

## Editorial

# Welcome to the Conference Proceedings of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity 2022

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## Abstract

This is a welcome message for the Conference Proceedings of the 37th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity 2022 at the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

*Keywords:* Pacific Rim, disability, conference, COVID-19

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Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity 2022**

We are pleased to share the Conference Proceedings for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity 2022. This collection documents papers shared live remotely in the conference in Spring 2022 during the global pandemic. While the conference is generally a live, in-person, annual Hawaii tradition, 2022's conference was held completely online, making it one of only two Pacific Rim conferences ever (along with 2021) to do so. Since 1988, the Pacific Rim Conference has served as an important international forum celebrating efforts by those with disabilities and their allies to create more inclusive spaces. In the decades since the conference's inception, it has emerged as the premier global gathering on disability. The conference draws educators, researchers, practitioners, advocates, entrepreneurs, policymakers, advocates, and others from across the globe to come together to consider ways we may help make our communities more inclusive and equitable places.

As such, this collection represents some of the many diverse voices present at the Pacific Rim Conference 2022. Drawn together by the Conference's theme, *Mobilize for Action*, participants were invited to consider the ways in which their work might help invite attendees to take collective action to amplify our power for change.

Presentations and events at the conference were organized within five broad, general strands:

- (1) Communities: Autism & Neurodiversity; Deaf Community; Family Engagement; Indigenous & Cultural Diversity;
- (2) Education: Higher Education, Disability, & COVID-19; PreK-12 Education, Disability, COVID-19; Social-Emotional Learning;
- (3) Employment and Career: Accessibility & Accommodation Issues; COVID-19 and Employment Issues; Innovations and Challenges in Career Development; Transition from Postsecondary Education to Employment;
- (4) Health & Well-being: Disability and Health; Mental Health Issues & COVID-19; Well-being and Flourishing; and
- (5) Disability Studies & Diversity Issues: Disasters and Emergency Preparedness; Disability Policy and Advocacy; Creativity, Media & the Arts; Disability Studies & Intersectionality.

Within these strands, the contributions herein reflect a broad, cross-section of work in the field. In “Autistic Adults as Educators: Exploring Parent Perceptions of Autistic Presenters,” Blagrove, Koch, and Widgay highlight the important role Autistic voices may play in both supporting the development of young people with Autism and in providing confidence to their parents. Turning to gaps in support, Pfeiffer, Bower, and Rumrill’s “The Current State of Air Travel for Americans with Disabilities: Considerations for Policy, Enforcement, Implementation, and Advocacy” brings attention to the continued challenges that exist for disabled travelers in having full access to the freedom travel allows. In other domains, Tuhakaraina’s “Karawhiua: Mobilizing own Language Journey” speaks to the freedom and power our own identities and languages may provide. Additionally, Takeuchi,

Takahashi, and Umenaga address some of the challenges of restarting services in post-pandemic landscapes in their “How to Restart an Inclusive Camping While Preventing COVID-19 Outbreak.”

Furthermore, within the collection, Cleveland, Tassin, Love, Deere, Cope, and Gangluff consider how diagnosis may be leveraged for access in their “An Interdisciplinary Approach to Increasing Access to Care for Individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.” And Schaffer’s “Disabilities in Disaster Situations: How a Rescuer Handles What They Encounter” considers key strategies to mitigate the additional vulnerability of people with disabilities in disasters. Turning to the power of advocacy, Guthrey’s “Advocacy 101: Discover Your Personal Style” looks at strategies for effective advocacy. And Hamamatsu and Shibata’s “Focusing on Essential Functions for Persons with Disabilities to Improve Working Environments: From a Survey on Coffee Workers in Japan” looks at the critical importance of listening to disabled voices in designing meaningful accommodations.

Other works in the collection include Matsuzaki and Shibata’s “Information Accessibility for Kanji: A Pilot Project for Academic Translation and Learning” and its consideration of the unique challenges associated with language and transmission of information. Finally, “Deaf Community and DiDRR: Supporting a Twin-Track Approach” by Craig, Cooper, Takayama, and Klein considers the effectiveness of using approaches tailored to Deaf communities to ensure all receive the essential information they need. For all contributions to this volume, plain language versions of abstracts may be accessed at: <https://rdsjournal.org/index.php/journal/plain-language-37th-pac-rim-proceedings> .

We wish to thank all of the attendees and presenters attending the event. The 38th Pacific Rim Conference was just held in person in Honolulu, Hawaii shortly before the time

of this writing. We invite readers to join us next year for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



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