



# Sociology of Mental Health RC49 Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 1: Summer 2013

## Notes from the President

### **2nd ISA Forum, Buenos Aires**

In August 2012, RC49 committee members attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With a total of 8 sessions, topics ranged from involuntary psychiatric care to natural disasters and social dislocation. One session consisted of a panel of distinguished speakers from Brazil and the United States; another session addressed gender and mental health, which is a new focus for RC49.

The Forum was held at the University of Buenos Aires in the heart of Argentina's capital and largest city. In addition to convening sessions and meetings, our committee sponsored a fabulous dinner at a restaurant that specializes in local food. Members also ate together at cafes and restaurants around the campus on an informal basis. Photographs of the RC49 dinner appear on page 15 of this newsletter.

Buenos Aires is a fascinating, European-style city of 13 million people. I found people to be friendly, helpful, and often English-speaking. Psychoanalysis is a favorite pastime for city residents, so that meeting someone was likely to be followed with a lively discussion about psychoanalysis. Sociology was all around us, but the conversation was definitely more "ego" than "super ego." My most memorable time was traveling on the Metro, a city rail system that is fast, accessible, inexpensive (to me, at least) and so crowded that I feared being crushed to death as passengers rushed on and off at each stop. There was no lack of patronage on this public transit system!

### **Business Meeting –planning for Yokohama**

The RC49 meeting in Buenos Aires focused on planning sessions for the Yokohama meeting in 2014,



for which there will be nine RC49 sessions, a cross-listed session, and a business meeting. Two sessions will be on the sociology of mental health in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region; other topics relate to adolescents, the family, diagnostic systems, safety and risk, social change, crime, gender, social networks, and HIV/AIDS. Session organizers come from Japan, Germany, Denmark, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The sessions are listed on p. 11 of this newsletter and on the ISA webpage for RC49.

### **Membership**

The ISA Secretariat has new rules: RCs must have or exceed 46 members in order to maintain committee status. Lower numbers will result in being downgraded to a working committee. RC49 will require 50 members by 2014, which exceeds our present membership. Please pay your membership fees and encourage other sociologists to join as well.

### **Global Dialogue**

*Global Dialogue*, the ISA's online publication, is now in its third year. Potential contributors should send a note with their proposals to ISA president, Michael Burawoy ([michael.burawoy@isa-sociology.org](mailto:michael.burawoy@isa-sociology.org)). Articles should be short, newsworthy, and interesting.

### **Call for Scholarly Items**

Please consider submitting information about your published articles, grants, and other professional activity for publication in RC49 newsletters. My email address for items is: [blichten@ua.edu](mailto:blichten@ua.edu). RC49 members' work appears in *Research Briefs* on p.8.

### **This Newsletter**

The newsletter contains a history of RC49, a reprinted article from *Global Dialogue*, research briefs on committee members' work, a note from the ISA President about ISA restructuring, a list of sessions for the Yokohama meeting in 2014, photos from the Buenos Aires meeting in 2012, and details about RC49 officeholders.

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Many thanks to Gary Linn, past president and long-term member of RC49, who wrote this history about our committee for the June 2013 newsletter.



## A History of RC-49 Membership

**James G. Linn, Ph.D.**

*Optimal Solutions in Healthcare & International Development*

Email: [Jlinn@87844.aol.com](mailto:Jlinn@87844.aol.com)

For over 50 years, Research Committee No.49 (RC-49) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) has provided a structure for scholarly discourse and research collaboration at the international level in psychiatric sociology, social psychology, and more recently, in the broadly defined field of mental health and illness.

RC-49 was established in 1959 and its first President was **Professor Arnold Rose** of the University of Minnesota. At the time of RC-49's creation, the ISA was closely linked to its founding organization, UNESCO. In concert with the expressed desire for world peace in the post-war era, UNESCO in 1948, through its Social Science Department, initiated ISA to promote international research which would help establish a peaceful world order. It provided 90 percent of ISAs' budget and restricted membership to selected institutions. There was no individual membership until 1970.

Initially, under Professor Rose, who served as RC-49 President from 1959 until his untimely death in 1968, the Research Committee was named Psychiatric Sociology, which was later changed to Social Psychology in 1965. Professor Rose is best known for his studies of American race relations, especially his contribution to Gunnar Myrdal's classic "An American Dilemma :The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy".

