



# Research Committee of the Sociology of Mental Health & Illness Newsletter- January 2025

## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the RC49 newsletter and a Happy New Year for 2025. I am pleased to announce that we have a really good range of sessions planned over the next six months. This will include a session on the sociology of mental health social work, two presentations focused on the sociology of eating disorders, a book launch for *Mental Health and Otherness* by Ilana Moutian as well as a session entitled, 'What Next for Mad Studies?' Details and links for all of these presentations are below.

We are also gearing up for the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology which will take place in Rabat, Morocco between 6th-11th July 2025. This is a major event for us as it gives us the opportunity to meet in person. The call for sessions and abstracts has now closed and we are pleased to announce that the following RC49 sessions will take place:

- Academic Achievement, Mental Health and Wellbeing: Racial and Ethnic Experience Students in Higher Education
- Beyond the Clinic – Mutual Support and Solidarity in Community Mental Health Care
- Emotion of Caste Mental Health and Self Harm
- Experiential Knowledge in Mental Health Research
- Gender Perspectives on Mental Health and Illness
- Médecine Et Société à l'Épreuve De La Maladie Chronique (joint session between RC15 – Sociology of Health and RC49)

- New and Emerging Mental Health Issues in the Modern Era
- Overcoming Structural Obstacles to the Social Inclusion of Persons with Mental Health Problems in the Anthropocene (joint session between RC49 and RC46 – Clinical Sociology)
- RC49 Business Meeting
- Research Methodologies for the Sociology of Mental Health & Illness – Experiences & Innovative Approaches
- Researching Responses to Distress Caused by Extreme Events
- The Use and Abuse of Mental Health Laws
- The Sociology of Mental Health and Illness Five Minute Thesis Competition
- The Sociology of Mental Health and Illness General Session 1
- The Sociology of Mental Health and Illness General Session 2
- The Sociology of Mental Health and Illness General Session 3
- The Sociology of Mental Health Social Work
- Violence and Victimization in the Mental Health Context

Registration details can be found here: [Registration - 5th ISA Forum](#). To be included in the program book participants (including presenters, chairs and discussants) must register by March 22nd 2025. We recognize that paying for attendants can be challenging for some people and are able to provide some assistance through gifted memberships and a limited number of gifted registrations (see further down for details). We hope to see as many of you as possible at both our online events and at the Forum in July 2025.

Best wishes, Jeremy Dixon (RC49 President)

## RC 49 Forthcoming Events

[The Sociology of Mental Health Social Work \(an online event between RC49 and the European Social Work Research Association Special Interest Group\)- January 16th 2025 at 18.00-19.00 UTC.](#)

### **Presentation 1 - Caregiving Experience of Unpaid Carers of People with Schizophrenia in Taiwan**

Yu-Ching Liu (Doctoral student in Social Work, Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK)

## **Abstract**

This study explores carer burden by examining the caregiving experiences of unpaid carers of people with schizophrenia in Taiwan. The findings contextualise carers' experiences within the framework of carer support policies.

Insights were gathered from thirty carers through semi-structured interviews, identifying six themes related to carer burdens. Carers often blamed themselves for the schizophrenia diagnosis, believing it stemmed from poor parenting or lack of early attention, whilst also facing devaluation of their caregiving contributions from family members and professionals. Recognising the permanence of schizophrenia triggered their uncertainty about the future. Furthermore, the sacrifices made by carers for their relatives with schizophrenia not only affected their current lives, but also created potential difficulties for their future. The toll on carers' wellbeing included feelings trapped, self-withdrawal from interactions to avoid intrusive conversations, and in some cases, suicide attempts before their relative's diagnosis.

Support for carers should include a focus of long-term care planning for both care recipients and carers. Additionally, medical professionals play a critical role in referring carers to support centres in a timely manner to reduce suicide risks. Carers require their own independent needs assessment, which primarily considers the carers' resources for caregiving.

