



International Sociological Association, RC15

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH

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Letter from the President

Welcome to the first newsletter from the new steering board for RC15 (Sociology of Health). I am delighted to have been elected President of the group until 2014 and look forward to building on the success of the previous board. In particular I would like to thank the former President, William Cockerham for all his support during the transition process and for his work along with that of Ellen Annandale (former Vice-President) and Robert Dingwall (former Secretary-Treasurer) in making RC15 one of the more active ISA Research Committees over the last four years.

Turning to the future we have a strong international board for the new term consisting of Ivy Bourgeault (Canada) – Vice President, Amelie Quesnel-Vallee (Canada) – Secretary-Treasurer, Ellen Kuhlmann (UK/Germany) – Newsletter Editor, Masahira Anesaki (Japan), Guido Giarelli (Italy), Leah Gilbert (South Africa), Ishwar Modi (India) and Stephanie Short (Australia). Our past president William Cockerham remains an ex officio member until 2012.

Amongst other things, this newsletter provides more details about the forthcoming interim meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1-4 August 2012, as part of the ISA Forum on 'Sociology, Social Justice and Democratization'. If you have an idea for a session for RC15 in Buenos Aires please contact Ivy Bourgeault by email at: Ivy.Bourgeault@uottawa.ca. The deadline for submitting proposals to Ivy is **15 June 2011**. We are also planning to have joint sessions with RC13 (Sociology of Leisure), RC49 (Mental Health) and RC52 (Professions). This interim meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss plans for the next ISA World Congress in Yokohama in 2014.

The Newsletter also contains information about two of the leading journals in the field of sociology of health, *Sociology of Health and Illness* and *Social Science & Medicine*, and a report on *Sociology of Health in Brazil*.

Any of our members who have ideas or suggestions about our future activities please email me at the address below. In the meantime please make plans to join us in Buenos Aires next summer.

Best wishes
Jonathan

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Introducing the new RC15 Executive Council

Following the elections in December 2010 RC15 has established a new Executive Council. Thanks very much to the outgoing Executive, to all candidates for standing for election and also to everybody who made use of their votes!

The new RC15 Executive Council includes the following members:

Jonathan Gabe (President), Ivy Lynn Bourgeault (Vice-President), Amelie Quesnel-Vallee (Secretary/ Treasurer), Ellen Kuhlmann (Newsletter Editor), Masahira Anesaki, Guido Giarelli, Leah Gilbert, Jennie Kronenfeld, Ishwar Modi, Stephanie Short and Bill Cockerham (ex officio, previous President).

Biographical notes

RC15 President **Jonathan Gabe** is Professor of Sociology at Royal Holloway, University of London. He has research interests in health care organization, violence against professionals, acute and chronic illness and the sociology of pharmaceuticals. Currently he is leading a research project on sleep and wakefulness promoting drugs with colleagues from Warwick and Sussex Universities (UK) and is co-investigator on two projects on medications in everyday life in New Zealand. His recent publications include *The New Sociology of the Health Service* (edited with Michael Calnan, 2009) and *Pharmaceuticals and Society* (edited with Simon Williams and Peter Davis, 2009). He is currently co-editor of the international journal *Sociology of Health and Illness*. Email: j.gabe@rhul.ac.uk

Vice-President **Ivy Lynn Bourgeault** holds a PhD in Community Health from the University of Toronto, Canada. She is currently Professor of Health Sciences at the University of Ottawa, CIHR/Health Canada Research Chair in Health Human Resource Policy, and Scientific Director of the Population Health Improvement and Ontario Health Human Resources Research Networks. She is the editor (with Robert Dingwall and Raymond De Vries) of *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Methods in Health Research*. Email: Ivy.Bourgeault@uottawa.ca.

