

# NATHAN R. STENBERG

Washington, DC-Baltimore Area

[www.nathanrstenberg.com](http://www.nathanrstenberg.com)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **The Johns Hopkins University | Washington, DC-Baltimore Area**

Inaugural Director of Disability

2023 – Present

In this highly visible role, I spearhead the development and implementation of a comprehensive vision for disability across the University, focusing on actionable outcomes and extensive community engagement in the areas of disability-led research, policy, and innovation.

### **The Johns Hopkins Berman Institute on Bioethics | Baltimore Area**

Affiliate Faculty | Bioethics, Disability Law, Policy

2025 – Present

### **United States Senate | Washington, DC**

Disability & Aging Intern | Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

2021

Designed and successfully lobbied for an individualized internship to gain professional experience in federal disability policy. My portfolio included disability, health equity, and STEM policy.

### **Consultant & Public Speaker | Washington, DC**

Subject-Matter Expertise:

Disability Law & Policy, Education & Healthcare

2017 – Present

### **Actor, Filmmaker & Musician**

Independent Contractor

2009 – Present

## EDUCATION

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### University of Minnesota–Twin Cities | Minneapolis, MN

PhD, Performance Historiography 2023

**Subject-Matter Expertise:**

Bioethics, Biomedicine, Critical Disability Studies, Law, Performance Studies & Public Policy

**Awards:**

Honorable Mention (The first recipient from the Dept. of Theatre Arts)

Best Dissertation Competition | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

**Dissertation Title:**

“The Spectre of Institutionalization: Disability, Law, Performance, and Policy at the Pennhurst State School & Hospital and Pennhurst Asylum”

**Dissertation Committee:**

- Margaret L. Werry, PhD | Advisor | Performance Studies
- Michal Kobialka, PhD | Committee Chair | Theatre Historiography
- Sonja Kuflinec, PhD | Performance & Social Change
- Susanna L. Blumenthal, PhD, JD | Legal History; University of Minnesota Law School
- Susan Schweik, PhD | Critical Disability Studies, Law, & Performance Studies; University of California, Berkeley

### Princeton Seminary | Princeton, NJ

MDiv, Religion, Society & Ethics 2017

### Roberts Wesleyan University | Rochester, NY

BA, Music 2024

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

*The Spectre of Institutionalization: Deconstructing Disability, Care, Law, Policy, and Performance at Pennhurst* (Under Review with University of Michigan Press)

### Articles

#### Special Editions

“Why Disability History Matters,” *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*. (June 14, 2022.)

### Blogs

#### Peer Reviewed

Henry J. Kennedy and Nathan R. Stenberg, “Join Us In a Dream: A National Museum of Disability History & Culture,” *History @ Work, National Council on Public History* (Summer 2022)

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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### Awards

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| 1. Aaron and Anna Beek Graduate Student Teaching Award<br>Student Nominated   University of Minnesota   Minneapolis, MN | January 2020 |
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### External Fellowships

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| 1. The Kennedy Public Policy Fellowship<br>The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation   Washington, DC | Finalist |
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### Internal Fellowships

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| 1. GAGE Diversity Fellowship (\$43,000)<br>Department of Theatre Arts & Dance   University of Minnesota   Minneapolis, MN               | 2022 – 2023 |
| 2. Beverly & Richard Fink Summer Research Fellowship (\$4,000)<br>The Graduate School   University of Minnesota   Minneapolis, MN       | Summer 2022 |
| 3. Leadership in Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Fellowship (\$51,000)<br>The Graduate School   University of Minnesota   Minneapolis, MN | 2021 – 2022 |

4. Kenneth L. Graham Graduate Theatre Fellowship (\$1,000) 2021 – 2022  
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
5. Erickson Graduate Fellowship in Law & History (\$4,500) Summer 2021  
The Program in Law & History | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
6. Research Travel Grant (\$500) October 2020  
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
7. William F. Stout Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship (\$43,000) 2020 – 2021  
The Graduate School | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
8. Frank M. Rarig Graduate Theatre Fellowship (\$2,000) 2020 – 2021  
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
9. Beverly & Richard Fink Summer Research Fellowship (\$4,000) Summer 2020  
The Graduate School | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
10. Research Travel Grant (\$500) October 2019  
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
11. Kenneth L. Graham Graduate Theatre Fellowship (\$1,200) 2019 – 2020  
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
12. Beverly & Richard Fink Summer Research Fellowship (\$4,000) Summer 2019  
The Graduate School | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
13. Kenneth L. Graham Graduate Theatre Fellowship (\$1,000) 2018 – 2019  
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
14. Conference Travel Grant (\$500) August 2019  
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
15. Beverly & Richard Fink Summer Research Fellowship (\$4,000) Summer 2018  
The Graduate School | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
16. Diversity of Views & Experiences Graduate Research Fellowship (\$43,000) 2017 – 2018  
The Graduate School | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
17. Graduate School Diversity Office Summer Institute Fellowship (\$4,000) Summer 2017  
The Graduate School | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

