



International Sociological Association, RC15

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH

Number 48 April 2009

Contents

Letter from the President of RC15	2
XVII ISA World Congress 2010, Session Planning	3
ISA RC15 Interim Meeting India	8
History of ISA RC15: Letter from Elianne Riska, past President	13
Activities for young sociologist	15
Death and dying: an emergent field in the Sociology of Health and Illness	16
Notices	17
Rejoin RC15 and new membership	19
Changes of Address	20
Note from Newsletter Editor	20

Letter from the President

I would like to remind all RC 15 (Health Sociology) members to make sure they have paid their dues for the current period. There is a strong possibility that we will be allocated additional sessions for the 2010 World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, if the few who have not yet renewed their memberships do so immediately.

This Newsletter provides more details about the **World Congress**, including the current list of RC 15 sessions. **The deadline for submitting abstracts is October 1, 2009.** Please keep this date in mind when making plans concerning your participation. We are looking forward to having a large number of attendees.

The next major event is our interim meeting in Jaipur, India, September 21-23, 2009. Jaipur is a major area for tourism in India. This date was selected in order to avoid conflicts with annual sociological meetings in North America and Europe in August-early September, the weather in India, and the availability of local facilities during the tourist season. The local organizer, Dr. Ishwar Modi, a member of the RC 15 Steering Committee, has arranged an excellent program that includes the opportunity to enjoy an old and traditional Indian city in an attractive setting. This meeting promises to be an interesting and unusual event. Further information is also included in this Newsletter.

With planning finalized for Jaipur, the attention of the RC 15 leadership is increasingly focused on planning for the Gothenburg World Congress to include sessions, a reception, business meeting, and election of new officers.

Best Wishes to All

William C. Cockerham
ISA RC15 President
E-mail: wcocker@uab.edu

XVII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY ON THE MOVE
LA SOCIOLOGIE EN MOUVEMENT
LA SOCIOLOGÍA EN MOVIMIENTO

11-17 JULY, 2010
GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN



RC15 Call for Abstracts

LIST OF SESSIONS AND SESSION ORGANISERS

RC15 Program Co-ordinator: Ellen Annandale, E-mail: eca7@le.ac.uk

Conference website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc15.htm>

1. The impact of stigma on health and access to healthcare

Cecilia Benoit, University of Victoria, Canada, E-mail: cbenoit@uvic.ca

Mikael Jansson, University of Victoria, Canada, E-mail: mjansson@uvic.ca

Research shows that stigma, the co-occurrence of labelling, stereotyping, discrimination and status loss, often operates as a master status overpowering other dimensions of self identity. Multiple stigmas may also intersect in individuals marginalized by race, ethnicity, class and gender, because of a physical or mental disability or association with drug use, HIV/AIDS or prostitution, among other discredited statuses. Stigmatization has been shown to be closely associated with access to social, economic and political power. This session will consider theoretical and empirical explanations of the negative impact of stigma on health and access to health services, as well as policy strategies to reduce these debilitating effects.

2. Sociological aspects of HIV and AIDS

Leah Gilbert, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa,

E-mail: Leah.Gilbert@wits.ac.za

In line with the World Congress theme 'Sociology on the move', this session will explore sociological contributions to the understanding of some of the social dimensions of HIV/AIDS. Papers covering various aspects of HIV/AIDS on a range of topics such as prevention, treatment, care and their impact on society would be welcome.

3. Health, illness and embodiment

Laura Hurd Clarke, University of British Columbia, Canada, E-mail: laura.hurd.clarke@ubc.ca

Papers that critically examine embodiment and the disciplining of the body in relation to health and illness are invited. Papers might address (but are not limited to) the role of technology, challenges to embodied identity, the negotiation of social norms such as healthism, and the lived experience of a particular disease or illness.

4. Cross cultural bioethics

Kristina Orfali, Columbia University, USA, E-mail: ko2145@columbia.edu

Raymond DeVries, University of Michigan, USA, E-mail: rdevries@umich.edu

Medical research and clinical care pose complex ethical issues for citizens in both the industrialized and the developing world. Varied economic, political, social, cultural and historical contexts shape the definitions and proposed solutions to these ethical problems. The broad theme of this session is the history, evolution, and social functions of bioethics work around the globe and across cultures.

