



Intersections of Ableism and Racism: Critical Perspectives Across Disciplines

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Researcher: An Interdisciplinary Journal

The Researcher: An Interdisciplinary Journal (ISSN 0271-5058) is a peer-reviewed journal published at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, the nation's 4th largest Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

This special issue of *The Researcher* focuses on the critical intersections of ableism and racism across the disciplines. In the current political climate, where diversity, equity, and inclusion programs face unprecedented challenges, it is crucial to examine how racism and ableism intertwine to create compounded forms of marginalization. Drawing from Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Disability Studies (DS), this issue explores the emerging framework of Dis/ability Critical Race Studies (DisCrit), which illuminates how racism reinforces ableism and ableism reinforces racism in our social structures, policies, and everyday practices.

This special issue seeks to challenge dominant narratives of normalcy and examine who decides what constitutes "normal" in our society. We invite scholars to explore how race and ability are socially constructed, how these constructions intersect with other identities, and how they shape lived experiences across various contexts. We encourage submissions from the humanities, social sciences, STEM, and professional fields that examine these critical intersections. We especially welcome submissions from scholars at HBCUs.

Possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

- The social construction of normalcy and its racial/ableist implications
- DisCrit perspectives in education, healthcare, and social services
- Interest convergence in disability rights and racial justice movements
- Intersectionality of race, disability, and other marginalized identities
- Historical and legal analyses of race and disability
- Aesthetic theory, ugly laws, and embodiment
- Cultural humility in mental health and rehabilitation counseling
- Crip Theory and its intersections with race
- Disability prevalence in Black/African American communities
- Whitewashing and ableism in curriculum and assessment
- Resistance movements challenging racism and ableism
- Critical perspectives on autism, intellectual disabilities, and race
- Feminist, Queer, and Crip Theory approaches to race and disability
- Policy implications of dismantling DEI programs for disabled communities of color

Please send a **250-word abstract** and a **75-word author bio** to editor.researcher@jsums.edu by **April 15, 2026**.

Completed article-length manuscripts will be due **September 15, 2026**. Manuscripts should be in English and should be between 6,000-8,000 words in length with documentation in APA or MLA format.

Submit manuscripts to the general editor at editor.researcher@jsums.edu.

All papers will be peer-reviewed in a double-blind peer-review process. Accepted papers will be published in the Winter 2026 issue and will be listed on the special issue webpage. Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. *The Researcher* is an open access bi-annual journal that is also indexed in EBSCO's Academic Search Complete: <http://www.jsums.edu/researcher/>