



International Sociological Association, RC15

## **NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH**

Number 46 April 2008

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## Letter from the President

This issue of the ISA RC 15 Newsletter focuses on our forthcoming gathering in Montreal held in conjunction with the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Medical Sociology Association. Montreal is an old and interesting city – European in many respects due to its strong French heritage – with a vibrant culture, good restaurants, and many enjoyable venues. The meeting will be held at McGill University which has an attractive campus and excellent facilities. The meeting itself promises to be a good one with interesting sessions and speakers, along with the participation of several scholars from our host country Canada, as well as many from France, and others from elsewhere in the world. This will be a good opportunity to get up-to-date on new developments in medical sociology in general and especially in Canada and France. As part of the meeting, RC 15 will host a buffet reception to which all participants are invited. If you have not made plans to come, you should do so now.

Preliminary plans are also under way for a second interim meeting in 2009 in Jaipur, India, and the 2010 ISA World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden. RC 15 is also sponsoring a session on the health crisis in the former socialist countries in Europe at the International Institute of Sociology meeting in Budapest on 26-30 June 2008 and a joint session with RC 13 (Sociology of Leisure) on health, leisure, and well-being at the World Forum on Sociology in Barcelona 3-6 September 2008. The latter is a new addition to the ISA Research Council meeting that allows those RCs without an interim meeting site to hold their meeting at that time and location.

Please do your best to actively support RC 15. I look forward to seeing all of you in Montreal!

Best regards

William C. Cockerham  
ISA RC15 President  
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CREDIT: McGill University

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON**  
**THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH (RC15)**  
**INTERIM MEETING**  
**&**  
**THE CANADIAN MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATION**  
**INAUGURAL MEETING**  
  
**“Making Connections for Health”**  
**McGill University, Montréal, Canada**  
**May 13-16, 2008**

<b>Session Overview</b>	
<b>Date: Wednesday, 14th May 2008</b>	
9:00am - 10:30am Strathcona M1	Plenary 1: International Session Chair: Dr. Ivy Lynn Bourgeault
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1080	Health communication on the Internet: Exploring online interactions and their impact on the patient/ health professional relationship (IS) Session Chair: Christine Thoer
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1100	Medical Services in transition
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1090	Putting the Prime into Primary Care Session Chair: Tania Marie Jenkins
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Poster session
2:00pm - 3:30pm Trottier 1090	Gender and Health Session Chair: Dr. Marie MÉNORET
2:00pm - 3:30pm Trottier 1100	Health workers
4:00pm - 5:30pm Trottier 1090	Complementary and alternative health care
4:00pm - 5:30pm Trottier 1100	Genetics/health technology/ethics & risk Session Chair: Isabelle Feroni Session Chair: Marcel CALVEZ
4:00pm - 5:30pm Trottier 1080	New Directions in Clinical Decision Making (CDM) (IS) Session Chair: Dr. Karen Lutfey

<b>Date: Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008</b>	
9:00am - 10:30am Trottier 1090	Health workers 2
9:00am - 10:30am Trottier 1080	Researching Women's Health for a Change (IS) Session Chair: Dr. Karen R. Grant
9:00am - 10:30am Trottier 1100	Social Networks and Health Session Chair: Dr. John Sandberg
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1090	Medicine and the Body Session Chair: Dr. Jennifer Ruth Fosket
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1080	Prevention, mobilization, treatment: is obesity a public health problem? Session Chair: Didier Torny
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1100	Social determinants of health/population health Session Chair: Dr. Ella Haley
2:00pm - 3:30pm Trottier 1090	Gender and Policy Session Chair: Dr. Ellen Kuhlmann
2:00pm - 3:30pm Trottier 1100	Health disparities: disentangling the pathways
2:00pm - 3:30pm Trottier 1090	International health issues
2:00pm - 3:30pm Trottier 1080	Scientific medicine(s) and unconventional health care facing cancer: contemporary reconfigurations (IS) Session Chair: Patrice Cohen Session Chair: Prof. Ilario Rossi
4:00pm - 5:30pm Trottier 1100	Aboriginal/ethnicity Session Chair: Dr. Giovanni Burgos
4:00pm - 5:30pm Trottier 1080	Health and Citizenship (IS) Session Chair: Dr. Jessica Polzer
4:00pm - 5:30pm Trottier 1090	Tourism/Immigration Session Chair: Dr. Dilek Cindoglu