## **Presentation 2 - Mental health social work and care for carers of emerging adults with substance use disorders (SUDs) in Zambia.**

Ireen Manase Kabembo (PhD), University of Zambia Department of Social Work and Sociology

## **Abstract**

Background - As mental health issues continue to gain prominence globally especially in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, the role of mental health social workers in the rehabilitation of families affected by SUDs cannot be overemphasized. Despite acknowledging its importance, mental health services in Zambia are often centralized in psychiatric hospitals, creating barriers to access, especially in rural areas. Historically, mental health care has been neglected, with 2% of the non-communicable diseases budget allocated to it.

Although Zambia has a strong cultural emphasis on community-based caregiving, the lack of a robust community mental health system with limited mental health social workers is concerning. In this resource constrained setting, social work approaches in addiction care are often hinged on counselling and psychotherapy in healthcare facilities.

Methods - This qualitative study used semi-structured in-depth interviews, participant observations, and a caregiving timeline with 30 family caregivers of youth with substance use disorders to get their subjective lived experiences.

Findings - Emerging adults with SUDs and their carers continue to live with internalized stigma perpetuated in subtle ways and a myriad of challenges. With affected young adults continuously positioned as “junkies”, and their caretakers as those caring for “mad” young people, the use of positioning theory offers insight into how people’s identities are shaped by how they are positioned by others and by how they position themselves.

Implications for policy and practice - To reduce the unabated stigma of families affected by SUDs, there is need for increased sensitization and awareness of SUDs as mental health problems and not moral failings. Improved budgeting and financing for mental health services and activities and investment in training mental health social workers countrywide is needed.

Link to join: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:meeting\\_YjxMzJmMDctZjNlMi00N2U4LTgwYzltZjZhNGJhZjBhZTY5@thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22:%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22,%22Oid%22:%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7D](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:meeting_YjxMzJmMDctZjNlMi00N2U4LTgwYzltZjZhNGJhZjBhZTY5@thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22:%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22,%22Oid%22:%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7D)

Meeting ID: 318 332 565 160

Passcode: QGHutN

[Deconstructing the 'eating disorder epidemic' and cultural representations of extreme healthy eating- March 4th 2025 at 19.00-20.30 UTC.](#)

This session will feature presentations from Dr Alison Fixsen (University of Westminster and Dr Giota Tragantzopoulou (University of Westminster, University of Wolverhampton, and Mediterranean College).

Alison and Giota will present work concerning the social construction of eating disorders, focusing on the biopolitics of weight and cultural representations of extreme healthy eating.

Alison will give an overview of the biopolitics around weight and eating disorders, arguing how the emphasis on individual diagnosis has led to some blurring out of the structural conditions and institutions of power in favour of personal behavioural solutions. Since lower socioeconomic status is associated with poor eating habits and obesity, the expansion of “lifestyle psychiatry” have inevitably resulted in greater numbers of persons being pathologized (largely in categories such as BED (binge eating disorder), while attempts to tackle the “obesogenic environment” (by reducing fast food outlets, improving exercise facilities, et cetera) are less prioritized.

Giota will explore the cross-cultural influences on healthy eating, drawing from qualitative research conducted among British and Greek participants who self-report as being healthy eaters. The presentation will explore how national cultures, such as the UK and Greece, shape perceptions and behaviours around food by examining the similar and differing factors influencing individuals. It will be argued, however, that global messages transcend cultural boundaries, fostering a shared culture of healthiness/ healthism that often encourages extreme behaviours in the pursuit of becoming the 'moral' citizen.

Link to join: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NGZINTYzNDMtMzNjZC00MGJkLWlwNDEtNGEyYmFjMjc2NDc5%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGZINTYzNDMtMzNjZC00MGJkLWlwNDEtNGEyYmFjMjc2NDc5%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 377 682 832 389

Passcode: 8ot3kQ2f

[Book Launch- Mental Health and Otherness: Intersections between gender, race, class and age - 3rd April 2025 at 16.00-17.30 UTC.](#)

This session will launch Dr Ilana Mountian's new book on Mental Health and Otherness. It will feature a presentation by Dr Ilana Mountian followed by space for discussion and will be chaired by Dr Daniel Nehring (Swansea University).

### **Abstract**

Based on two decades of research in Brazil and the UK, this book explores how intersections of gender, race and class affect the positioning of the subject as 'other' in health discourses, and how the positioning of the subject as 'other' has implications for health research and mental health practice.

