

Mental Health and Vulnerable Populations in the Era of COVID-19

Call for Panel and Publication Proposals

Co-Sponsored by the AALS Sections on Mental Disability and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The AALS Sections on Mental Disability and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity invite original submissions for presentation at our co-sponsored panel, *Mental Health and Vulnerable Populations in the Era of COVID-19*, at the 2021 AALS Annual Meeting. The meeting is currently scheduled to take place in San Francisco, California from January 5-9, 2021.

The panel will explore the mental health of vulnerable populations with an emphasis on examining pre-existing, population-health harming legal and policy obstacles that COVID-19 national health crisis has exacerbated. Preference will be given to panelists who propose solutions to these problems aimed at populations that have already been—or likely will be—disproportionally affected by the crisis, including, but not limited to, indigenous people; individuals with substance use disorder; racial, ethnic, and gender minorities; individuals with disabilities; individuals who are incarcerated or otherwise institutionalized; and people who suffer homelessness and other social and economic barriers with co-morbid mental health conditions.

We encourage a wide variety of submissions for this call, which will serve several functions. First, a committee of individuals from both sponsoring sections will evaluate the proposals to select panelists for our co-sponsored AALS program. Second, the committee will select a broader number of abstracts for publication in the online companion to the *Arizona State Law Journal* (ASLJ). The ASLJ has generously agreed to publish to a dozen short essays this Fall culled from this Call as part of a special COVID-19 project. It has further agreed to hold a virtual roundtable conference this Fall in conjunction with the Academy for Justice at ASU College of Law for the authors to discuss their essays and exchange ideas as well as to facilitate podcast interviews with each author that the Journal will post online and highlight on social media. Additional information regarding the virtual roundtable and podcasts will be forthcoming.

Submission Information: To be consider for the co-sponsored AALS panel and publication in the online companion to the ASLJ this call, please send an abstract of no more than 500 words to Jennifer.Oliva@shu.edu no later than June 15, 2020. The Committee will select abstracts for AALS presentation and ASLJ publication no later than July 1, 2020. Final essays, which shall be limited to 3000-5000 words, are due to the ASLJ no later than August 10, 2020. The ASLJ intends to begin publishing the essays on a rolling basis online starting September 1, 2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please direct any questions or concerns to: Jennifer.Oliva@shu.edu.