<b>Date: Friday, 16th May 2008</b>	
9:00am - 10:30am Trottier 1080	Health inequalities and place: developing and testing a theoretical conception of neighbourhood (IS)
9:00am - 10:30am Trottier 1100	Mental health
9:00am - 10:30am Trottier 1090	Professions
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1080	Changing Realities: The Recent History of Medications (IS) Session Chair: Prof. Johanne Collin
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1100	Health services and policy research
11:00am - 12:30pm Trottier 1090	Lifecourse
2:00pm - 3:30pm Trottier 1100	Experiences of Health and Illness
2:00pm - 3:30pm Trottier 1080	La profession médicale: entre statut hégémonique et interdisciplinarité (IS) Session Chair: Raymond Hudon
4:00pm - 5:30pm	Plenary 2: Canada Session Chair: Prof. Amélie Quesnel-Vallee

**Please visit the website for further information:  
<http://www.conftool.com/rc15-cmsa2008/index.php?page=browseSessions>**

If you have questions, please email Tania Jenkins at [CMSA.RC15.2008@mcgill.ca](mailto:CMSA.RC15.2008@mcgill.ca).



First ISA Forum of Sociology  
**Sociological Research and Public Debate**  
Barcelona, Spain  
September 5 - 8, 2008

**Joint Session of ISA RC13 and RC15 "Leisure, Health and Wellbeing"**

**Program**

**Sunday, September 7, 2008: 09:00-11:00 RC, WG, TG Sessions**

**Session 8: Leisure, Health and Wellbeing**

Joint Session of RC 13 with ISA Research Committee on Sociology of Health (RC 15)

Co-Chairs: William C. Cockerham, University of Alabama-Birmingham, USA, wcocker@uab.edu Ellen Annandale, Leicester University, UK eca7@leicester.ac.uk and Francis Lobo, Edith Cowan University, Australia, f.lobo@ecu.edu.au

Presenters: Antti Honkanen, University of Applied Sciences, Finland, antti.honkanen@puv.fi  
*"Sex on the Beach? – Sex as Tourism Motivation for Finnish Higher Education Students"*

Sam Elkington, University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom, Sam.elkington@beds.ac.uk  
*"Finding Flow in Serious Leisure: the pathway to personal growth and well-being"*

Mohammad Taghi Sheykhi, Al-Zahra University, Tehran, mstshykhi@yahoo.com  
*"Young Families' Health and Well-being as Influenced by Environment and Social Health in Tehran: A Sociological Study of Quality of Life"*

Ada Cattaneo, Life-Health University St. Raphael Milan, Italy, ada@adacattaneo.com  
*"Hospitality. Are new hospitals transforming from "suffering temples" into "entertainment machines"?"*

Gernot Herzer, University of Bolzano, Italy, gherzer@unibz.it  
*"Risk behaviour and risk taking of adolescents in South Tyrol / Italy with regards to attitudes and behaviour in health, traffic and leisure time"*

Teus J. Kamphorst, Wageningen University, The Netherlands  
teus.kamphorst@wur.nl  
*"Leisure in the 'Feeling Good' Society"*

R.S. Goyal, Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur, India,  
rsgoyal@iihmr.org  
*"Leisure, Pleasure, Travel and HIV: A Case Study from India"*

Ricardo Ricci Uvinha and Sergio Lucio Torres, University of Sao Paulo, BRAZIL,  
uvinha@usp.br  
*"Perceptions of the implications of surfing in the quality of life of middle-aged surfers in the town of Santos, Brazil."*

Pragya Sharma, Agrawal College, Jaipur, India, pragyadilip@yahoo.co.in  
*"Health, Leisure and Well-Being"*

For further information please visit the conference website.



## RC15 Session planning

The exact number of sessions that RC15 will have at the Göteborg World Congress will depend on the number of paid up members in January 2010. However, based on past experience, we can expect to have about 16 sessions. We can also arrange joint sessions with other RCs and bid for extra Integrative sessions with several RCs.

Now is a good time to be thinking about themes for our sessions. So far the following have been suggested:

- Health behaviours
- Health policies and access to health care
- A bilingual English/French session (topic to be determined)
- Health inequalities/SES inequalities in health
- A joint session with RC32 (Women in Society)
- Comparative and transnational health care and policy
- A joint session with RC52 (Professional Groups)

We are also exploring the possibility of a round table session which would provide more opportunity for discussion.

These are simply the suggestions that have been received so far and I would welcome more ideas from members – if you want to present something on a topic that is not on this list, now is the time to tell me and I will try to make sure we have a programme that makes this possible!

I will be attending the ISA Forum in Barcelona in September 2008 where there will be an opportunity to meet with the organisers of other RC programs, so I would particularly welcome any ideas for joint sessions.

