



International Sociological Association, RC15

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH

Number 44 May 2007

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Letter from the President of RC15 | 2 |
| Call for Papers, ISA RC15 Interim Meeting, Montreal 2008 | 3 |
| World Congress 2010, Göteborg, Sweden | 5 |
| New Steering Board | 5 |
| History of RC15 | 6 |
| Sociology of Health in Different Areas of the World | 8 |
| Notices | 9 |
| Changes of Address | 12 |
| Next Newsletter | 12 |

Letter from the President of RC15

RC 15 (Health Sociology) has a busy agenda in the period leading up to the next World Congress of Sociology in 2010 in Goteborg, Sweden. The new RC 15 Steering Board is in place and has been actively involved in planning our activities for the next few years. In addition to myself, the Board consists of Vice-President Ellen Annandale (UK), Secretary-Treasurer Robert Dingwall (UK), News Letter Editor Ellen Kuhlmann (Germany), Ivy Bourgeault (Canada), Jonathan Gabe (UK), Leah Gilbert (South Africa), Ishwar Modi (India), and Chris Ntau (Botswana). Our past president Elianne Riska (Finland) remains as an ex-officio member until 2009.

As announced in this newsletter, RC 15 will hold an interim meeting in Montreal at McGill University in May, 2008. Ivy Bourgeault (McMaster University) and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée (McGill University) will be co-organizers. This meeting will held in conjunction with the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Medical Sociology Association and will be bilingual (English/French). Medical sociologists affiliated with the French Sociological Association have been invited to organize a session as part of our meeting. I look forward to seeing you all in Montreal as we are organizing what appears to be an exceptionally enjoyable and worthwhile conference.

In addition, under the leadership of Ishwar Modi, we are in the process of planning a second conference in 2009 to be held in Jaipur, India. More information on this event will be forthcoming as details are completed.

Any of our members who have ideas or suggestions about our future activities, please e-mail me at the address show below. In the meantime, please make plans to join us in Montreal next spring!

Sincerely,
William C. Cockerham
President, RC 15
e-mail: wcocker@uab.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON
THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH (RC15)
INTERIM MEETING
&
THE CANADIAN MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATION
INAUGURAL MEETING



CREDIT: McGill University

“Making Connections for Health” Montréal, Canada, May 13-16, 2008

The Joint Interim Meeting of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Health (RC 15) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) and Inaugural Meeting of the Canadian Medical Sociology Association will be co-organized by Ivy Lynn Bourgeault (McMaster) and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée (McGill) and held at McGill University in Montréal, Canada, from May 13th to 16th 2008.

We cordially invite paper submissions for this joint meeting which will be **officially bilingual** (English/French). We encourage submission of papers on all topics relevant to the sociology of health and health care including, but not limited to:

- aboriginal health and health care;
- complementary and alternative health care;
- ethnicity, health and health care;
- experiences of Health and Illness;
- gender, health and health care;
- genetics/health technology/ethics & risk;
- health services and policy research;
- health work/health professions;
- international/comparative perspectives on health and health care;
- health and health care across the lifecourse;
- mental health and health care;
- social determinants of health/population health

Details on the online submission of abstracts, conference registration etc. will be available soon. RC 15 Members may wish to note that:

- We will accept proposals for thematic sessions (invited or open) until July 1, 2007.
- We are planning on two invited plenary panels:
 - Canadian perspectives on/contributions to medical sociology &
 - Medical Sociology in an International/Global Context.
- The deadline for abstracts will be **January 15th 2008**; the online abstract submission process will be available in the early fall 2007; extended abstracts will be required of 750 words, succinctly describing research questions, data, methods, and findings (even if expected or preliminary).
- You will have the option of an oral or poster presentation.
- Notices of acceptance (and format) will be sent out and the online registration process will be available **Feb. 15th 2008**
- The deadline for the submission of papers will be **April 1st 2008**
- In the spirit of a bilingual conference, the abstracts will be made available in both languages and the slides for oral presentations must be in the alternate language of the presentation; oral presentation slides should also be forwarded to us by **April 1st 2008** (we are aiming to fund these translation costs for presenters)

As soon as further information is available, we will forward it to you in an email bulletin. In the interim, if you have further questions about the call for papers, proposals for thematic session or about the meeting itself, please feel free to email Ivy Lynn Bourgeault at bourgea@mcmaster.ca or Amélie Quesnel-Vallée at amelie.quesnelvallee@mcgill.ca.

We hope to see you in Montreal!