Secretary/Treasurer **Amelie Quesnel-Vallee**, PhD, is Assistant Professor at McGill University, Canada, where she holds an Arts and Medicine cross-faculty appointment in the Departments of Sociology and of Epidemiology. She also heads the International Research Infrastructure on Social Inequalities in Health (IRIS). With funding from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research she currently studies the impact of health policies on health inequalities in 21 OECD countries. Her award-winning (American Sociological Association Dissertation Award; PAA Dorothy Thomas Award) work recently appeared in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, the *American Journal of Epidemiology* and *Social Science and Medicine*. Email: amelie.quesnelvallee@mcgill.ca

Newsletter Editor **Ellen Kuhlmann** is currently Senior Lecturer, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK and has been Visiting Professor at Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany in 2010. She holds a PhD in Sociology and MA Public Health from the University of Bielefeld, Germany and is trained as a nurse. She is member of the Executive of European Sociological Association and President-elect of ISA RC52 (Professions). Research interests include: comparative health policy, organization and delivery of care; health professions; gender and public health. She is the editor (with Ellen Annandale) of *The Palgrave Handbook of Gender and Healthcare*. Email: e.c.kuhlmann@bath.c.uk

Masahira Anesaki is Professor at Kinki Health and Welfare University, Japan. He holds a B.Sc in Physics and BA and MA in Sociology from Tokyo Metropolitan University and a Dip. in Soc. Admin. from the University of Manchester, UK. He has been a Research Officer at the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare and Professor of Sociology at Nihon University and Fukuoka Health and Welfare University. Publications include: a co-authored book *Health Care in Japan* (Routledge, 1990) and contributions to *The Blackwell Companion to Medical Sociology* (Blackwell, 2001) and to *Public Health in Asia and the Pacific* (Routledge, 2008). Email: anesaki_m@yahoo.co.jp

Guido Giarelli, PhD from University College London, has worked for many years in Africa and subsequently in Brasil, USA, UK, Sweden, Serbia, Albania and Lebanon carrying out research, consultancy and training courses for Governments, NGOs and UNICEF with specific reference to comparative health systems. He is currently Associate Professor of Medical Sociology, University Magna Græcia of Catanzaro, Italy. He was the first President of the Società Italiana di Sociologia della Salute, first secretary of Sociology of Health and Medicine, Associazione Italiana di Sociologia (AIS) and President of European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS, 2007-2010). Email: guido_giarelli@tin.it

Leah Gilbert, BA, MPH; Hebrew University, Jerusalem; PhD; University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, is Professor of Health Sociology at Wits, South Africa. She has been instrumental in developing the social sciences component of the Masters of Public Health (MPH), an interdisciplinary MA course titled 'HIV/AIDS in Context'. Leah's previous research focused on social aspects of dentistry, the role of pharmacy in primary health care, and medical and health care pluralism. Her current research focuses on the role of health professionals in the response to HIV/AIDS, and the social complexity of adherence to, and implementation of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). Email: Leah.Gilbert@wits.ac.za

Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld is Professor in Sociology in the School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University, USA. Her research in medical sociology focuses on health policy, healthcare utilization and health behaviour. Recent books include: *Expansion of Publicly Funded Health Insurance in the US* (Lexington Press, 2006), and *Medicare/Health Care* (Greenwood Press /ABC-Clio, 2011). She serves as editor of *Research in the Sociology of Health Care* (Emerald Press), and co-editor of *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*. She has been active at previous ISA meetings and

chaired sessions at the last two. Email: Jennie.Kronenfeld@asu.edu

Ishwar Modi is Professor at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur / Director of India International Institute of Social Sciences and the founding father of leisure studies in India. He is presently a member of the Executive Committee of ISA and President of ISA RC13 (Leisure). He organized a Midterm Conference of RC15 in India at Jaipur in 2008. At the time of his retirement in 2000 he was the Founder Director of the Centre for Leisure and Tourism Studies, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. He has published: *Drugs: Addiction and Prevention* (1997) and *Aging and Human Development* (2001). Email: iiiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in

Stephanie Short, PhD, MSc, BA (Hons 1), Dip. Phys., is Professor and Associate Dean, Postgraduate, Learning and Teaching, Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney, Australia. She has been a member of the Australian Sociological Association since 1986 and convened RC15 session 'Health Workforce Governance on the Move' at the ISA World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden. She is Convenor of a national research network HealthGov which brings together researchers, health professionals and regulators to provide ideas and evidence to underpin good practice, safer patients and improved access to health care. She has published widely in health sociology and policy. Email: Stephanie.short@sydney.edu.au



The Second ISA Forum of Sociology

Social Justice and Democratization

Buenos Aires, Argentina

August 1-4, 2012

The times in which we live call on sociologists to engage in research that strengthens links between our discipline and the public sphere. The Second ISA Forum is devoted to "Social Justice and Democratization" and will take place August 1-4, 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It will provide an array of opportunities for a global dialogue about transformative change.

