



International Sociological Association, RC15

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH

Number 47 October 2008

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Letter from the President

The most recent activity for ISA RC 15 (Health Sociology) was participation in the 1st ISA Forum held in September in Barcelona. Vice-President Ellen Annandale and myself attended the ISA Research Council meeting and chaired a session on “Health and Leisure” jointly with RC 13. The ISA Forum was organized to meet every two years between the ISA World Congress and provide a site for interim meetings for research committees that do not hold their own gatherings. The RC 15 Board decided not to have its interim meeting at the Forum, but to meet separately in Montreal in support of the new Canadian Association of Medical Sociology. The next Forum will be held in Yokohama, Japan, in 2012, and whether or not RC 15 will hold an interim meeting there is a decision for the next Board.

RC 15’s interim meeting in Montreal was well-attended and several interesting sessions were held in conjunction with the inaugural meeting of Canadian medical sociologists. Participants were from several countries with especially large contingents from Canada and France. A report on the Montreal meeting is included in this Newsletter. RC 15 also sponsored a session on health in the former Soviet Union at the International Institute of Sociology (IIS) World Congress in Budapest last June. The next IIS congress will be June 11-14, 2009, at Yerevan State University in Yerevan, Armenia. RC 15 members who wish to chair sessions or participate in sessions with RC 15 sponsorship pay a reduced registration fee. For further information, see the IIS website: www.iisoc.org/iis2009.

The next event for RC 15 for which preparation is underway is a second interim meeting to be in Jaipur, India, in September, 2009. RC 15 Board member Ishwar Modi is the local host. Jaipur is known as the pink city for the color of its ancient buildings and is a major tourist site. Details concerning this meeting are included in this Newsletter. Also included is initial information on the ISA World Congress of Sociology to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in July, 2010. We are looking forward to a high level of participation for our membership at the World Congress. Ellen Annandale is the coordinator for RC 15 and is seeking suggestions for our sessions. Please make plans to attend.

*William C. Cockerham
ISA RC15 President
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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 Session planning

- ISA has recently announced that the theme of the Congress will be Sociology 'On the Move' which means that overall theme is how sociology can contribute to the understanding of social change. The organising committee has emphasised 5 themes for the Congress as a whole: Violence and War; Sustainability; Worlds of Difference; Religion and Power; and Action and Imagination.
- As long as our RC15 membership numbers are 85-100 RC15 can have 14 sessions at the Congress
- So far the following topics have been proposed:
 - Health behaviours (Jennie Kronenfeld)
 - A bilingual English/French session (Isabelle Feroni)
 - Health inequalities/SES inequalities in health (Ellen Annandale)
 - Cross cultural bioethics (Kristina Orfali, Ray DeVries)
 - Medications (Noémia Lopes)

Joint sessions:

- 'Remaking the health professional workforce' RC52 (Professional Groups) (Ellen Kuhlmann and Mike Saks)
- A joint session with RC32 (Women in Society)

Some topics will form regular sessions, but we are also considering other formats such as panel sessions and a round table session.

I would like to have suggestions for *at least 7 more sessions* for the Steering Committee to consider. I must submit the list of sessions and names of session organisers to ISA by the deadline of January 15th 2009, so please **send your suggestions to me by December 12th** at the very latest so that the final program can be devised. It is important that the sessions represent the interests of the membership – so please do forward your suggestions to me!

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

RC15 Vice-president and Program Organiser for 2010 World Congress

CALL FOR PAPERS



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

The Mid-term Conference of the Research Committee on Sociology of Health (RC 15) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) will be organized by Ishwar Modi, Member of the Steering Board, ISA RC 15, in India at Jaipur during September 21-23, 2009.