Many other sociologists from a wide range of countries provided leadership and research contributions to RC-49 during its first two decades. Among these scholars were: Professors George Brown of the United Kingdom, Robert Castel of France, Felix Gower of the Netherlands, and Norman Bell of Canada.

- **George Brown's** studies of depression showed the role of social factors in causing depression. In his book, with Tiril Harris, "Social Origins of Depression", he established the importance of the stresses and strains of daily living in causing depression.
- **Robert Castel** wrote about the development of psychiatry in France in the 19th and 20th century. He is known for his critical work on psychoanalysis as practiced in France in the 1960s.
- **Felix Gower** wrote extensively on alienation and stress in industrialized societies. He also contributed to the development of general systems theory as it related to the measurement of the quality of life.
- **Norman Bell** initiated studies on mental health delivery systems in Canada. He also collaborated with Dr. Francoise Boudreau on "The Quebec Psychiatric System in Transition: A Case Study in Psycho-Politics."

During the 1980s the leadership of RC-49 expanded beyond Western Europe, Canada, and the United States. Professors Jerzy Krupinski of Australia, Karel Chromy of Czechoslovakia, Layi Erinoshu of Nigeria and Rolando Collado Ardon (from Mexico) joined the RC-49 Governing Board.

- **Jerzy Krupinski**, a medical doctor and epidemiologist is credited as an important early influence in the development of the sociology of health and medicine in Australia. In his research, he systematically mapped the social class and ethnic characteristics of psychiatric patients.

- **Carlos Collado Ardon** contributed to the development of cross cultural ethnomedical research in Latin America. He published widely on the folk concept of mental distress "susto" documenting its recorded incidence in many Latin American countries and analyzing its relationship with the western concepts of stress and depression.

Two other notable members of RC-49 in the 1980s were Professors Barbara and Bruce Dohrenwend from the U.S.

- **Barbara Dohrenwend** died early in the 1980s. She was known for her analysis of the various ways that stress and other variables cause psychiatric disorders and she wrote "Stressful Life Events: Their Nature and Their Effects".
- **Bruce Dohrenwend** has contributed to knowledge about relationships of types of psychiatric disorders and social positions defined by gender, ethnic/racial status and socioeconomic position. He has focused on how adversity associated with these social positions is related to psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

During the 1990s Professors Rumi Kato Price, U.S. and Tsunetsugu Munakata, Japan led RC-49 through a period of expanded mission and membership. RC-49 was renamed the Research Committee on Mental Health and Illness. Further, RC-49 did not endorse a particular definition of mental health and illness. It interpreted these terms in an inclusive way, ranging from serious psychiatric disorders to subjective feelings of well-being. With this expanded mission, the committee attracted a larger group of members from sociology, and other social sciences, and the healthcare and medical fields.

- **Rumi Kato Price** made many contributions to the study of substance abuse and dependency in the veteran and civilian communities.

- **Tsunetsugu Munakata** and his associates presented work on the outcomes of the Structured Association Technique (SAT)--a therapeutic intervention for mental problems.

Several other notable RC-49 Board members during its 4th decade were Professors Renata Kokanovic, Australia; Tanya Cassidy, Ireland; and Sam Friedman, U.S.

- **Renata Kokanovic** has completed qualitative work relating subjective experiences to societal political and cultural processes. She has also written about the emotional consequences of forced migration.
- **Tanya Cassidy** has applied the concept of ambivalence to the study of Irish drinking behavior. She has helped clinicians to understand why Ireland has one of the highest hospital admission rates for alcohol-related illnesses, while at the same time one of the highest percentages of abstainers in Europe.
- **Sam Friedman** has participated in many international collaborative projects with the MultiCenter Study of Drugs and HIV and with researchers in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands, Spain, Ukraine and other countries. He has also published on international HIV topics such as war and HIV; sociopolitical transitions and HIV; and drug users' organizations global role in the prevention of HIV.