Objectives

The most important objective of the Forum is to provide a meeting place for the various Research Committees (RCs), Working Groups (WGs), and Thematic Groups (TGs). Organizers will be provided as much flexibility as possible in designing their respective programs within the scheduled time slots (guidelines to be provided).

The second objective is to develop a socially significant theme involving public actors and to which different areas of sociology can contribute. Social Justice and Democratization, the selected theme for the 2012 Forum, offers RCs, WGs and TGs the opportunity to learn from public actors as well as contributing to the Forum's main theme.

The third objective is to hold the interim Research Council Business Meeting attended by the Delegates from all Research Committees.

The Vice-President of the Research Council and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) assume responsibility for preparing the scientific program. Planning and preparations are underway.

The Forum provides not only an excellent venue for the different Research Committees and groups to hold their respective interim meetings but also an important opportunity to foster greater synergies between research committees as well as among the research committees, working groups and national associations. The discussions and dialogues should provide the basis for collaborative and comparative research projects.

The Forum promises to be a lively occasion for considering the challenges to and possibilities for promoting social justice and democratization in the 21st century.

I look forward to a second exciting Forum of Sociology!

Margaret Abraham
Vice-President, Research Council

RC 15 Sociology of Health

Call for Sessions

Programme Coordinator: Ivy Lynn Bourgeault

The Research Committee on the Sociology of Health is calling for organizers of sessions for the 2012 ISA Forum in Buenos Aires. We will be organizing a total of 16 sessions of 90 minutes each, including a time-slot for our business meeting. A proportion of these sessions could be jointly organized with other ISA Research Committees, but no more than half.

Submissions should include the following information:

- Title of the Session
- Format of the session
 - Regular session – five 20-minute presentations
 - Special session on the conference theme
 - Featured or Keynote Speaker
 - Author meets their Critics
 - Panel sessions – a larger number of shorter papers on a specific theme
 - Joint session – identifying the other participating RC
- A 250-word description of the session.
- Language(s) of session
- Full name, affiliation and contact details of the session organizer(s) and/or session chair(s) (if different)
- Include a brief statement on previous conference session organization experience

Deadline for Session Submissions: **June 15th, 2011**

To be send to the Programme Coordinator Ivy Lynn Bourgeault
Email: ivy.bourgeault@uottawa.ca

Sociology of Health in Brazil: a report

To talk about Sociology of Health in Brazil is to talk about a process that has been going on for five decades, with some precedents in the 1940s and 1950s. This is a 'démarche' in clear ascension, with clear reasons for optimism, such as the establishment of its teaching in different professions in the health field; a growth in the scientific productivity; regularity in the organisation of congresses and participation in the making and planning of public health policies. Nevertheless, we notice that there is still a journey to be made in the consolidation of its identity. In order to outline this exposition of Sociology of Health in Brazil and not take a solely chronological path we shall adopt as a point of reference for our analysis the ideas of Wolf Lepenies (1981); the author analyses the constitution of a field of knowledge taking as a starting point the construction of its historical, social and cognitive identity.