Drawing on feminist, postcolonial and decolonial studies, psychoanalysis and discourse analysis, *Mental Health and Otherness* examines the experiences of immigrants, drug users and transsexual people in health and mental health settings and the ways in which stereotypical understandings can affect the subject.

This book is a study of the discursive construction of ideas about health and mental health in the West and the awareness of processes of othering in clinical practice. It will appeal to scholars in psychology, sociology and cultural studies with an interest in mental health, health care and intersectionality.

This publication provides insights into key issues in the production of therapeutic cultures around mental health, based on research I have conducted since 1998 on gender, sexuality, immigration and drug use and their impact on physical and mental health in the UK and Brazil. These research projects have revealed commonalities and approaches across these

groups, particularly in relation to the discursive position of the Other, which has implications for individuals, physical and mental health care, as well as to psychological theory and practice. This publication highlights the importance of considering the social context and the intersections of gender, race, class and age in research and practice in the field of mental health.

**Biography** - Ilana Mountian is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of the West of England. She is a member of the International Forum of the Lacanian Psychoanalytic Field. Member of the Discourse Unit. Author of Cultural Ecstasies (2013). Drugs, Gender and the Social Imaginary. London: Routledge.

Link to join: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MDA2ZGMwODItNjY0YS00ZDQ2LWE4YjctNWVhYjllOTQ2ZjYy%40thread\\_v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MDA2ZGMwODItNjY0YS00ZDQ2LWE4YjctNWVhYjllOTQ2ZjYy%40thread_v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 368 420 674 02

Passcode: sJ694Gh9

[Mad Studies: where to from here? - Friday 23rd May at 11.30am-13.00 UTC.](#)

**Speakers – Professor Peter Beresford, OBE (University of East Anglia) and Professor Bren LeFrancois (Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador).** Session organiser and Chair – Dr Rachael McMahon

#### **Presentation 1 – Peter Beresford**

We live in an increasingly maddening world linked with rising conflict, division, uncertainty, poverty, disease, threat and death. In this presentation we will examine how an unstated alliance between ongoing neoliberal politics and dominant individualistic psych responses to madness and mental distress is increasingly destructive and diversionary at personal and global levels. We argue that the twin threats of war and climate change overshadow our lives and age. The aim of this presentation is to highlight the revolutionary potential of Mad Studies, in equal alliance with other new social movements (NSMs). Our presentation will ask, how can we change existing politics by building such alliances, based on the understandings of new social movements, to reverse this rush to madness, adopting the values and insights of NSMs like the Mad Studies movement and ideas like intersectionality?

#### **Presentation 2 – Bren LeFrancois**

Mad Studies emerged as a field of study over 15 years ago. Since that time, we have seen it travel around the world, maddening the academy and inspiring a new wave of resistance against sanism and psychiatric oppression. In this presentation, we will address some of the

directions that mad studies might consider taking at this juncture, now that it has become embedded within the academy. Given that Mad Studies emerged from social movements, and specifically mad communities, we will argue that more focus on community values, on an ethics of care and on other mad community practices are important in the further maddening of institutional spaces. We will also identify how we may need to be more proactive in considering the ways in which Mad Studies is being co-opted and derailed by forces leading us further from our community roots and further from our revolutionary potential. This work may be essential now to realising a meaningful yet always evolving Mad Studies later.

### **Speaker biographies:**

Peter Beresford OBE is Visiting Professor at the University of East Anglia, England and Co-Chair of Shaping Our Lives the UK disabled people and service user led organisation. He is a long term user of mental health services, committed to participatory approaches to public policy and research and his forthcoming book is: *The Antidote: How people powered movements can renew politics, policy and practice* (Policy Press, 2025 May).

Bren LeFrançois is a University Research Professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada. Teaching social work students against the grain, their research and scholarship focusses on the psychiatrisation of young people and on anti-sanist, anti-colonial and anti-racist praxis. They are a co-editor (along with Geoffrey Reaume and Robert Menzies) of the edited volume *Mad Matters* which is currently being developed into its second edition (along with a new co-editor, Idil Abdillahi).