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 and 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 and 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

Details on the online submission of Abstracts, Conference Registration etc. will be available soon. RC 15 Members may wish to note that:

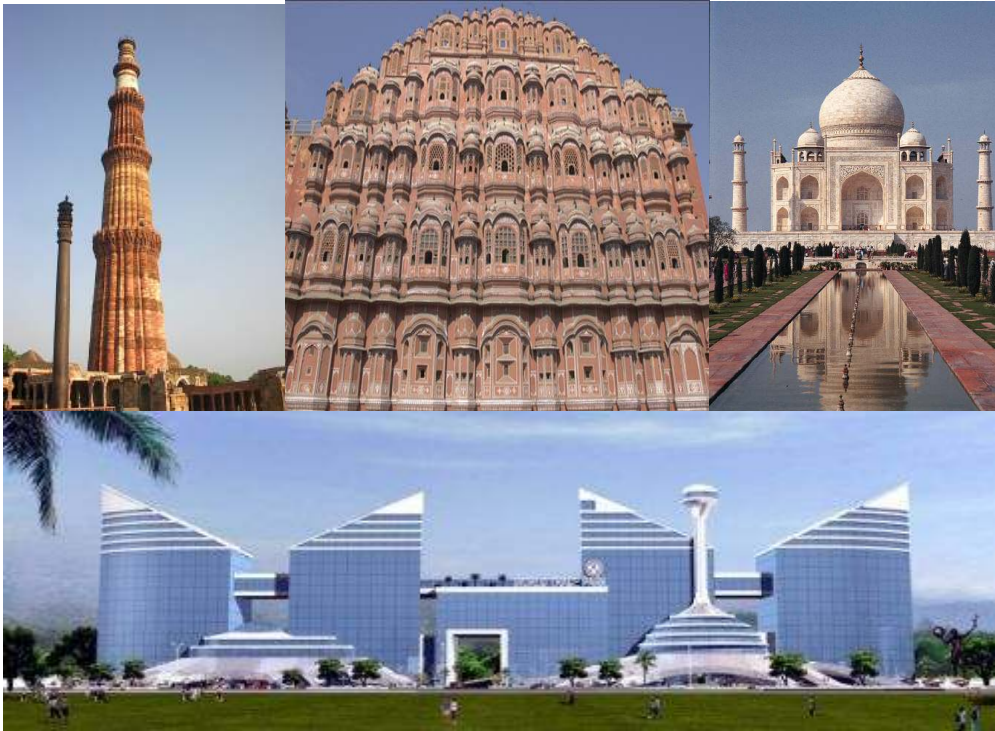
- (a) Proposals for thematic sessions may be communicated until November 30, 2008. Suggestions are also invited for plenary sessions.
- (b) Abstracts not exceeding 500 words are requested to be submitted by March 15, 2009 to Prof. Ishwar Modi, Organizing Secretary of the Conference, at email: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in
- (c) Full papers are expected to be submitted by July 31, 2009
- (d) The registration fee includes all the meals (except breakfast) and the conference kit. The Registrations will open after **January 1, 2009**. The Registration Fee is as under:

Registration Fee	Before March15, 2009	From March 16, 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

- (e) While lunch and dinners on the first two conference days and lunch on the third day of the conference (including the conference time tea(s) will be provided by the local organizers, the delegates will be required to pay for their own and accompanying person's accommodation. The local organizers will assist by providing options for accommodation in various categories.
- (f) The registration fee for Indian delegates will be decided by the local organizers by the end of November 2008.

Further information will be forwarded through the ISA RC 15 Website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc15.htm> or through email bulletins. In the interim, if you have further questions about the call for papers, proposals for thematic and plenary sessions or the conference, please feel free to email Prof. Ishwar Modi at iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in or Prof. William C. Cockerham, President, ISA RC 15 at wcocker@uab.edu

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) and Letter from Ray Elling (Newsletter 45).