## Organization Grants

### Research

1. “Refusing Disability: Racial & Disability Justice  
Toward Another World” (\$56,000) 2021 – 2023  
Co-Writer & Workshop Team Member | University of Minnesota Critical Disability Studies  
Collaborative | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

### Artistic

1. Rainin Filmmakers with Disabilities Grant (\$10,000 & Artistic Residency) 2024 – 2025  
SFFilm | San Francisco, CA
2. Production Grant (\$75,000) 2024 – 2025  
Perspective Fund | New York, NY
3. JustFilms Grant (\$50,000) 2024 – 2026  
The Ford Foundation | New York, NY
4. Performance Arts Fund (\$10,000) 2024 – 2025  
Wyncote Foundation | Philadelphia, PA
5. Direct Access Film Fund (\$5,000) 2024 – 2025  
International Documentary Association | Los Angeles, CA
6. Community Story Telling Film Grant (\$10,000) 2024 – 2025  
Independence Public Media Foundation | Philadelphia, PA
7. Film Development Grant (\$20,000) 2023 – 2024  
Catapult Film Fund | San Francisco, CA

## INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

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1. “Executive Roundtable: Accessible Design” March 2025  
Invited Speaker | Steelcase Life Design | Washington, DC
2. “Bridging Divides in Disability Law” February 2025  
Invited Speaker | University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School | Philadelphia, PA
3. “Reframe, Collaborate, Innovate” November 2024  
Keynote Speaker | Carolyn Bowman Theatre Symposium | Roberts Wesleyan University |  
Rochester, NY

4. “Research Reimagined: Disability-Led Research Equity & Innovation in Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences” September 2024  
Invited Speaker | Dept. of Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences | Johns Hopkins Medicine | Baltimore, MD
5. “Leading the Charge: Strategizing Disability as a Source of Innovation in Higher Education” August 2024  
Invited Speaker | Johns Hopkins University | Washington, DC
6. “Annual Conference Welcome Remarks” July 2024  
Invited Speaker | Association on Disability & Higher Education | Baltimore, MD
7. “Crippin’ Physics: From Accessibility to Disability Innovation in STEMM” July 2024  
Invited Speaker | Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory | Laurel, MD
8. “Leading the Way: Advancing Disability Health Equity at Johns Hopkins & Beyond” June 2024  
Invited Speaker | Grand Rounds | Dept. of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation | Johns Hopkins Medicine | Baltimore, MD
9. “Navigating the Path to Inclusive Education: A Panel on Accessibility Higher Education” May 2024  
Panelist | Advanced Academic Programs | The Johns Hopkins University | Baltimore, MD
10. “Breaking the Bias: Academic Ableism in Higher Education” May 2024  
Diversity Leadership Institute | The Johns Hopkins University | Baltimore, MD
11. “Developmental Disability” April 2024  
Invited Speaker | Human Library Project | School for Advanced International Studies | The Johns Hopkins University | Washington, DC
12. “‘I Need a (Disabled) Doctor!’: A Case for More Disabled Medical Students” April 2024  
Panelist | School of Medicine | The Johns Hopkins University | Baltimore, MD
13. “‘Throw Down and Haunt!!!’: The Spectre of Disability at Pennhurst Asylum” March 2024  
Invited Lecturer | Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies | Princeton University | Princeton, NJ
14. “The Business of Disability & Accessibility” March 2024  
Invited Speaker | Carey School of Business | The Johns Hopkins University | Washington, DC
15. “Building Disability Culture in Higher Education” March 2024  
Invited Speaker | Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) | Virtual
16. “Disabled Diplomacy: Why a Disability Perspective in Policy & International Relations Matters” November 2023