Dr Rachael McMahon has been a mental health service user, a mental health carer, a mental health nurse, and a mental health support worker. She is now a service user engagement project officer in the community sector, in Canberra, Australia. She graduated from an Anthropology PhD in 2020, an autoethnography of living with schizoaffective disorder. She has immersed herself professionally and academically to try and make sense of mental illness. Rachael advocates for people living with mental illness, as well as other marginalised groups. In her role she works to give a voice to those marginalised including those living with mental illness, when they haven't been heard before. Currently, Rachael is exploring the concepts of the magic of psychiatry, also an understanding of psy justice.

Link to join: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NWVhYjM3NTctYmE0Ny00MWQ4LTllYjUtNzc1ODVmNjJkYjBl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NWVhYjM3NTctYmE0Ny00MWQ4LTllYjUtNzc1ODVmNjJkYjBl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bdb74b30-9568-4856-bdbf-06759778fcbc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fa92d818-fea5-4aa7-95c8-b859b702b0ca%22%7d)

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Passcode: 6W3we3Ec

## A report on RC 49 activity over the last 6 months

### The RC49 Early Career Researcher and PhD Student group

The RC49 Early Career Researcher and PhD Student group has held two meetings in recent months. One session was led by Professor Dirk Richter, who shared advice and guidance on delivering effective presentations. The second session was led by one of the group members, Mandy Lee, who presented their ongoing work on 'Authoritarian Trauma'. We plan to arrange future sessions that will give Early Career Researchers and PhD students an opportunity to present their research and receive peer feedback ahead of paper submissions or conferences. Anyone interested in this group can contact Harry Bark at [heb60@bath.ac.uk](mailto:heb60@bath.ac.uk).

### A report on, 'Researching Responses to Distress Caused by Extreme Events: A Virtual World Café for Mental Health Researchers'.

During the week of this year's World Mental Health Day, we organised *Researching Responses to Distress Caused by Extreme Events: A Virtual World Café for Mental Health Researchers*, in collaboration with Royal Holloway, University of London, the University of Sussex, and the University of Copenhagen. The event aimed to create a space for researchers from contexts affected by extreme events across the globe to reflect on and share best practices for conducting research on mental health in these challenging contexts.

The World Café format was selected to foster connection and support, ensuring that all participants could contribute equally and have their voices heard. Ten participants from South and North America, South and Southeast Asia, Southeast Europe, and Australia took part in the Café.

We discussed the challenges and vulnerabilities involved in researching topics such as war, displacement, state violence, refugees, the climate crisis, and marginalised communities. Coping strategies were shared for conducting research in settings where researchers' wellbeing and personal safety may be at risk. A strong consensus emerged on the importance of sustaining mutual support and continuing discussions in this critical field of study.

To build on this dialogue, a panel discussion will be held at the ISA Forum in Rabat next year.

Lynn Tang, Vice-President, RC49.

## RC49 Publications

- Adamus, C., Mötteli, S., Jäger, M. and Richter, D., 2024. Independent Supported Housing vs institutional housing rehabilitation settings for non-homeless individuals with severe mental illness—longitudinal results from an observational study. *BMC psychiatry*, 24(1), p.554. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-024-05995-7>