Letter from Stella Quah, past President

Dear colleagues,

I am writing this letter at the request of Dr Ellen Kuhlmann, the current Editor of the RC15 *Newsletter*. It has been fourteen years since I completed my term as RC15 Chairperson (1990-1994) and my first reaction to her invitation was mixed. I very much wanted to help as I believe this project is a brilliant way of keeping RC15 members in touch with its history. But the seemingly easy assignment – just 1 to 2 pages – was a daunting task for me: I knew that it meant spending days searching through boxes of files for dates and relevant details and I could not afford the time just then because of my very heavy work commitments. I am grateful for Ellen's gracious understanding and provision of a longer deadline.

My introduction to the International Sociological Association (ISA) was through the RC15. In 1977 I received an invitation from Prof Rance Lee (he later became RC15 Secretary-Treasurer for the period 1982-1990) to present a paper at the 9th ISA World Congress RC15 session he was organizing. So it was in August 1978 at Uppsala, Sweden, that I attended my first RC15 meeting. I became a formal ISA and RC15 member since then because of my admiration for the dynamic and dedicated group of medical sociologists (including Magdalena Sokolowska, Margot Jeffereys, Judith Shuval, Mark Field, Derek Gill, Ray Elling, and Rance Lee) and other social scientists from around the world who were members of the RC15. As a young PhD student writing my dissertation on health related behaviour, I had read their work and I was thrilled to have the opportunity to interact with them either at Uppsala during the World Congress or at other RC15 meetings. One of the most notable RC15 members was Magdalena Sokolowska from whom I learned more in subsequent years about health care research in Eastern Europe; she also introduced me to the objectives and procedures of the RC15 and the ISA. Magdalena was elected member of the ISA Executive Committee from 1974 to 1978 and later ISA Vice-President for the term 1978-1982. My own work at ISA includes my election to the RC15 Steering Board for the period 1986-1994; and as Chair of RC15 at the RC15 Business Meeting in July 1990 (during the 12th ISA World Congress of Sociology in Madrid) for the period 1990-1994. I did not stand for re-election as RC15 Chair for the next term because of the duties of my new position as ISA Vice-President and Chair of the ISA Research Council for the term 1994-1998. I was elected to the latter positions at the 13th ISA World Congress in Bielefeld, Germany in July 1994.

During my term as RC15 Chair, the Steering Board members were: Asa Christina Laurell (Mexico), Vice-Chair; Kyoichi Sonoda (Japan), Secretary Treasurer; Debabar Banerji (India); Has-Ulrich Deppe (Germany); Heidrum Kaupen-Hass (Germany); Eugene B. Gallagher (US) as Newsletter Editor; Akwasi Aidoo (Senegal) Board member-elect; Vicente Navarro (US) Board member-elect; Santhat Sermsri (Thailand) Board member-elect; Judith Shuval (Israel), Board Member-elect; Ray Elling (US) emeritus as past Chair; and Rance Lee (Hong Kong) emeritus as past Secretary-Treasurer. Unfortunately, Kyoichi Sonoda could only attend to his duties as Secretary-Treasurer intermittently during his 4-year term mainly due to illness. So I took some of his responsibilities while he continued in charge of membership and managing the RC15 financial records and bank account.

Then as well as now, I believe the objective of RC15 is to foster sociological research on health and illness from a wide range of conceptual perspectives and methodological approaches. As RC15 Chair, I considered it my duty to encourage sociological researcher and to boost the distribution of sociological knowledge across countries. Thus, during the period 1990-1994 we strived to improve communication among RC15 members and to activate the committee as an international network of medical sociologists. More specifically, one of my priorities was to transform the Newsletter into an effective means of communication and networking for the RC15 membership.

I am particularly grateful to Eugene B. Gallagher who accepted my invitation to join the Steering Board as Editor of the RC15 Newsletter. Gene Gallagher's vast experience as former Editor of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, made him the best choice to take over this task. In addition to his work as Newsletter Editor, Gene very kindly and effectively also assisted me with two other important aspects of RC15 work. Gene's cooperation was essential when he accepted my request to replace H.D. Deppe as the ISA/RC15 representative to the WHO's 46th World Health Assembly held in May 1993, when Deppe was unable to attend. The other duty he took up was an activity normally under the purview of the Secretary-Treasurer: I appointed Gene as the coordinator and convener of the RC15 sessions for the 13th World Congress of Sociology and, as we saw in Bielefeld, he did a splendid job.