Historical Identity: The first efforts of constituting a field of knowledge aim at securing its history in the scientific scenario. In the case of Sociology in the Brazilian history of social thought, we note some precedents to the beginning of its institutionalisation as a field of knowledge in the 1960s. These are works in the first half of the 20th century, written by folklorists interested in popular practices of care and cure followed by sociologists and anthropologists who took the health themes in a peripheral fashion, not exactly constituting a specific research field at that moment. We consider as a starting point for the Sociology of Health in Brazil the pedagogical practices incorporated in the Departments of Preventive and Social Medicine in Public Health and Medical Colleges in the late 1960s. The contribution by these professionals targeted the exploration of the interfaces between biological and social sciences in the process approach health-disease-care. Initially these courses were called "social sciences applied to medicine" and later "sociology in health" and "sociology of health". The initial contact was mostly through North-American literature and later through British and French works, translated by Brazilian teachers to be used in classrooms.

These first professors lived what we now call the heroic phase of Sociology of Health and founded this area of knowledge in Brazil and Latin America. In the 1970s, they started getting formal degrees and by the end of this decade we see the first dissertations in sociology and anthropology of health. Some of these were carried out in the social science departments while others in medical schools, in post-graduate programs in Brazil and abroad. One can say that from the 1980s Sociology of Health was institutionalised in the core curricula of Brazil's best medical schools. It is worth noting the vigour of the critique of macro-structural explanations with a functionalist and historical-structuralist basis and the use of micro-structural models to explore the dimensioning of subjectivities, trajectories as well as the professional and layperson narratives of health and illness. Since the late 1980s we have witnessed a significant increase in the production of dissertations, theses, books and articles.

Social Identity is constructed with the institutionalisation process and the organisation of representation "bodies" in the field of knowledge. In the 1980s Sociology of Health had already reached its social identity in the educational sphere. Moreover, it had a distinct role in the

construction of a critical perspective and in the sanitary reform movement proposed by progressive professionals, which had been growing since the 1970s as a part of the (re)democratisation of political and social relations in Brazil.

The participation of sociologists in this social-sanitary movement contributed to the discussion in order to formulate the Brazilian National Health System, legally recognised in 1988 with the proclamation of the present constitution, where we can read “Health is a right to all, and a duty of the State, ensured by social and economical policies aiming at the reduction of the risk of diseases and other ailments and the universal and equal access to actions and services for its promotion, protection and recovery” (see Nunes, 1986; 2001). Along these lines, the power of the social movement is obvious in the area of health in the construction of a social well-being policy in response to extreme political authoritarianism and under strong neo-liberal pressure.

The sociologists that took part in this movement are the same who introduced sociology in the area of health, i.e. those of the “first generation”. During the 1990s they continued to influence the teaching and services of health, managing as well to get young sociologists to develop an interest in the teaching, construction and production of knowledge in Master and PhD programs. Thus, if the first generation helped in the conceptualisation of the health system, the “second generation” engaged in reflecting on and from this system, systematising the information to support its management.

Another fundamental participation of sociologists in the field of health was during the creation of Collective Health as a set of knowledge and practices structured in opposition to the model of preventive medicine and that of classical public health. This increased the institutionalisation of the new field Health in the spheres of post-graduate teaching and health policy, since what constitutes the tripod of collective health are the: social sciences, planning/management and epidemiology. This paved the way for the “third generation” of sociologists in the field of health, characterised by the fact that they obtained their post-graduate degrees in Collective Health Programs, supervised by sociologists of the first and second generations.

Cognitive identity is constructed when it is possible to clearly identify research orientations, paradigms, problems and instruments in a specific knowledge field; in other words: when we can recognise the academic and social production of a certain “intelligentsia” in the scientific field. If in the 1960s the reference texts were foreign, in the early 2000s one witnesses an intense production of dissertations, theses, books and national articles. At the same time, the first research groups were formed as well as areas of concentration of Sociology of Health in post-graduate programs in Collective Health.

This intense production is mainly about “methods + logics” of knowledge production associated with different sociological schools and we can identify an important dissemination of concerns and paradigms in the investigation of collective health. A landmark of this period is the growth of indexed periodicals, with a peer-evaluation policy, especially interested in contributions of sociology to the health field.

Challenges and contemporary questions: We need to consider that the construction of the different identities is not a linear process and the back and forth movement of Sociology of

Health in Brazil offers great challenges between a paradigmatic and reductionist practice and between a plural and reflexive perspective. A number of challenges are connected to the creation of links with the health professionals through the shared construction of symbols and values, ensuring not only a subsidiary and instrumental importance to the health field.