5. Medications and new social logics

Noémia Lopes, Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde Egas Moniz, Portugal CIES/ISCTE, E-mail: noemia.lopes@iscte.pt

Jonathan Gabe, Royal Holloway, London University, UK, E-mail: j.gabe@rhul.ac.uk

Papers are welcomed which reflect upon the new social logic of the pharmacologisation of modern societies and the growing search for natural therapeutical products in relation to health. This includes both theoretical reflections on pharmacologisation as well as empirical papers on the nature of the social processes related to this new logic of health and body management in specific national and the international contexts.

6. Social class and health inequality

Ellen Annandale, University of Leicester, UK, E-mail: eca7@le.ac.uk

Given the wealth of research that now exists on the association of class and health it is appropriate to ask questions such as: how adequate are existing theoretical frameworks for the analysis of the class-health relationship? How useful has research been for tackling health inequalities in different national contexts? And how should research now move forward? Both theoretical and empirical (quantitative and qualitative) papers on this theme are welcomed.

7. Health behaviours

Jennie Kronenfeld, Arizona State University, USA, E-mail: jennie.kronenfeld@asu.edu

Papers that relate to many aspects of health behavior, including preventive health behaviors and behavior linked to utilization of the health care delivery system are appropriate. Papers could be data-oriented and examine social factors linked to positive or negative health

behaviors or relationships between social factors and use of health care services, or explore theoretical aspects of health behaviors.

8. Epidemics and pandemics

Robert Dingwall, University of Nottingham, UK, E-mail: Robert.dingwall@nottingham.ac.uk

Many national and international actors, both public and private, are reviewing their preparedness for the next influenza pandemic. Sociologists are involved in discussions about potential organizational, policy and ethical responses. This session is an opportunity to share ideas and experiences, and to consider what lessons may be learned from previous epidemics and pandemics.

9. Transformations of health policy

Viola Burau, Aarhus University, Denmark, E-mail: viola@ps.au.dk

Health policy across countries is subject to wide-ranging transformations, rooted in the modernisation of healthcare. Governance arrangements are emerging that go beyond the traditional health care state, including partnership working, marketisation and increasing managerial control. The session welcomes papers which examine transformations of health policy at international, national and local levels, especially from a comparative perspective.

10. Health workforce governance in the context of globalisation

Stephanie Short, University of Queensland, Australia, E-mail: s.short@sph.uq.edu.au

Health workforce governance brings together sociological interest in education, regulation and access to health care and secondly, crosses jurisdictions (with the workforce 'on the move'). This session offers a governance perspective to address these twin challenges. It will be of interest to scholars from source and recipient countries. I am particularly keen to address challenges that arise from the migration of the health workforce within and across jurisdictions, locally, nationally and internationally.

11. Contextes nationaux et développement des sociologies de la santé / National contexts and the development of sociologies of health

Isabelle Feroni, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), France, E-mail: isabelle.feroni@inserm.fr

Marcel Calvez, Université de Rennes 2, France, E-mail: marcel.calvez@univ-rennes2.fr

La sociologie de la santé s'est développée à la croisée de débats scientifiques à l'intérieur de la sociologie et de réalités institutionnelles relatives à la santé. Elle se différencie ainsi d'un pays à l'autre en fonction de contextes académiques et des questions sanitaires qui ont favorisé ses possibilités de développement. L'objectif de la session est de discuter de cette diversité des sociologies de la santé en s'intéressant aux paradigmes et aux concepts qui les structurent, et à leurs contextes nationaux de formation et de validation académique.

Sociology of health has developed at the intersection of scientific debates inside sociology and of institutional realities related to health. Therefore, it differs between countries according to academic contexts and to health issues that have favoured the possibilities of its development. The objective of the session is to discuss the diversity of the sociologies of health by focusing on paradigms and concepts and on the national contexts of their formation and academic validation.

12. The global impact of U.S medical sociology: for good or ill?

Invited panel session. Further details to be announced

[Joint sessions with other Research Committees](#)

13. Remaking the health professional workforce

Joint session of RC15 (Sociology of Health) and RC52 (Sociology of Professional Groups)

Ellen Kuhlmann RC15, University of Bath, UK, E-mail: e.c.kuhlmann@bath.ac.uk

Mike Saks RC52, University of Lincoln, UK, E-mail: msaks@lincoln.ac.uk

Papers are invited that explore the 'making' of a future health professional workforce based on political and organisational/managerial changes and dynamics arising 'bottom-up' from both the professional and professionalising workforce. These changes and dynamics may include, amongst others, new mobility and migration flows, changing gender arrangements and flexible employment patterns.