In the new millennium, Professors James G. Linn, U.S., Reinhold Killian, Germany, and Bronwen Lichtenstein, U.S. have led RC-49 through a challenging period of expanded conference activity. ISA conferences and RC-49 presentations were organized for Ottawa,2004, Durban, 2006,Barcelona,2008,Gothenberg 2010, and Buenos Aires,2012. Regional RC-49 meetings were organized this year by Dr. Linn in Denver, with the Western Social Science Association, and, under the leadership of Professor Kjeld Høgsbro, at Aalborg University, Denmark. Bronwen Lichtenstein has proposed

nine RC-49 sessions for the upcoming ISA World Conference to be held in Yokohama main 2014.

- **Bronwen Lichtenstein** has made contributions in the areas of stigma, gender, health and crime, and the sociology of HIV/AIDS. In 2012 she published the book " *Social Stigma and Sexual Epidemics: Dangerous Dynamics.*"
- **Reinhold Kilian** has written on involuntary psychiatric treatment and the misuse of psychiatric institutions as instruments of political oppression. For the 2014 ISA World conference he is organizing a session on safety and mental health in contemporary societies.
- **J. Gary Linn**, for almost 25 years, has reported on the behavioral and mental health dimensions of HIV/AIDS as they relate to public health initiatives in Africa and Latin America. He will be speaking on "Multinational Inter-institutional Negotiation and Decision-Making in PEPFAR" at the Group Decision and Negotiation 2013 conference in Stockholm later this year.

In the new millennium, RC-49 has also benefited from the leadership and research presentations of several recent members including Professors Takashi Asakura, Japan; Breno Fontes, Brazil; Kjeld Høgsbro, Denmark; and Silvia Krumm, Germany.

- **Takashi Askura** has made contributions to the literature on the quality of working life among workers in Japan, and on the sequelae of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami among adolescents.
- **Breno Fontes** has done comparative research on mental health institutions in Brazil, Angola and Mozambique.
- **Kjeld Høgsbro** has contributed to the literature on social policy and self-help and the sociology of diagnostic systems.

- **Silvia Krumm** is an emerging scholar on mental health and the family. She published "Psychiatric Discourse on Desire for Children and Parenthood among People with Mental Illnesses."

As these scholars assume new roles in RC-49, the continuing success of the Research Committee will be assured.



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P U B L I S H I N G

**Contact: Stephanie Cavanagh**  
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P U B L I S H I N G

## Is US Sociology In Decline?

Bronwen Lichtenstein, University of Alabama

What is the state of sociology in the United States? In 1994, when I migrated from New Zealand to Alabama, USA, I heard that sociology was in decline. The University of Alabama's PhD program in sociology had recently been abolished because faculty members had been fighting among themselves and the administration had sought resolution by shutting it down. A minor in sociology was folded into the Department of Criminal Justice, where I am presently employed. Since then, talk of reconstituting a sociology department has gone nowhere and the sociology minor suffers from insufficient course offerings to maintain viability or to foster growth. The outlook for sociology is not bright in my part of the United States.

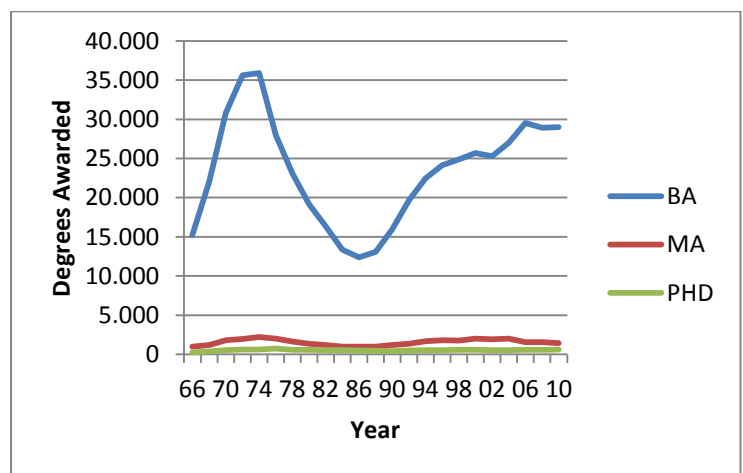
I did not consider what was happening in the larger sociological sphere until I read this sentence in Benjamin Ginsberg's (2011) book *The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why It Matters*: "Precisely this fate [closing down] has befallen a number of academically well regarded sociology programs around the nation in recent years as student interest in the field has all but disappeared" (104).

