

Nicole Lee Schroeder

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Academic Positions

- Fall 2023 Assistant Professor of History
Kean University, Union, NJ
- 2021-2023 Equity in Action Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of History, Kean University, Union, NJ

Education

- May 2021 **Ph. D., History, University of Virginia**
Fields of Study: Early American History 1584-1815, History of Disability, United States History 1815-1877
- May 2018 **M.A. History, University of Virginia**
Thesis: "Incurable Defects: Medicine, Welfare, and Clashing Conceptions of Disability, 1730 - 1840"
- May 2015 **B. A. History and Classical Studies, Colgate University**
Magna Cum Laude, Eta Sigma Pi, Phi Beta Kappa

Publications

Books

- In Progress *Incurable Defects: Clashing Conceptions of Medicine, Welfare, and Disability in Philadelphia, 1730 – 1840*, manuscript project

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Spring 2024 "‘An Emporium of Beggars’: Medical Rhetoric, Disabled Bodies, and Philadelphia’s Early Nationalist Welfare Crises," *Journal of the Early Republic* (accepted, awaiting publication)
- In Progress "‘A Melancholy Spectacle’: Nancy Linton, William Swaim, and the World of Patent Medicine Advertising," article project
- In Progress "Ethical Considerations: Disability History and Academic Training," article project

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming "Care Webs in Early Philadelphia," *Disability History Handbook*, National Parks Service (Fall 2024)
- Forthcoming "Accessibility," in *Do Less Harm: Ethics and the History of Health, Medicine, and the Human Sciences*, Edited by Courtney Thompson and Kylie Smith (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024)

Feb 2024 “Unspooling,” in *Disability Intimacy: Essays on Love, Care, and Desire*, Edited by Alice Wong (New York: Vintage Books, 2024)

Book Reviews

Summer 2023 Review of David Gissen *The Architecture of Disability: Buildings, Cities, and Landscapes beyond Access*, H-Sci-Med-Tech: <https://networks.h-net.org/group/reviews/20001896/schroeder-gissen-architecture-disability-buildings-cities-and-landscapes>

Spring 2022 Review of Gabriel Loiacono *How Welfare Worked in the Early United States: Five Microhistories*, *Journal of Social History* (Spring 2022): 675-77. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jsh/shac020>

Spring 2022 Leni Van Goidsenhoven, **Nicole Schroeder**, Inge Van de Putte, “Disability in the classroom: A roundtable conversation,” edited by Evelien Geerts, Josephine Hoegaerts, Daniel Blackie, and Kristien Hens, *Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies* Vol. 25, no. 1 (May 2022): 79-95. <https://doi.org/10.5117/TVGN2022.1.005.GOID>

Fall 2020 Review of Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan *Vagrants and Vagabonds: Poverty and Mobility in the Early American Republic*, *Journal of the Early Republic* (Fall 2020): 577-80. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jer.2020.0080>

Popular Writing & Pedagogical Resources

Blog Post “Accommodations, Access, and the Archives,” *Disability Archives Lab*, forthcoming

Resource “[Teaching The Future is Disabled – Readings and Resources](#),” *Kean University*, Aug 2023

Opinion “[COVID Conferences: Vulnerable Scholars Needn’t Apply](#),” *Inside Higher Ed*, October 2, 2022

Resource “[In Defense of Remote Access](#),” *Disabled Academic Collective*, June 2022

Resource Compiled with Disabled Academic Collective Twitter community, “[Community Resources for Disabled Academics](#),” *Disabled Academic Collective*, August 2021

Guide “[Accessibility & Universal Design](#),” *Disabled Academic Collective*, August 2020

Guide “[Fostering an Inclusive Classroom: A Guide to Student Disabilities and Accommodations at the University of Virginia](#),” *University of Virginia*, January 2018

Blog Post “[Learning to Embrace a Disabled Identity: Reclamation and Negotiation](#),” *Disabled Academic Collective*, August 2020

Blog Post “[An Accessible Academy in COVID-19](#),” *Southern Historical Graduate Council*, June 2020

Courses Taught (Instructor of Record, Kean University)

- 1. HIST4995, Academic Ableism, independent study, 1 student (FA22)**

Traces the centrality of eugenics, discriminatory policies, and retrofitted access measures in higher education. Tracks landmark court cases and laws alongside narratives from student activist groups who led the charge for accessibility in the 1980s and 1990s. Centers Critical Disability Studies scholars like Stephanie Kerschbaum, Lydia X. Z. Brown, Tanya Titchkosky, Alison Kafer, Ellen Samuels, Travis Chi Wing Lau, Jennifer Leigh, and Jay Dolmage.
- 2. HIST4317, Colonial America, seminar, 20 students (SP23)**

