

# ***Public Lecture: Americans with Disabilities and their Civil Rights: Past, Present, and Future***

Date & Time: 11 October 2018 (Thursday), 5:30pm –  
Seat Reservation: 7:30pm  
<https://goo.gl/forms/INA2BRird8jkUM3m2>  
or scan the QR code

Venue: Connie Fan Multi-media Conference Room  
(MMR),  
4/F Cheng Yick-chi Building  
City University of Hong Kong,  
83 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong,  
Kowloon

Language: English

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Registration Deadline:  
9 October 2018

**All are welcome**

## **Abstract:**

Prof. Blanck uses past history of American politics to investigate the evolution of disability rights as well as the present ambivalence toward disability law and policy in the United States. Since the 1970s to the present, U.S. policies directed at the rights of people with disabilities replaced a medical conception of disability, which had structured policy for most of the twentieth century. In the future, however, Americans have an important opportunity to consider a broader conception of disability human rights, as exemplified by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and as adopted by many countries. How Americans consider these emerging prospects will profoundly shape the lives of the next generation of children with disabilities, who, unlike any generation before them, have the opportunity to be part of the global community of citizens with and without disabilities.

## Biography:

Prof. Peter Blanck is the University Professor at Syracuse University, which is the highest faculty rank granted only to eight prior individuals in the history of the University. He is Chairman of the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), an institution dedicated to advancing the civic, economic, and social participation of people with disabilities, at Syracuse University.

Prof. Blanck holds appointments at the Syracuse University Colleges of Law, and Arts and Sciences, David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, School of Education, and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Prior to his appointment at Syracuse, Blanck was Kierscht Professor of Law and director of the Law, Health Policy, and Disability Center at the University of Iowa. He is also the Honorary Professor, Centre for Disability Law & Policy, at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He has received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Rochester, a Juris Doctorate from Stanford University, where he was President of the *Stanford Law Review*, and a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Harvard University.

Blanck has written articles and books on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related laws, and received grants to study disability law and policy. Blanck and Robin Malloy are editors of the Cambridge University Press series Disability Law and Policy.

Blanck is Chairman of the Global Universal Design Commission (GUDC), and President of Raising the Floor (RtF) USA. He is a former member of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, a former trustee of YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities Network, a former Senior Fellow of the Annenberg Washington Program, a former Fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, and has been a Mary Switzer Scholar. Prior to teaching, Blanck practiced law at the Washington D.C. firm Covington & Burling, and served as law clerk to the late Honorable Carl McGowan of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