- Speaker | School for Advanced International Studies | The Johns Hopkins University | Washington, DC
17. “Coming Out Crip: Critical Disability Studies & Disabled Identities” November 2022  
Invited Lecturer | The Blake School | Minneapolis, MN
  18. “Crippling Sustainability: Making Environmental Sustainability Accessible” June 2022  
Keynote Speaker & Facilitator | Center for Energy & Environment | Minneapolis, MN
  19. “Accessibility in Research” April 2022  
Speaker | College of Liberal Arts | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
  20. “Claiming Disability & Advocating for Universal Access” March 2022  
Speaker | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Center for Peace | Virtual
  21. “Disability, Advocacy & the Blake School” February 2022  
Keynote Speaker & Facilitator | The Blake School | Minneapolis, MN
  22. “Defining Defective in Commitment Trial Transcripts for the Pennhurst State School: Performance, Law & the Institutionalized Disabled Subject Legal History Workshop | Program in Law & History | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN” December 2021
  23. “The Power of Critique: Art Critique, Dis/ability & Grief” November 2021  
Invited Lecturer | Minneapolis College of Art & Design | Minneapolis, MN
  24. “Disability Decarceration: Roundtable with Liat Ben-Moshe” October 2021  
Speaker | Co-Hosted by the Institute for Advanced Study, [Minnesota Transform: A Just University for Just Futures](#), [Critical Disability Studies Collective](#), and University of Minnesota Law School | Minneapolis, MN
  25. “After Pennhurst: Disability, Rights, and the Future of Advocacy” June 2021  
Speaker | Pennhurst LLC | Spring City, PA
  26. “Forum on Issues of Disability and Theater Representation” June 2021  
Keynote Speaker & Facilitator | Full Circle Theatre Company | Minneapolis, MN
  27. “After Pennhurst: Disability Rights and the Future of Advocacy” May 2021  
Speaker | Spring-Ford Historical Society | Spring City, PA
  28. “Researching the History of Institutionalized People” April 2021  
Speaker | Heinz History Center | Pittsburgh, PA
  29. “Everyone is Welcome... but are We? Accessibility Ambassador’s Student Panel on Accessibility” April 2021  
Speaker | University of Minnesota Accessibility Ambassadors | Minneapolis, MN

30. “Filling the (Pre)Script(ion): Performance, Law & the Institutionalized Disabled Subject” December 2020  
Legal History Workshop | Program in Law & History | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
31. “Remembering Pennhurst Past & Forging Pennhurst Future” October 2020  
Speaker | Spring City City Council & Area Business Association | Spring City, PA
32. “Calling All Crips: Disability in the Digital Age” February 2020  
Global Avant-Gardes: Theatre, Music, and Modernity | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
33. “Casting Crips: Disability & Casting in United States Theatre & Film” February 2020  
Introduction to Theatre | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
34. “Pushing the Bounds of (Crip)Community: The Future of Independent Living Policies for Individuals with Disabilities” December 2019  
Keynote Speaker | Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living (SEMCIL) | Rochester, MN
35. “From Handicapped to Handi-Jacked: Why Adaptive Athletics Matter” May 2019  
Keynote Speaker | Adaptive Sports Expo | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
36. “Standing in Sheol: Exploring Grief & Disability through Performance” April 2019  
Speaker | Clara Bowman Theatre Symposium | Roberts Wesleyan College | Rochester, NY
37. “Acting Out: An Introduction to Critical Disability Studies & Theatre” September 2019  
Introduction to Theatre | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN
38. “Discussing *Disgraced*: Practical Play Analysis for the Working Actor” November 2018  
Dramatic Literature & Interpretation | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

## CONFERENCES

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### Paper Presentations

1. “Beyond Common Sense: Disability, Legal Perception, and the Question of Justice” May 2024  
Chair | Law, Culture & the Humanities (LCH) | Vancouver, CA
2. “Ghosts, Ghouls, and Grafters: Performance, the Specter of Litigation and the Absent Disabled Other at the Pennhurst Asylum” June 2023  
Chair | Law, Culture & the Humanities (LCH) | Toronto, CA