Ellen Annandale  
RC15 Vice-president  
and Program Organiser for 2010 World Congress  
[Eca7@le.ac.uk](mailto:Eca7@le.ac.uk)



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## Book announcements

### **Women's Health and Social Change**

*Ellen Annandale, Routledge, July 2008*

This book provides a comprehensive and persuasive analysis of the contemporary social relations of gender and women's health, arguing that the once all important sex/gender distinction fosters an undue separation between the social and the biological whereas it is their interaction and flexibility that is important in the production of health and illness. New theoretical tools are needed in a world where the meaning and lived experience of biological sex and of social gender, as well as the connections between them, are far more fluid. This book takes a step forward, outlining what an adequate feminist analysis of women's health might look like.

Pb: 978-0-415-19087-9: £21.99. Order a copy online

For more information visit: <http://www.routledgenursing.com/>

### **Crisis Preparedness. Asia and the Global Governance of Epidemics**

*Edited by Stella R. Quah, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University and Brookings Institution, 2007*

Using Asia as a case study this book discusses the inadequacies of current preventive and management approaches to deal with epidemics. The volume presents perspectives from the fields of social science, epidemiology, and public health, seeking to answer the pressing question: How can we prepare for the next global epidemic? The seven chapters of the book address this question in three stages: first, an introduction of the main features of the governance of epidemics, second, country case studies that illustrate the situation; and third, macro-level analyzes of two dimensions of governance. For details please visit the website: <http://www.brookings.edu/press/Books/2007/crisispreparedness.aspx>

### **Essays on Professions**

*Robert Dingwall, Ashgate Publications, 2008*

This volume represents selected essays on the profession that were written over the past 30 years. Ten essays are republished in their original form, each bearing the traces of the time and place it was written. In sum, they provide a fascinating account of an academic journey. They are introduced with a foreword from the author, who places the work in context and offers some thoughts about how the work might be used by scholars in developing the field, to evaluate, for example, the effects of the New Labour period on professional autonomy. For further details visit <http://www.ashgate.com>.

### **Governing Home Care. A Cross-National Comparison**

*Viola Burau, Hildegard Theobald and Robert H. Blank, Edgar Elwood, 2007*

Taking a comparative and thematic approach the book offers a comprehensive analysis of principal issues surrounding the governance of home care. The analysis systematically maps out governing arrangements in relation to formal and informal care, care workers and users of care across nine countries and explores the ways in which country specific contexts shape governing arrangements.

### **Care Work in Crisis: Reclaiming the Nordic Ethos of Care**

*Edited by Sirpa Wrede, Lea Henriksson, Håkon Høst, Stina Johansson and Betina Dybbroe, Studentlitteratur, Lund, forthcoming 2008*

The Nordic countries share a tradition of investing in the public provision of care. The everyday care services were aimed at securing the social rights of citizens, constituting a sphere for developing what was recognised as socially defined care. Recent reforms have disrupted this vision. A broad restructuring of welfare policies as well as educational policies has occurred, driven by economic and demographic constraints, claims for efficiency but also by debates concerning what level and style of competence are required for the provision of paid care. Building on case studies from four Nordic countries, this book discusses a broad range of aspects in what is here identified as a crisis in care work, including recruitment problems, the crisis of educational models and care work cultures.

### **The Politics of Healthcare in Britain**

*Stephen Harrison and Ruth McDonald, Sage, 2008*

This book provides a clear and considered overview of the politics of healthcare in Britain. Bringing together a wide range of material of both past events and recent developments, the chapters cover issues such as the politics of health professionalism, clinical knowledge and organisation and management. "This is an excellent textbook for which there is currently a niche in the market" (Michael Calnan).

### **Rethinking Professional Governance: International Directions in Healthcare**

*Edited by Ellen Kuhlmann and Mike Saks, Policy Press, 2008*

Focusing on the key themes of policy and workforce change, this edited collection looks across countries and professional groups, mapping out major trends. In bringing together research from a wide range of continental European countries as well as the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia this book highlights different arenas of governance, as well as the various players involved in the policy process. The public debate on professional governance – hitherto mainly limited to medical self-regulation – is expanded to a broad span of health care providers, from nurses and midwives to alternative therapists and health support workers. The book has three main parts: Part I: New directions in the governance of health care, Part II: Drivers and barriers to integration: health policies and professional development, Part III: Workforce dynamics: gender, migration and mobility. For further information visit <http://www.policypress.org.uk>.

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## Changes of Address

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If you change your email or postal address, please do not forget to let us know by contacting us by email or regular mail. Please contact:

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## Note from Newsletter Editor

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The next Newsletter No 47 is scheduled for October 2008.

Your notices and Call for Papers of interest for RC15 members are, as usual, very welcome and must be sent as a word file (no pdf files or email announcements!). Please send your information to the Newsletter Editor:

*Ellen Kuhlmann*  
*University of Bath*  
*E-mail: [e.c.kuhlmann@bath.ac.uk](mailto:e.c.kuhlmann@bath.ac.uk)*