Following the trend of previous decades, the research conducted by RC15 members during the period 1990-1994 comprised a very wide spectrum of themes: studies of individuals and communities in health and illness; users and providers of health care services; health systems in their multiple forms, both formal and informal, traditional as well as modern; attitudes and behaviour of health care providers and users before, during and after the onset of illness; and analyses of specific diseases or types of diseases. The details are in my report "The Market situation of Sociological Research and Expertise: The Case of Medical Sociologists" to the ISA Research Council in March 1992. While preparing the report I invited all the members of the RC15 Steering Board to contribute their assessment of medical sociology research in their own countries. Four of them replied with information: D. Banerji on India; H.U. Deppe on Germany; C. Laurell on Mexico; and R. Lee, on Hong Kong. Their contributions are quoted in the report. An abbreviated version of this report was published in the *RC15 Newsletter*, No. 25, December 1992, pp. 3-9.

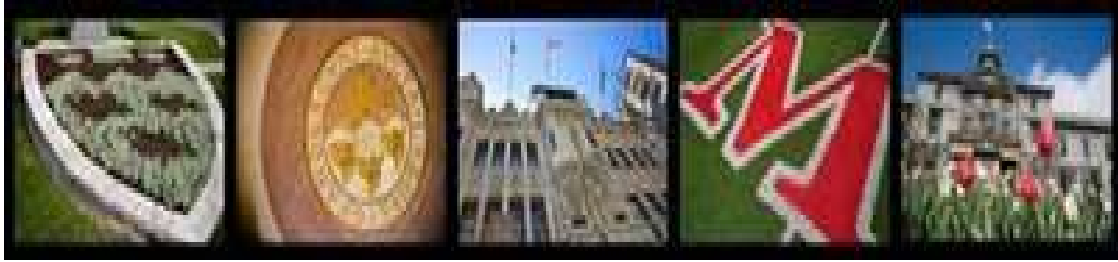
On closing, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the subsequent and current RC15 Steering Boards led by Gene Gallagher (1998-2002), Elianne Riska (2002-2006) and Bill Cockerham (2006-2010), and Ellen Kuhlmann, the current Editor of the RC15 *Newsletter*, for the excellent work you have done bringing the RC15 to greater heights.

Best regards to all

Stella Quah, 20 April 2008

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CREDIT: McGill University

Report

ISA RC15) Interim Meeting and Canadian Medical Sociology Inaugural Meeting

“Making Connections for Health”

McGill University, Montréal, Canada, May 13-16, 2008

RC 15 held a successful interim meeting in Montreal this past May 2008 which helped to launch the Canadian Medical Sociology Association. The meeting was bilingual (French/English) and welcomed nearly 200 medical sociology scholars from 19 different countries including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The event was kicked off with a panel addressing the international issues addressed by medical sociologists. Professor Robert Dingwall of the U.K. presented on global pandemic preparations in the U.K. linking it historically to key events of the last pandemic – the Spanish Flu; Professor Stephen Bach discussed the increasing significance that sociologists need to pay attention to the international migration of health workers, with a particular focus on internationally educated nurses in the U.K.; Professor John McKinlay reminded us of ‘appropriate’ technology in an animated presentation and finally, Canada Research Chair in Global Health and Social Policy, Jody Heymann presented some startling statistics from her research program on the growing crisis confronting children and working parents in the global economy.

Following the international panel were 30 sessions held concurrently across three venues over three days with both invited and submitted papers read in either English or French and slides projected in both languages. Topics ranged from complementary and alternative health care, ethnicity and health, gender and health, health communication on the internet, health professions, health services and policy research, health systems and diversity, health technology, international health, new directions in clinical decision-making, obesity, primary care, social networks and social determinants of health.