14. Women's health and health risks in an unequal world

Joint session of RC15 (Sociology of Health) and RC32 (Women in Society)

Elianne Riska RC15, University of Helsinki, Finland, E-mail: Elianne.riska@helsinki.fi

Alphia Possamai-Inesedy RC32, University of Western Sydney, Australia,

E-mail: alphia.possamai@uws.edu.au

This session will deal with the global conditions that influence the material conditions and the social definitions of women's health. The session will also include an examination of new public health policies on risk, responsibilities and implications for women in different parts of the world. A global perspective on these themes will illuminate the structural patterns that shape the health conditions for different groups of women.

15. Leisure: A Pathway to Health and Happiness

Joint session of RC13 (Sociology of Leisure) and RC15 (Sociology of Health)

Ishwar Modi RC13, India International Institute of Social Sciences,

E-mail: iiiss2005@yahoo.co.in

Ellen Annandale, University of Leicester, UK, E-mail: eca7@le.ac.uk

Papers are welcome which address the following themes. Leisure has formed an important element in the maintenance of physical and mental health and resulting happiness. Inversely it can be said that activities undertaken for the enhancement of physical and mental health generally fall under the overall rubric of 'leisure', since they do not directly contribute to material production. All cultures have had inbuilt spaces for such activities – be they in the form of games, sports, festival or carnivals. Traditional leisure forms may need to be revived and given new attention and new impetus. In order to maintain the happiness and health levels of society it may be worth examining governmental and non-governmental initiatives being taken in this field.

In addition: Business Meeting

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

- Deadline for Abstracts: **October 1st 2009**
- Abstracts should include a paper title and summary of the paper. The summary should be no more than 300 words. Please also provide the full names and contact details of all authors, along with the academic mailing address and contact email of the first author who will serve as the main contact person.
- A person can be a first author on only one submitted abstract to RC15
- Abstracts (as above) should be sent directly to the Session Organiser(s) by email.

Ellen Annandale, E-mail: eca7@le.ac.uk

RC15 Vice-president and Program Organiser for 2010 World Congress



**International Sociological Association
Research Committee on Sociology of Health (RC 15)
Mid-term Conference**



**Health for All: Opportunities and Challenges
Jaipur, India, September 21-23, 2009**

Call for Papers

The Mid-term Conference will be organized by Ishwar Modi, Member Steering Board, ISA RC 15. You are cordially invited to submit your abstracts/papers for this Conference. We encourage submission of papers on all topics relevant to the Sociology of Health and Health Care including, but not limited to:

1. Alternative Systems of Medicine
2. Fertility & Infertility
3. Geriatric Health
4. AIDS and STDs
5. Diseases of Lifestyle
6. Happiness in the afternoon / Leisure, Health and Wellbeing
7. Mental Health, Meditation and Yoga
8. Professional Ethics
9. Physically Challenged
10. Corporate Social Responsibility and Health
11. Historical Evolution of Health Care
12. Gender Related Discrimination and Health Care
13. Family and Social Support for Health Care
14. Health and Health Providers
15. Maternal & Infant Mortality / Emerging Trends in Morbidity and Mortality
16. Feticide and Infanticide
17. Gender Violence and Health
18. Socio-Cultural barriers to Contraception and Population Control
19. Reproductive Health and Adolescents
20. Environment and Health
21. Regulatory Mechanisms in Health Sector
22. Privatization and Corporatization of the Health Sector
23. Medical Tourism
24. NGOs and Health
25. Health Workforce Governance

Conference Venue: Hotel Clarks Amer, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur - 302017

Submission of Abstracts:

- (a) Abstracts not exceeding 300 words are requested to be submitted by May 31, 2009 to Prof. Ishwar Modi, Organizing Secretary of the Conference, at email: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in
- (b) Full papers are expected to be submitted by August 31, 2009

Registration Fee:

Registration Fee may be deposited directly and electronically in **AXIS Bank A/c No. 031010100333702** in the name of: **ISA RC 15 International Conference on Health for All, Jaipur, India** as per instructions below:

Registration Fee	Before May 31, 2009	From June 1, to July 31, 2009	From August 1, 2009
RC 15 Members	US \$ 200	US \$ 240	US \$ 280
Non-RC 15 Members	US \$ 240	US \$ 280	US \$ 320
Accompanying persons	US \$ 100	US \$ 120	US \$ 120

