educators to support students using accessibility tools.

- About the Race, Disability, and Technology initiative
- Call for Proposals Race, Disability, and Technology

Events

Unpacking Legacy: From the Personal to the Systemic with Dr. Uché Blackstock



The Office of Public Lectures presents a powerful and deeply personal talk with Dr. Uché Blackstock. Blackstock explores the legacies that have shaped her journey — both personal and institutional. She reflects on following in her mother's footsteps to medical school, a path that made Dr. Blackstock and her twin sister the first Black mother-daughter legacy at the institution. She also confronts a broader, systemic legacy—the entrenched racism woven into every aspect of the medical field. From disparities in medical education to the safety and well-being of BIPOC practitioners, Dr. Blackstock sheds light on the urgent need for change

within healthcare institutions.

- October 9, 2025 6:30 p.m.
- Town Hall Seattle, Livestream (Hybrid)
- Details and registration

The Power of Visibility and Community Advocacy

Join the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center for Part 4 of the webinar series The Human Experience of Black People with Disabilities and Their Rights Under the ADA. This webinar will inspire and empower participants to embrace visibility as a tool for personal and societal change, and to effectively engage in community advocacy to create a more just and equitable world.

- Tuesday, Dec 2, 2025, 9 10 a.m. Pacific time
- Details and registration

What Does Law Mean in Crisis? How Crip Feminist Technoscience Will Save Us



Speaker Ly Xīnzhèn M. Zhǎngsūn Brown explores crip feminist technoscience as a tool for survival and resistance—offering disabled wisdom to reimagine justice, regulate AI, and challenge empire, white supremacy, and late-stage capitalism through a disability justice lens. CREATE is a co-sponsor of this UW Graduate School lecture.

- May 21, 2026 at 6:30 7:30 p.m.
- <u>Details and registration</u> (registration opens on March 10)
- Town Hall Seattle

What we're reading

Crip Screens: Countering Psychiatric Media Technologies, by Olivia Banner



A new book by Olivia Banner (Director of Strategy and Operations, CREATE; affiliate faculty, Disability Studies Program) draws on previously ignored and effaced cultural texts from the 1960s

and 1970s to foreground the insurgent practices of and media by women and communities of color that contested psychiatric discourses and their mediated and technological applications. Banner's work adds to our understanding of crip practices that diverged from those of the disability rights movement, expands film and media disability histories, and demonstrates how histories of racialization and pathologization inform technologies today.

- Register for the <u>Book Tea with Olivia Banner and Nassim Parvin</u> on Tuesday, October 21 on the UW Seattle campus
- Learn more and order the book

Minor Resistance: The Everyday Politics and Power Dynamics of Assistive Technology Adoption

In a paper to be presented at the <u>ASSETS '25 conference</u> this month, CREATE postdoctoral researcher <u>Stacy Hsueh</u> goes beyond the idea that adopted accessible technology is a "good fit" and abandoned AT is a "bad fit." Along with co-authors Danielle Van Dusen, CREATE Associate Director Anat Caspi, and CREATE Director Jennifer Mankoff, Hsueh examines how low-income, racially diverse, and disabled families use and choose AT. The paper argues that navigating institutional practices and expectations (power dynamics) can result in "minor resistance" and can make access more costly. The authors share ideas on how AT designers can listen to community-engaged responses and focus on the right of disabled families to make their own choices.

• Paper to be presented at the ASSETS conference on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

Digital Culture Shock: Who Creates Technology and Why This Matters



In her new book *Digital Culture Shock*, CREATE faculty member Katharina Reinecke, a professor in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, discusses how the flurry of unfamiliar values, aesthetics, and language embedded in American-designed technologies and enforced on

other cultures can disorient, discomfit, and alienate. Reinecke argues that technology is never culturally neutral and, in discussing potential remedies to how new technologies produce digital culture shock, recommends developing guidelines for cultural difference akin to the WCAG guidelines developed to ensure an accessible web experience.