The conference concluded with a showcase of Canadian contributions to medical sociology in the areas of aging, social epidemiology, critical perspectives on health care, and community health with presentations by Margaret Denton, Andree Demers, Ted Schrecker, Louise Potvin.

Social highlights included the conference dinner which boasted four courses of dessert! The conference organizers, Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, Tania Jenkins (both at McGill) and Ivy Bourgeault (now at the University of Ottawa), are grateful for the sponsorship of the event from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institutes for Health Services and Policy Research, Gender and Health, and Aging and the McGill University Dean of Arts Development Fund.

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The Perspective of PhD Students – Individual Conference Reports

One of my professors once said that although many PhD students try to get to the “big” conferences (and by “big” I guess, he meant those attended by hundreds of people, such as annual meetings of sociological associations) in fact, small environments are much better for professional development than crowded rooms and halls of big events. Leaving “Making Connections for Health” meeting in Montreal this May, I felt that I just visited this kind of “small” event even though more than 160 people attended the conference.

The name of the conference, “Making Connections for Health”, nicely captured the dynamics of communication taking place at McGill University – an Anglophone community of a francophone Canadian province of Quebec. We were making personal connections with other researchers from Canada and abroad. We were also making analytical connections discovering again and again that some topics are universal, that our local, Canadian “problems” resonate with what is going on in other parts of the world.

The conference organizers – Ivy Lynn Bourgeault and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée – announced that it would be the first bilingual conference of medical sociologists from around the world. I had a vague understanding of how that would work - French is not one of the languages I am proud to say I know well and I could not imagine how hard that would be for me to listen (and to understand) a presentation in French. As it turned out, however, being at the bilingual conference where presenters can talk in French or English does not mean that you miss half of presentation if you are not fluent in one of the languages. Apparently, when there is a willingness to organize event as multi-cultural and engaging, it is also possible to find the means to achieve this goal: simultaneously screened English and French Power Point slides during the presentations did not leave anyone to wonder about the content of a talk. The group of volunteers – bilingual students from McGill University did an outstanding job helping with slides and other technical issues. I spoke with Olga – a student from the faculty of engineering helping out during my session. She said she did enjoy listening to presenters – the topics we discussed during the conference were interesting and really “talked” to her.

They also “talked” to me. The program covered variety of issues: there were sessions on health care systems, transformation and transition in health care, genetics and health technology, health on the Internet and more. Alongside such traditional themes in the field of sociology of health and health care as social determinants of health and health inequalities, there were sessions about life course, body, complementary and alternative medicine, tourism/immigration and health. Three days of non-stopping sessions gave plenty of opportunities to listen to others and to learn about developments in almost any field related to medical sociology.

More than 200 people registered for the conference. Yet, in my head, this event has become an example of these “small” conferences that my professor had favored over “big” meetings. Maybe it is because the atmosphere during the conference was intimate and friendly. Or maybe it is because everyone seemed so open to meet and discuss and talk and comment, and get excited about the work of others. Or maybe it is because I had a chance to meet so many people who were doing similar to my own research on the other side of the globe.

Maybe we all can agree that feeling welcomed and being in a friendly environment stimulates networking and making connections with each other. What we also can agree about is that for PhD students, like me, who are just entering the field of professional sociology, a friendly atmosphere and welcoming smiles of those whose books we have just read while preparing for comprehensive examinations, made this conference a unique event. A place where people talked to each other despite speaking different languages, living in different countries, analyzing different health care system, and being in different stages of their professional careers.