The registration fee includes lunch and dinners on the first two conference days and lunch on the third day of the conference (including the conference time tea(s)). The local organizers will assist by providing options for accommodation in various categories. Please fill the following Registration Form and send it to Prof. Ishwar Modi as an attached file at: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in along with the confirmation of Remittance to Bank A/c of the Conference:

International Organizing Committee: RC 15 Executive Board

- Prof. William C. Cockerham (President) wcocker@uab.edu
- Prof. Ishwar Modi (Conference Organizing Secretary) iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in
- Prof. Ellen Annandale, Leicester University, UK eca7@leicester.ac.uk
- Prof. Robert Dingwall, University of Nottingham, UK robert.dingwall@nottingham.ac.uk
- Prof. Jonathan Gabe, University of London, UK j.gabe@rhul.ac.uk
- Prof. Ivy Lynn Bourgeault, McMaster University, Canada ivy.bourgeault@uottawa.ca
- Prof. Leah Gilbert, Witwaterstrand University, South Africa gilbertl@social.wits.ac.za
- Prof. Christopher Ntau, University of Botswana, Botswana ntauch@mopipi.ub.bw

Further information will be forwarded through the ISA RC 15 Website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc15.htm> or through email bulletins.

Registration Form

After having been downloaded and filled in: to be sent to Professor Ishwar Modi as an attached file: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in

Family name	*	
First name	*	
Institution/Department		
Address 1	*	
Address 2		
Town	*	
Postcode/Zip	*	
Country	*	
Telephone	*	
Fax		
E-mail	*	
Verify E-mail	*	Bottom of Form
Registration Fee Transfer Details (to be attached)		
Title of the paper		

Instructions for Electronic Remittance of the Registration Fee

(under intimation to Prof. Ishwar Modi at: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in)

Inward Remittances

To ensure credits favouring AXISBank Ltd are correctly & promptly credited to the accounts held with Chase Manhattan Bank, we recommend that remitters route funds electronically in the following formats:

U.S. Dollars : Payments should be made

to **JP MORGAN CHASE BANK (SWIFT CODE: CHASUS33XXX)**
New York

(payment should be routed either via CHIPS ABA 0002 OR FED ABA 021000021)

for credit to: **001-1-407376**

AXIS Bank Ltd (SWIFT Code : AXISINBBXXX)

ultimate bene: **Acct no.: 031010100333702**

Name: ISA RC 15 International Conference on Health for All, Jaipur, India.

Address: C/o India International Institute of Social Sciences

**28, Vishnu Enclave, Durgapura, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur –
302018, India**

For MT103

FIELD 56A: CHASUS33

FIELD 57A: /AC.NO. 001-1-407376

AXISINBBXXX

FIELD 59 : A/c No. 031010100333702

GBP: Funds must be transferred electronically, with the following information. Payments should be made to **Sort Code 60-92-42**

Chase Manhattan Bank (SWIFT Code: CHASGB2LXXX)

London

for credit to: **00111 31588**

**AXISBank Ltd. (SWIFT Code : AXISINBBXXX)
Bombay.**

ultimate bene: **Acct no.: 031010100333702**

Name: **ISA RC 15 International Conference on Health for All, Jaipur, India.**

Address: C/o India International Institute of Social Sciences
28, Vishnu Enclave, Durgapura, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg,
Jaipur – 302018, India

FOR MT103:

FIELD 56A: /SORT CODE 60-92-42
CHASGB2L

FIELD 57A: /AC.NO. 001-1-131588

AXISINBBXXX

FIELD 59: /A/c.No. 031010100333702

EUR: Funds must be transferred electronically, with the following information. Payments should be made to **JPMorgan Chase Bank (SWIFT Code: CHASDEFXXX) Frankfurt**
for credit to: **DE81501108006231605392**

AXISBank Ltd (SWIFT Code : AXISINBBXXX)

ultimate bene: **Acct no.: 031010100333702**

Name: **ISA RC 15 International Conference on Health for All, Jaipur,
India**

Address: C/o India International Institute of Social Sciences
28, Vishnu Enclave, Durgapura, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg,
Jaipur – 302018, India

FOR MT103:

FIELD 56A: CHASDEFFXXX

FIELD 57A: /AC.NO. DE81501108006231605392

AXISINBBXXX

FIELD 59: /AC.NO. 031010100333702

Information about Accommodation

All the potential delegates are advised to book their accommodation latest by the end of July 2009 otherwise it may not be possible for them to have their choicest accommodation due to heavy tourist season in Jaipur.