Ginsberg's broad claim about the demise of sociology led me to consult the American Sociological Association's (ASA) website for information on disciplinary trends at US colleges and universities. The data indicated that the number of baccalaureate and master's degrees almost doubled between 1990 and 2004. An ASA update for 2001 to 2007 showed continued growth at most universities and colleges (Spalter-Roth 2008). The number of freestanding sociology departments also increased, perhaps in response to an expanding student population.

The ASA reported three caveats to this recovery.

- First, doctoral degrees did not keep pace with these upward trends, and even declined in the early 2000s before staging a modest recovery.
- Second, concentrations in criminal justice gained ground at the expense of traditional sociology.
- Third, fewer tenure-track faculty members are being hired to teach these students. Part-time and full-time instructors are employed instead as universities seek to contain costs and maximize profits, a national trend that affects other disciplines as well (Wilson 2010).

The modestly optimistic picture in ASA reports can be contextualized within broader trends in US sociology. The figure indicates that the 1970s were a zenith for the discipline as sociology departments and programs were established or expanded nationally. However, by the 1980s, sociology appeared to fall off a cliff with enrollments and degrees declining so precipitously that many writers predicted the end of sociology (Summers 2003).



Source: Trends in Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Sociology: 1990-2004. American Sociological Association

Dunlap and Catton (1994: 11) attributed the doldrums of the 1980s to resurgent free market fundamentalism and, as a related matter, to the Reagan administration's "severe attacks" on the social sciences that led to waning student interest in sociology. The decline was so steep that sociology has yet to fully recover or even keep pace with population growth in the United States.

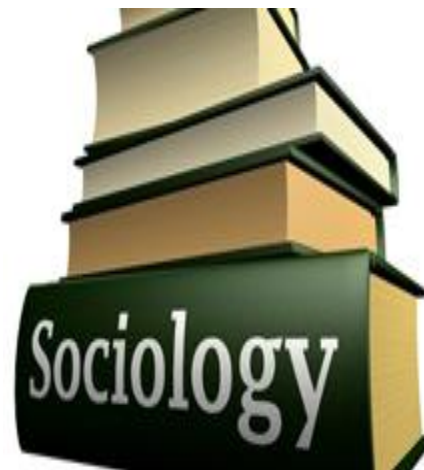
Ginsberg might be correct about the lack of interest in sociology but I suspect that something else is at work here— students are being encouraged to enroll in majors that will land them a job in a shaky recovery. Once again, there is a general trend toward professional rather than academic degrees, perhaps for economic, as opposed to ideological reasons. The first question that any student asks me about a career in sociology is "But what can I do with it?" I usually say, "Plenty" and explain why a sociology degree is useful. But given my own experience of teaching in a sociology program whose viability is doubtful, I have to wonder.

A few years ago, I surveyed 1,000 undergraduate Criminal Justice and Sociology students about whether or not a major in sociology should be offered at the University. The emphatic answer was yes. Perhaps the lack of interest is not so much on the part of students as from parents and influential others who believe that a degree in business, engineering, nursing, or teaching is more valuable and will lead to a well-paid job.

Either way, sociology is still viable in 2013. We may never achieve the heights of enrollment currently enjoyed by professional degree programs, but traditional sociology has its place in critical thinking, social analysis, and broader cultivation of a well-educated and thus employable citizenry. I am hopeful that trends in sociology will swing our way once an appreciation for academic education over strictly utilitarian skills finds a comeback in US society.

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Dr. Kjeld Høgsbro

## Research Highlight

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### Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Kjeld Høgsbro has just finished a research on social services for people with ADHD in Denmark. The research project has been running for two years, and involves four researchers from two research centres in Denmark, University of Aalborg, Department of Sociology and Social Work and KORA, The National Institute for Regional Governance Studies. The research project was financed by the Danish National Board of Social Services as an integrated part of the preparation of a national plan of action.

The research was conducted as an institutional ethnography of relations, services, and organizational forms. We focused on five general questions. The empirical data enabled us to make useful conclusions, which are summarized here.

