

Laura Lorenz Bio Summary

Laura is an educator and researcher with international experience communicating program, policy, and research impacts for global audiences. Her areas of expertise include qualitative research methods (visual methods in particular), community-based participatory research, lived experience with chronic conditions, cost-effectiveness of rehabilitation services, and translation of research findings to programming, policy, and continuing professional education. From 2012 to 2017 she was director of research and education at the nonprofit Supportive Living Inc., where she worked with 14 interdisciplinary colleagues to plan and implement a program of research on physical, cognitive, and social health of people with chronic brain injury residing in the community and develop an internship program hosting over 30 students per year. In 2015 Laura co-authored a policy brief on the continuum of care for severe brain injury in Massachusetts for the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum. In 2019 she co-authored a second issue brief for MHPF on a policy analysis of the cost-effectiveness of access to rehabilitation services after an acquired brain injury requiring hospitalization.

Since 2001, Laura has been using participatory visual methods (photovoice, photo-elicitation, graphic narratives) to engage youth, patients, and communities in picturing local problems and strengths and contributing their voices to public policy-making. While affiliate faculty at the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa she developed an online professional development course "Talking with Pictures: Photovoice." She now offers photovoice professional development training online and in-person through her small business PhotovoiceWorldwide LLC. Since January 2019, over 150 individuals have been trained, with continuing education credits approved for four clinical disciplines. Laura has developed and taught graduate and undergraduate courses (Qualitative Research Methods and Introduction to Social Policy). She mentors students and serves on dissertation committees.

Prior to her graduate studies, Laura worked over 20 years in international development as a photo-journalist, writer and editor for UNICEF, World Food Programme, CARE, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and others. She published dozens of articles on programs to encourage community partnerships, project replication, and behavior change—for example, to improve girls' access to education. For six years she was managing editor of *The Manager*, a quarterly continuing education publication for health program managers in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Laura has published in peer review journals in brain injury, continuing education for health professionals, disability, health, interprofessional care, managed care, research involvement and engagement, sociology, visual education, and visual studies. She has published two books: *Brain Injury Survivors: Narratives of Rehabilitation and Healing* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2010) and, as co-editor with Ron Berger, *Disability and Qualitative Inquiry: Methods for Rethinking an Ableist World* (Ashgate, 2015). She co-authored a chapter for a visual studies methods book by faculty at the University of Vienna (2021 publication date) and a chapter on visual ethnography in health and healthcare for the forthcoming *Handbook of Ethnography in Healthcare Research* to be published by Routledge in 2020.

Laura has a PhD in social policy (health policy/health services research) from Brandeis University (2008) and a Master of Education (instructional design/adult education) from the University of Massachusetts Boston (2001). She holds a BA in English Literature from Bowdoin College.