

**Active Shooter Drills: Considerations for Students with Disabilities, A Listening Session  
Series**  
*Speaker Biographical Sketches*

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**Elizabeth M. Ducy, Ph.D.** *Associate Professor, Sonoma State University*

Dr. Elizabeth Ducy is an associate professor of Special Education. Her professional interest focuses on equitable educational, emotional, and social access for children with disabilities and their families. Her research focuses on the disproportionate impact of disasters on students with disabilities as well as trauma and grief-responsive school-based approaches. Dr. Ducy has diversified professional experience within the field of disability, including as a special education teacher for students aged 3 to 15.

**Melissa A. Jackson, Ed.D.** *Assistant Professor, Hunter College*

Dr. Melissa Jackson, an Assistant Professor in the Early Childhood Development and Learning: Diverse Children and Families Graduate program in the Special Education Department at Hunter College, in New York City. Melissa is passionate about working with young children with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who work with them. She has worked in the field of Special Education and Applied Behavior Analysis for over 15 years as a lead teacher, early intervention supervisor, and program director. Melissa has also taught in higher education for 12 years preparing pre-service teachers for roles in early childhood special education settings and early intervention. Dr. Jackson's research interests are fueled by her experiences in early childhood special education settings and the higher education classroom. Her research interests include the relationship between practitioners' self-efficacy and the implementation of evidence-based supports provided to children with special needs, building evidence to teach essential emergency response skills to children with Autism, collaboration with families, social validity, and professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers. Her recent publications focus on lockdown drills and young children with autism, as well as supports for families with prenatal diagnoses. Melissa presents regularly at international and national conferences. She is also a Board Member of the New York State Association for Behavior Analysts and is currently serving as the Conference Chair. When she is not working on staff training, research, or various other projects she enjoys spending time with her son and husband at home in the Bronx, NY.

**Jennifer F. Samson, Ed.D.** *Associate Professor, Hunter College*

Dr. Samson is a tenured Associate Professor and bilingual school psychologist who oversees the Bilingual Special Education Program at Hunter College. She is faculty in the department of Special Education and doctoral program in Instructional Leadership and has had prior appointments as department chair and faculty associate at Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute. Her teaching, scholarship, and service is focused on cultivating teachers to better support culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse students from PreK-12 grade and beyond. In addition, she empowers leaders to develop knowledge, skills, and dispositions for justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI). Dr. Samson has published and presented studies on disproportionality in special education, reading interventions, and English language learners and her co-edited books include "Intersectionality in Education: Toward More Equitable Policy, Research, and Practice" and "Adolescent Literacy".

**Laura M. Stough, Ph.D.** *Professor Emerita, Texas A&M University*

Laura Stough's professional career has been spent addressing disparities in the provision of educational and social services for people with disabilities. Her current research investigates the psychological and social effects of disaster on individuals with disabilities. Dr. Stough serves as the Assistant Director of the Center on Disability and Development and is a Fellow at the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center at Texas A&M University. Dr. Stough directs Project REDD: Research and Evaluation on Disability and Disaster, which has investigated the impact of disasters, including Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Ike, and the Bastrop County Complex Wildfire, on individuals with disabilities. Project REDD also has conducted large scale evaluation studies of organizations that provide disaster services and produced disaster-related publications, workshops, and resources. She published "Disability and Disaster: Explorations and Exchanges" together with Dr. Ilan Kelman of University College London. The book is the first that focuses on disasters and disability and features narratives written by authors with disabilities across the globe, providing a critical analysis of assumptions about disaster vulnerability. Dr. Stough's research has been supported by research grants through the Centers for Disease Control, the Association for University Centers on Disability, the Department of Education, and the National Disability Rights Network. At the national level, Dr. Stough serves as the Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Special Interest Group for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. She has provided leadership to the State of Texas as Chair of the Disability Task Force for the Texas Division of Emergency Management, as well as through presentations and workshops on disaster and disability throughout Texas.