An in-depth, upper division dive into colonial America from the pre-Columbian era through the Seven Years' War. Examines major themes such as mercantilism, imperialism, contact narratives, borderlands, and the rise of chattel slavery. Interrogates diverse sources to discuss Native American, African, and European settler perspectives. Considers economic, cultural, religious, and political differences across the thirteen colonies and the Atlantic world. Students conduct term-length research projects including podcasts, research papers, and research posters.
- 3. HIST4000, Disability Histories, seminar, 13 students (SP22)**

Spanning the eighteenth century to the present day, this course covers major shifts in cultural conceptions of disability in North America. Reviews how disability has shaped political, cultural, social, and economic systems in the United States. Students explore disability history through a range of primary and secondary sources and hone Disability Studies approaches through experiential learning portfolios. Some portfolio assignments include drafting book reviews, designing museum exhibits, and writing op-eds for the general public.
- 4. HIST3990, Junior Seminar, seminar, 10-15 students (FA21, SP22, FA22, SP23, FA23)**

Investigates the major schools of historical thought from antiquity to the present, along with theories and methods specifically related to the practice of history. Students develop critical reading, thinking, information literacy, research, advanced writing, and presentation skills. Students conduct term-length research projects resulting in paper proposals, historiographical essays, digital humanities projects, or K-12 lesson plans.
- 5. HIST2303, US History to 1877, lecture, 30 students (FA21, SP22, FA22, SP23)**

Survey of American history from the Pre-Columbian period through Reconstruction. Examines the settlement of North America, the American Revolution, and the Civil War from social, political, and cultural perspectives. Explore broader themes such as the origins of freedom and slavery and the evolution of the market economy and the creation of distinct form of government.
- 6. GE1855, Disabled Pasts, Presents, and Futures, freshman seminar, 18 students (FA23)**

General education course for incoming freshmen students designed to interrogate the fight for disability rights in the United States. Employs works by disabled authors, artists, and activists to consider how disabled people saw themselves, honed a culture, and pushed against normative lifeways from the 1600s to the present day. Teaches critical reading, writing, and public history skills through portfolio assignments and a class-led digital humanities project.
- 7. GE1855, Disability Justice, freshman seminar, 18 students (FA22)**

General education course for incoming freshmen students designed to introduce students to the basics of the disability justice movement. Coined by Patricia Berne and Sins Invalid, disability justice centers on building a sustainable future where disabled people are supported, valued, and granted equal access. Considers strategies for implementing disability justice in everyday campus life. Teaches writing skills using a series of short writing projects, peer editing, and revision.

Courses Taught (Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia)

1. HIME 2012, Israel/Palestine 1948
2. WGS 2100, Intro to Women and Gender Studies
3. HIST 2212, Maps in World History

Honors & Monetary Awards

2023	College of Liberal Arts Research Material Grant, Disability Justice Library (\$750)
2022	Hank Kaplowitz Human Rights Educator of the Year, Kean University
2021-23	Equity in Action Presidential Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship, Kean University
2019-22	Dolores Liebmann Fund Fellowship, Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund (\$54,000; declined 2021-22 funding offer due to graduation)
2019-20	Program in Early American Economy and Society (PEAES) Dissertation Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA (\$20,000)
May 2019	Elected to Raven Society (UVA honors society)
2018-19	Friends of the APS Predoctoral Fellowship in Early American History (up to 1840), American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia PA (\$25,000)
2017	Summer Language Funding, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (\$2,500)
2016	Summer Research and Travel Funding, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (\$5,000)
2016	Clio Fund for Graduate Research, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Certifications, Trainings, Workshops

2023	Participant, "An Introduction to Neurodiversity for Educators," provided by Dr. Sarah Silverman, virtual
2022	Participant "Faculty Success Program," National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, virtual
2021	Participant, "Autism & Universal Design Training," provided by Dr. Kristen Gillespie-Lynch, Dr. TC Waisman, Dr. Siva Priya Santhanam, Dr. Iliana Magiati, et. al., virtual
2021	Student, "Accessibility Professionals Certification Grant Program," Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
2020	Participant, "Writer to Writer Mentorship Program," Association of Writers & Writing Programs

