

# Sami Schalk

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Gender & Women's Studies  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2014 PhD in Gender Studies. Indiana University.  
2010 MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry). University of Notre Dame.  
2008 BA in English & Women's Studies. Disability Studies minor. *Summa cum laude*. Miami University.

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## EMPLOYMENT

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- 2017-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
2016-2017 Postdoctoral Associate, English Department, Rutgers University  
2014-2017 Assistant Professor, English Department, University at Albany, SUNY  
2011-2013 Associate Instructor, Department of Gender Studies, Indiana University

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Monographs

*Bodyminds Reimagined: (Dis)ability, Race, and Gender in Black Women's Speculative Fiction*. Duke University Press, 2018.

### Refereed Articles

- Schalk, Sami and Jina B. Kim. "Integrating Race, Transforming Feminist Disability Studies" [accepted in *Signs*; forthcoming 2020]  
Schalk, Sami. "Wounded Warriors of the Future: Disability Hierarchy in *Avatar* and *Source Code*" [accepted in *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*; forthcoming 2020]  
---. "Black Disability Gone Viral: A Critical Race Approach to Inspiration Porn" [accepted in *College Language Association Journal*]  
---. "De-politicized Diversity in the American Girl Brand" [accepted in *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature*; forthcoming 2019]  
---. "Strategic Alterations and Afro-Asian Connections in Paul Beatty's *Tuff*." *Mosaic*. 51.1 (2018). 55-70.  
---. "Experience, Research, and Writing: Octavia E. Butler as an Author of Disability Literature." *Palimpsest*. 6.2 (2017): 51-75.  
---. "Interpreting Disability Metaphor and Race in Octavia E. Butler's 'The Evening and the Morning and the Night.'" *African American Review*. 50.2 (2017) 139-151.  
---. "BeForever?: Disability in American Girl Historical Fiction." *Children's Literature*. 45 (2017) 164-187.  
---. "Happily Ever After for Whom?: Blackness and Disability in Romance Narratives." *Journal of Popular Culture*. 49.6 (2016) 1249-1260.

- . “Ablenationalism in American Girlhood.” *Girlhood Studies*. 9.1 (2016). 36-52.
- . “Reevaluating the Supercrip.” *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies*. 10.1 (2016) 71-86.
- . “Transing: Resistance to Eugenic Ideology in Nella Larsen’s *Passing*.” *Journal of Modern Literature*. 38.2 (2015) 148-161.
- . “Metaphorically Speaking: Disability Metaphors in Feminist Writing.” *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 33.4 (2013): n. pag.
- . “Coming to Claim Crip: Disidentification with/in Disability Studies.” *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 33.2 (2013): n. pag.
- . “Self, Other, Other-Self: Going Beyond the Self/Other Binary in Contemporary Consciousness.” *Journal of Comparative Research in Anthropology and Sociology*. 2.1 (2011). 197-210.
- . “What Makes Mr. Hyde So Scary?: Disability as a Result of Evil and Cause of Fear.” *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 28.4 (2008): n. pag.

### **Book Chapters**

- Schalk, Sami. “Disability in African American Speculative Fiction” [Invited chapter accepted for Routledge *Companion to Disability and Literature*]
- . “Interpreting Disability Metaphor and Race in Octavia E. Butler’s “The Evening and the Morning and the Night.”” *The Bloomsbury Companion to Octavia E. Butler*. ed. Gregory Hampton. [Forthcoming; Reprint]
- . “Teaching the Social Construction of Disability through the Work of Octavia E. Butler” *Approaches to Teaching Octavia E. Butler*. ed. Tarshia Stanley. Modern Language Association of America Press, 2019. 97-102.
- . “Resisting Erasure and Conflation: Reading Race and (Dis)ability in Speculative Media” *Routledge Companion to Disability and Media*. eds. Haller, Goggin, and Ellis. London: Routledge UP [Forthcoming]
- . “Disability and Women’s Writing” *Cambridge Companion to Disability and Literature*. eds. Stuart Murray and Clare Barker. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2017. 170-184.
- . “Coming to Claim Crip: Disidentification with/in Disability Studies.” *Beginning with Disability: A Primer*. ed. Lennard Davis. Routledge UP, 2017. 123-136. [Reprint]

