

**DEEPTI SAMANT**

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**EDUCATION**

- M.S. (2006)**                    **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Champaign, IL  
**Major:** *Rehabilitation Counseling*
- Focus: Disability Policy, Competitive Employment, Assistive Technology
  - Thesis: "Disabling capabilities: Investigating the real freedoms and employment opportunities offered by India's Persons with Disabilities Act"
- M.S. (2004)**                    **University of California, Irvine**, Irvine, CA  
**Major:** *Electrical and Computer Engineering*
- Thesis: "Wireless tracking in IEEE 802.11 based networks for use in Augmented Reality Systems"
- B.E. (2002)**                    **University of Mumbai**, VES Institute of Technology, Mumbai, India  
**Major:** *Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering*

**RESEARCH & PROFESIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Research Associate**        **Burton Blatt Institute**, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
(2006-present)                Research:
- Working on multiple research projects investigating the impact of corporate and organizational practices on the employment of people with disabilities, provision of and response to accommodations, and workplace barriers and facilitators.
  - As part of a case study consortium funded by the *US Department of Labor*, conducted mixed methods company case studies and developed a comprehensive and replicable framework to evaluate impact of corporate practices on employment of persons with disabilities; involved in research design, data collection, data analysis, interpretation, and authoring final project report.
  - Led a quantitative research project to identify the needs of independent living centers for the New York State Independent Living Council.
  - Conducted semi-structured interviews with government officials, emergency responders, and community based organizations, and performed qualitative analysis as a team member on a *US Department of Labor*-funded project to investigate emergency response for people with disabilities during Hurricane Katrina.

Project Coordination:

- Secretariat of the Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD) (hosted by BBI and funded through a contract with the World Bank)
  - Supporting the execution of GPDD's "Inclusive Poverty Reduction Strategies" project in Mozambique. Assisting, at a technical level, the GPDD Executive Director to build relationships with local stakeholders and manage consultants.
  - Supervising a team of five consultants working on GPDD's "Inclusive Disaster Management Study." Responsible for coordinating and reviewing work done by consultants geographically distributed over four countries (United States, India, Indonesia, and Bangladesh).
- Technology for Independence: Community Based Resource Center (TI-CBRC) project (funded by the *National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education*). Contributed to design of research methods trainings for community based organizations focusing on the application of assistive technology, conducted outreach, reviewed research proposals for training program.

Grant Writing: Contribute extensively towards research, literature review, program development, and proposal writing for public and private funds. Worked in teams to secure funding from the Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Editing: Managing Editor of the bi-weekly Disability, Law and Policy newsletter.

**Vocational  
Counseling Intern**  
(2006)

**Disability Resources and Educational Services, University of Illinois**

- Developed and conducted a presentation on disability disclosure in the employment process.
- Provided individual vocational counseling and career development advice.
- Organized informational sessions with prominent guest speakers on topics such as legal rights, career advancement, independent living concerns.

**Advisory Council  
Member**  
(2005-2006)

**Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (PACE Center for Independent Living), Urbana, IL**

- Contributed to identifying needs in the community, lack of resources, and barriers to independence for people with developmental disabilities.
- Developed outreach programs for advocacy skills, community awareness and information provision on resources available at the local and community level.

**Intern**  
(2005)

**Independent Living Research Utilization Program, Houston, TX**

- Extensively involved in grant writing, conducted website accessibility testing, supported conference presentations.
- Reviewed published research, news and general articles on disability, health, wellness, assistive technology and the ADA for dissemination on the website of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Health, Wellness, and Disability.

**Research Assistant**  
(2004-2005)

**Disability Research Institute, Champaign, IL**

- Helped in research dissemination by posting new research publications on the website.
- Tested website accessibility using WCAG and Section 508 guidelines, automated testing tools Bobby and The Wave, refreshable Braille display, screen reader JAWS and manual evaluation.
- Assisted in website administration, created a symposium companion brochure and presentation booklet using Adobe InDesign, developed newsletter content for a special edition dedicated to the 2005 DRI Symposium.

**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES & WHITE PAPERS**

- Samant, D.**, Soffer, M., Hernandez, B., Adya, M., Levy, J., Akinpelu, O., & Blanck, P. (2009, forthcoming). Corporate culture and employment of people with disabilities: The role of social workers and service provider organizations. *Journal of Social Work in Disability and Rehabilitation, Special Issue titled Addressing Employment Barriers for People with Severe Disabilities*.
- Schreuer, N., Myhill, W.N., **Samant, D.**, Aratan-Bergman, T., & Blanck, P. (2009, forthcoming). Workplace Accommodations: Ergonomist as Mediator in the Interactive Process. *Work*.
- Myhill, W.N., Cogburn, D.L., **Samant, D.**, Addom, B., & Blanck, P. (2008). Developing Accessible Cyberinfrastructure-Enabled Knowledge Communities in the National Disability Community: Theory, Practice, and Policy. *Assistive Technology, 20*(3), 157-174.
- Samant, D.** (2008, January-February). Conquering Solitude. *Combat Law, 7*(1).
- Blanck, P., Adya, M., Myhill, W.N., **Samant, D.**, & Chen, P. (2007). Employment of People with Disabilities: Twenty-five years back and ahead. *Law and Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice, 101-130*.
- Samant, D.**, Myhill, W.N., & Blanck, P. (2006). *Workplace accommodations: Improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities*, White Paper, National Council on Disability Solicitation No. 05-01 (on file with author).

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

- Myhill, W.N., **Samant, D.**, Klein, D., Kaplan, S., Reina, M.V., & Blanck, P. (2007). Distance education initiatives and their early 21st century role in the lives of people with disabilities. In E.P. Bailer

(Ed.), *Focus on Distance Education Developments* (pp. 1-38). Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

## PRESENTATIONS

- Blanck, P., Adya, M., & **Samant, D.** (2009). Corporate Culture & Workers with Disabilities. Paper presented at a panel on *A Snapshot of Corporate Culture at Work* at the 2009 Young Adult Institute/National Institute for People with Disabilities Conference, June 4-7, New York.
- Morris, M., Solstad Vedeler, J., **Samant, D.**, & Araten-Bergman, T. (2008). The voices of persons with disabilities following a large-scale disaster. Paper presented at the 2008 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Society for Disability Studies Conference, June 18-20, New York.
- Samant, D.** (2008). Lessons learned from emergency situations and reflections for Disability Studies. Paper presented at the 2008 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Society for Disability Studies Conference, June 18-20, New York.
- Samant, D.** (2008). Employment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Implications for legislation and systems. Paper presented at the 2008 Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities, April 14-15, 2008, Honolulu, HI.
- Samant, D.** & Reina, M.V. (2008). The paradigm shift in Legal Capacity: Conceptualization in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and impediments to implementation. Paper presented at the 2008 Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities, April 14-15, 2008, Honolulu, HI.
- Samant, D.** (2005). Telepsychiatry in rural areas: Policy barriers and legal challenges. Presented at a Rural Health Policy symposium titled Health Disparities: Implications for Services Delivery, Policy and Rural Areas, 2006, Urbana, IL.