Another set of questions of a more epistemic fashion place us before a desire to control and decolonise knowledge. We have been teaching the principles of sociology for the field of health for almost five decades, attempting to keep the historical and theoretical affiliation of each school of thought while we observe the consumption of a part of our theoretical-conceptual frameworks as instruments available for immediate use.

In conclusion, Sociology of Health in Brazil is an “identity under construction”, no longer premature, but still in need of affirmation. We have overcome the “heroic phase” and the first generation of sociologists in the health field is now in their 70s. But there are still unsolved problems, such as the creation of association resembling those in the USA, England, France and Italy and a specific journal for the Sociology of Health (Barros and Nunes, 2009) However, conversely, Brazilian sociologists of health have easy access to the health field due to an affiliation with the Collective Health and we have a powerful view of the future invested in the new generations.

Barros NF and Nunes ED (2009) Sociology, medicine and the construction of health-related sociology. *Revista de Saúde Pública*, 43(1): 169-175

Lepenes W (ed.) (1981) *Geschichte der Soziologie: Studien zur kognitiven, sozialen und historischen Identität einer Disziplin*. Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp

Nunes ED (1986) *Ciencias Sociales y Salud en la America Latina: tendencias y perspectivas*. Montevideo: OPS/CIESU, 491

Nunes ED (2001) Social Science and Health in Brazil. In: Cockerham, W.C. (ed.). *The Blackwell Companion to Medical Sociology*. Oxford, UK; Malden, MA: Blackwell, 233-244

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Leading journals in the field of Sociology of Health

RC15 has close linkages with a number of leading international journals in the field of sociology of health. In this Newsletter we introduce two of the most important international journals.

Sociology of Health & Illness



Two year Impact Factor: 2.041
Five year Impact Factor: 2.598
Ranked 5 out of 114 world sociology journals

Edited by: Clive Seale, Jonathan Gabe, Steven Wainwright and Clare Williams

Sociology of Health and Illness is an international journal which publishes sociological articles on all aspects of health, illness, medicine and health care. We welcome empirical and theoretical contributions in this field in the form of original research reports or review articles. In addition to the six regular issues published each year, subscribers receive a further special issue. These themed issues aim to identify and contribute to new areas of debate and research in the discipline and each issue is devoted to an important topic of current interest. Issues for 2012 and 2013 are under way, but proposals for the special journal issue for February 2014, published in book form six months later, will be sought in the summer of 2011 (contact Hannah Bradby, SHI monographs editor: h.bradby@warwick.ac.uk) for further information and development of ideas.

Review Articles: Review Articles are an exciting feature of *Sociology of Health & Illness*. They provide a state-of-the-art overview of the literature on either an established or an emerging area, and offer valuable summaries for both teaching and research purposes. Review Articles evaluate the progress of research in clarifying a sociological problem and recommend potentially fruitful avenues for further empirical, methodological, and theoretical work. If you are interested in writing a Review Article or for more information please contact Steven Wainwright: steven.wainwright@kcl.ac.uk

Virtual Special Issues: Drawing on the strengths of the Sociology of Health and Illness archive, Virtual Special Issues (VSIs) are designed to help you identify key themes and classic papers in particular fields. The editors of VSIs are experts in the relevant field who have written introductory guides to key articles that have appeared in the journal since it was founded in 1979. We would be delighted to hear your proposal for a future Virtual Special Issue. If you are interested in editing one, please get in touch with Clive Seale: c.seale@qmul.ac.uk

Podcasts: Key thinkers and debates: Our web page links to the first in a series of podcasts on 'Key thinkers and debates', containing interviews and discussions with key figures in the sociology of health and illness. Initial podcasts feature Renée Fox and Mike Bury, and more podcasts will be added soon.