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"Making Connections for Health" / "Jeter des points pour la santé" was the first bilingual medical sociologists' Conference. It was held in McGill University, Montreal, last May, and it was co-organised by Ivy Lynn Bourgeault, from McMaster University, and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, from McGill University. Therefore, the connections stated on the main theme can be extended to the institutional and organisational framework. For instance, the bilingual condition of the Conference motivated the participation of the scientific francophone community, mostly from France, but also from Canada, Cameroon, Morocco and Switzerland. Besides this, the participation of 18 different countries proved its international scope. The access to the presentations (abstracts, power point slides, e-mails contacts) creates the opportunity for the emergence of a virtual connection! The debate did not restrict to a fixed-time event, where the coffee-breaks used to assume a crucial importance.

The discussion around “Making connections for health” can be a challenge, considering the multidimensional scope of the debate. The conference theme was approached from different perspectives, involving the analysis of several issues. Just to cite a few: the patient/health

professional interaction, the reform of health care organisations, the clinical decision making process, the health disparities and social determinants, the complementary and alternative health care, the dynamics and dilemmas of globalization and health, the health risks and social experience, the comparative perspectives on health and health care, the professional governance, the healthcare across life course or the diversity in health care organisations. What was most interesting to perceive was that the organisation included the traditional subjects that normally come across in conferences concerning health services research, but also more interdisciplinary and innovative streams!

Taking in account the research I am doing, I followed the sessions that were related with: the study of professions; ethnicity, health and health care; health disparities; health systems and diversity. I found particularly interesting the presentations related with the provision of care to and by minority communities. For me it was an opportunity to update my knowledge in what concerns not only the academic work, but also the initiatives of the institutional actors that are working in this field. In this regard, the discussion around the meaning of accessibility and responsiveness care are crucial. Some of the addressed questions were: “How workplace segmentation among Indian-origin male doctors is achieved and its impact on doctors’ psychological well-being” (Anupama Garg); “Comment respecter son éthique médicale et contribuer à l’accès aux soins de tous des étrangers même ceux en situation irrégulière?” (Elhadji Mamadou Mbaye); “Whether a patient who is the same race/ethnicity as their provider receives better quality care relative to a patient who sees the same provider and is not concordant?” (Erin C. Strumpf); “Does the health of immigrants deteriorate because of issues related to access to health services?” (Fernando De Maio and Eagan Kemp); “La situation linguistique minoritaire: [est-elle] un déterminant de la santé?” (Louise Bouchard); “What role does “power” play in determining who gets services?” (Pascual Delgado); “Whether it is possible to balance receiver *versus* source country needs?” (Ruth Young).

After the Conference, I have the impression that the need to re-phrase the sustainability concept is emerging, even though, in my view, some of the presentations overemphasised the global systemic approach (Lisa Eckenwiler), instead of its scale differentiation (local, national, international, global, transnational). This Conference gave me the opportunity to listen some of the leading senior researchers in the field. Certainly one of these cases was Ellen Kuhlmann’s paper based on a research carried on with Allsop Judith in order to compare the medical self-regulation in Britain and Germany. The talk confirmed the various arenas of governance and the plural regulation arrangements that it implies. Lastly, I would like to point out the poster presentations, almost half of them reporting the research work that has been done at McMaster University, with the supervision of Ivy Bourgeault. As I was particularly interested in these topics and, as I rather prefer the presentation format, I am wondering if the poster sessions could be extended. On the other hand, I understand that the programme was already quite intensive.

In short, for me it was a very value-added conference, mainly in what concerns the production of comparative perspectives on health and health care. The keynote speakers of the plenary sessions emphasized precisely that, either considering the global impact of what begins to be a local disease – the pandemic influenza – (Robert Dingwall); either taking in account the effects of global economy in health disparities and social inequalities (Jody Heymann); or, in what

regards the international nurse recruitment as a workforce planning challenge both for the state and the market (Stephen Bach). The conference ended with a plenary session about the state of the art of Canadian research about aging and caring work (Margaret Anne Denton) and the contribution of three Canadians – Robert G. Evans, Patricia Armstrong, Margaret Lock – to the health economy field (Ted Schrecker). Maybe because I am interested in the aging care work, I found particularly useful to know a little more about the organisation of research on aging and health in Canada. I got the impression that in Portugal a lot of work is still to be done, for instance, taking advantage of longitudinal data sets. To sum up, I hope that the connections established – virtual, linguistic or subject interests – produce further results in a near future!