### **Essays**

- Schalk, Sami. “The Culture of Dissemblance and Contextualizing Black Disability” [forum essay accepted in *Signs*; forthcoming 2020]
- . “Foreword to the Special Issue on Disability Studies: Bodyminds, Science Fiction and Disability Studies” *Journal of Science Fiction*. 3.2 (2019): 10-11.
- . “Critical Disability Studies as Methodology: A Response to Julie Avril Minich” *Lateral*. 6.1 (2017): n. pag. Web.
- . “Beyond Analogies: Challenges of Teaching Black Disability Studies” in Dunham,

Harris, Jarrett, Moore, Nishida, Price, Robinson, and Schalk. "Developing and Reflecting on a Black Disability Studies Pedagogy: Work from the National Black Disability Coalition." *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 35.2 (2015): n. pag. Web.

### Reviews

- Schalk, Sami. "Review of *Barriers and Belongings: Personal Narratives of Disability*" *The ALH Online Review*. Series XI. 2017. n. pag. Web.
- . "Review of *Accessible Citizenships: Disability, Nation, and the Cultural Politics of Greater Mexico*." *MELUS*. 39.3 (2014). 195-197.
- . "Conference Report: National Women's Studies Association." *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies*. 8.3 (2014). 345-348.
- . "Moving Feminist Disability Studies into the Crip Future: A Review of Alison Kafer's *Feminist, Queer, Crip*." *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 34.1 (2014).
- . "Disability Poetry Power: A Review of *Slouching Toward Guantanamo and Beauty is a Verb*." *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 32.2 (Spring 2012).

### Mainstream/Popular Writing

- Schalk, Sami. "Dear Queer White People: Taking Up Space" *Our Lives Magazine*. Madison, WI. July 2019. [1000 words]
- . "Lowbrow Culture and Guilty Pleasures? The Performance and Harm of Academic Elitism" *Inside Higher Ed*. February 2019. <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/02/22/professor-asks-who-arbiter-lowbrow-scholarly-interests-and-pursuits> [1600 words]
- . "Dear Queer White People: Cultural Appropriation" *Our Lives Magazine*. Madison, WI. January 2019. [750 words]
- . "A Call-In To White Feminists About "Surviving R. Kelly." *BUST.com*. January 2019. <https://bust.com/feminism/195546-surviving-r-kelly-call-in.html> [1,200 words]
- . "Dear Queer White People" *Our Lives Magazine*. Madison, WI. November 2018. [1,000 words]
- . "Slow to Queer" *Our Lives Magazine*. Madison, WI. July 2018. [3,000 words]

### Works in Progress

*Black Disability Politics* [under contract with Duke UP]

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

### Fellowships

2019-2020	Nelly McKay Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2016-2017	Postdoctoral Fellowship in African American Literature, English Department, Rutgers University
2015	Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement (SITPA) Fellowship, Duke University
2015	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Short-term Fellowship, Huntington Library

2013-2014 Dissertation Fellowship, American Association of University Women  
 2010-2011 Graduate Scholars Fellowship, Indiana University

### **Research and Travel Grants**

Summer 2019 Fall Competition Grant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 Fall 2018 Travel Grant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 Spring 2016 Individual Development Award, New York State United University Professions  
 Fall 2015 Conference Fund Travel Award, College of Arts and Science, University at Albany  
 Summer 2015 Faculty Research Award Program (Category B), University at Albany  
 Spring 2015 The Louise C. and Earl M. Applegate Initiatives for Women Award, University at Albany  
 Spring 2015 Individual Development Award, New York State United University Professions  
 Fall 2014 Conference Fund Travel Award, College of Arts and Science, University at Albany