- Adamus, C., Richter, D., Sutor, K., Zürcher, S.J. and Mötteli, S., 2024. Preference for Competitive Employment in People with Mental Disorders: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Proportions. *Journal of occupational rehabilitation*, pp.1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10926-024-10192-0>
- Bark, H., 2024. Social work, personalisation, and the the Care Act 2014. A Bourdieusian analysis, *Bristish Journal of Social Work*, Advance Access. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcae180>
- Cohen, B. M. Z., 2024. 'The Assault on Truth in the Academy: Talk Therapy and the Social Control of Women', in Middleton, W. and Dorahy, M. J. (eds) *Contemporary Perspectives on Freud's Seduction Theory and Psychotherapy: Revisiting Masson's 'The Assault on Truth'*. London: Routledge, pp. 165-177. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003431466-12/assault-truth-academy-bruce-cohen>
- Fixsen, A., 2024. The Construction of Eating Disorders: Psychiatry, Politics and Social Representations of Disordered Eating. London: Palgrave MacMillan. [The Construction of Eating Disorders: Psychiatry, Politics and Cultural Representations of Disordered Eating | SpringerLink](https://www.springer.com/9781137381466)
- Linn, J. G., Arrendo, E. and Moreau, L. 2024. 'Family Functioning and Schizophrenia in Chile' pp.200-224. In S. Okpaku, J.G. Linn, A. Fewer-Hamilton and Z. Hyseni (Eds) in *A Training Manuel for Global Mental Health*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (in Press).
- Richter, D., 2024. Treatment Pressure: A Step Forward, but Not the Final Word on "Informal Coercion". *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 24(12), pp.113-114. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2024.2416129>
- Richter, D., 2024. Coercive Measures in Psychiatry Can Hardly Be Justified in Principle Any Longer—Ethico-Legal Requirements Versus Empirical Research Data and Conceptual Issues. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpm.13129>
- Tseris, E., Franks, S. and Hart, E. B. (2024) *Psychiatric Oppression in Women's Lives: Creative Resistance and Collective Dissent*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-65068-0>
- Wilson, D.R., Linn, J. G., Matavel, J. and Arrendo, E., 2024. 'The Global Psychological Impact of Covid-19', in G.Marfe, C.Stephano and M.Grazia (Eds) in, *The Psychological Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Mental Disorders and Interventions*. New York: Bentham Publishers, pp.102-131.

## RC 49 Announcements

### Gifted memberships

The Research Committee on the Sociology of Health and Illness (RC 49) is keen to encourage early career researchers and academic researchers who may have limited access to institutional support to join the group. To encourage this we are gifting the cost of RC 49 membership and International Sociological Association membership for PhD students from any country.

In addition to this, we are offering gifted membership of RC49 and of the ISA to academics from countries in Category B and Category C of the Table of Economies, which can be seen here: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/table-of-economies-by-category>

We will be offering gifted membership to up to 10 applicants in total. Fees will be paid directly to the ISA and no cash payments will be given. We will be running this scheme in two rounds. Round 1 will close on 10.01.24. If there are any gifted memberships remaining, a second round will run between 13th January to 31st March 2025. To apply for a gifted membership please write to the treasurer Dr Kevin Stone (Treasurer) at [isa-rc49@isa-sociology.org](mailto:isa-rc49@isa-sociology.org)

### Registration grants for the ISA Forum of Sociology in 2025

The International Sociological Association gives research committees money to provide registration grants to some members. In order to apply for a registration grant, applicants must be ISA members in good standing (i.e., those who have paid the individual membership fee) and who are active participants in the conference program. The rules for applying for a registration grant can be found online at: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/rabat-2025/5th-isa-forum-guidelines/rules-for-isa-registration-grants-allocation>

The deadline for applications is 31st January 2025. Applications for a grant can be submitted to only one Research Committee, Working Group or Thematic Group. If you would like to apply for a registration grant from our research committee, then please write to Jeremy Dixon at [Dixonj7@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Dixonj7@cardiff.ac.uk). As there are limited funds available, the ISA asks each research group to rank applications and this decision should be taken by the President and the Secretary of each group, so please provide a short statement saying why you think we should give you the grant (no more than 150 words).

If you are successful then you will be provided with a code so that your registration grant is automatically deducted when you register for the Forum in Rabat. The grants do not cover costs such as flights and accommodation.

Please contact Jeremy with any questions or queries.

### [Informal Mad Studies Event at the ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat 2025](#)

In the spirit of collaboration and friendship, building knowledge and capacity in our Mad Studies international community, as well as the online international Mad Studies forum on 23 May, we are organising an informal gathering for Mad Studies scholars at the ISA conference in Morocco 2025.

Will we be posting updates and keeping you informed via the RC49 Mad Studies Facebook page. If you have any questions, and would like to indicate your interest to attend, please contact Rachael McMahon on [mcmahonrachael@hotmail.com](mailto:mcmahonrachael@hotmail.com)

Rachael will be in touch with all who show an interest, via email updates. Could you please let Rachael know of your interest by end of January 2025?

We will need know if you intend to attend so that we can plan a venue, date and time. Please spread the word to your Mad Studies colleagues and friends!