3. “Blurred Lines: Care as Violence and Kinesthetic Memory of Institutionalization”  
Royal Geographical Society’s Carceral Geography Working Group | Melbourne, Australia December 2022
4. “‘A Peculiar Case’: Disability, Performance & the Legal Deconstruction of Institutionalized Children’s Personhood”  
American Society for Legal History (ASLH) | Chicago, IL November 2022
5. “Social Death on the Schuylkill: Care, Policy, Disability & Performance”  
American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) | New Orleans, LA November 2022
6. “Dignity, Indignation, and Unsettling: Disability and Legal History”  
Law, Culture & the Humanities (LCH) | Atlanta, GA June 2022
7. “‘Unfit for Citizenship’: Performing Disabled Subjectivity at the Pennhurst Asylum”  
American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) | San Diego, CA October 2021
8. “Honoring a House of Horrors: Community, Commemoration, and the Specter of Disability at the Pennhurst Asylum”  
Society for Disability Studies (SDS) | Columbus, OH April 2021
9. “Disqualifying Disability: Law, Performance, & the Institutionalized Disabled Subject at the Pennhurst State School & Hospital”  
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN May 2020
10. “Defining Defective: Constructing Disabled Subjectivity at the Pennhurst State School & Hospital”  
Society for Disability Studies (SDS) | Columbus, OH April 2020
11. “Creating the SuperCrip: Disability, Gene Editing and the *imago Dei*”  
Exploring the Intersection of Theology and the Sciences | Northeastern Seminary | Rochester, NY October 2019
12. “Suspension Therapy: Reenacting Violence at the Pennhurst Asylum”  
Manitoba Ontario-Minnesota-Saskatchewan (MOMS) History of Medicine Conference | Minneapolis, MN September 2019
13. “The ‘Dis’abled Athlete as Revolutionary Body: Bodybuilding, Disability & Performance”  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) | Boston, MA August 2018

### Panel Moderator

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| 1. “Dangerous Subjectivities: Law and the Imputation of Incapacity”<br>American Society for Legal History (ASLH)   Chicago, IL  | November 2022 |
| 2. “Reframing Struggles for Rights & Justice: Research and Resources in Pennsylvania Disability History”<br>Pennsylvania Historical Association   University Park, PA (Virtual) | October 2021  |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Department of Theatre Arts & Dance | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

#### Section Instructor

Introduction to Theatre	Fall 2019
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#### Graduate Teaching Assistant

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| 1. Global Avant-Gardes  | Spring 2020 |
| 2. Senior Seminar   | Spring 2019 |
| 3. Middle Eastern Dramatic Literature: Strategic Interpretation | Fall 2018   |

#### Teaching Interests

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Studies</li> <li>• Critical Disability Studies</li> <li>• Public Policy &amp; Disability</li> <li>• Critical Theory &amp; Historiography</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law</li> <li>• History of Medicine</li> <li>• Bioethics, Biomedicine &amp; Biotechnology</li> </ul> |
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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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### Pedagogy Training

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| 1. Pedagogy & Professionalization<br>Department of Theatre Arts & Dance   University of Minnesota   Minneapolis, MN       | 2018 – 2019 |
| 2. Teaching Assistant Professional Development Program<br>The Graduate School   University of Minnesota   Minneapolis, MN | 2018 – 2019 |

## Academic Seminars & Working Groups

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| 1. Graduate Student Workshop<br>Association for the Study of Law, Culture & Humanities   Atlanta, GA | June 2022 |
| 2. “Rediscovering Integral Humanism”<br>Scala Foundation   Newport, RI                               | June 2019 |

## Professional Development

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| 1. National Disability Policy Seminar<br>The Arc of the United States   Washington, DC   | April 2024  |
| 2. Careers Beyond Academia for First-Gen Doctoral Students Workshop<br><a href="#">First-Gen Institute</a>   University of Minnesota   Minneapolis, MN | 2022 – 2023 |
| 3. National Disability Policy Seminar<br>The Arc of the United States   Washington, DC   | March 2022  |
| 4. Outstanding Leadership in Disability Law Symposium<br>TASH of the United States   Washington, DC  | July 2021   |
| 5. National Disability Policy Seminar<br>The Arc of the United States   Washington, DC   | April 2021  |

## SERVICE

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### Professional Service

The Johns Hopkins Hospital & Health System | Washington, DC-Baltimore-Florida  
**Disability Accessibility and Policy Workgroup**

Member 2023 – Present

Steering Committee for the Proposed National Museum of Disability History & Culture  
| Washington, DC

Member | Legislative Affairs Subcommittee 2019 – Present

Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance (PMPA) | Philadelphia, PA

Member | Board of Directors 2018 – Present

Chair of Research Committee 2020 – 2022

Creator & Supervisor of PMPA Fellowship Program

2020 – Present

## University Service

University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

### University of Minnesota Critical Disability Studies Collective

Interim Co-Chair

Summer 2021

Grant Writer & Co-Coordinator of Governance and Policy

2019 – Present

### First-Generation Graduate Student Advisory Committee

Member

This committee led to the creation of the University’s

2020 – 2021

“First-Gen Connect,” a group promoting academic and professional development for first-generation graduate students.

## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

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- American Council on Exercise (ACE) Certified Personal Trainer
- CPR/First Aid Certified

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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- American Association for Theatre Research (ASTR)
- American Society for Legal History (ASLH)
- Law, Culture, Humanities (LCH)
- Society for Disability Studies (SDS)