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- Learn more and order 'Culture Shock'

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March 2025

With news about groundbreaking research at CREATE and about UW events featuring pioneering experts on race, science, and technology, this issue of CREATE's Race, Disability & Technology newsletter showcases our ongoing work to achieve a more just and accessible future for all.

Research at the intersection of race, disability & technology

We are excited to report on some of the much-needed research that <u>CREATE's Race</u>, <u>Disability & Technology (RDT)</u> <u>Grant</u> has funded.

Collaboration with educators and students to expand Wordplay

CREATE faculty member Amy Ko's — Wordplay is a coding platform for creating accessible, multilingual, interactive, and playful typography to support diverse high school computing classrooms. In a recent CREATE-funded project, to center voices of those who are minoritized and disabled in Wordplay's continued development, Ko collaborated with impacted educators and students. The project involved:

- Students representing Hispanic, Black, and rural communities, including some identifying as disabled
- A youth advisory board, all multilingual
- Project meetups of 40+ high school and college students from around Puget Sound, where students built a lot of features and engaged in open source community management.

These efforts yielded a concrete roadmap for design features informed by youth and teacher designs and a long-term collaboration with a local teacher, who will use Wordplay in technology classes.

Toward Language Justice: Exploring Multilingual Captioning for Accessibility

A large number of people worldwide communicate in more than one language. But captioning tools – used by d/Deaf and hard of hearing (DHH), neurodivergent, and other disabled individuals to transcribe speech to text – are not available in all languages. CREATE Ph.D. student <u>Aashaka Desai</u> led research to understand how multilingual disabled individuals use caption technologies and cope with language barriers.

Desai will present findings at the <u>CHI 2025 Conference</u>: the usefulness of current captioning tools is affected by participants' comfort with a language, characteristics of their languages, and cultural perceptions. The team offers suggestions for addressing inequities, which include how to build better technology and changing the philosophy that guides captioning research.

Exploring AI-Based Support in Speech-Language Pathology for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Children

[being reviewed by Aaleyah] Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work with children who have speech and language difficulties. The work is full of challenges, including high caseloads and administrative tasks. Those challenges are greater when SLPs provide care to culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) children with disabilities.

CREATE Ph.D. student <u>Aaleyah Lewis</u>, advised by CREATE associate director <u>James Fogarty</u>, worked with a group of SLPs to identify possibilities for AI-based support. Lewis' team studied the SLPs' perceptions of AI usefulness and the biases in AI-generated speech-language pathology materials. They noted the implications of contextually unaware AI, the need to carefully craft AI prompts, and the need for diverse representation in AI-generated materials. While also addressing systemic challenges within the SLP profession, the team

defined recommendations for SLPs interacting with AI-based tools and general-purpose AI tools in their practice.

Opportunities

The <u>Rooted in Rights blog</u> has <u>launched a call for submissions</u>, inviting disabled writers to share survival and perseverance strategies in a 500-word blog. The aim is to gather resources that can help disabled individuals and communities adapt and survive during turbulent times. Examples:

- Accessibility workarounds, organizing tips, strategies on getting basic needs met, highlighting a direct service organization
- Things that bring you joy: books, comedy or media recommendations
- Tips for finding community, strategies for rest, and strategies for resistance

Events

Labs for Liberation Summer Institute on Disability and Design

A collaborative, generative, theoretically rigorous, and lab-based space for integrating accessibility theory and practice. The goal is to spark new conversations between critical disability studies and Black feminist disability approaches to design and technology.

- March 7: Applications due
- June 9 July 18: free, online, and accessible lecture series, open to the public
- Summer Institute info and registration details

The Long Road to Equity in Research: Public Lecture

- March 17, 2025 9:30 am
- Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall
- Register

<u>Dr. Evelynn Hammonds</u> will present *The Long Road to Equity in Research* at the Office of Research public lecture. Hammonds will explain how achieving equity in the scientific, technical, and academic enterprises in the United States has been a long struggle. She will discuss examples of the historical barriers that have been overcome and the challenges that remain, specifically in higher education in STEM fields.