### **Other Awards and Honors**

2019 LGBTQ Advocate of the Year, OutReach LGBT Community Center, Madison, WI.  
 2017 Visiting Feminist Faculty Scholar, Grand Valley State University  
 2017 18 of the Last 9 Exceptional Young Alumni Award, Miami University Alumni Association  
 2015 Diversity Transformation Fund Award, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University at Albany  
 2014 National Women's Studies Association/University of Illinois Press First Book Prize Finalist  
 2013 Women of Color Caucus Essay Award, National Women's Studies Association  
 2013 Dissertation Fellowship Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation  
 2011 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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#### **Invited Talks**

April 2019 "Integrating Race, Transforming Feminist Disability Studies," Society for Disability Studies Keynote Lecture with Dr. Jina B. Kim, Multiple Perspectives Conference, Columbus, OH.

- April 2019 “504 and Beyond: Disability Politics and the Black Panther Party” Obermann Center Humanities Symposium, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.
- February 2019 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” Gender & Sexuality Studies Symposium Keynote, Miami University, Oxford, OH.
- December 2018 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- November 2018 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL
- October 2018 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” Pomona College, Claremont, CA.
- October 2018 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.
- September 2018 “Interdisciplinary Scholarship, Intersectional Activism: A Conversation with Alison Kafer and Sami Schalk,” Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
- September 2018 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” Conseula Francis Emerging Scholar Lecture, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.
- March 2018 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” Smith College, Northampton, MA.
- April 2018 “Disability and the American Girl Brand,” University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC.
- April 2018 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” Disability Studies Symposium, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- October 2017 “Disability and the American Girl Brand,” Keynote Speaker, LangRhet Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- October 2017 “Disability and the American Girl Brand,” Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY.
- June 2017 “Octavia E. Butler as Author of Disability Literature,” Octavia E. Butler Studies Conference, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA.
- October 2016 “Black Women’s Speculative Fiction and the Deconstruction of Able-Mindedness,” Rheney Endowed Lecture Series, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- May 2016 “Disability Rhetorics,” Super Session Presenter, Rhetoric Society of America, Atlanta, GA.
- October 2015 “Historicizing the Metaphors: Disability and Representations of Slavery,” University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.
- September 2015 “Disability and the American Girl Brand,” Miami University, Kate Welling Disability Awareness Lecture Series, Oxford, OH.
- June 2015 “Writing the Absence: Disability in Black Women’s Neo-Slave Narratives,” Plenary Presenter, Society for Disability Studies, Atlanta, GA.

- March 2015 “More than a Metaphor: Disability in Black Women’s Speculative Fiction,” Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
- March 2015 “Historicizing the Metaphors: Disability and Representations of Slavery,” Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY.
- September 2013 “Blackness and Disability: From Slavery to a Not-so-Distant Future,” Bucknell University, Black Experience Lecture Series, Lewisburg, PA.

### Papers

- [November 2019] “Black Disability Politics in the National Black Women's Health Project,” National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- [November 2019] “The Black Disability Politics of the Black Panther Party’s Fight Against Psychiatric Abuse,” American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI.
- January 2019 “The Value of Non-Realism and Speculative Fiction to Disability Studies,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL.
- November 2018 “Disability Politics in the Black Panther Party: A Genealogical Precursor to Disability Justice Today,” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- January 2017 “Teaching the Social Construction of Disability through the Parable Series, *Lilith’s Brood*, and *Seed to Harvest*,” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- October 2015 “Neoliberal Ableism and the American Girl Brand,” American Studies Association, Toronto, Canada.
- April 2015 “Imaginative Reconstructions: Disability in Neo-Slave Narratives,” Critical Ethnic Studies Association, Toronto, Canada.
- March 2015 “Disability in Octavia Butler’s *Kindred*,” Speculative Humanities Conference, Newark, NJ.
- January 2015 “Whose Happily Ever After?: Romance Narratives in Black Women’s Speculative Fiction,” Capital District Feminist Studies Conference, Albany, NY.
- June 2014 “A Supernatural Therapy Group: Disability in the Non-Human Context of Fantasy Fiction,” Society for Disability Studies, Minneapolis, MN.
- May 2014 “American Girls and the Contemporaneity of Disability,” Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Toronto, Canada.
- November 2013 “Feminist Disability Studies Literary Criticism,” National Women’s Studies Association, Cincinnati, OH.
- September 2013 “Writing Intersections of the Future: Race & Disability in *Parable of the Sower*,” Critical Ethnic Studies Association, Chicago, IL.
- September 2013 “Is Alien Sex Queer Sex?: Queer Pleasures in Octavia Butler’s Science Fiction,” Black Sexual Economies Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- June 2012 “Coming to Claim Crip: Disidentification in Disability Studies,” Society for Disability Studies, Denver, CO.

