

**Kristen Chmielewski, PhD, CTRS**  
**Western Washington University**  
Assistant Professor of Recreation Management and Leadership  
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## Education

*University of Iowa*, Iowa City, IA August 2019  
PhD in Educational Policy and Leadership Studies  
Cognate area: Disability in the history of U.S. education  
Dissertation: “In Any Way Physically or Mentally Unfit to Teach”: City Teachers and Disability, 1930-1970

*University of Iowa*, Iowa City, IA August 2013  
Master of Arts in Leisure Studies  
Concentration: Therapeutic Recreation  
Thesis: “Silver Screen Slashers and Psychopaths: Schizophrenia in Recent Film”

*Knox College*, Galesburg, IL June 2010  
Bachelor of Arts in English/Creative Writing  
Minors: Theatre and Composition/Rhetoric

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## Teaching Experience

*Western Washington University*, Bellingham, WA  
• **Assistant Professor** September 2019—present

- Foundations of Recreation and Leisure
- Recreation Programming
- Therapeutic Recreation Program Design
- Therapeutic Recreation Trends and Issues
- Inclusive Recreation Leadership
- Leisure and Society
- Professional Preparation

*University of Iowa*, Iowa City, IA  
• **Instructor** August 2014—May 2017

- Human Relations for the Classroom Teacher

• **Teaching Assistant** August 2011—August 2013

- Leisure in Contemporary Society
- Assessment and Evaluation in Therapeutic Recreation
- Concepts and Issues in Therapeutic Recreation: Advancement of the Profession

*Kirkwood Community College*, Cedar Rapids, IA  
• **Adjunct Instructor** July 2016—August 2018

- Taught English Language Acquisition classes on grammar and writing

- Designed and taught a college preparatory course for international students in the Community College Initiative Program
  - Designed and taught an online Culture and Conversation class for junior high and high school students in Lavras, Brazil
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## **Selected Fellowships, Assistantships, and Awards**

- Eggertsen Award, History of Education Society: November 2020
  - Iowa Academy of Education Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, Iowa Academy of Education: October 2020
  - Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship, University of Iowa: Spring 2019
  - Research featured in the University of Iowa's Dare to Discover Campaign: Spring 2019
  - Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Award, University of Iowa: 2017
  - Graduate College Summer Research Fellowship, University of Iowa: 2017
  - Early Career Researcher Conference Paper Award, International Standing Conference for the History of Education: August 2016
  - Jurgen Herbst Travel Award, History of Education Society: August 2016
  - Duffy Fellowship, University of Iowa: August 2015—May 2017
  - Research Assistant, University of Iowa: August 2014—May 2015; January 2017—Present
  - Post Baccalaureate Fellowship, Knox College: 2010—2011
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## **Publications**

- Dhingra, Neil, Joel Miller, and Kristen Chmielewski. "Crip Camp and Rethinking Disability in the Social Studies Classroom." *Social Education* 86, no. 3 (2022): 158-163.
  - Chmielewski, Kristen, Melissa H. D'Eloia, Jasmine M. Goodnow, Keith C. Russell, and Randall T. Burtz. "Building Community Virtually on the Fly." *SCHOLE: A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation Education* (2021): 1-2.
  - Chmielewski, Kristen. "The Professor Is the University: A First-Year Assistant Professor's Pandemic Reflections." *American Educational History Journal* (2021): 27-32.
  - Chmielewski, Kristen. "The Important Consideration, After All, Is Disability": Los Angeles' Physical Standards for Teachers, 1930—1970. *History of Education Quarterly* 60:4 (2020).
  - Chmielewski, Kristen. "Hopelessly Insane, Some Almost Maniacs": New York City's War on "Unfit" Teachers. *Paedagogica Historica* 54, no. 1-2 (2018): 169-183.
  - Mobily, Kenneth E., Alexa K. Smith, and Kristen Chmielewski. "Work, Retirement and Working Out: The Construction of Exercise and the Social World of Retired Women." *Annals of Leisure Research* 20, no. 3 (2017): 273-294.
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## Peer-Reviewed or Invited Presentations