Dr. Hammonds is Harvard University's Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of History of Science, Professor of African and African American Studies & Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the T. Chan School of Public Health.



The Tech Policy Lab's Distinguished Lecture

<u>Dr. Alondra Nelson</u>, a renowned expert in science, technology, policy, social inequality, and race and former Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, is the distinguished lecturer.

- Thursday, April 3, 7:00 8:30 p.m.
- On the UW Seattle campus
- Tech Policy Lab lecture info and RSVP details

The Human Experience of Black People with Disabilities and Their Rights Under the ADA

Free webinar series from the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, all taking place at 9-10 a.m. PT. Register for the remaining sessions:

- June 3 Intersectionality: Unpacking Discrimination, Stigma, and Multiple Marginalization
- September 2 Fighting for Civil and Disability Rights: Strategies to Overcome Barriers
- December 2 The Power of Visibility and Community Advocacy

EVENTS

RDT event - recap from Community Day (unless we can publish newsletter first)

The RDT initiative is a cross-campus program sponsored by

- Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering
- Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship
- Office of the ADA Coordinator
- Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity Race and Equity Initiative
- Population Health Initiative
- Simpson Center for the Humanities

WHAT WE'RE READING

Death of the Author

Acclaimed novelist Nnedi Okorafor's latest book, *Death of the Author*, takes non-normativity – a disabled woman who does not produce children – as the basis for a metafictional exploration of the tales we tell about normativity and future technologies. The plot includes androids and AI waging war in the grown-over ruins of human civilization. Booklist calls it an "exploration of conservationism, Africanfuturism, and what a world without humans could look like."

How to Be Disabled in a Pandemic

Disability scholars, writers, and activists chronicle the impacts of the pandemic in New York City's prisons, migrant detention centers, senior centers, hospitals, schools, shelters, and more. The book is both an accounting of what happened in one specific city in 2020–2021 and a clear guide to the creativity of a disability justice response to "mass disabling events" and their disproportioning of risk and harm. With a foreword by Judy Heumann, the open access book is available to read online or as a PDF.

Unmasking Al: My Mission to Protect What is Human in a World of Machines, Dr. Joy Buolamwini,

The author was the guest speaker at UW College of Arts and Science Big Read event, Feb 20, 2024

"Unmasking AI goes beyond the headlines about existential risks produced by Big Tech. It is the remarkable story of how Buolamwini uncovered what she calls "the coded gaze"—the evidence of encoded discrimination and exclusion in tech products—and how she galvanized the movement to prevent AI harms by founding the Algorithmic Justice League. Applying an intersectional lens to both the tech industry and the research sector, she shows how racism, sexism, colorism, and ableism can overlap and render broad swaths of humanity "excoded" and therefore vulnerable in a world rapidly adopting AI tools. Computers, she reminds us, are reflections of both the aspirations and the limitations of the people who create them.

"Encouraging experts and non-experts alike to join this fight, Buolamwini writes, "The rising frontier for civil rights will require algorithmic justice. Al should be for the people and by the people, not just the privileged few." "

Confronting Race, Gender, and Ability Bias in Tech

Meredith Broussard's More than a Glitch: Confronting Race, Gender, and Ability Bias in Tech includes a chapter on ableist bias in tech and a chapter on AI in breast cancer diagnosis. Broussard, a data scientist, has written the book for a wide audience. An <u>e-copy of the book</u> is available through the UW library.

Neuroexpansive™ Thoughts

"The white, nondisabled bodymind is not the 'norm,' the 'typical,' or the line from which we diverge."

