

Research Committee of Sociology of Health & Illness Newsletter – July 2024

Welcome

Dear RC49 members,

Preparation is going on behind the scenes for the International Sociological Association Forum, which will take place in Rabat, Morocco between 6th-11th July 2025. Thankyou to everyone who submitted proposals for our research group. RC 49 will have 20 sessions in Rabat and the details of these will be confirmed in August. Calls for abstracts will then be open between August 5th and October 15th 2024. The format in 2025 will be in-person only. We really hope that you will consider submitting an abstract and joining us in Rabat. If you are not already a member, then please consider becoming a member of our group when you join ISA or register for the conference. We are a very friendly and collegiate group. We also reduced our membership fees last year, so that they are now affordable for all.

Our July newsletter contains details of RC 49 events taking place between now and November. It reports from our events in the earlier part of the year, member publications, profiles of new and re-joining members as well as member news.

We are keen to host online seminars and workshops with other research groups. If you would be interested in organising or co-organising an event then please email me at Dixonj7@cardiff.ac.uk

Best wishes,

Jeremy Dixon (RC 49 President)

RC49 Events

RC49 PhD and Early Career Researcher Group: Delivering Effective Presentations

Please join us for the first session of the RC49 PhD/Early Career Researcher Group on the **6th of September between 9:00am and 10:30am (UTC+1)**. Professor Dirk Richter of Bern University of Applied Sciences has kindly agreed to lead this session on delivering effective presentations. Professor Richter has extensive experience of presenting in a range of settings and will share his perspectives and advice. The session will also include time for questions and discussion.

The meeting will take place on Teams. To join click on the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NzZjNmU4ODQ0tNzBkNi00NWFiLThhYzUtZjk1YzYwZiMwMzdh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22377e3d22-4ea1-422d-b0ad-8fcc89406b9e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%226a20baa7-a8d7-4651-a845-aba399b0a73e%22%7d

Meeting ID: 349 647 119 845

Passcode: f9UkzE

Using ethnography in services supporting people with cognitive difficulties and mental health problems: Issues and principles.

In this session Rich Moth and Kjeld Høgsbro will present work on using ethnographic research in mental health settings. The session will take place online on **19th November between 7.00pm - 8.30pm (UTC) on Microsoft Teams**. The presenters will address the epistemological questions of ethnographic research as well as specific methodological challenges. They will consider issues that arise when dealing with institutions as well as the influence of neoliberal reforms. Rich will be presenting findings from his book *Understanding Mental Distress* (Bristol University Press 2022) which reports on an ethnographic research project in the UK. Kjeld will be drawing on his book *How to Conduct Ethnographies of Institutions for People with Cognitive Difficulties* (Routledge 2020). There will be time for discussion and for questions. Rich Moth is a senior lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University and Kjeld Høgsbro is Professor Emeritus at Aalborg University.

To join go to: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:meeting_NDMzODMwYTEtNWFiMy00ZWY4LTgwMWEtZDRkZWJhNmZlN2Jj@thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22:%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22,%22Oid%22:%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7D

Meeting ID: 399 923 507 057

Passcode: aZYxk8

A report on RC 49 events over the last 6 months

Joint Events with the Centre for Death & Society at the University of Bath

RC49 and the Centre for Death and Society co-hosted two seminars in January and February of 2024.

The first seminar in January featured a presentation by Dr David Baker entitled 'Organised Learning, or Organised Irresponsibility? Risk, Opacity and Lesson Learning about Mental Health Related Deaths'. A recording from the session can be viewed here:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/organisational-learning-or-organised-irresponsibility/>

The seminar in February was entitled 'Sociological Perspectives on Suicide' and featured presentations by Dr Lynn Tang from Royal Holloway University London and Professor Dariusz Galasinski from the University of Wroclaw, Poland. A recording from the session can be viewed at: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/sociological-perspectives-on-suicide/>

Jeremy Dixon – RC49 President

Australasian Approaches to Critical Mental Health

We had an awesome session last month at the joint ISA RC49/Social Production of Mental Health panel discussion 'Australasian Approaches to Critical Mental Health' with panellists discussing their research and answering questions around critical mental health. The research discussed included gender, psychiatric violence and involuntary mental health service provision in Australia. It also focussed on the policing of mental health in Aotearoa New Zealand, psychiatric power and constructing the trans patient, counselling and the surveillance of young people in schools, psychiatric violence through psychotropic medication, and on concealing neoliberal psychiatric power in the discourse of burnout. The online discussion was lively and included discussion of ways we can share critical mental health research and scholarship outside of the academy.

The event, hosted by Bruce Cohen from The University of Auckland, was the first of the Social Production of Mental Health seminar series for 2024. Spaces are still open to present at the series for this year and if you'd like to participate or be invited to the seminars, please email Natalie or Effie to be added to the list and receive the Zoom links.