The questions were:

1. On what understandings of the ADHD problem complex is society's support services predicated, and in what ways do these understandings shape and affect the efforts? Three areas were discussed: family-focused work, employment-focused work, and the rehabilitative efforts of the prison and probation service.

*- Results: Workers among the various systems had extremely diffuse understandings of the ADHD problem complex. Colleagues within the same institution had different understandings of the background of the problems and the relevance of the services, thus obstructing the coordination and prioritization of efforts.*

2. Is there a shared discourse concerning the ADHD problem complex to which professionals refer when they determine support services, or do local interpretations or experiences take over so that the purely diagnostic level seems to be irrelevant?

*- Results: There is no common discourse about ADHD among professionals and no shared understanding of the implications and relevance of the diagnosis. Understandings were influenced by popular discourse.*

3. To what extent are efforts drawn on international research and experience from other countries, and how should research-based knowledge be consolidated?

*- Results: Explicit references to international research in support of services were scarce. The implementation of foreign concepts is hindered by the absence of research-based reflection on contextual differences.*

4. To what extent are efforts for the support of families, education, labour market integration and the prevention of crime coordinated, and how should cross-system coordination be consolidated?

*- Results: We found little coordination of the support of families, education, labour market integration and crime prevention. Coordination is hindered by the absence of formal bodies, which would be able to work across sectors and jurisdictions.*

5. What opportunities and barriers characterize the services currently being offered to persons with ADHD in support of creating coherence in everyday life and personal development?

*- Results: With respect to opportunities and barriers in current efforts, the report establishes that the lack of coordination of services for people diagnosed with ADHD has the effect of demanding of them the very coordination and prioritization of which they are in need. Support is being offered too late, and clients are struggling against prejudice and stigmatization.*

## Research Briefs

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1. **Takashi Asakura**, Vice President of RC49, published two articles and one book in AY 2012-2013. The first article, "Psychological Distress and its Correlates of Japanese Brazilian Workers Residing in Japan" appeared in the *Bulletin of Tokyo Gakugei University*, Division of Arts and Sports Sciences, and the second article "Reliability and Validity of the Readiness Scale as Assessment Tool for Job Readiness among Newly Graduated Nurses" appeared in the Journal of Hyogo University of Health Sciences. His book, titled *Introduction to Health Research Methods for Yoga Teachers*, was published by Schoolpress.
2. **Jeremy Dixon** was awarded his doctoral dissertation in sociology, titled "Identity, Risk and Control: The Perceptions of Service Users Subject to 37/41 of the Mental Health Act 1983 toward Risk, Risk Assessment and Social Supervision" from the University of Cardiff, Wales, in 2013. He then became a lecturer in social work at The University of Bath, UK, and continues to practise as a mental health social worker. His most recent article is entitled "Mentally Disordered Offenders' views of 'their' risk assessment and management plans" was published in *Health Risk and Society* in December 2012.
3. **Reinhold Kilian** and co-authors published 8 articles in AY 2012-2013. The articles are "Association between Community Characteristics and Psychiatric Admissions in an Urban Area," in *Soc. Psychiatry Psychiatr. Epidemiol.*; "Relationships between Psychiatric Outpatient and Inpatient Care Provision in a Rural German Catchment Area" in *Journal of Hospital Administration*; "The Relationships between Employment, Clinical Status, and Psychiatric Hospitalisation in Patients with Schizophrenia Receiving either IPS or a Conventional Vocational Rehabilitation Programme" in *Soc. Psychiatry Psychiatr. Epidemiol.*; "Long-term Effects of Involuntary Hospitalization on Medication Adherence, Treatment Engagement and Perception of Coercion" in *Soc. Psychiatry Psychiatr. Epidemiol.*; "Supported Employment: Cost-Effectiveness across Six European sites" in *World Psychiatry*; "Cultural Diversity in Physical Diseases among Patients with Mental Illnesses" in *Aust. N Z J Psychiatry*; "Area Characteristics and Admission Rates of People with Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders in a German Rural Catchment Area" in *Epidemiol Psychiatr. Sci.*; and "What Promotes and Inhibits Cooperation in Mental Health Care across Disciplines, Services and Service Sectors?: A qualitative Study" in *Epidemiol Psychiatr. Sci.*
4. **Silvia Krumm** published several articles and book chapters, including with co-authors S. Wiegand-Grefe and T. Becker: "Mental health services for parents affected by mental illness. *Current Opinion in Psychiatry* 2013, 26(4): 362-8. She also receives on-going grant support for a qualitative study on the "Psychiatric discourse on desire for children and parenthood among mentally ill patients" (Study duration: 2011-2014).
5. **Bronwen Lichtenstein** was promoted to professor, effective August 2013. In AY 2012-2013, she published four peer-reviewed articles, two book chapters, and other scholarly items. The articles were "Internet Advice on HIV Disclosure in an Era of Criminalization" in the *International Public Health Journal*; "Beyond Abu Ghraib: The 2010 APA Ethics Standard 1.02 and Competency for Execution Evaluations" in *Ethics and Behavior*; "They Can Take Us Over Any Time We Want: Correctional Officers' Responses to Prison Crowding," in *The Prison Journal* (with Joseph Martin); and