Because white people have, historically, designed cognitive and behavioral tests with assumptions of white culture and experience, if you're Black, you are already likely to be labeled "neurodivergent." So terms like "neurodiverse" and "neurodivergent" will never be able to accurately describe Black bodyminds. In a <u>Medium article</u>, <u>Ngwagwa</u> encourages the use of the term "neuro-expansive" and invites a shift away from white, cis, hetero, patriarchal, sanist, definitions of dis/ability and bodymind experiences. While the post is from the pandemic times, Ngwagwa's words are relevant to our work at the intersection of race, disability, and technology.

[PDF] <u>"Vulnerable, Victimized, and Objectified": Understanding Ableist Hate and Harassment</u> <u>Experienced by Disabled Content Creators on Social Media</u>

S Heung, L Jiang, S Azenkot, A Vashistha - 2024

[Interesting paper. Looks at some intersectional issues. Depressing too though:(. -Jen]

Content creators (eg, gamers, activists, vloggers) with marginalized identities are atrisk of experiencing hate and harassment. This paper examines the ableist hate and harassment that disabled content creators experience on social media. Through ...

Previous editions

January, 2024

In this issue, we announce the awardees of funding for research at the intersection of race, disability, and technology – and an opportunity to hear about the projects from the researchers. We recap two thought-provoking lectures by women of color who are leaders in disability justice. Stemming from those lectures and our own work, we have a robust reading list for you!

FUNDED RESEARCH

CREATE is pleased to announce Race, Disability and Technology funding awards from our first two rounds of proposals.

Save the date for a presentation of these projects at a February 28 seminar, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

A Community-Based Design and Development of an Multilingual, Accessible Educational Programming Language.

- **Dr. Amy Ko**, Professor, iSchool
- Award: Tier 1, November 2023

Most programming languages and tools exclude multilingual, disabled people from using them by assuming English fluency, eyesight, fine motor skills, and neurotypical learning. As a result, teaching computing equitably is impossible, often requiring segregation or exclusion. While some platforms have made progress on accessibility in isolation, no platform engages the unique intersectional ways that multilingual disabled learners creatively leverage technologies and their language assets to orchestrate computer science learning.

The goal is to partner with three middle and high school teachers serving Puget Sound's ability and language-diverse immigrant and refugee youth of color to make computing education viable in their classrooms. The approach will be to grow a community of youth, teachers, and undergraduates focused on need finding to identify design and research gaps.



Exploring Challenges and Opportunities in Multilingual Captioning for Accessibility

• Aashaka Desai, Ph.D. student in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering

- <u>Dr. Jennifer Mankoff</u> (PI), Richard E. Ladner Professor in the Allen School, and Director of the Center for Research and Education on Accessible Technology and Experiences
- Award: Tier 1, November 2023

An estimated fifty percent of the world is multilingual or fluent in several languages. If conversation partners are multilingual, speakers will often switch between languages during a conversation, leveraging the expressiveness of each language. But many existing language technologies support dominant languages only or require users to specify a single language. This limits how people use language and technology-mediated communication such as captioning, which is often used by d/Deaf, hard-of-hearing (d/DHH) and/or disabled individuals for communication accessibility.

And while much of English speech recognition is available on video conferencing platforms, automated captioning for other languages is not easily available. This project will investigate how multilingual d/DHH and disabled people navigate this variability in linguistic support; identify current practices, challenges, and opportunities; and ask how we might move toward communication accessibility across all languages and scenarios.



Examining Black Experience in Accessibility Technologies

- Aaleyah Lewis, Ph.D. student in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering
- Dr. James Fogarty (PI), Professor, Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering
- Award: Tier 1, July 2023

A broad exploration of Black experience in accessibility and current accessibility technologies, both to further develop research at this intersection and to potentially identify opportunities for future focused examinations of specific findings. The project will develop an interview protocol that directly elicits personal experiences in which participants felt an assistive technology did not support them in an aspect of their Black identity or where they felt their Black identity created additional accessibility barriers. The project will also explore Black experience outside of accessibility settings, such as cultural code-switching experiences of Black older adults interacting with voice assistants.