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Book announcements

Qualitative Health Research, Four Volume Set

Edited by Robert Dingwall, Sage, 2008

This collection, intended primarily for library purchase, will support a wide range of courses in institutions that have limited access to major journals publishing qualitative research in health. It includes classic work from the last fifty years of medical sociology and related fields alongside representative selections of current research. The four volumes focus on 'Patients and Disease', 'Health Professionals and their Work', 'Healthcare Organisations' and 'Patient Experiences', each with an introduction by the editor. Full details of the contents can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3ouy87>.

Women's Health and Social Change

Ellen Annandale, Routledge, July 2008

This book provides a comprehensive and persuasive analysis of the contemporary social relations of gender and women's health, arguing that the once all important sex/gender distinction fosters an undue separation between the social and the biological whereas it is their interaction and flexibility that is important in the production of health and illness. New theoretical tools are needed in a world where the meaning and lived experience of biological sex and of social gender, as well as the connections between them, are far more fluid. This book takes a step forward, outlining what an adequate feminist analysis of women's health might look like. <http://www.routledge.com/books/Womens-Health-and-Social-Change-isbn9780415190879>

Neoliberalism, Globalization and Inequality. Consequences for Health and Quality of Life

Edited by Vicente Navarro, Baywood Publishing, New York

This book assembles a series of articles that challenge the ideology called 'neoliberalism': privatizing public services and public enterprises, deregulating the mobility of capital and labor, eliminating protectionism, and reducing public social protection. Written by well-known scholars, the articles question each of the tenets of neoliberal doctrine, showing how the policies guided by this ideology have adversely affected human development in the countries where they have been implemented.

'Sociology and Bioethics', Special Issue of Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy
Edited by Raymond De Vries and Scott Kim, vol. 11, no. 4, 2008 forthcoming

This Special Issue specially focuses on 'Bioethics and the Sociology of Trust'. The editors solicited articles on trust because they found it odd that bioethicists paid so little attention to an issue that is central to their work. They point out that from a sociological point of view, bioethics is a field born of mis/trust. Articles in the issue include examination of how trust operates in: clinical trials (with adults and children), drug approval processes, the decisions of research ethics committees, and in patient - physician interactions around new cancer screening techniques and therapies.

New Connections: Towards a Gender Inclusive Approach to Women's and Men's Health

Edited by Ellen Annandale and Elianne Riska, Current Sociology, Monograph Series, vol. 57, no. 1, 2009 forthcoming

A collection of papers presented at the 2006 ISA World Congress, Durban 2006.

Contents:

From women's health to gender mainstreaming and back again: Linking feminist agendas and new governance in health care by Ellen Kuhlmann

Men, masculinities and heart disease: A systematic review of the qualitative literature by Carol Emslie and Kate Hunt

Gender, sexuality and embodiment: Access to and experience of health care by same-sex attracted women in Australia by Jane Edwards and Helen van Roekel

Men who have sex with men and partner notification in Ireland: Beyond binary dualisms of gender and health care by Claire Coleman and Maria Lohan

The male involvement program and men's sexual and reproductive health in Northern Namibia by Pempelani Mufune

Constructing relatedness: Ethnicity and third party assisted conception in the UK by Lorraine Culley and Nicky Hudson

Private and public ageing in the UK: The transition through the menopause by Karen Ballard, Mary Ann Elston and Jonathan Gabe

Finnish commercial web-based information on male menopause and male hormone therapy by Kirsi Vainionpää

Sociology of the Body: A Reader

Claudia Malacrida and Jacqueline Low, Oxford University Press, 2008

An introductory text-reader that provides second- to fourth-year university students with a broad overview both of the theories of the body as well as substantive body issues, from a sociological perspective. The text approaches a sociological understanding of the body through both the work of classical theorists and the most recent stream of sociological theorising on bodies.