- “The Means of Economic and Social Rehabilitation for the Less Fortunate in Society”: The “Disability Problem” in Higher Education Following the Rehabilitation Act: research paper presented at the History of Education Society, San Diego, California, November 2021.
- “A Sick Teacher Makes a Sick Child”: US City Teachers and Disability in the 1930s and 1940s: research paper presented at the Canadian History of Education Association’s 2021 Special Online Symposium, October 2021.
- Panelist on “HES Awards Session” at the History of Education Society’s virtual annual conference, November 2020
- Panelist on “HES After Dark: *Crip Camp*” at the History of Education Society’s virtual annual conference, November 2020
- “In Any Way Physically or Mentally Unfit to Teach”: research presentation at the Iowa Academy of Education’s virtual fall meeting, October 2020
- Fostering Inclusion During Unstructured Play Time: Strategies for Success: Paper presented at the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 2020
- Presenter and Participant at the Disability Studies and Action Collaborative Unconference, Bellingham, Washington, October 2019
- Panelist on “Early Career Scholars Roundtable: The Future of Critical Disability Studies” at the Misfitting: Disability Broadly Considered Symposium, in Iowa City, Iowa, April 2019
- “The Important Consideration, After All, Is Disability”: Los Angeles’ Physical Standards for Teachers, 1940—1980: Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association meeting in Toronto, Ontario, April 2019
- “Defects and Deviations from Normality”: New York City Teachers’ Health and Bodies in Licensing and Rating Examinations, 1900—1940: Paper presented at History of Education Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 2018
- History Matters: Using Research to Ground Difficult Discussions in Preservice Teachers’ Diversity Courses: Panelist at History of Education Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 2018
- “No Physically Handicapped Applicants Allowed”: Los Angeles Unified School District’s Physical Standards in Teachers’ Examinations, 1930—1960: Paper presented at Organization of Educational Historians, Chicago, Illinois, October 2018
- “One of the Greatest Problems of Our Educational Program:” Scientific Studies on Teacher Mental Health and Maladjustment: Paper presented at History of Education Society, Little Rock, Arkansas, November 2017
- “A Growth of Sick Teachers Embedded in the Heart of the School System”: The Role of *The New York Times* in Shaping the Discourse on “Unfit” Teachers in the 1920s-1940s: Paper presented at History of Education Society, Providence, Rhode Island, November 2016
- “Hopelessly Insane, Some Almost Maniacs:” New York City’s War on “Unfit” Teachers: Paper presented at International Standing Conference for the History of Education, Chicago, Illinois, August 2016

- “Privilege and Pre-service Teachers: Reflections on How Instructors’ Master Statuses Influence Discussions on Difference” —Paper co-presented at the College of Education Graduate Student Conference, Champaign, Illinois, March 2016
- “Disability in the Media” —Guest lecturer, Introduction to Disability Studies, University of Iowa, November 20, 2014 and November 10, 2015
- “Model Behavior” —Paper co-presented at the Iowa Therapeutic Recreation Association Conference, Cedar Falls, Iowa, April 2013
- Confined Quarters: Medical Education’s Expansion Under Social-Spatial Constraints: Chair and discussant at History of Education Society, Little Rock, Arkansas, November 2017

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## Academic and Professional Service

- WWU Senate Library Committee: 2022-present
- RML Social Media Coordinator: 2022-present
- WWU Social Media Committee: 2022-present
- Disability History Association Outstanding Book Award Committee: 2021
- Disability Studies Steering Committee, Western Washington University: December 2019—present
- Institute for Critical Disability Studies Events Subcommittee Chair: December 2019—present
- Best Buddies Faculty Advisor, Western Washington University: October 2019—present
- *American Historical Review*, manuscript reviewer: 2019—present
- University of Iowa Disability Studies Steering Committee: Graduate Student Member: April 2015—August 2019
- History of Education Society conference proposal reviewer: 2018—present
- History of Education Society Graduate Student Committee: January 2017—January 2019
  - Chair: 2018
- History of Education Society Nominating Committee: January 2018

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**Professional Organization Membership:** American Therapeutic Recreation Association, Disability History Association, Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, History of Education Society, International Standing Conference for the History of Education, Washington Therapeutic Recreation Association

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## Selected Therapeutic Recreation Experience

*Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County*, Vernon Hills, IL

- **Recreation Specialist** August 2013—July 2014
  - Developed and oversaw all agency programming for adults and seniors
  - Coached Special Olympics basketball, bowling, bocce, and tennis
  - Directed theatre, fitness, musical, and social programs as well as special events

- Planned and coordinated the adult day program for individuals
- Collaborated with transition instructors to provide meaningful recreation experiences for students aging out of their programs

***Western DuPage Special Recreation Association***, Carol Stream, IL

- **Intern** May 2013—August 2013
  - Coordinated inclusion for park district programming
  - Edited training videos for the agency
  - Created full communication systems with Boardmaker for each day camp
  - Planned and led camp, bowling, swimming, cooking, social, overnight and special event programs

***Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association***, Crystal Lake, IL

- **Site Director and Counselor** June 2006—July 2012
  - Supervised and evaluated the staff and participants at Camp Rock
  - Planned daily large group activities, special events, and field trips
  - Assessed each camper's needs and interests to devise camper goals
  - Designed and implemented daily activities catered to achieving each camper's goals
  - Received intensive training and experience in working with children and teens with disabilities