Media Appearances

- Interview Nikki Forrester, [“First-in-family scholars bust generational barriers.”](#) *Nature* (April 19, 2022)
- Podcast [“Women with Disabilities in Academia.”](#) *University of Sheffield*, Victoria Baskett, September 18, 2021
- Interview Lilah Burke, [“A Difficult Pathway.”](#) *Inside Higher Ed* (May 12, 2021)
- Podcast [“We’ve Been Waiting for You.”](#) *Brooklyn, USA*, BRIC Radio (April 7, 2021)
- Podcast [“Researching Healthcare During a Pandemic”](#) *COVIDCalls*, Scott Gabriel Knowles, virtual (February 2021)
- Podcast [“Nicole Schroeder: PhD Candidate and Founder of the Disabled Academic Collective”](#) *Enabled in Academia* King’s College London (November 13, 2020)
- DH Project [“Invalid Architecture: Navigating the Built Landscape of Philadelphia’s Medical World, 1790-1840”](#) *ArcGIS Story Maps*, on hiatus due to loss of software access

Select Conference Panels, Invited Talks, and Workshops

- March 2024 Invited Speaker, “Fighting for Disability Rights: Past, Present, and Future,” AmeriCorps Legal Advocates of Massachusetts, virtual
- Oct 2023 Paper Presenter, “Disability Justice and Early American History: Connections, Throughlines, and Ethics,” Disability in the Vast Early Americas, University of Notre Dame and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, virtual
- Oct 2023 Keynote, “Disability Justice Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony,” *Human Rights Institute*, Kean University, Union, NJ
- Aug 2023 Workshop Organizer, “Disability Studies as Disability Justice: Teaching *The Future is Disabled*,” Kean University, Union, NJ
- Feb 2023 Guest Lecturer, “COVID-19: A Disability Rights Issue,” KHC HC 401: Epistemologies and the Process of Inquiry, Boston University, virtual
- Jan 2023 Invited Speakers, “Academic Ableism and Barriers to Access: Reframing Academia as Disablement,” Global Speaker Series, University of Northern British Columbia, virtual
- Dec 2022 Invited Speaker, “Awareness and Advocacy,” 2023 Annual Conference - Disability and Human Rights, Human Rights Institute, Kean University
- Nov 2022 Invited Speaker, “Best Practices in Destigmatizing Disabilities,” Diversity Issues in Higher Education Conference, virtual
- Oct 2022 Workshop Organizer, “Patient Advocacy and Sustainable Care Networks,” Clinical Center Rehabilitation Medicine Department, National Institutes of Health, virtual

- Oct 2022 Invited Speaker, “Community Care on Either Side of the Delaware,” Harrison Township Historical Society, virtual
- Oct 2022 Keynote Speaker, “Forgotten Community Members, Wasted Knowledge, and Self-Denied Access: The Steep Costs of Academic Ableism,” University of British Columbia Geography Department, virtual
- Summer 2022 Organizer, “Summer Speaker Series,” Disabled Academic Collective, virtual
- July 2022 Panelist, “Writing as Righting: Doing History for a Better Future,” Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), New Orleans, virtual
- May 2022 Invited Speaker, “Uncovering Disability History in the Archives,” Liberty in the American Revolution: Teaching Slavery, Race, & Gender in the Founding Era, Kean University
- May 2022 Workshop Organizer, “Paleography: An Introduction,” Liberty in the American Revolution: Teaching Slavery, Race, & Gender in the Founding Era, Kean University
- April 2022 Keynote Speaker, “Weaving the Threads: A Story of Personal Identity and Disability History,” Phi Alpha Theta Initiation Ceremony, Kean University
- April 2022 Panel Organizer and Panelist, “Embodied Experiences of Disability as Historical Praxis,” American Association for the History of Medicine, Saratoga Springs, NY (unable to present without virtual accommodations)
- March 2022 Invited Speaker, “Patient Advocacy and Provider Praxis: Trusting and Working with Disabled Patients,” Advocates for Individuals with Disabilities (AID) Disability Symposium, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, virtual
- Feb 2022 Invited Speaker, “Incurable Defects: Clashing Conceptions of Disability in the Early Republic,” Equity in Action Monthly Professional Learning Series, Kean University
- Feb 2022 Invited Speaker, “‘Disabled’ Isn’t a Slur: Combating Ableism Starts in the Classroom,” Diversity Council on Global Education and Citizenship, Kean University
- Dec 2021 Panelist, “‘She is an object of both charity and curiosity:’ Disability, Gender, and Patent Medicine Advertisements in the Medical Marketplace, 1820-1870,” Archival Kismet, University of Mississippi, virtual
- Oct – Dec 2021 Participant, “Disability History and Historical Thinking in the Vast Early Americas,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Coffeehouse Reading Group, virtual
- Oct 2021 Guest Speaker, “Rising Above Academic Ableism,” Disability Awareness Month, Kean University
- Oct 2021 Invited Speaker, “Incurable Defects: Book Proposal,” Colgate Symposium, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