Home Nursing in Europe

Hannerieke van der Boom, Aksant Publishing, 2008

This book describes the different patterns of caregiving to frail elderly people in Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Germany. For each country characteristic features of professional and informal elderly care are described, thereby specifically focusing on the domain and profession of home nursing. This way, insight is gained into country-specific patterns of provision and differences in socio-cultural views on how adequate care for vulnerable elderly people should be arranged.

The ISA Handbook in Contemporary Sociology: Conflict, Competition, Cooperation

Edited by Ann Denis and Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, Sage, March 2009

The Handbook contains a selection of the papers presented at the ISA Research Council Conference held at the University of Ottawa in 2004, including Chapter 9: 'Health Sociology: Conflict, Competition, Cooperation' by *Elianne Riska, Ellen Annandale, and Robert Dingwall (RC15)*

Conference announcements

9th Conference of the European Sociological Association
European Society or European Societies?
Lisbon, 2-5 September 2009

Call for Papers
Research Network 16 'Sociology of Health & Illness'

**Transformations and Challenges in health and health care
across Europe's borders**

European health and health care systems are experiencing complex transformations and in some countries, these health care systems have undergone extensive and varied reforms. Some of these reforms have created greater social inequalities and generated controversy among government officials, policy makers, health care workers and citizens. With increasing economic insecurity and the growth of 'disaster capitalism', health is a sought after commodity. A sociological analysis in this area explores the impact of current social changes on European health and healthcare and recent developments in health care policy. This sort of analysis addresses the implications for those living in European countries and offers new approaches to understanding the transformations and challenges in health and health care. The task of the sociologist is to bear witness to these complexities and to document them critically.

Our Research Network invites papers that deal with the following themes and we particularly welcome papers offering a comparative perspective:

- Politics of health care in Europe
- Health and migration in a European context
- Disasters in the context of health and illness in Europe
- Challenges in reproductive health
- Mental health issues in Europe
- Patterning of health and disease in Europe
- Social aspects of death and dying
- Emotions and health
- The body in health and illness
- Inequalities and social divisions in European health: class, race, ethnicity and gender
- Formal health care organisation and delivery of health care in Europe
- Complementary and alternative medicine
- Biomedicine and ethics
- Public and environmental health risks
- Development of new medical technologies in European health care
- Disabilities in the context of health and health care
- Substance abuse and addictions in a European context
- Upsetting the health professional workforce: collaborative care and professional boundaries – joint session with RN19 "Sociology of Professions"

We invite papers addressing these and other issues related to sociology of health and illness. We especially encourage submissions from PhD students.

The deadline for submitting an abstract of no more than 250 words is 31 January 2009. If your abstract is accepted, full papers must be submitted by 15 August 2009 at the latest. Please visit the ESA website <http://www.europeansociology.org> where information on the 9th ESA Conference is available, including further instructions on abstract submission. Please do not submit abstracts to RN Co-ordinator.

RN Co-ordinator: Elizabeth Ettore, Email: E.Ettore@liverpool.ac.uk

Rejoin RC15 and ISA – New membership

The exact number of sessions that RC15 will have at the Göteborg World Congress will depend on the number of paid up members in January 2010.

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.

The goal is that RC15 should maintain at least 85 members, so as to be entitled to the planned 14 sessions (which requires 85-100 members), and we are even keen to convene more sessions.

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>.

How to join ISA

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 Science and Society
Law and Social Sciences 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 48 is scheduled for April 2008.

Your notices and Call for Papers of interest for RC15 members are, as usual, very welcome and must be sent as a word file (no pdf files or email announcements!). Please send your information to the Newsletter Editor until 31 March 2009 at the latest:

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