Early View: Papers for the July and September 2011 issues of SHI are already available online. Visit the website: http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/shil_enhanced/ for all the above items plus archives and most read/cited articles; or contact shi@qmul.ac.uk

Social Science & Medicine

The World's Most Cited Social Science Journal (Thomson ISI)



Impact Factor: 2.710

5-Year Impact Factor: 3.615

24 Issues published each year

High impact and fast publication

Most Articles in print in an issue 6-8 weeks after acceptance. To view a recent video where Ryan Mowat, the journal's Managing Editor, explains how the journal manages to publish papers fast:

<http://bit.ly/aur2kP> or http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrFe_6dL2J0

- **Research articles**
- **Author videos**
- **Commentaries and Debates**
- **Review articles**
- **Special issues**
- **Virtual special issues**

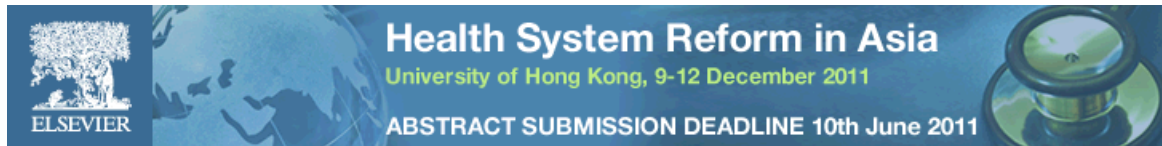
Social Science & Medicine provides an international and interdisciplinary forum for the dissemination of social science research on health. We publish original research articles (both empirical and theoretical), reviews, position papers and commentaries on health issues. The journal publishes material relevant to any aspect of health from a wide range of social science disciplines (anthropology, economics, epidemiology, geography, policy, psychology, and sociology), and material relevant to the social sciences from any of the professions concerned with physical and mental health, health care, clinical practice, and health policy and organization.

We encourage material which is of general interest to an international readership.

Please see our Guide for Authors for information on article submission. If you require further information, please contact us:

Editor-in-chief: Ellen Annandale eca7@le.ac.uk; Managing Editor: Ryan Mowat rm158@le.ac.uk

<http://journals.elsevier.com/02779536/social-science-and-medicine/>



Announcing a new conference: Health System Reform in Asia

9-12 December 2011 , University of Hong Kong

Health System Reform in Asia is a new conference, in association with *Social Science & Medicine* - the world's most cited social science journal. It is an interdisciplinary conference focusing on the health system reforms Asian countries have adopted, or are considering, during rapid economic, social, demographic and epidemiologic change in the region.

Comparisons of reform experiences within and outside Asia are particularly encouraged. The conference welcomes empirical examinations of health outcomes, social, economic and political analyses as well as theoretical and philosophical contributions on these themes.

The conference is sponsored and hosted by *Social Science & Medicine* – the world's most cited social science journal.

Topics List

- Governance and regulation
- Financing and payment arrangements
- Service delivery, quality assurance and organization of care
- Knowledge management for policy; policy capacity and policy process
- Monitoring, evaluating and researching the impact of reform
- Health workforce development
- Medical pluralism and mainstreaming of traditional healthcare
- Health access and improvement particularly for vulnerable populations and equity impact
- Aid management and the role of donors in health sector reform
- Consumer and community participation
- Use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs); innovation and e-health
- Emerging ecological, social and epidemiological challenges (inc. chronic illness)
- Risk reduction and illness prevention

Submit your Abstract by Friday 10th June 2011

We would like to invite you to submit your research to be featured at **Health System Reform in Asia 2011**. Your enthusiasm and participation will greatly contribute to the scientific quality of the conference. We believe that this conference can be a significant milestone and hope that you are willing to contribute. All submitted abstracts will undergo a full review with accepted abstracts selected for either poster display, oral or sub-plenary presentation. A sub-plenary should have an organizer, and contain a cluster of (approximately 6-8) related abstracts.

Don't miss out; sign up to receive more information and updates about this conference.

