

# Law & Social Inquiry

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# Law & Social Inquiry

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*Legal Institutions, and Legal Processes*

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## *Law & Social Inquiry* 2003 Graduate Student Paper Competition

The editors of *Law & Social Inquiry* are pleased to announce a competition for the best journal-length paper in the field of socio-legal studies written by a graduate student. The winning paper will be published in *Law & Social Inquiry*, and the author will receive a cash prize of \$500. Submissions will be judged by the editorial board, and the winning submission will be internally reviewed for publication. The author must be a graduate student or law student at the time of submission. Entries should be received by March 1, 2003. The winner will be selected by May 1 and the prize will be awarded at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association.

*Law & Social Inquiry* publishes both empirical and theoretical studies of sociolegal processes from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Please send your best work to:

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## The 2002 LSI Graduate Student Paper Prize

Katharina Heyer's paper, "The ADA on the Road: Disability Rights in Germany," is an intellectually exciting, methodologically innovative paper. She persuasively argues that German disability activism is heavily influenced by the American disability rights movement. She explores how rights models inform not only the disability movement in Germany, but also the very construction of the category of "disability" itself.

Heyer uses ethnographic research methods to trace the origins of post-war German disability activism and maps the transformation in the movement from a welfare state model to a rights-oriented politicized model. One of the significant contributions of the work is the way she is able to specifically document when and how various German political activists came to adopt the rights-oriented model for the movement, providing a glimpse into the construction and transformation of legal consciousness generally and rights consciousness specifically.

Heyer's work illustrates how the German disability rights movement was constructed vis-à-vis the welfare state in which disability was conceived of as a personal shortcoming until recent successful activism that reconstructed disability as a civil rights issue. Heyer carefully explores what she calls the "reflexive relationship" between the legal frames in which rights are employed and rights to show how society, culture, and politics come together to construct and shape social movements.

The paper documents the movement's strategies, which span the judicial, legislative, and public fields. Heyer's visually arresting photographic images allow the reader to see first-hand how the movement used the media, and her analysis shows the overwhelming public receptiveness to the new framing of the movement in Germany. It is truly our pleasure to recognize this work and it is *Law & Social Inquiry's* great privilege to publish it.

—The Editors

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