### RC49 Member News

#### [Politics of Mental Health and Illness Book Series](#)

Dr Bruce Cohen continues to edit the Politics of Mental Health and Illness book series in Springer books. More details can be found at: <https://link.springer.com/series/16854>. Please feel free to contact Bruce (series editor and RC49 member) at [b.cohen@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:b.cohen@auckland.ac.nz) if you have an idea or proposal you would like to discuss.

#### [Call for book proposals on Therapeutic Cultures](#)

Therapeutic Cultures is an interdisciplinary book series that explores the role which therapeutic discourses and practices play in the organisation of social life. It critically assesses three broad questions:

1. How is therapeutic knowledge popularised beyond academia and mental health care?
2. How does therapeutic knowledge participate in popular culture and in everyday experiences and practices of mental wellbeing and healing, across diverse, non-clinical institutions, such as government, law, education, media, health, work, and family?
3. What forms of the self are mobilised within contemporary therapeutic cultures, and how do these contribute to identity-building? Therapeutic Cultures seeks to address the histories of therapeutic culture and engage with its contemporary manifestations.

It welcomes books that examine the transnationalisation of therapeutic discourses and practices and their uses in local institutional settings, as well as studies of the ways in which therapeutic discourses and practices participate in the social organisation of power, and how

they become ingrained across a wide array of institutions. For 2025, we specifically would like to invite book proposals in the following thematic areas:

1. Innovative theoretical approaches to therapeutic culture
2. Therapeutic culture and the re-making of work
3. Therapeutic politics
4. Gender, sexualities, and the therapeutic
5. Therapeutic culture in a post-truth world
6. Self-optimisation and self-care
7. Historical perspectives on therapeutic culture
8. Therapeutic cultures in the Global South.

The editors of the series are: : Daniel Nehring (d.f.nehring@swansea.ac.uk) Swansea University, UK Ole Jacob Madsen (o.j.madsen@psykologi.uio.no) University of Oslo, Norway Edgar Cabanas (edgar.cabanas@fsof.uned.es) Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), Spain Dylan Kerrigan (dylankerrigan@gmail.com) University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago Anja Röcke (anja.roecke@sowi.hu-berlin.de)) Saarland University, Germany.

For further details and to browse current titles, visit the series website:

<https://www.routledge.com/Therapeutic-Cultures/book-series/TC> For questions and to discuss book ideas, please contact the series editors (see top of page).

## Welcome to our new members...

- Professor Pamela Abbott, FAcSS has broad interests in the sociology of development, wellbeing and quality of life. Professor Abbott has carried out research in the former Soviet Union, the EU, Central and Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, Bangladesh, and East Africa and leads a National Institute for Health-funded project trialing a school-based mindfulness intervention in primary schools in Rwanda and Ethiopia.
- Jan Erron Celebrado is an early career researcher from the Philippines. He is currently a PhD candidate in Sociology and Social Policy at Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR, funded by the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme and the Belt and Road Scholarship. His current research interests focus on exploring the narratives of foreign Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong in accessing essential mental health support within transnational contexts using a multiscale feminist sociological approach. He holds a master's degree in Women and Development from the University of the Philippines

Diliman and a bachelor's degree in Clinical Psychology from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Manila.

