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## **EDUCATION**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**Ph.D.** Sociology, Expected May 2006 (A.B.D. March 2, 2005)

**M.S.W.** Health/Mental Health and Public Policy, 2001

**B.S.** Animal Health Sciences, 1981

## **DISSERTATION TITLE**

Effects of Electronic Benefit Transfer on People with Disabilities: A Qualitative Examination of a Social Control Construct

## **DISSERTATION SYNOPSIS**

I use ethnography and grounded theory to identify the effects of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) on people with disabilities and analyze how the policy is constructed to serve as a form of social control. My research examines how EBT affects life choices and opportunities for recipients.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE: Dr. Robert D. Benford, Chair; Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun; Dr. Jennifer L. Dunn; Dr. Michelle Miller; Dr. Elisabeth Reichert

## **INTERESTS AND SPECIALTIES**

Deviance, Qualitative Methods, Public Policy, Social Problems, Disability Studies  
Social Inequality with foci on Disability and Gender

## **PUBLICATIONS**

“Unjustly Treating People with Disabilities.” 2006. In Thio, Alex and Thomas C. Calhoun. *Readings in Deviant Behavior*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston: Allyn & Bacon Publishers. Pages 165-168.

“Growing From – and Remembering – My Roots: Sociology as Activism.” Forthcoming Fall 2005. In *Humanity and Society*, 29 (3).

“Electronic Benefit Transfer Redemption: An Interactive Exercise.” 2004. In *Syllabi and Instructional Materials for Teaching Sociology of Disabilities*, edited by Lynn Schlesinger and Diane E. Taub. Washington, D.C.: American Sociological Association.

“Back of the Bus? I Just Want ON the Bus!” 2004. In *The Newsletter of Sociologists for Women in Society*, edited by Ann Goetting, 17 (3).

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**CURRENT PROJECTS**

“Catch-22: An Ethnomethodological Discourse on Life with a Disability.”

**PROFESSIONAL AND POST-SECONDARY EXPERIENCE**

**Instructor, Department of Sociology, Southern Illinois University**

Teach a core course, “Men and Women in Contemporary Society,” to undergraduate students. 2003 - 2005

**Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Southern Illinois University**

Assisted Dr. Rob Benford and Dr. Michelle Miller in researching the death penalty in Illinois. 2002

**Intern: Public Policy Institute, The Honorable Paul Simon, Carbondale, IL:**

Organized and implemented access to dental service for low-income children in rural Southern Illinois. Activities included presentations to the Lt. Governor of Illinois, Illinois Department of Health, Illinois Rural Health Association. Wrote a seminal white paper, executive summary, and policy proposals that were widely disseminated and generated/resulted in funding, building, and staffing a low-income dental clinic. Outcome of efforts reaped a 1200% increase in the number of participating dentists and vastly improved access to care and treatment for the children. 1998 - 2001

**Visiting Scholar, Volunteer: National Centre for Human Rights, Melbourne, Australia**

Volunteered services for the mentally ill and immigrant refugee survivors of rape and torture. As Visiting Scholar, presented on Abuse of Women with Disabilities to Women with Disabilities Australia; facilitated preparation of disability rights legislation sponsored by Disabled Motorists Victoria, worked with Victoria Housing Board to improve and increase housing conditions for the mentally ill, and participated in Leadership and Mentoring Workshop. Summer 2000

**Advocate: Electronic Benefit Transfer**

Instrumental in petitioning for and forming the Illinois LINK Advocacy Committee to protect the rights of persons receiving electronic benefits, the only one of its kind in the nation. Serve as client representative; wrote letters, made phone calls, gathered materials, gave presentations to the Department of Human Services, and worked with the Poverty Law Project to generate and disseminate information about client rights and exploitive practices; persuaded federal senator to sponsor legislation to insure state to state interoperability of EBT, and which passed unanimously. 1995 – current.

**Researcher II, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

Reproductive Neuroendocrinology researcher; organized, maintained, and ran the laboratory; managed multiple grants, including National Institute of Health grants; supervised and taught all levels of students. Emphasis on teaching and performing technical, surgical and laboratory skills and research design and implementation. 1980-1991

**PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

2005. "Are Disabled Rights Equal Rights?" Association for Humanist Sociology, Tampa, Florida, October.
2003. "Catch 22: The Social Construction of Disability." Society for the Study of Social Problems, Atlanta, Georgia, August.
2003. "Disability as a Minority Qualifier." Presentation to Society for the Study of Social Problems Board, Atlanta, Georgia, August.
2003. "Electronic Benefit Transfer: A Marxist Theory of Class Deviance Analysis." American Sociological Society. Atlanta, Georgia, August.
2003. "Duality of Deviance: an Ethnomethodological Discourse of Life with a Disability." Midwest Sociological Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April. *Invited*
2002. "Benefits or Bulwark?: The New Face of Social Control." Association for Humanist Sociology, Madison, Wisconsin, October.
2002. "When Politicians Do Good: The Discursive Development of the Death Penalty Moratorium in Illinois." Association for Humanist Sociology, Madison, Wisconsin, October (With Michelle Miller).
2002. "Electronic Benefit Transfer as Social Control: Civil Rights Considerations." American Sociological Association, Chicago, Illinois, August.
- 2002 "Electronic Benefit Transfer as Social Control of the Elderly and Disabled." Midwest Sociological Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April.
2001. "A Different Voice for the Social Work Practitioner: Working at All Levels to Increase Access to Care." Illinois Rural Health and Social Work Conference, Mattoon, Illinois, April
2000. "Oral Health Program for Special Need and High Risk Populations: Integrating Unmet Medical/Dental Needs. A Model for Rural Based Oral Health Programs." National Institutes of Health Dental and Craniofacial Research. Washington, D.C. July
2000. "Oral health programs/services for special and high risk populations. Integrating unmet dental needs. A blueprint and model for rural based oral health programs." American Public Health Association, Boston, Massachusetts, November (with Elaine Jurkowski).
2000. "Assisted Living Facilities: Access, Program and Financing Options for Low-income Elderly and Disabled." American Public Health Association, Boston, Massachusetts.

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2000 “Community Planning Utilizing the Generalists Interventionist Model: Oral Health Programs for Special and High Risk Health Populations – Integrating Unmet Oral Health Needs.” American Public Health Association, Boston, Massachusetts.

2000. “A Different Voice for the Social Work Practitioner: Increasing Access to Dental Care” Illinois Rural Health and Social Work Conference, Mattoon, Illinois, April.

1999. “Dental Access for Rural Low Income Children.” Illinois Rural Health and Social Work Conference, Mattoon, Illinois, April.

### SCHOLARLY HONORS AND AWARDS

2005. Dissertation Research Award, Southern Illinois University

2002 – 2003. Graduate Dean’s Fellow, Southern Illinois University

2002. Illinois Outstanding Woman Scholar Award – Illinois Women in Government

2001. Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care Volunteer of the Year

2000. Emerging Leader Award -National Congress for Community Economic Development

2000. University Professional Women’s Association Outstanding Achievement Scholar

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICE

American Sociological Association, member since 2001

*2003: Presider, Disability and Social Life*

*2003: Disability Committee (Proxy)*

Association for Humanist Sociology, member since 2002

*2005: Finance Committee*

Graduate Representative to the Sociology Faculty

*2001*

Midwest Sociological Society, member since 2002

*2005: Session Organizer, Sociology of Disability*

*2005: Session Organizer, Using Sociology to Move Disability into the Mainstream*

*2002: Session Chair, Sociology of Disability*

National Association of Social Workers, member 1998 - 2002

*1998: Membership Chair*

Student Representative to College of Liberal Arts

*1999, 2000*

### HONOR SOCIETIES

Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, member since 2002

*2005: President, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Chapter*

*2004: President, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Chapter*

Outstanding Student Honor Society, member since 2001

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, member since 1999

Gamma Beta Phi Honor and Service Society, member since 1998

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**ACTIVIST AND ADVOCACY SERVICE**

American Civil Liberties Union, member since 2002  
*2004: President, Southern Illinois University Chapter*  
*2003: President, Southern Illinois University Chapter*  
Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, member since 2000  
*2002: President, Regional Representative*  
*2001: President, Regional Representative*  
Illinois LINK Advocacy Committee, member since 2000  
Jackson County Housing Authority Board, member since 2001  
Land of Lincoln Legal Services Client Council, member since 1996  
National Low-Income Housing Coalition, member since 1999  
Southern Illinois Poverty Council, member 1995-1996

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Good Samaritan Homeless Shelter  
*Literacy Coordinator for Resident Children*  
National Academies of Practice Task Force on Access to Care  
*White Paper: Rural Access to Care for Women with Disabilities*  
Women for Economic Security  
*Writer and editor for proposals and grants*  
Governor's Commission on the Status of Women

**REFERENCES**

**Robert D Benford**, Professor  
Department of Sociology, Mailcode 4524, Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
618-453-7610, 618-453-7610                      Email: [rbenford@siu.edu](mailto:rbenford@siu.edu)

**Thomas C. Calhoun**, Chair and Professor  
Department of Sociology, Mailcode 4524, Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
618-453-7629 or 7615 Fax 618-453-8926    E-mail: [calpro@siu.edu](mailto:calpro@siu.edu)

**Diane Taub**, Chair and Professor  
Department of Sociology, 2101 E Coliseum Blvd,  
Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499  
260-481-6842 or 6663 Fax: 260-481-0474    E-mail: [taubd@ipfw.edu](mailto:taubd@ipfw.edu)

**Jennifer Leigh Dunn**, Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology, Mailcode: 4524, Southern Illinois University  
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