Though several class Hotels are available in Jaipur in various categories but it has been possible to persuade only Hotel Clarks Amer to offer concessional rates as compared to very high tariff rates of other star hotels in Jaipur for the delegates of the conference in the high tourist season. As such it would be much better if all the delegates of the conference decide to stay in 5 star Hotel Clarks Amer, which is also the venue of the conference.

The concessional rate of Hotel Clarks Amer for the Conference Delegates is Indian Rupees 6,000 net per room (Single / Double) per day for their Superior and Privilege Rooms. The rate includes room accommodation, breakfast and all applicable taxes. The bookings for hotel Clarks Amer may be made through email: sales@clarksamer.com (Website: www.hotelclarks.com).

Participants may also consider Hotel 1589 Shrivihar and Hotel 1589 Boutique at Indian Rupees 3000 net per room (Single / Double) per day. The rate includes room accommodation, breakfast and all applicable taxes. 1589 Hotels are also managed by the Hotel Clarks chain. The bookings for Hotel 1589 may be made through email: sales@clarksamer.com

Another option for 5 star luxury hotel may be to book at Hotel Rajputana Palace Sheraton, Jaipur. They would charge INR 7500+tax for an Executive Club Room, INR 8500+tax for a Rajputana Chamber Room, INR 10500 for a Rajputana Royale Room and INR 22000 for a Suite. These rates are for single occupancy, double room element is INR 1500+tax **extra**. These rates are inclusive of Buffet Breakfast. Booking may be made through email: MK.JOY@itcwelcomgroup.in (Website: www.itcwelcomgroup.in).

Such participants who are looking for 2 star / non-star and ordinary inexpensive accommodation may book for Hotel Arya Niwas / Hotel Tara Niwas for India Rupees 990 for a single AC room and Rs. 1400 / 1300 for a double AC room (both without breakfast) through email: reservation@aryaniwas.com / aryahotel@gmail.com (Website: www.aryaniwas.com / www.taraniwas.com)

In whichever hotel you choose to book your accommodation please refer yourself as a delegate to the ISA RC 15 International Conference on Health, Jaipur and also do inform the Conference Organising Secretary at email: jiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in

A hearty welcome awaits you in Jaipur, India.

History of ISA RC15

This section aims to keep 'history alive' and continues with publishing Letters from past Presidents. If you want to learn more on the history of RC15, you are invited to have a look at previous Newsletters: Letter from Mark Field (Newsletter 44), Ray Elling (Newsletter 45) and Stella Quah (Newsletter 47).

Everybody interested in the history of the Social Sciences in Health and Medicine can find more detailed information in Ray Elling's fascinating "Reflections on the Health Social Sciences – then and now", published in *International Journal of Health Services*, vol 37, no 4, pp 601-617.

Letter from Elianne Riska, past President Reflections of the Chair of RC 15, 2002-2006

My first encounter with the ISA and RC 15 was at the World Congress in Uppsala, Sweden in 1978. (I was at that time assistant professor of sociology at Michigan State University, USA). It was a rather small gathering of scholars in comparison to today's dimensions. I presented my first paper in the area of professions in a RC 15 session organized by Eliot Freidson, in which Robert Dingwall was the discussant. Both strongly influenced my later research. But I was also very impressed by the atmosphere of the RC 15. The informal gatherings organized by Mark Field and Ray Elling provided an opportunity for the RC 15 members to continue the discussions after the sessions. I subsequently became a regular at the ISA World Congresses of Sociology—in Mexico, Madrid, Bielefeld, Montreal, Brisbane, Durban. The RC 15 sessions with distinguished scholars from all over the world were inspiring for a young, female professor like myself, who found more women professors/scholars among the RC 15 members than I had ever met in my whole career up to then. As the ISA World Congresses became larger, I continued what I always have done, that is, I mainly attended the RC 15 sessions.

At the request of the then RC 15 chair Ray Elling, I organized a session for the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Madrid in 1990 on "Gender and the division of labor in medicine." The invited papers of that session were later published as an ISA Sage monograph *Gender, Work and Medicine* (Riska & Wegar, eds., 1993).