“Old Ways, New Impacts: Race, Residential Patterns, and the Home Foreclosure Crisis in the American South” in *The Professional Geographer* (with Joe Weber) . She also received two grants for her work on HIV/AIDS, and one grant for the study of the social impact of the 2011 E-4 tornado on foreclosure activity in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

6. **Gary Linn** and co-authors T.T. Fako, K.A. Poku, D.R. Wilson, and N. Forcheh published three articles in 2012-2013. The articles were “The Implications of Changing Family Structure for Childbirth and Childbirth Education” in *International Journal of Childbirth Education*; “HIV/AIDS Care, Coping Strategies and Work Environmental Stress among Nurses in Botswana” in the *International Journal of Nursing and Midwifery*; and “Multinational Inter-Institutional Negotiation and Decision-Making in PEPFAR: Organizational Interaction in the Delivery of AIDS Treatment in Africa” in the Conference Proceedings of the Group Decision and Negotiation Meeting (GDN 2013), Stockholm University, Sweden. He also received a service commendation from Partners of the Americas, Washington, DC, for supporting and participating in 15 Youth Leader delegations from 6 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2004.

7. **Ariane Prohaska** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Criminal Justice and the University of Alabama. In AY 2012-2013 she published one article and had another article accepted for publication. The articles were “Deviant Men, Prostitution, and the Internet: A Qualitative Analysis of Men who Killed Prostitutes whom they Met Online” in *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences Vol. 7 (2)* (with Kelly Beckham) and “Feederism: Transgressive Behavior or Same Old Patriarchal Sex?” in the *International Journal of Social Science Research* (Forthcoming).

## Yokohama, Japan



Modern skyline



Old Yokohama

## Important Notice from Michael Burawoy, ISA President

### Restructuring the ISA - Open Letter to the ISA Membership

June 10, 2013



Dear Member:

In a few days the representatives of the Research Committees and National Associations (in good standing) will be asked to vote on organizational changes in the ISA that have been proposed by the ISA Executive Committee.

The proposed changes involve the re-composition of the program committee for World Congresses that will give wider representation to Research Committees and National Associations and enable future ISA Presidents to play a more direct role in shaping World Congress programs. If the proposals pass then they will take effect at the 2014 World Congress in Yokohama.

The details of the changes can be found at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/restructuring-of-the-isa/>. There you will also find the rationales for and against the changes as well as the modification in the ISA Statutes and By-laws that the changes will require. All 4 documents can be found in the three official languages of the ISA,

but the English version will govern in case of ambiguity.

We encourage you to read the materials and post your comments and suggestions on the blog and if you have questions I and others will try to answer them. Don't hesitate to get in touch with your representatives to express your views!

All changes in ISA Statutes and By-laws have to be approved by the Assembly of Councils, which is composed of the representatives of the Research Committees and National Associations (in good standing). They will have 90 days to register their vote.