The RC15 Steering Committee is planning for the next World Congress in Göteborg in 2010. I would be very pleased to have members' ideas on:

- session themes
- format of sessions (regular paper sessions, round tables, author meets critics, keynote talks)
- Suggestions for other conference-related events

Please contact Ellen Annandale, RC15 Vice president and Program Co-ordinator for the 2010 World Congress, Email: eca7@le.ac.uk

New Steering Board of RC15

As mentioned in the President's letter, RC15 has a new steering board:

Bill Cockerham, President, USA, Email: wcocker@uab.edu

Ellen Annandale, Vice President, UK, Email: eca7@leicester.ac.uk

Robert Dingwall, Secretary-Treasurer, UK, Email: robert.dingwall@nottingham.ac.uk

Ivy Lynn Bourgeault, Canada, Email: bourgea@mcmaster.ca

Jonathan Gabe, UK, Email: Jpngabe2@aol.com

Leah Gilbert, South Africa, Email: Leah.Gilbert@wits.ac.za

Ishwar Modi, India, Email: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in

Christopher Ntau, Botswana, Email: NTAUCH@mopipi.ub.bw

Elianne Riska, Finland, ex-officio member, Email: elianne.riska@helsinki.fi

Newsletter Editor, Ellen Kuhlmann, Germany, Email: e.kuhlmann@zes.uni-bremen.de

For further information please visit the website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc15.htm>

History of ISA RC15

RC15 is amongst the early Research Committees of the ISA and has continuously expanding its membership. Thus, time to recall its history. Starting with a letter from Mark Field, who was on the board for a considerable time from 1972 to 1984, this and subsequent letters from former RC15 Presidents will help to keep history alive – thanks to an initiative of Elianne Riska and Ellen Annandale. Another effort of the Executive is the collection of relevant documents, see the Archive Project.

Mark Field's comments on his time as RC15 Chair

Dear Colleagues,

It is now difficult to remember what went on so many years ago; in addition family health problems in the last few years make it even more arduous.

I was appointed chair (not elected) at the ISA meeting in Varna, Bulgaria in 1972 perhaps because my knowledge of French and Russian facilitated communications. Those who appointed me were Eliot Freidson (former chair) and Magdalena Sokolowska.

As one interested in comparative health care systems, I tried to maintain momentum by encouraging colleagues in different countries to organize meetings or seminars, as we did in Belgium, France, the US, and as we planned one for China which did not materialize. You are right in mentioning turnover, but that is the nature of the endeavor. Maintaining lines of communication open is a difficult and time-consuming task.

I expect that you know the book *Medical Sociologists at Work* edited by Elling and Sokolowska (1978) in which I have a chapter and describe my own path in medical sociology, a chapter that perhaps needs bringing up to date. It might be an idea to re-issue such a book and bring it to the current period.

The evolution of the Committee has been in terms of formalizing practices (such as elections) from the free-wheeling days of the beginning. Also we should help those of our colleagues who work in the poorly developed areas of the world. And as is usually the case, one of the problems is the financing of our activities. If you have specific questions, please do not hesitate to ask, and they may activate my memories of those past years in this exciting field.

Cordially yours
Mark G. Field

RC15 Archive Project

Since the meeting in Durban, the Executive have been trying to make a more organized collection of documents relating to the history of the group, particularly as so much communication and storage is now electronic and there is a risk of the group's history being lost as people clear paper out of their offices. The University of Warwick in England has agreed to accept the deposit of the group's archives, where they can be stored alongside those of the British Medical Sociology Group and made available to future historians of the field. Robert has collated the material held by current members of the Executive but this has many gaps, particularly for the early years of the group. If you have anything gathering dust in your cupboards that you would like to contribute, please ship this to Robert – material might include newsletters, conference programmes, especially from interim meetings, AGM papers, posters or correspondence. Robert's address is: Institute for Science and Society, Law and Social Sciences Building, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, United Kingdom. If you have a collection the size of a cabin trunk, please warn him but otherwise he is happy to receive stuff as it comes, although he would like to pass it on to Warwick by the beginning of September if possible.

Robert Dingwall
Email: Robert.Dingwall@nottingham.ac.uk

Sociology of Health in different Areas of the World

RC15 has a strong commitment to improving knowledge exchange in the area of sociology of health and illness across the world. Starting with a report on 'Maternity care in India' subsequent reports shall foster these goals and provide information on activities in our field in the various regions of the world.

Maternity care in India

Maternity care in India for a long time has remained an exclusively women's domain. Maternity care has been overshadowed by developmental goals and educational extension practices as it were. Two trends may be seen in this regard. Firstly, the public health and hygiene concerns that emanated from allopathic understanding of the 'white man's burden'. The colonial masters and their wives thought rather poorly of the dirty and unhygienic practices of birthing followed by uneducated women who produced several babies for their husbands. Closely connected with this attitude has been the second trend – that of the anti-natalist population policy followed in India soon after the turn of the past century and officially proclaimed soon after India attained political freedom in 1947. The focus had been on convincing and converting people to have fewer children, and eventually women began to be brought under the scanner when it was realised that as bearers of babies they need to be targeted. For over a couple of decades now, female contraception, especially the very high rate of sterilisation of women and institutional childbirth has been the primary high light of the population policy in India.

