


# DIÁLOGOS VIRTUALES

A Lecture-Discussion Series on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & the Global Dimensions of Education

## COMBATING ABLEISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> • 12:00 - 1:00 PST • [Zoom Registration](#) 

**Ableism** is discrimination in favor of able-bodied people. This panel presentation brings together disabled individuals to explore, highlight, and celebrate disability identities and offer perspectives on how ableism is perpetuated in our systems of higher education. Panelists include representatives from SDSU faculty who identify as disabled. Understanding ableism is critical to advancing educational equity within higher education. Our goal for the panel discussion is to amplify voices and encourage educators and providers of disability-related services to be conscious of ableism and aware of how ableism is systematically perpetuated in our institutions of higher education and disability service-delivery systems. Educators, service-providers, and all individuals interested in learning more about systematic ableism are encouraged to attend.



**Sonia Peterson, Ph.D. CRC LPCC** is an assistant professor in the SDSU College of Education Department of Administration, Rehabilitation & Postsecondary Education where she serves as director of the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program. Her research areas of interest include disability policy, recovery-oriented mental health services, and evidence-based vocational counseling interventions for individuals with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders. She currently serves as President of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association division of the American Counseling Association, Editor-in-Chief of *Rehabilitation Professional*, and is an active member of the LGBTQ+ recovery community.



**Toni Saia, Ph.D., C.R.C., L.A.C.** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Administration, Rehabilitation, and Postsecondary Education (ARPE) at San Diego State University. She is a disabled woman with a deep commitment to social justice, inclusion, and equity for all. Her professional work history has involved advocating for a progressive understanding of disability within the applied fields. In 2019, she graduated from the University of Arizona with a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision. Her dissertation focused on the role of disability cultural centers in higher education, one of the only studies on this topic.



**Joseph Stramondo, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at San Diego State University. Professor Stramondo's philosophical interests focus primarily on the intersection of philosophy of disability and bioethics. More specifically, he has written more than twenty scholarly articles and book chapters on topics ranging from informed consent procedures to reproductive ethics to assistive neurotechnology. His current research is devoted to developing two book manuscripts. The first is under contract with Routledge and will address the ways in which the field of bioethics fails to address the moral salience of the social categories of gender, race, disability, and sexuality. The second will offer a systematic, if limited, defense of the permissibility of using reproductive technology to choose to have a disabled child. When Dr Stramondo isn't working, you will find him spending time with his partner, two kids, and their canine companion 'Odysseus.'