Best wishes for an engaging and open discussion.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Burawoy**  
**ISA President**

## Yokohama, Japan, 2014



XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS  
OF SOCIOLOGY

横浜  
YOKOHAMA

FACING AN UNEQUAL WORLD:  
CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY



13-19 July 2014

## Research Committee on Mental Health and Illness, RC49

### Program Coordinator

- Bronwen LICHTENSTEIN, University of Alabama, USA, blichten@ua.edu

Number of allocated sessions including Business Meeting: 10.

### On-line abstracts submission

June 3, 2013 - September 30, 2013 24:00  
GMT (through the ISA website for RC49)

### Sessions:

#### 1. Building Networks and Sharing Mental Suffering

##### Session Organizer

Breno FONTES, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil,  
brenofontes@gmail.com

Session in English

We propose to organize a section to discuss questions about virtual social networks in relation to mental health and coping. These networks support interactions that are mediated by the worldwide computer network and are capable of structuring secondary (predominantly) and primary

(occasionally) sociabilities. Similarly to landform social networks, these Internet networks can mobilize resources and provide social support for their members.

This proposal invites abstracts that discuss the meaning and structure of these new social networks for people who seek advice and support for mental health. Examples include internet discussion groups for people with mental disorders, chat rooms, communication mediated by computers (Face Book, Orkut, and others), online therapy and more. These online mental health communities are an important vehicle for the creation of social support networks, the dissemination of information on practices of care, and the formation of public opinion about mental health.

#### 2. Gender and Mental Health

##### Session Organizers

Ariane PROHASKA, University of Alabama, USA, aprohaska@bama.ua.edu  
Bronwen LICHTENSTEIN, University of Alabama, USA, blichten@ua.edu

Session in English

Social science research indicates that mental health is a gendered process, with men and women experiencing gender-specific diagnoses for mental illness, or social environments that give rise to gender-specific expressions of mental health and wellbeing. While gender differences in relation to depression and anxiety have been well documented, research continues to uncover unique ways in which men and women have different experiences in relation to diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes. This proposal invites sociologists to submit 300-word abstracts on the role of gender in relation to mental health. These topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Explanations for gender differences in mental health outcomes
- Gender expectations and mental health
- Gender, sexuality, and biases in mental health diagnoses
- Intimate partner violence and mental health
- Resource access, gender, and mental health
- Gender and PTSD
- Masculinities and mental health

### **3. HIV/AIDS, Social Inequality, and Social Justice**

#### **Session Organizer**

James G. LINN, Optimal Solutions for Healthcare, USA, jlinn87844@aol.com

Session in English

Since 2006 there has been universal acceptance in both the developing and developed world that HIV treatment and related services, including mental health counseling and intervention, and stigma reduction, be available to all. Similarly, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized mental health as a basic human right and a principal objective of all healthcare systems. Despite wide spread agreement on these principles, and advances in HIV/AIDS and mental illness treatment, enormous disparities in access to healthcare services in these areas exist between the global south and the northern hemisphere.

This session invites abstracts on HIV and mental health including stigma, mental health service needs of HIV-positive people and their providers, and north/global south disparities in mental health services for persons who are infected with HIV. Research on programs seeking to improve social justice in these areas is especially welcome.

### **4. Mental Health and Adolescents**

#### **Session Organizer**

Takashi ASAKURA, Tokyo Gakugei University, Japan, asakurat@u-gakugei.ac.jp

Session in English

This session calls for a paper about mental health issues in the adolescent. Each year an estimated 20 per cent of adolescents experience a mental health problem. Today, suicide, self-harm behavior, bullying and violence, eating disorder, depression, loneliness, delinquency, and drug abuse are prevalent among adolescents not only in developed countries but also developing countries.

Mental health problems experienced in the adolescent can affect their mental health in the adulthood. However, their mental health needs are likely to be overlooked; therefore sufficient health services and/or social support are not available to the adolescent.