Next research funding opportunities

For details on funding opportunities from CREATE and proposal requirements and deadlines, see <u>Race, Disability & Technology: Call for Proposals</u>.

- Tier I proposals for up to \$15,000 can be used to support pilot research and capacity building efforts to develop leadership of relevant people/organizations. Due annually in November.
- Tier II proposals for up to \$35,000 must have strong stakeholder representation and community support. Letters of Intent are due in early October. Full proposals, if invited, are due in November.

Other funding opportunities

Inclusive Excellence Faculty Fellowship Program, offered by the UW College of Engineering to implement a training and development program in the College for instructional faculty leaders and DEI "change agents." Fellows are offered tools and resources for integrating intercultural competence and inclusive teaching practices to redesign their course and facilitate impactful change in their unit and across the college.

• Applications due by February 19

CREATE researchers moderate 2 lectures with disability justice leaders

Winter quarter kicked off with two outstanding lectures with women of color who are leaders in disability justice. CREATE Director <u>Jennifer Mankoff</u> moderated the Conversation with Alice Wong, asking about her experience as a disabled person in academia and what she thinks needs to change. Raising the visibility of disabled people was foremost and is the focus of her book <u>Year of the Tiger: An Activist's Life</u>, which was the topic of the Autumn 2023 <u>CREATE Accessibility Seminar</u>.

A week later, two CREATE Ph.D. students, <u>Aashaka Desai</u> and <u>Aaleyah Lewis</u>, moderated a conversation with <u>Patty Berne</u>, who Wong referenced several times as her introduction to disability justice. Berne, who identifies as a Japanese-Haitian queer disabled woman, co-founded <u>Sins Invalid</u>, a disability justice-based arts project focusing on disabled artists of color and queer and gender non-conforming artists with disabilities. Berne addressed language justice within the disability community, noting that "we don't 'language' like able-bodied people." Part of Berne's

work at Sins Invalid is normalizing access needs like the use of ventilators and augmented speech technology and working in multiple languages to create an inclusive experience of everyday life.

WHAT WE'RE READING

New theories and histories of race and disability

The <u>Fall 2023 issue of *Disability Studies Quarterly*</u> features new theories and histories of race and disability! Its contributors take up many of the issues discussed by Alice Wong and Patti Berne in their recent UW Public Lecture appearances. This wide-ranging issue even includes an article by CREATE's new Director of Strategy and Operations, <u>Olivia Banner</u>.

History of Black Panther 504 Activism

Earlier this month, the City of Seattle held the event <u>Celebrating Inclusion in Community: 50 years of the Rehabilitation Act</u>. As a follow-up, we are reading <u>Dr. Sami Schalk</u>'s chapter about the <u>history of Black Panther 504</u> activism and its ties to the contemporary disability justice movement.

Resource for Sign Language Interpreters: Black Multilingual Researchers, Consultants, and Interpreters

Myers and Lawyer is a team of Black multilingual researchers, consultants, and interpreters who are challenging historic and contemporary frames of language access. They have contributed to an array of useful publications and research articles that center BIPOC service providers and consumers. https://myersandlawyer.com/

Black, female, and disabled academics were less likely to be entered for REF 2021

Academic staff who were female, Black, or disabled were less likely to be submitted for assessment in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), new analysis has found. The <u>findings appear to reflect entrenched issues</u> with inequality and underrepresentation in the higher education sector.

"Strong Black Women": African American Women with Disabilities, Intersecting Identities, and Inequality

Reading list on race, disability, and technology

Motivated by the Alice Wong lecture where she "assigned reading homework," we have started the <u>CREATE</u>

Reading List with some of the books, articles, and blog posts that have inspired us – and some we haven't read yet.

Like any good reading list, this is a work in progress. Have we missed something great? Email us at create-contact@uw.edu.

