

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017

BREAKOUT SESSION SEVEN: 2:20 P.M. - 3:35 P.M.

**SPECTACULAR ATLASES: PHOTOGRAPHY, BODILY TAXONOMIES,
AND DISABILITY JUSTICE | CENTENNIAL HALL C/D**

MODERATOR: Susan Schweik, UC Berkeley, Professor

Slipshod Spectacles: Disability, Testing, Photography and (Social) Media

Ryan Lee Cartwright, UC Davis, Assistant Professor of Disability Studies

[*The Fat Contortionist in an Archive of Rubes \(Vermont, 1941\)*](#)

Adria L. Imada, UC Irvine, Associate Professor of History

Visualizing Disabled Childhood and Maternity in a Leprosy Colony

SYNOPSIS: Photographs of people, Walter Benjamin noted in 1931, early on became tools in an “atlas of instruction,” teaching viewers how to arrange “all the strata, up to...the highest representatives of civilization and...down to imbeciles” (“A Short History of Photography”). A primary mode of encoding and enshrining the normative white body, photography was also prized technology in the toolkit of eugenic degeneration. The people who were subjects of these photographs were to be viewable and viewed, but they were never understood to be readers of the atlas. This panel will examine three such atlases, photographic archives in which disability, illness, body size, race, class, nation, sexuality, and gender were deployed to rank and sort people on spectacular display, for sometimes contradictory purposes, and with inevitably contested histories of reception. How do we crip or unbind the atlas of instruction? What new, resistant atlases for disability justice can we develop?