- May 2021 Moderator and Organizer, “Navigating the (Post-Pandemic) Job Market: Academic & Non-Academic Tracks,” University of Virginia, virtual
- Jan 2021 Panelist, “Oh the (Digital) Humanitie(s)!”: A Conversation about How to Start, Where to Go for Help, and Why it’s Worth it,” Virginia Consortium of Early Americanists 2021, virtual
- Oct 2020 Panelist, Student Panel Discussion, Virginia Higher Education Accessibility Partners/Apple Accessibility Town Hall, virtual
- Aug 2020 Invited Speaker, “[Accessibility & Universal Design in Higher Education](#),” Corcoran Department of History GHSA Pedagogy Conference, University of Virginia, virtual.
- Dec 2019 Chapter Circulation, “Medical Matrices: Webs of Health Care in Philadelphia, 1730-1800,” Early American Seminar, Monticello, VA
- Dec 2019 Invited Speaker, “The Future of Disability History,” Disability Studies Initiative in partnership with the Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia
- Dec 2019 Guest Lecturer, “‘To Lessen the Sum of Human Suffering’ A Study of Pain, Medical Interventions, and Therapeutics in 19th Century America,” Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- Aug 2019 Guest Lecturer, “A Patient Perspective: Medical Malpractice and Rare Disease Management,” MCPHS University, Worcester, MA
- July 2019 Panel Organizer and Panelist, “Invalid Architecture: Navigating the Built Landscape of Philadelphia’s Medical World, 1790-1840,” Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) annual conference, Cambridge, MA
- May 2019 Workshop Organizer and Lecturer, “Digital Humanities in the Classroom,” American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA
- Apr 2019 Chapter Circulation, “‘How Lame and Insufficient,’ Medical Practice, Training, and the Foundations of Clinical Education in America,” McNeil Center Brown Bag Series, University of Pennsylvania
- Mar 2019 Panelist, “‘This Noble Charity’ Clinical Education and Medical Practice in Early Philadelphia, 1765-1820,” Fourth Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History and 21st Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science Conference, University of Virginia
- June 2018 Panel Organizer and Panelist, “Incurable Defects: Physical Disability and the Philadelphia Outpatient Relief System, 1790-1840,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture Annual Conference, William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
- Apr 2018 Guest Lecturer, “Histories of Disability” in WGS 2100 Intro to Women and Gender Studies, University of Virginia

- Feb 2018 Panelist, “Incurable Defects: Physical Disability and the Philadelphia Outpatient Relief System, 1790-1840,” Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science annual conference, Augusta University, Augusta, GA
- Feb 2018 Guest Lecturer, “Incurable Defects: Physical Disability and the Philadelphia Relief System, 1790-1840,” Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry, University of Virginia
- Feb 2018 Guest Lecturer, “Colonial Beginnings and the Medical Marketplace” in The History of Medicine, The Center for Biomedical Ethics and Humanities, University of Virginia

Professional Experience

- 2021 **Transcriptionist**, *COVIDCalls*, Dr. Scott Gabriel Knowles, KAIST, Daejeon
- Checked AI transcriptions for accuracy
 - Fact checked names, publications, and specialist knowledge in disaster sciences
- 2016-20 **Research Assistant**, Dr. Robert Gibson, UVa, Charlottesville, VA
- Conducted archival research to support manuscript preparation
 - Synthesized primary sources and wrote reading reports
- 2019-20 **Managing Editor**, *Essays in History*, UVa, Charlottesville, VA
- Delegated publication tasks to team of editors to publish article-length pieces, book reviews, and historiographical essays
 - Provided general comments, line edits, and made final publication decisions
- 2016-19 **Book Review Editor**, *Essays in History*, UVa, Charlottesville, VA
- Worked with 6-10 authors each publication cycle to publish book reviews
 - Provided general editorial comments and line edits
- 2013-15 **Research Assistant**, Dr. Graham Hodges, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
- Planned and executed a summer NEH session for 12 visiting scholars
 - Provided administrative and budgetary support for NEH program
 - Managed team of researchers for multiple manuscript projects
 - Built and managed multiple databases for manuscript projects