October 20, 2023 - Special edition of CREATE Digest

OCTOBER 2023 SPECIAL EDITION:

Race, Disability, and Technology

This month we focus on what is–and what isn't–happening in research at the intersection of race, disability and technology. We spotlight a Community Partner that works specifically at that intersection, and an app that aims to reduce misunderstandings during traffic stops. What We're Reading summarizes two articles on parenting with disabilities, where challenges are compounded by racial bias. You'll also find intersectional events to commemorate 50 years of Section 504 of the ADA.

CREATE NEWS

Funding proposals due November 15

The Race, Disability, and Technology initiative is accepting proposals for up to \$15,000 to support pilot research and capacity-building efforts that address the gap in scholarly work at the intersection of race, technology and disability. Join our mailing list to find out about related calls and events.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Research at the Intersection of Race, Disability and Accessibility

Two CREATE Ph.D. students, Aashaka Desai and Aaleyah Lewis, and collaborators have found a lack of research at the intersection of race and disability and assessed the value of such research. They are presenting their findings at ASSETS 2023 next week.

- Short read on CREATE website
- Full ASSETS 2023 paper

Virtual Traffic Stop expands

A Gainesville Florida K-12 school has announced their endorsement of Virtual Traffic Stop and has encouraged parents and their children to sign up and start using the app. Now being used by two police departments (University of Florida and Gainesville police departments), the app designers aimed to ease tensions and prevent misunderstandings between drivers and law enforcement during traffic stops. They'd love to expand further:

Contact the designers to learn about becoming a partner

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Open Doors for Multicultural Families logo with the words: disability, community and opportunity

Open Doors is a CREATE Community Partner that has contributed panelists at our 2022 Community Day and our Race, Disability & Technology conversation in February.

By removing cultural and linguistic barriers for families from low income, immigrant, and refugee communities of color, Open Doors operates in South King County to help families define the direction of their lives. They nurture early childhood development, youth leadership, and job readiness and provide support for older adults with disabilities.

EVENTS

UW 504 at 50 events and resources

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the UW has a plethora of new websites, resources and events. We'll be posting about them all year, but this month we want to highlight three upcoming talks that feature the intersection of race and disability:

The Disabled Gaze - Jaipreet Virdi October 24, 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jaipreet Virdi asks us to consider how being disabled changes the ways people view the world and the things they create. Through these perspectives, she invites alternative approaches for remaking crip worlds where disabled people are centered first and foremost.

An Evening with Alice Wong January 9, 6:30 p.m.

Disabled activist and writer, Alice Wong will join us remotely for a moderated conversation addressing topics important to her work in raising the visibility of disabled people.

Disability Justice: Centering Intersectionality and Liberation - Patty Byrne January 17, 6:30 p.m.

The cofounder and Executive Artistic Director of Sins Invalid, will discuss the importance of intersectionality in disability justice and the need to address how diverse systems of oppression reinforce each other.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Intersections of disability, racial, and environmental justice

Catherine Jampel's paper in Environmental Sociology asserts that disability both increases exposure to environmental injustice and is more likely to be caused by environmental injustices. After Hurricane Katrina, "the increase in disability in New Orleans was disproportionately concentrated among young and middle-aged Black women, with the young faring the worst."

The author raises concerns about stigmatizing disability, and argues that environmental justice is "fundamentally an access issue: How can everyone have access to a healthy world in which to live, work and play?"

Parenting with disabilities

Two recent publications address unnecessary challenges faced by parents with disabilities and how those challenges are made extraordinary by a legal system that is not protecting parents or their children.

Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children finds that the roughly 4 million parents in the U.S. who are disabled (about 6% of parents) are the only distinct community that must struggle to retain custody of their children. And Under the Watchful Eye of All: Disabled Parents and the Family Policing System's Web of Surveillance details how the child welfare system employs extensive surveillance that disproportionately targets marginalized families, subjecting them to relentless oversight.

•	CREATE's take on these two Parenting with Disability articles	