

AALS 2018 Call for Papers:

Legal Competency at the Crossroads: Mental Disability & Family Law

Co-Sponsored by the AALS Sections on Disability Law, Family and Juvenile Law, and Law, Medicine, and Health Care

Legal competency, the law's recognition of an individual's personhood and agency, represents a conceptual cornerstone for law and mental disability scholars. The success of the disability rights movements in fostering greater public support for economic and social rights for people with mental disabilities has generated, at least rhetorically, broader support for the law's recognition of the decisional capacity of people with mental disabilities in these areas. The scope of scholarly inquiry has expanded in recent years from curbing state encroachment in private decision-making to crafting positive theories of rights for people with mental disabilities in sexuality, reproduction, marriage, and parenting.

This panel seeks to bring together legal scholars across several fields to explore emerging theory and doctrine in family law for people with mental disabilities. With its emphasis on intersectionality and cross-pollination, panelists will discuss such issues as assisted reproductive technology, parental termination, and sexual access. An explicit goal of this panel is to develop a research agenda for this emerging interdisciplinary area of legal scholarship. The Family Court Review, an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal, has agreed to publish the program proceedings. For more information on publication guidelines and recent issues, *see* <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291744-1617;jsessionid=0F04F41C5579A8C616CC83AA114B131F.d03t04>.

We encourage academics at all levels and from a broad range of backgrounds including but not limited to law and mental disability, disability rights, health law, and particularly family law to submit proposals for consideration. Please e-mail your abstract to Jasmine E. Harris at jeharris@ucdavis.edu by **Wednesday, August 23rd**.