Natalie Hendry natalie.hendry@unimelb.edu.au or Effie Karageorgos effie.karageorgos@newcastle.edu.au

Lynda Hills, PhD Student, University of Auckland

PhD/Early Career Researcher Group

As part of plans to establish an RC49 group for PhD candidates and Early Career Researchers, a meeting was held on the 30th of May to discuss what such a group could offer. The meeting was attended by members from across the world. A number of ideas were discussed, including providing a constructive peer-led environment for ideas and papers to be presented and developed. The potential for the group to promote collaborative work and understandings across different national contexts was also highlighted. It was agreed that the group could also contribute sessions, such as a 5-minute thesis competition, to the ISA Forum in Rabat in July 2025.

Those interested in being involved in the group can contact Harry Bark at heb60@bath.ac.uk.

Harry Bark – PhD Candidate – University of Bath

RC 49 Member Publications

- Chuaqui, J., Arredondo, E. Moreau, L. and Linn, J.G. 2024. *The Quality of Life in Chile: Historic Definitions, Current Challenges, and Future Possibilities, Vol.1*. Garth University Consortium Publishers: Toronto. (Virtual copy of book available on Research Gate.)
- Laing, J., Dixon, J. and Stone, K., 2024. ‘I was going into it blind’: Nearest Relatives, legal literacy, and the Mental Health Act 1983. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 94, p.101981.
- Ling, W., Wang, S., & Li, S. (2024). Diversity patterns in non-standard employment and their relationship with self-rated health in urban China from 2010 to 2021. *Social Science & Medicine*, 348, 116827. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.116827>
- Linn, J. G., Chuaqui, J. and Arredondo, E. 2024. ‘Will Chile Achieve Greater Parity and Coverage in Mental Health’, in *The Quality of Life in Chile: Historic Definitions, Current Challenges, and Future Possibilities Vol.1*, Chuaqui, J., Arredondo, E. Moreau, L. and Linn, J.G. (Eds). Garth University Consortium Publishers, pp.101 to 117. (Virtual copy of book available on Research Gate.)
- Szabzon, F., Bruhn, L., Brown, C.A., Cabrini, D.R., Miranda, E., Santana, G.L. and Andrade, L.H., 2024. Reframing the method: Report on the adaptation of an ethnographic study to virtual collaborative research on mental health in a low-income neighbourhood during the COVID-19 pandemic in Sao Paulo, Brazil. *SSM- Qualitative Research in Health*, p.100417.
- Zouitni, K., 2024. Les familles des malades face au modèle explicatif psychiatrique. Quête de sens et usages sociaux. *L'Information psychiatrique*, 100(1), pp.47-53.

Welcome to our new members...

We are pleased to welcome the following members to RC 49.

Ram Bhagat

Prof Ram B. Bhagat is Honorary Professor at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, and Visiting Professor, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute for Social Sciences, Mumbai. Earlier Prof Bhagat served as Professor and Head, Department of Migration and Urban Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India. His research interests include migration and urbanization; environment and sustainable development; demography, ethnicity and politics (<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/R-Bhagat>).

Dhaneswar Bhoi

Dhaneswar Bhoi is an Honorary Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, UK, and a Lecturer at the London School of Science and Technology, specialising in Sociology, Psychology, Mental Health, Emotion, Affect and Research Methods. His book, 'Caste in Everyday Life: Experience and Affect in Indian Society', co-edited with Dr. Hugo Gorringer, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in September 2023. He is converting his postdoctoral research (Mental Health and University Space for Dalits) into a monograph for potential publication by Oxford University Press. Additionally, he is an Associate Editor of the 'Journal of the World Universities Forum', an editorial Member of the 'Journal of Social Inclusion' and holds various editorial and reviewer roles with prestigious journals and publishers. Dhaneswar is pursuing a PGCert in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education at the University of London.

Wanying Ling

Wanying Ling is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Hong Kong. Her research interests lie at the intersection of work and health, aging and the life course, and gender inequality. She employs formal demography and experimental tools to delve into these topics. Her academic research focuses primarily on work-life inequalities in East Asia. This focus has led her to explore several key areas: how work characteristics, such as quantity and quality, can either mitigate or exacerbate health inequalities among populations; the levels and trends in gender gaps in working life expectancy across various institutional settings; and the social determinants of health and well-being, along with their biological mechanisms.

Emma Tseris

Emma Tseris is a senior lecturer in social work and policy studies at the University of Sydney, where she explores intersectional feminist analyses of mental health systems. Her work investigates the ways in which mental health practices utilise biomedical and neoliberal

discourses to reflect and perpetuate social inequalities, and how participatory action research can identify points of resistance and alternatives.

Reima Ana Maglajlic

Reima Ana Maglajlic is a Reader (Associate Professor) of Social Work at the University of Sussex, UK. Her work focuses on the intersection between political conflict, mental health, human rights, and social work. Utilising participatory, collaborative, and qualitative research, her work foregrounds experiential knowledge through collaboration with the mental health system survivors and survivor researchers. This work builds on her practice and research experiences in Bosnia and Herzegovina and internationally.