In the 1980s, I had been an active member in the European Society of Health and Medical Sociology (Council member 1987-1993, Editor of Newsletter 1992-1994). This may have been the reason that I was invited to be the editor of the RC 15 Newsletter in 1994, a task that lasted until 2002. During this period Eugene Gallagher (U.S.A.) was the chair of the RC 15 and when he asked me to be the co-organizer of the program for the RC 15 program in Montreal in 1998 my answer was of course affirmative. The RC 15 program became very much a product of the kind of issues that Gene Gallagher and I wished the international community of medical sociologists to discuss. The RC 15 program at the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Montreal in 1998 had nine sessions, of which three were on health professions, one on gender and health, while the other were about the organization of health care. We assembled the best papers from the RC 15 sessions into an ISA/Sage monograph *Toward a Global Sociology of*

Health and Medicine that was published in 2001. By this time I had become a member of the Steering Board (2000-2010) and Gene Gallagher asked me to act as the coordinator for the RC 15 program for the 15th ISA World Congress in Brisbane in 2001.

The Congress in Brisbane certainly seemed to be a success for RC 15. The number of sessions doubled compared to that in Montreal: RC 15 organized 18 sessions in Brisbane. My goals for the Brisbane program was to introduce the theoretical approaches and debates in new fields that related to health sociology: the sociology of the body, gender and health (2 sessions), medicine and sexuality, to take a new look at the medicalization thesis (2 sessions), and to reintroduce the topic of health and inequality. At the Brisbane meeting, RC 15 began the tradition of organizing joint sessions with the newly established RC 52 on professions. Naturally I also sought to increase the number of women as session chairs and to get more American, French and German medical sociologists involved as session organizers. Despite active invitations not very many had financial resources to attend international meetings. The overrepresentation of British and Scandinavian sociologists therefore continued. But why had American medical sociologists—once they key initiators of RC 15—deserted the organization? Three of the former four RC 15 chairs had been Americans—Mark Field, Ray Elling, Eugene Gallagher—and their open-minded views on the tasks of and theoretical and methodological approaches to medical sociology/sociology of health had been important for the international profile of RC 15. For me, ISA bridged the two scholarly communities that I belonged to—the American and the European—and to be involved in science and research was for me an international enterprise. RC 15 and ISA embodied that spirit.

As the foregoing account shows, I had been a long-time member of the RC 15 when I was appointed by the Steering Committee of the RC 15 at the Brisbane RC 15 business meeting to be the Chair for 2002-2006. The other members on the Steering board for the 2000-2010 period were Ellen Annandale (U.K., secretary and Newsletter editor), Robert Dingwall (U.K.) and Bill Cockerham (U.S.A., vice chair). The acting group of the Steering Committee was formed with these three and two additional members Ogoh Alubo (Nigeria) and Mark Field (USA) as consulting members. Robert Dingwall initiated a midterm conference in York in 2004, which was organized together with the annual meeting of the British Medical sociology group. Our ambition was to attract international scholars to join the British medical sociology event but in the end the participation by the RC 15 members was lower than expected. Although the mix of RC 15 and British regulars was a success, it did not give RC 15 members a chance to meet as a group to establish its own agenda and a sense of scholarly community. The task for future midterm meetings was to arrange our own workshops and offer this as a central program of the four-year membership of the RC 15/ISA.

Bill Cockerham was the coordinator for the RC 15 program at the World Congress in Durban in 2006. As I had run the practical arrangements of the RC 15 since 1994, it was now time for other RC 15 members to become involved in setting the future agenda of RC 15. The Steering Committee of the RC 15 appointed Bill Cockerham to be the next chair and I became an ex officio chair until the next interim meeting of the RC 15 held in Montreal 2008.

*Elianne Riska, Professor of Sociology
University of Helsinki, Finland*

Activities for junior sociologists

Information from the ISA Executive

Junior Sociologists Network was established by the ISA Executive Committee in May 2007. It grew out of the experience of participants of the ISA Laboratories for PhD students and Junior Sociologists Competition. It aims at providing a platform for junior academic scholars (graduate students and early career faculty) as well as for social practitioners, independently of their thematic research interests. The JSN organised its sessions at the ISA Forum of Sociology in Barcelona.

Two other ISA activities especially designed for junior sociologists have been continued:

ISA International Laboratory for PhD Students in Social Sciences

International Laboratory for PhD Students in Social Sciences was launched in 2000. It consists of students' presentation of their doctoral projects, followed by discussion on methodology, theory and other aspects of interest raised by the participating students and professors who offer also lectures on a general theme of the Laboratory. Some 12-14 doctoral students are selected each time in an international competition. Till now, ISA organised eight Laboratories. Two recent ones were organised by Abdul-Mumin Sa'ad in Maiduguri, Nigeria (2007) and by Nikita Pokrovsky in Moscow, Russia (2008). The next Laboratory will be organised by Yoshimichi Sato in 2009.