Service to the Profession

Member, Board of Directors, Society for Disability Studies

Fall 2023 – Fall 2026

- Served as voting member and took on multiple subcommittee roles
- Responsibilities include helping to organize national conference, professional events, and foster community engagement

Committee Member, Department Awards Committee, History Department, Kean University, Union, NJ

Summer 2023 – present

- Reviewed student applications for four departmental writing prizes
- Ensured awards were advertised, adjudicated, and awarded on schedule

Grant Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, Cultural and Community Resilience Program, virtual

Summer 2023

- Reviewed series of grant applications for research projects designed to mitigate climate and pandemic-related impacts, safeguard cultural resources, and foster cultural resilience
- Provided written comments and met with grant review panel to make recommendations

Founder, Disability Justice Library, Kean University, Union NJ

Spring 2023 – present

- Applied for internal college grant to fund a disability justice library
- Worked with Human Rights Institute to promote the library and open the collection
- Designed accessible teaching workshop to promote the new collection materials

Committee Member, Common Read Committee, Kean University, Union NJ

Spring 2023 - present

- Proposed and presented on final book selection for Common Read
- Compiled curriculum supports in Disability Studies to pair with *The Future is Disabled: Prophecies, Love Notes, and Mourning Songs*
- Hosted a workshop on academic ableism and teaching disability in our current political climate
- Compiled resources, reading lists, and multidisciplinary course content supports

Committee Member, Department Curriculum Committee, History Department, Kean University, Union, NJ

Fall 2022 - present

- Conducted review of parallel History major and minor programs at sister institutions and considered thematic pathways to help students develop field specializations
- Proposed feasibility report for starting a Disability Studies minor

Respondent, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education

Spring 2023

- Attended listening session on Section 504 Regulations
- Discussed discriminatory policies with cancellation of hybrid modalities
- Discussed importance of meaningful accommodations at student, staff, and faculty levels

Committee Member, Association on Higher Education and Disability Office of Accessibility Committee, Kean University, Union, NJ

June 2022 - present

- Engaged in weekly meetings with members across various departments working in disability inclusion on campus including the Office of Accessibility, Student Affairs, Library Resources, Center for Advising, Persistence, and Success, and others
- Completed self-assessment survey and discussed access challenges on campus
- Distributed resources to help ground, educate, and inform access work
- Consulted on policies regarding hiring practices, onboarding, and faculty/staff accommodations

Project Coordinator, Kean University, Union, NJ

Summer 2022

- Hired two history majors and delegated research tasks tied to current works-in-progress
- Met weekly with students to discuss project updates and to train students in paleography

Founder, Disabled Academic Collective

July 2020 - present

- Designed [website](#), Discord server, and [Twitter handle](#)
- Moderated server, served as web administrator, ran social media campaign, and managed communications with potential members and organizations
- Brought 850+ members into the collective from July 2020 - present

Member, Disability Action and Advocacy Committee, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

2016 – May 2021

- Worked with faculty, administrators, and access specialists to foster accessibility across campus
- Aided in planning of biennial conference in Disability Studies
- Provided resources and recommendations to organize a Disability Studies minor
- Authored two handbooks for professors and teaching assistant regarding accommodations in both in-person and online classrooms

Mentor, Chronically Ill and Disabled Cavaliers, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

2016 - 2018

- Attended biweekly meetings with disabled undergraduate students
- Helped students navigate relationships with professors, administrators, etc.
- Promoted cross-campus accessibility standards for student activities

Digital Skills

- LMS Systems: Blackboard, Canvas, Discord
- Database Management: Heurist, FileMaker Pro, Excel
- Mapping Software: GIS, Mapscholar, Google Earth, Story Map JS, ESRI StoryMap
- Social networking and public engagements: WordPress, Wix, Twitter, Discord
- Video Management: OBS, YouTube
- Captioning: Otter.ai, YouTube Video Editor

Languages

- Fluent in Latin
- Intermediate French

Membership

- Society for Disability Studies
- Disability History Association
- Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine

References

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