It is rather strange that there has not been in India the kind of passion and deep cleavages dividing the society and research initiatives around childbirth and contraception in the West. While the feminists had to struggle for long before getting the right to abort in 1969, it was given to Indians in 1971 to persuade couples to abort undesired foetuses to attain a small family. However, Indian health researchers and feminists have been interested in maternity issues now for over a decade in view of the strikingly declining proportion of girl children in the age group of 0-6 years revealed by the census figures of 2001 census in India. This trend has been set off after the introduction of new reproductive technologies. In the field of gender and health care there has not been any fruitful collaboration that I am aware of. This is one area that is promising indeed. In fact, health care in general and maternity care therein may be explored for international networking and mutual learning across cultures.

Tulsi Patel, Professor of Sociology
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Symposium on:

THE NEW SOCIOLOGY OF THE HEALTH SERVICE:
Sociological Perspectives on Health Policy and Health Care

Date: 12th September 2007

Location: Royal Holloway, University of London
International Building
Egham

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Speakers: John Abraham
Michael Calnan
Mary Ann Elston
Jonathan Gabe
Caroline Glendenning
Stephen Harrison
Tim Milewa
John Mohan
Jennie Popay
Gareth Williams

REGISTRATION: FREE
(Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment)

To register email: sheila.folkard@rhul.ac.uk

Supported by the Foundation for the Sociology of Health & Illness

Call for Papers

Health Sociology Review

Guest Editors: Jane Edwards and Damien W. Riggs

Community, family, citizenship and the health of LGBTIQ people

Whilst lesbian women, gay men, and bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people are typically excluded from normative forms of social order, they nonetheless continue to create their own forms of order. These intersections of exclusion and inclusion often result in complex health issues for LGBTIQ communities, particularly in relation to matters concerning families and citizenship. This special issue invites theoretical and empirical papers from across disciplines and theoretical perspectives addressing the following broad topics:

- What influence do normative and/or re-negotiated understandings of community, family and citizenship have on the health of LGBTIQ people?
- How do communities, families and forms of citizenship influence access to health care services among LGBTIQ people?
- How are notions of community, family and citizenship deployed in health policy relevant to LGBTIQ health needs?
- How do new forms of order within LGBTIQ communities potentially affect health outcomes for marginalised members of such communities?

Manuscripts should be submitted via email to both no later than **28th February, 2008** and should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words. Enquiries and/or manuscripts are encouraged from individuals marginalized by all forms of order, both normative and within LGBTIQ communities.

Guidelines for authors can be found at <http://hsr.e-contentmanagement.com/>

Dr Jane Edwards
University of South Australia
jane.edwards@unisa.edu.au

Dr Damien W Riggs
University of Adelaide
damien.riggs@adelaide.edu.au



A Monograph Issue of *Current Sociology*, based on papers given at the 2006 World Congress is in the final stages of preparation:

**‘New Connections: Towards a Gender Inclusive Approach
to Women’s and Men’s Health’**

Edited by Ellen Annandale and Elianne Riska

Full content details will be provided in the next Newsletter.

Comparative Health Policy, 2nd edition, Palgrave, July 2007

Robert H. Blank and Viola Burau

This wide-ranging text assesses the extent to which policy problems and responses in different countries have common causes or spring from specific national circumstances systematically comparing nine countries.

**Push! The Struggle for Midwifery in Ontario, McGill-Queen's University Press,
Montreal, 2006**

Ivy Lynn Bourgeault

Push! Offers a historical account of the forces that led to the integration of midwifery into the provincial health care system in Ontario, including public interest in funding for midwifery services and the impact of political lobbying.

Challenging Medicine, 2nd edition, Routledge, 2006

Edited by David Kelleher, Jonathan Gabe and Gareth Williams

Challenging Medicine offers a lively reappraisal of the current changes to the health service and analyses their effects on the status and practice of health professionals. It also provides original debate on the challenges posed from various sides and in different areas.

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
Email: Robert.Dingwall@nottingham.ac.uk

Next Newsletter No 45

The next Newslette is preliminary scheduled for November 2007.

Notices and Call for Papers of interest for RC15 are very welcome. Please contact Newsletter Editor Ellen Kuhlmann, Email: e.kuhlmann@zes.uni-bremen.de.