

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017

BREAKOUT SESSION SIX: 11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

WRITING DISABLED CHARACTERS: EXPERIENCES NAVIGATING THE DOS, THE DON'TS AND THE UNCHARTED TERRITORY | PATHWAYS

MODERATOR: Amy Hanreddy, Ph.D., Cal State University, Northridge, Assistant Professor

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS:

Lara Ameen, Screenwriter, Disability Advocate, and PhD student

Amy Brenneman, Actress, Producer, and activist

Lawrence Carter-Long, Authority on media representation of disability

Will Halby, Founder and Director of Zeno Mountain Farm

Scott Silveri, Television Writer/Producer

SYNOPSIS: As television, film, and streaming media narratives include increasingly varied characters with disabilities, complex and nuanced characterization relies heavily upon writers, directors, and producers. These critical players may be heavily influenced by their own experiences with disability. At best, disabled persons are at the table from the beginning and retain a clear voice in the process of developing characters. At worst, those who are defining disabled characters may be influenced by the common tropes of disability representations that rely upon stereotypes emphasizing pity, inspiration, or outsider status, among others. In this panel, we will hear from writers, producers, and others of the successes, challenges, and questions encountered as they engage in the process of writing disabled characters.