### **5. Mental Health and Crime**

#### **Session Organizer**

Jeremy DIXON, University of Bath, United Kingdom, J.Dixon2@bath.ac.uk

Session in English

Mental illness and offending may both be designated as deviant forms of behavior. Mentally disordered offenders pose a particular challenge to health, welfare and criminal justice services in terms of how their behavior should be categorized and managed. Offenders themselves are also faced with challenges of how they negotiate and manage their identities. We invite abstracts on any aspect of mental health

and crime from a broad range of sociological and inter-disciplinary perspectives. The following list is suggestive but not exhaustive:

- Early intervention and diversion from custody
- The organization and treatment of mentally disordered offenders in prison
- The organization and treatment of mentally disordered offenders in hospital settings
- Processes of risk assessment and management
- Offending identities
- The supervision and treatment of mentally disordered offenders in the community
- User/carer views on care, treatment and supervision
- Victim perspectives

## **6. Mental Health and the Family**

### **Session Organizer**

Silvia KRUMM, Ulm University, Germany,  
Silvia.krumm@bkh-guenzburg.de

### Session in English

The family is one of the most important social factors that contributed to mental health and illness. There are many interrelations between mental health/illness and the family from impact of parenthood on the course of illness through adverse effects of a mental illness to family members up to family as a buffer against and/or additional risk factor for illness as well as burden of care for relatives with mental health problems. In accordance with changing understanding of mental health the family has been assessed as more or less relevant for mental health treatment.

In this session we will focus on family and mental health/illness from a sociological perspective and we are glad to welcome the

submission of abstracts on theoretical and empirical papers that address the various links between mental health/illness and the family.

## **7. Safety and Mental Health in Contemporary Societies**

### **Session Organizer**

Reinhold KILIAN, Ulm University, Germany,  
Reinhold.kilian@uni-ulm.de

### Session in English

Safety is a crucial precondition of human life and the lack of safety in many areas of life has been identified as a major risk factor for the occurrence of mental disorders. Contemporary societies differ largely in the extent they provide basic safety with regard to the provision of food, water, accommodation, health care, protection from violence and constitutionality. However, even people who live in societies who guarantee all of these basics are confronted with increasing economic uncertainties, environmental hazards, international terrorism, and food scandals.

In this symposium an overview on the international research on relationships between several types of uncertainties and mental disorders as well as between safety and mental health should be provided. As contributions to this symposium, abstracts of theoretical papers as well as results of empirical studies are welcome.

## **8. Social Change and Mental Health in Asian Countries**

### **Session Organizers**

Yuko HIRANO, Nagasaki University, Japan,  
hirano@nagasaki-u.ac.jp

Takashi ASAKURA, Tokyo Gakugei University, Japan, asakurat@u-gakugei.ac.jp

## Latest Issue . . .

Session in English

This session calls for abstracts about the implication of social changes in Asian countries on mental health and illness. The populations of these countries have been exposed to social, economic, political changes due to industrialization, urbanization, population concentration, democratization, and globalization of market-oriented economy, as well as natural disasters. Topics could include any aspect of mental health in relation to these social changes, or in response to natural disasters that have occurred throughout Asia and Pacific Rim countries in recent years.

### 9. The Sociology of Diagnostic Systems and their Emerging Trends

#### Session Organizer

Kjeld HOGSBRO, Aalborg University, Denmark, kjeldh@socsci.aau.dk

Session in English

Changes in the diagnostic systems DSM and ICD are currently being negotiated, and gaps between science, practice and economic interest are being identified. Biological determinism, as well as the concept of chronic disease, is being challenged by new scientific developments. Some of the diagnostic categories have been dismissed from the diagnostic systems, and spectrum disorders and dimensional determinants seem to be more strongly supported by research and clinical experience.



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## RC 49 Dinner, Buenos Aires, August 2013



L-R: Mira Marcinow (Poland), Ariane Prohaska (USA), and Bronwen Lichtenstein (USA)



L-R: Reinhold Kilian (Germany) and Matt Mutchler (USA)



L-R, Gary Linn (USA), Reinhold Kilian (GER), Fatima Aves (POR), Maria Fansten (FRA), Matt Mutchler (USA), Bronwen Lichtenstein (USA), Kjeld Høgsbro (DEN), and Jeremy Dixon (UK)



Burial place of Eva Peron, Buenos Aires, Argentina



# Breno Fontes (Brazil), session organizer

Challenges in mental health policies



Speakers and audience

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blichten@ua.edu



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Takashi ASAKURAT  
asakurat@u-gakugei.ac.jp



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silvia.krumm@bkh-guenzburg.de



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