- Alicia Clifford is a white settler Ph.D. Candidate at McMaster University and is an arts-based researcher who stands in solidarity with Indigenous women forced to manoeuvre Canada's prison systems. Their research focuses on how the state continues to target Indigenous Peoples via the criminal legal system to perpetuate settler colonial violence. Alicia works alongside the community using strengths and arts-based approaches to create opportunities for Indigenous women targeted by the legal system to process their experiences of trauma, including the trauma that occurs when incarcerated.
- Alison Fixsen is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Westminster, with a background in health practice and research. Her recent work relating to mental health includes eating disorders, psychoactive drug dependency, social prescribing and self care and professional well-being initiatives. She has a particular interest in autoethnography. Her upcoming book *The Construction of Eating Disorders- Psychiatry, Politics and Cultural Representations of Disordered Eating*, is due for release in Spring 2025.
- Dr Rachael McMahon has been a mental health service user, a mental health carer, a mental health nurse, and a mental health support worker. She is now a service user engagement project officer in the community sector. She graduated from an Anthropology PhD in 2020, an autoethnography of living with schizoaffective disorder. She has immersed herself professionally and academically to try and make sense of mental distress. Rachael advocates for people living with mental distress, as well as other marginalised groups. In her role she works to give a voice to those marginalised including those living with mental health distress, when they haven't been heard before.
- Lijun Song is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Vanderbilt University. Her research focuses on the role of social networks in mental health disparities. Currently, she is developing social cost theory to understand the detrimental consequences of social networks. She has been honored with the best publication award from the American Sociological Association (ASA) Section on Sociology of Mental Health. She has been elected as the Chair-Elect of two ASA Sections: Medical Sociology, and Sociology of Mental Health.
- Gianna Sparacino is currently in the ICJ MA Program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Gianna was part of the Spring 2024 Cohort of the Global Diplomacy Initiative at UNITAR in New York, and attended the ECPR Summer School on Transnational Organized Crime at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna where I had received recognition for my contribution to the UNODC SHERLOC Case Law Database. Currently, Gianna is interning with the Nassau County Police

Department's Asset Forfeiture & Intelligence Bureau, focusing on intelligence sharing with the Department of Homeland Security. Earlier this year, Gianna also interned with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Major Crime Bureau, assisting in cases ranging from sexual assaults to school safety task force operations.

- Julia Szajdzicka's research interests are in the area of so called lived experience, the medical or so called biological model of psychiatry and broader implications for other similar interfaces, with a particular focus on auto ethnography. Julia is currently taking a MA in Philosophy at Birkbeck alongside 'informal' research activity.
- Lionel Thelen is based at the European Research Council, is a sociologist by background and has performed various fieldworks in Brazil and Europe about the understanding of human mind in relation with their milieu. More precisely, his research was mainly led by the comprehension – mainly through qualitative methods - of the various ways by which habitat impacts one's social skills and delineates one's (Self-)Consciousness. He received his PhD at the European University Institute (I) in 2002 and has done research and teaching in various universities in Belgium, France and Switzerland. Since 2009, he works as Panel Coordinator in the European Research Council (<https://erc.europa.eu/homepage>). Lionel is especially in charge of core social sciences: Sociology, Social Psychology, Education studies, Media & Communication studies, STS, Computational Social Sciences and Criminology. On a yearly basis, he coordinates various evaluations of research proposals in the SH3 panel and scientifically monitors a portfolio of circa 60-70 funded projects. Lionel will present the ERC funding opportunities for sociologists (and other social scientists) at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat (MA) in July 2025.
- Matias Deneken Uribe is based at the Centro de Estudios Interculturales e indígenas and is a Sociologist with a Master's degree in Sociology and a current candidate for a Master's in Data Science. He is a researcher at the Centre for Indigenous Interdisciplinary Research (CIIR) and the Violence and Social Legitimacy Observatory (OLES). His research interests focus on intergroup relations, social conflict, and the history of Latin American sociology. He is a Fulbright Scholar and plans to pursue a PhD in the near future.
- Fadima Yaya Bocoum is a health sociologist interested in generating evidences for policy and decision makers through research focused on health policy and system in Africa. Fadima completed a master in sociology and a PhD in public health. She is researcher at Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé (IRSS) in Burkina Faso for more than 15 years. She has substantial experience in health-related projects across many countries in West Africa. Her research interests are related to health behaviors and illness perceptions of populations.

And welcome back to a returning member...

- Yuki Kawamura is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Matsuyama University, Japan. He conducts ethnomethodological research in the field of clinical psychiatric care. He attempts to describe the cultural aspects of psychiatric care from a sociological perspective, focusing on the interactions between psychiatrists and patients in consultation settings, conferences in the psychiatrist's office, and the collaboration between psychiatrists, nurses, and social workers.

## Social media

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or on X using the handle @SociologyMH.

## Call for news items

If you have any news items for our next newsletter in July 2025, then please email Jeremy Dixon at [Dixonj7@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Dixonj7@cardiff.ac.uk). We welcome member news, blogs and opinion pieces.