Healthcare Systems: Change and Outcomes. Ideas, Institutions, Actors, and Reforms International Workshop, Amsterdam, 11-12 November 2011

The Centre for Global Health and Inequality at the University of Amsterdam, in cooperation with the Chair of Sociology of Health and Healthcare Systems at the University of Siegen, invites you to submit abstracts for a workshop on *Healthcare systems: change and outcomes. Ideas, Institutions, actors, and reforms*. The aim of the workshop is to discuss concepts of institutional change in health policy, build bridges between different fields, and discuss research on different regions of the world. The workshop will bring together researchers studying modalities of change in healthcare systems and will focus on the macro- and micro-level effects of change. We invite comparative research bridging different disciplines, particularly sociology/anthropology of health, health policy, and health economics. This includes contributions re-examining the existing studies in relation to the institutional change literature. Research focusing on both industrialised and developing countries is welcome.

Topics of interest (not exhaustive) include:

- Impact of healthcare system change on health
- Privatisation of healthcare provision
- Hybridization of healthcare systems
- Individualisation of risk and dualisation of healthcare systems
- Role of actors (professionals and professional associations, organized labor and employer organizations, advocacy groups) in healthcare systems and their change
- Cultural variation in expectations and satisfaction of healthcare users
- Use of survey data in healthcare and health studies

The workshop will be the first in a series of events focusing on the study of change and outcomes of healthcare systems in Europe and other regions of the world. These workshops will also meld with other related projects, including the EU COST Action on 'Enhancing the Role of Medicine in the Management of European Health Systems' and a new International Social Survey Health module. The workshop will be held on November 11-12, 2011 on the historical premises of the University of Amsterdam in the city centre.

Abstracts of 500 words are requested to be submitted by **30 June 2011** and should be sent to Dr. Monika Ewa Kaminska, University of Amsterdam (m.e.kaminska@uva.nl) and Prof. Claus Wendt, University of Siegen (wendt@soziologie.uni-siegen.de). Presenters of selected abstracts will be invited to join the workshop. Their travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Center for Global Health & Inequality.

Developed drafts (around 4,000 words) will be required by October 31, 2011. They will be distributed among workshop participants prior to the workshop to allow for a constructive discussion during the event. A collection of selected workshop papers will be submitted to a high-impact journal. For further information on the workshop, please contact Dr. Monika Ewa Kaminska m.e.kaminska@uva.nl.

Book announcements

The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Methods in Health Research

edited Ivy Lynn Bourgeault, Robert Dingwall and Ray De Vries, Sage, 2010, 112 US \$

This Handbook provides a comprehensive overview of the fast growing field of qualitative methods in health research. It consists of:

- A series of case studies which show the ways in which qualitative methods have contributed to the development of thinking in fields relevant to policy and practice in healthcare.
- A section examining the main theoretical sources drawn on by qualitative researchers.
- A section on specific techniques for the collection of data.
- A section exploring issues relevant to the strategic place of qualitative research in healthcare environments.

Reforming Healthcare Systems

edited by Ted Marmor and Claus Wendt, Two Volumes, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2011, 430 £

The two volumes of Reforming Healthcare Systems bring together more than fifty scholarly articles on both healthcare systems in general and health reform in particular. Healthcare is one of modern society's most crucial arenas, costly, important, and controversial. The aim of these volumes is to increase understanding of this central feature of social and political life.

The Palgrave Handbook of Gender and Healthcare

edited by Ellen Kuhlmann and Ellen Annandale, Palgrave, 2010, 120 GBP (hardback); paperback edition forthcoming in 2012

This authoritative, state-of-the-art reference collection addresses the main issues and core debates related to gender and healthcare. Divided into five parts, it covers:

- Gendering healthcare and policy
- The social patterning of health by gender
- Equity and access to healthcare
- Gendering the organization and delivery of healthcare
- The professions as catalyst of gender-sensitive healthcare

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 to join RC15.

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. Please contact the RC15 Secretary:

ISA RC15 Secretary
Amelie Quesnel-Vallee
Email: amelie.quesnelvallee@mcgill.ca

Note from Newsletter Editor

The next Newsletter No 53 is scheduled for October 2011.

Your notices and Call for Papers of interest for RC15 members are very welcome and must be sent as a word file; please note: no pdf files or email announcements will be considered!

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