Khadija Zhoutni

Khadija Zhoutni is a professor of sociology at Mohammed V University in Rabat. Khadija is interested in the experiences of families where one of their loved ones suffers from a serious mental disorder. Previous work has compared the points of view of caregivers and patients' families regarding psychiatric medications and the experience of family caregivers facing mental illness: burden, stigma and coping strategies. He has also analysed the attitudes of "families towards the psychiatric explanatory model.

[Welcome back...](#)

We are pleased that the following members have re-joined RC 49.

Cristóbal Abarca

Cristóbal Abarca Brown is a sociologist from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC), Master in Collective Health from the Federal University of São Paulo in Brazil (UNIFESP) and is currently developing his doctoral thesis at the same university on social protection, care and humanitarian practices with refugees in the Brazilian capital. In parallel, he participates in studies on mental health in urban peripheries with the Psychiatric Epidemiology Nucleus of the Institute of Psychiatry of the University of São Paulo (NEP - IPq-USP).

Daniel Nehring

Daniel Nehring is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Swansea University. He has previously held academic appointments in the UK, the Americas, and East Asia, most recently at East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai. In the broadest terms, his research is concerned with patterns, practices, and experiences of power in the context of globalisation and the rapid social change. Recently, his work has focused on the transformation of universities and higher education systems in response to the ever more far-reaching marketisation of social life. Daniel is the author of eight books, most recently *Affective Capitalism in Academia* (Bristol University Press, 2023). He is the editor of the Routledge book series *Therapeutic Culture*, and he writes regularly about the state of academic life and academic labour on the SAGE blog *Social Science Space*.

Gleiciane Souza

Gleiciane Souza is a doctoral candidate in Social Sciences at the Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil. She was a visiting doctoral student at the Centre de recherche médecine, sciences, santé, santé mentale, société (Cermes 3), at the Université Paris Cité, France. Gleiciane has worked on various topics related to the sociology of mental health, body and emotions and she has a specific interest in biographical methods. Her doctoral research focuses on the biographical trajectories of suicidal women. She has tried to highlight the sociocultural effects of social inequalities, especially those of gender and class on women and the impact on their mental health.

Member news

Gary Linn awarded at the World Social Science Association



On April 4th at the World Social Science Association meeting in Dallas Texas, Gary Linn was given an award for decades of leadership of the Chronic Disease and Disability section of World Social Science Association (WSSA). During his participation and Coordination of this section it supported the creation of the Disability Section of American Sociological Association and the American Public Health Association and the Society for Disability Studies. Gary first joined the Section on Chronic Disease and Disability of the WSSA in 1986 and has participated and coordinated all but three meetings over 38 years.

Gary has also presented a Eulogy for Professor Jorge Chuaqui at the University of Valparaíso with E. Arredondo and L. Moreau in March 2024 and presented at the World Social Science Association in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2024.

New Special Issue- *Re-thinking Therapeutic Cultures: Mental Well-being and Distress in an Era of Rapid Social Change*

RC49 member Daniel Nehring's new special issue, have now been published Online First in *Sociological Research Online*. The editors of this special issue are Daniel Nehring (Swansea University, UK), Mariano Plotkin (CIS (CONICET-IDES)/Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Argentina), Piroska Csúri (Universidad Nacional de Lanús/Universidad de San Andrés, Argentina), and Nicolás Viotti (CONICET-EIDAES, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina). It comprises the following papers, with links in the titles:

[Re-Thinking Therapeutic Cultures: Tracing Change and Continuity in a Time of Crisis and Change](#)

Daniel Nehring, Mariano Plotkin, Piroska Csúri, and Nicolás Viotti

[The Psychologization of Student Subjectivity in the Finnish Academia](#)

Antti Saari, Kristiina Brunila, and Saara Vainio

[Constructing a Crisis: Mental Health, Higher Education and Policy Entrepreneurs](#)

Ashley Frawley, Chloe Wakeham, Kenneth McLaughlin, and Kathryn Ecclestone

[Digital Therapeutic Cultures and Their New Regime of Psychological Truth](#)

Rodrigo de la Fabián

[The Self in Self-Help: A Re-Appraisal of Therapeutic Culture in a Time of Crisis](#)

Daniel Nehring

[Anna-Lena Almqvist appointed Professor of Social Work](#)

Anna-Lena Almqvist begins a new post as Professor of Social Work at Karlstad University in August 2024. Karlstad is situated in the western part of Sweden. Congratulations Anna-Lena.

Social Media

Please join us online:

LinkedIn - [\(24\) Sociology of Mental Health and Illness - International Sociological Association \(RC49\) | Groups | LinkedIn](#)

X (formerly Twitter) - @SociologyMH

Please feel free to copy us into any social media posts about new papers, forthcoming events or job opportunities so that we can share them.

Call for news items

If you have any items for the next newsletter, please send them to Jeremy Dixon at Dixonj7@cardiff.ac.uk. Don't be shy!