Fifth Worldwide Competition for Junior Sociologists

The Fifth Worldwide Competition for Junior Scholars engaged in social research has been announced. Candidates must send an original paper that has not been previously published anywhere. The winners will be invited to participate in the XVII World Congress in Gothenburg. The winners' papers will be considered for publication, subject to editorial decision and revision, in ISA journals. The competition is coordinated by Louis Chauvel, Executive Committee member.

Please visit the ISA website for further information.

Death and Dying: an emergent field in the Sociology of Health and Illness

In the UK, a Sociology of Death has been going from strength to strength in the last twenty years or so, stimulated in part by a group of like minded individuals who got together in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Over time this evolved into a study group affiliated to the British Sociological Association (BSA), called the '[Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement](#)'. Out of the meetings and networking of this group has come several seminal publications, such as 'The Sociology of Death' (Clark, 1993), 'Death, Gender and Ethnicity' (Field et al, 1997) and 'The Matter of Death' (Hockey et al, forthcoming 2010). These developments in the BSA have been accompanied by a wide range of important theoretical contributions and insights from other sociologists, such as 'The Revival of Death' (Walter, 1994), 'Death and Dying: a sociological introduction' (Howarth, 2007). All this publishing activity has been complemented by the establishment of the '[Centre for Death and Society](#)' at the University of Bath, UK, which although interdisciplinary has a strong sociological emphasis.

Certainly, these are exciting times to be a sociologist interested in death as the field expands, both here in the UK and further afield, and I for one would be really keen to find out more about their work. To this end, I am really looking forward to getting to know those of you working in this area through this research group and the ISA more generally, either directly or through networking at ISA conferences.

One question I would be interested in asking the audience of this newsletter, to get the ball rolling so to speak, is the sociological position of death. In the UK (to my mind at least) one of the current challenges facing those working in the Sociology of Death arena is its location within the discipline of Sociology. Is death a sub-section of medical sociology, or Sociology of Health and Illness? Or is it not? If not, where should it go? Until recently, in the UK at least, the subject of death was very closely allied with the Sociology of Health and Illness, reflected in the BSA study group's affiliation to the Medical Sociology arm of the organisation and driven by an emphasis in research on dying. Evidence suggests this is changing however, with work being undertaken on social relationships with deceased people, the activity of funeral directors, body disposal, and cemeteries. From my perspective, in 2009 the Sociology of Death is at something of a crossroads. It has a considerable historical legacy of being associated with health and illness, and indecision of whether this alliance should remain, be loosened, be strengthened or even removed. It would be very interesting to hear whether this uncertainty is the case elsewhere and if colleagues had any thoughts on the relationship between health and death, sociologically speaking.

Kate Woodthorpe
Lecturer in Health Studies
Faculty of Health and Social Care
The Open University, UK
K.Woodthorpe@open.ac.uk

Book announcements

Medical Research for Hire: Political Economy of Pharmaceutical Clinical Trials

Jill A. Fisher, Rutgers University Press (264 pages), Price: \$24.95, paperback

Today, more than 75 percent of pharmaceutical drug trials in the United States are being conducted in the private sector. Once the sole province of academic researchers, these important studies are now being outsourced to non-academic physicians. According to Jill A. Fisher, this major change in the way medical research is performed is the outcome of two problems in U.S. health care: decreasing revenue for physicians and decreasing access to treatment for patients. Focusing on the professional roles of those involved, as well as key research practices, Fisher assesses the risks and advantages for physicians and patients alike when pharmaceutical drug studies are used as an alternative to standard medical care. See: http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/Medical_Research_for_Hire.html

Finding Dignity in Health Care and Health Care Work

Edited by Cecilia Benoit and Helga Hallgrimsdottir, Special Issue of Canadian Journal of Public Health, 99 Suppl. 2, 2008, available at <http://www.whrn.ca/>

This supplement explores the impact of neo-liberal reforms on those who deliver and receive health care in Canada, Finland and Iceland. The solicited papers explore the dimensions of three central themes: 1) the rules and practices that shape the performance of care work are crucial to understanding how it is gendered in both formal and informal settings; 2) the larger gendered policy context in which care work and care delivery are organized; 3) neo-liberal policy debates under way in Canada and other high-income countries that are focused on enhancing the efficiency and accountability of health and social care systems have taken needed attention away from other crucial policy agendas, including how to ensure dignity for both those who receive and those who provide health care.

