

# Finn Gardiner

+1 617-386-6980 | unexpectedly@me.com | finngardiner.com

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### LURIE INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY POLICY, THE HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

*Communications Specialist · January 2017 to May 2022*

- **Wrote, edited, and illustrated over 30 policy briefs about disability and health for grant-funded research projects**, including plain-language and Easy Read documents intended for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- **Managed the social-media presence for the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, the National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities, and the Community Living Policy Center**, including developing campaigns, writing content, approving colleagues' posts, and designing graphics
- **Edited the Institute's public output**—policy briefs, statements, social-media posts, reports, and other documents—so that it reflected our values and standards
- **Collaborated with internal and external writers to produce summaries, briefs, white papers, and reports** about laws and policies affecting people with disabilities
- **Wrote a 73-page style manual for the Institute**, including detailed information on standard English usage, inclusive language, and plain-language writing
- **Conducted professional workshops** on accessible writing, sensitivity in quantitative research, English usage, and inclusive language in disability and health research
- **Designed and updated logos** for the National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities, the National Center for Disability and Pregnancy Research, and the Community Living Policy Center

### AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK

*Policy Fellow · January 2015 to September 2019*

- **Created policy briefs, white papers, and accessible documents about various topics affecting people with disabilities**, including employment, higher education, housing, transportation, community living, and voting
- **Conducted and aggregated secondary policy research to create policy briefs, legislative testimonies, and white papers on topics relevant to disability advocates and researchers**, including state and federal telehealth policy and transition services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- **Worked with researchers from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Human Services Research Institute on a Participatory Action Research project** that gauged attitudes toward the creation of an integrated autism database in Massachusetts

### INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION & MASSACHUSETTS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NETWORK

*Barbara Wilensky Gopen Fellow · July 2015 to July 2016*

- **Created and managed a mentoring program from the ground up for 7 adults on the autism spectrum**, including a training curriculum, a resource guide, workshops, and one-on-one support with education, employment, and government services

### DELVALLE INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

*Program Assistant Intern · June 2013 – May 2014*

- **Fostered accessibility in course design**, including supplying ADA-compliant captioning for training videos
- **Created infographics and other media to help people prepare for emergencies**

**CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

*Peer Educator, Gender Diversity Project · February 2010 to May 2012*

- **Coordinated awareness events and sensitivity trainings for up to 60 people about transgender,**

**gender-variant, and genderqueer identity** within the academic environment

- **Created, compiled, and distributed educational materials for faculty, staff, and students to increase awareness of LGBT students’ needs,** and to find campus-wide and community resources

EDUCATION

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SCHOOL**

*Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Fellow, 2018-2019*

**HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY**

*Master of Public Policy, 2018 · Concentration in Children, Youth, and Families*

**TUFTS UNIVERSITY**

*Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, 2014*

**CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

*Associate of Arts in LGBT Studies and Associate of Science in Social and Behavioral Sciences, 2012*

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

- **COMMUNICATIONS** Website copywriting, including plain-language and Easy Read content; copyediting and developmental editing; familiarity with manuals such as *Garner’s Modern English Usage*, the *Copyeditor’s Handbook*, the *AP Stylebook*, and the *Chicago Manual of Style*, among others; Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube; graphic design, photo editing, and typography; content-management systems
- **TECHNICAL SKILLS** Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Pages, Keynote, Stata, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Canva, MailChimp, Acrobat DC, Nova, HTML, CSS
- **LANGUAGES** Reading and writing knowledge of French, Spanish, and German; intermediate English-to-Spanish translation skills

SELECTED PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, AND LECTURES

- Panelist, Autism in the Workplace, Neurodiversity Rising Conference (remote), September 2020
- Panelist, World Autism Awareness Day, United Nations, New York, NY, April 2019
- “Designing for a Neurodiverse World,” Panelist, MIT Communications Forum, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, March 2018.
- “A Citizen’s Jury to Develop Priorities in Autism Data Collection,” Co-Presenter, Early-Career Professionals Session, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Conference, Hartford, CT, June 2017
- Panelist, LGBTQ Disability Day, The White House, Washington, DC, June 2016
- “Healthcare Experiences of Autistic Adults,” Panelist, Autistic Adults and the CRPD, United Nations, New York, NY, June 2016