- June 2012 “Crip Relations: A Feminist Disability Theoretical Approach to Ethics of Relationality and the Erotic,” Society for Disability Studies, Denver, CO.
- June 2011 “Expanding Our Theoretical Toolbox: The Politics of (Dis)Ability in Black Feminist Scholarship,” Society for Disability Studies, San Jose, CA.
- March 2011 “We’re Not Done Yet: The Need for Disability Theory in Black Studies Scholarship,” National Council for Black Studies, Cincinnati, OH.
- June 2010 “bell hooks’ Loving Politics in Relation to Disability and Self-Love,” Society for Disability Studies, Philadelphia, PA.
- September 2009 “Villainous Victims and Victimized Villains: Disability in Wuthering Heights,” Notre Dame Disability Studies Forum Visiting Lecture Series, Notre Dame, IN.
- June 2009 “Villainous Victims and Victimized Villains: Disability in Wuthering Heights,” Society for Disability Studies, Tucson, AZ.
- June 2009 “When Students Take Action: A Call for Activist Education,” Society for Disability Studies, Tucson, AZ.

### **Roundtables and Workshops**

- [November 2019] “Protest, Justice, and Transnational Organizing,” National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- [November 2019] “The Pedagogy of Disability Justice: Building Support for Multiply-Marginalized Disabled People in Precarious Times,” Workshop, American Studies Association Conference, Honolulu, HI.
- November 2018 “Author Meets Critic Featured Session on *Bodyminds Reimagined*,” Roundtable, National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- November 2018 “Envisioning Intersectional Futures: Woman of Color Feminism and Disability Studies,” Roundtable, National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- November 2018 “Crippling the Academy: Sustaining Disability Studies in Times of Crisis,” Roundtable, American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- November 2018 “Take Root Among The Stars: Visionary Fiction and the Legacy of Octavia Butler” Roundtable, The School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL.
- June 2018 “Author Meets Critic Featured Session on *Bodyminds Reimagined*,” Cultural Studies Association, Pittsburgh, PA.
- November 2017 “Critical Disability Pedagogy,” Roundtable, American Studies Association, Chicago, IL
- November 2017 “Blackness and Disability: New Conversations in Intersectionality,” Roundtable, National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, MD

- May 2017 “Disability and Its Intersections,” Workshop Participant, Rhetoric Society of America, Bloomington, IN.
- January 2017 “New Directions in Literary and Cultural Disability Studies and Critical Ethnic Studies,” Roundtable, Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- November 2016 “Black Feminist Health Science Studies,” Roundtable, National Women’s Studies Association, Montreal, Canada.
- June 2016 “Affect in the Archive,” Shaping Change Conference, Roundtable, San Diego, CA.
- January 2016 “Touching Disability: Crip Theory in the Archive,” Roundtable, Modern Language Association, Austin, TX.
- June 2015 “Accessing the Ivory Tower: Professionalization for Disability Studies Scholars in Academia,” Roundtable, Society for Disability Studies, Atlanta, GA.
- November 2014 “Representational Labor: Doing the Work of Race, Disability and Sexuality in the Academy,” Roundtable, National Women’s Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- June 2013 “Feminist Disability Studies Methodology,” Workshop, Society for Disability Studies, Orlando, FL.
- November 2012 “Expanding Landscapes of Coalitions and Homeplaces: Activist and Academic Networks in the 21st Century,” Roundtable, National Women’s Studies Association, Oakland, CA.
- November 2011 “Praxis Access: Including Disability in the Difficult Dialogues of Women's Studies,” Roundtable, National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA

## **TEACHING**

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### **Graduate Courses**

Feminist Disability Studies (Fall 2018)

Disability Studies and Literary Criticism (Spring 2016)

### **Undergraduate Courses**

Women, Gender & Cultural Representations (Spring 2019)

Gender and Social Justice Literature (Spring 2018)

Gender, Disability and Sexuality (Fall 2017, Spring 2019)

Disability Studies (Spring 2016)

Neo-Slave Narratives (Fall 2015)

Adaptations of Black Women’s Literature (Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2018)

Race and Gender in Albany (Spring 2015; co-taught with Dr. Maeve Kane)

Contemporary Disabled Writers (Spring 2015, Fall 2015)

Disability in Contemporary Black Literature (Fall 2014)

Gender and Disability (Fall 2012, Spring 2013)



Gender and Society (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)

## **SERVICE**

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### **Institutional**

2017-Present Departmental Representative, Faculty Senate, UW-Madison  
 2017-Present Women & Wellbeing in Wisconsin & the World (4W) Program  
 Leadership Circle, UW-Madison  
 2017-2018 Curriculum Committee, Department of Gender & Women's Studies,  
 UW-Madison

### **Professional**

2015-Present *Disability Studies Quarterly* Editorial Board Member  
 2014-2018 National Women's Studies Association  
 Conference Proposal Reviewer (2015-2018)  
 Disability Studies Interest Group Co-Chair (2014-2017)  
 Feminist Disability Studies Book Award Committee (2017)  
 2010- 2016 Society for Disability Studies  
 Executive Board, Secretary (2013-2016)  
 Board of Directors, Member (2011-2016)  
 People of Color Caucus Liaison (2011-2016)  
 Conference Program Committee Co-Chair (2012-2013)  
 Student Caucus Chair (2010-2012)  
 Various Ad-hoc Reviewer for *Frontiers*, *Journal of Medical Humanities*,  
*Journal of Sexualities*, *PMLA*, *Feminist Studies*, *Gender & Society*,  
*Canadian Journal of Disability Studies*, and *African American  
 Review*

### **Community**

July 2019-Present Board Member, Freedom, Inc., Madison, WI.  
 July 2018-Present Community Pride Coalition, Member, Madison, WI.  
 June 2019 Disability Justice Political Education Workshop Facilitator, Freedom  
 Inc., Madison, WI.  
 October 2018 Racial Justice Summit, Workshop Organizer and Presenter, YWCA,  
 Madison, WI.  
 August 2018 "Imagining Inclusive Futures" Panel Presenter and Organizer,  
 WakandaCon, Chicago, IL.  
 May 2018 "Doing Justice To The Archive: The Octavia E. Butler Papers,"  
 WisCon 42, Madison, WI.  
 May 2018 "Author Meets Critics: Sami Schalk's *Bodyminds Reimagined:  
 (Dis)ability, Race and Gender in Black Women's Speculative  
 Fiction*," WisCon 42, Madison, WI.  
 November 2015 "Non-Apparent Disabilities Awareness Workshop," Facilitator, Pride

April 2015                      Center of the Capital Region Youth Group, Albany, NY  
  “*Transparent* Screening and Discussion,” Panelist, Rensselaer  
  Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS**

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2015-Present	Modern Language Association
2014-Present	American Studies Association
2011-Present	National Women’s Studies Association
2008-Present	Society for Disability Studies