Managerial Regimes meet the 'Healthcare State': Contingencies and Dynamics in the Governance of Healthcare

Edited by Ellen Kuhlmann and Viola Burau, Special Issue of Journal of Health Organization and Management, 23 (3), 2009

This special issue explores the contingencies and dynamics of different policy flows emerging when new (post) public management regimes meet the 'healthcare state' across different countries in Europe and beyond. The individual contributions focus on organisational settlements/services and professional groups located at different ends of the healthcare system: the classic field of hospitals and specialised medical care on the one hand, and emerging fields of care services for the elderly and health promotion services for drug users provided by multi-professional teams on the other hand. The findings highlight that managerial regimes initiate fundamental changes in the concept of 'healthcare state' itself and the related modes of professionalism and citizenship/user rights.

Conference announcements

British Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference 2009 Thursday, 3-5 September 2009, University of Manchester, UK

Call for Papers

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2009 Annual Medical Sociology Conference, which will take place at The University of Manchester, <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/>. In 2008, the MedSoc Annual Conference attracted over 250 delegates from around the world. The event was hailed a great success and very much enjoyed by all. Past delegates have referred to the event as a 'must' for anyone within the medical sociology arena and those within closely related fields.

For 2009 our plenary speakers are Joan Busfield, University of Essex and Evan Willis, Latrobe University, Australia.

The annual conference provides delegates with the opportunity to discuss the discipline's 'hot topics' within a real community of medical sociologists. Papers, posters and other forms of presentation will be structured around streams that include:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Cancer | 12. Lay/professional interface |
| 2. Complementary & Alternative Medicine | 13. Lifecourse |
| 3. Ethics | 14. Mental Health |
| 4. Ethnicity | 15. Methods |
| 5. Experiences of Health & Illness | 16. Primary care |
| 6. Gender | 17. Risk |
| 7. Genetics | 18. Reproductive & Sexual Health |
| 8. Health service delivery & organization | 19. Teaching Health Professionals |
| 9. Health policy | 20. Theory |
| 10. Health technologies | 21. Open stream |
| 11. Inequalities | 22. International |

ABSTRACT DEADLINE IS 24 APRIL 2009

Go to <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/medsoc.htm> to submit your abstract.

Rejoin RC15 and ISA – New membership

We strongly encourage you to rejoin RC15 and ISA when your membership is due for renewal and also to inform your colleagues about RC15 and ask them not only to join RC15, but also to join us in Göteborg 2010.

How to join ISA

Please visit the ISA website and register online. Dues USD 60 (USD 20 discount) for a 4 year period; <https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>.

Individual Membership

Open to scholars and professionals of sociological teaching, research or practice. At present there are 4,300 members from 167 countries. Benefits:

- Subscription to ISA journals Current Sociology and International Sociology.
- The Directory of Members.
- Reception of isagram, an electronic newsletter containing announcements of the forthcoming conferences, calls for papers and manuscripts, prizes, competitions, etc.
- Access to e-bulletin, ISA on-line publication.
- Access to SAGE Full-Text Collection which includes 31 journals with more than 12,500 articles.
- 35% discount on SAGE Publications books.
- Special subscription rates to journals offered by various publishers.
- A reduction in registration fees at ISA World Congress of Sociology.

All members may participate in the meetings of the ISA and its [Research Committees](#), [Working](#) and [Thematic Groups](#) upon paying an affiliation fee.

To apply for membership, submit an

- [electronic membership or renewal form](#)
- [membership form in pdf format](#) [35 KB]

or write to ISA isa@isa-sociology.org, fax:34-91352 4945

Changes of Address

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:

Robert Dingwall
RC15 Secretary
Institute for the Study of Genetics, Biorisks and Society
Law and Social Science Building
University Park University of Nottingham,
Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK
E-mail: Robert.Dingwall@nottingham.ac.uk

Note from Newsletter Editor

The next Newsletter No 49 is scheduled for October 2009.

Your notices and Call for Papers of interest for RC15 members are, as usual, very welcome and must be sent as a word file (please note: no pdf files or email announcements!). Please send your information to the Newsletter Editor until 15 September 2009 at the latest:

Ellen Kuhlmann
University of Bath
E-mail: e.c.kuhlmann@bath.ac.uk