



Center for Disability Studies

Defective by Definition: Race, Rehabilitation and the Making of the Body Politic in World War One America

Paul Lawrie

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**Friday
November 20
12:15 – 1:30
Parker 214**

****Light refreshments will be served***

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This paper examines how federal efforts to rehabilitate disabled African American veterans led to new forms of racial knowledge and racial labor control in postwar America. A key agent in this process was the Federal Board of Vocational Education (FBVE), which was charged with rehabilitating the citizen-soldier into the citizen-worker. FBVE efforts to salvage black veterans for work in the postwar labor force revealed a key attempt to frame social policy along biological lines, and to rationalize racial labor hierarchies as a constituent part of the republican body politic.

Lawrie received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto and was a Ontario Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto Scarborough. His first book *Forging a Fit and Laboring Race: The African American Worker in the Progressive Imagination* will be published with NYU Press in Spring 2016. He currently serves as chair of the Committee on Disability and Disability History, *Organization of American Historians* (OAH).

This event is cosponsored by the UB Center for Disability Studies, the Humanities Institute Disability Studies Research Workshop, and Joining Forces-UB