

Newsletter of the International Sociological Association Research Committee 15 (Sociology of Health) – July 2019

English version

Greetings from the President of International Sociological Association, RC15 Sociology of Health

Miwako Hosoda, Seisa University, Japan



Welcome to the 66th edition of the Newsletter for RC15, Sociology of Health. I truly appreciate the work of Professor Mike Saks, editor of the Newsletter, and those who have contributed to submitting the reports and all who have helped in publishing the newsletter.

We are at preparing the RC15 programme for the next ISA Forum in Porto Alegre in Brazil on 13-19 July 2020. Professor Mike Saks and Professor Nelson Barros, RC15 session organisers, are initiating the whole academic process surrounding the event. Nelson has already started to plan our social meeting and a tour of medical facilities in the local area. It is expected that the Forum will be fruitful, and I thank both Mike and Nelson for their efforts. If you are interested in submitting an abstract for one of the sessions, we encourage you to submit your abstract between now and 30 September 2019 via the ISA Forum website (<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2020>). Decisions will be sent to those who have submitted abstracts by 30 November 2019.

The number of RC15 members is now over 200, which gives us more sessions and more opportunities for members to have oral presentations – as well as more funding from the ISA for our RC activities such as operating forum/congress activities and supporting international conferences related to health/medical sociology. So, it is very important to recruit new members as well as to renew your membership to RC15. We would like to ask all those who have not renewed their membership yet to do so.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us next year in order to make this a memorable occasion.

Best wishes,

Miwako Hosoda

Japanese version

世界社会学会 RC15 健康社会学 会長からのご挨拶

細田満和子（日本、星槎大学）

この度、国際社会学会 RC15 健康社会学ニューズレター第 66 号を皆様にお届けいたします。編集のマイク・サックス教授、寄稿してくださいました皆様、その他ご協力いただきました方々に心からの御礼を申し上げます。

来年 2020 年は、7 月 14 日から 18 日まで、ブラジルのポルト・アレグレにて国際社会学会フォーラムが開催されます。RC15 ではマイク・サックス教授とネルソン・バロス教授が中心となりセッション組織委員会を結成し、準備を進めて下さっています。特に、地元のネルソン教授は、RC15 会員の為の懇親会や地域の医療関係施設見学会の準備を既に始めて下さっています。充実したフォーラムになることが大いに期待され、この場を借りてお二人に感謝いたします。フォーラムにご関心のある皆様は、既に抄録募集は始まっておりまして、是非、2019 年 9 月 30 日までに ISA のウェブサイト(<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2020>)から申し込みをしてください。結果のお知らせは、11 月末日までに届きます。

RC15 の会員は現在、200 人を超えるようになりました。大会（コンGRESSやフォーラム）でのセッション数や ISA からの助成金は、会員数によって決まってきます。この度 200 人を越えたことにより、次回 2022 年の大会から今より多いセッション数となり、会員の皆様の発表機会も増えてくることが期待されます。よって、より充実した学会活動を遂行するためには新会員を増やすことも大事ですが、皆様が会員登録を更新していただくことが非常に重要になっています。更新がまだの方はぜひ更新手続きをしていただきますよう、よろしくお願いいたします。

来年のフォーラムで、多くの皆様にお目にかかれることを楽しみにしております。

Portuguese version

Saudações da Presidente da Associação Internacional de Sociologia, RC15 Sociologia da Saúde

Miwako Hosoda, Universidade de Seisa, Japão

Bem-vindos à 66ª edição da Newsletter do RC15, Sociologia da Saúde. Eu realmente agradeço o trabalho do Professor Mike Saks, editor da Newsletter, e de todos aqueles que contribuíram com a apresentação dos relatórios e que ajudaram na publicação da newsletter.

Estamos preparando o programa RC15 para o próximo Fórum da ISA em Porto Alegre, Brasil, de 13 a 19 de julho de 2020. O professor Mike Saks e o professor Nelson Barros, organizadores das sessões do RC15, estão iniciando todo o processo acadêmico em torno do evento. Nelson já começou a planejar nossa reunião social e uma visita às instalações médicas na área local. Espera-se que o Fórum seja frutífero e agradeço Mike e Nelson por seus esforços. Se você estiver interessado em enviar um resumo para uma das sessões, sugerimos que envie seu resumo entre hoje e 30 de setembro de 2019, através do site do ISA Forum ([https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum / porto-alegre-2020](https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2020)). As decisões serão enviadas para aqueles que submeteram resumos até 30 de novembro de 2019.

O número de membros do RC15 é agora superior a 200, o que nos dá mais sessões e mais oportunidades para os membros fazerem apresentações orais - bem como mais fundos da ISA para as nossas atividades RC, tais como atividades operacionais de fóruns/congressos e apoio a conferências internacionais relacionadas à sociologia da saúde/medicina. Por isso, é muito importante recrutar novos membros, assim como renovar sua participação no RC15. Gostaríamos de pedir a todos aqueles que ainda não renovaram sua associação à ISA que o façam.

Esperamos que o maior número possível de pessoas possa se juntar a nós no ano que vem para tornar esta uma ocasião memorável.

Muitas felicidades,

Miwako Hosoda

Italian version

Saluto della Presidente dell'International Sociological Association, RC15 Sociology of Health

Miwako Hosoda, Università di Seisa, Giappone

Benvenuti alla 66esima edizione della Newsletter dell'RC15, Sociology of Health. Apprezzo davvero il lavoro del Professor Mike Saks, direttore della Newsletter, e di coloro che hanno concorso ad inviare i contributi e di tutti coloro che hanno sostenuto la pubblicazione della newsletter.

Stiamo preparando il programma del RC15 per il prossimo ISA Forum a Porto Alegre in Brasile il 13-19 luglio 2020. Il Professor Mike Saks ed il Professor Nelson Barros, organizzatori delle sessioni del RC15, hanno dato avvio all'intero processo accademico relativo all'evento. Nelson ha già cominciato a pianificare il nostro meeting sociale e un tour delle strutture sanitarie dell'area locale.

Ci aspettiamo che il Forum sia fruttuoso, e ringrazio sia Mike che Nelson per i loro sforzi. Se siete interessati a mandare un abstract per una delle sessioni, vi incoraggiamo a proporre il vostro abstract tra ora ed il 30 Settembre 2019 attraverso il sito web dell'ISA Forum (<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2020>). Le decisioni saranno comunicate a coloro che hanno proposto abstract entro il 30 Novembre 2019.

Il numero di membri del RC15 è ora oltre 200, il che ci consente maggiori sessioni e più opportunità per i membri di avere presentazioni orali – come pure maggiori fondi dall’ISA per le nostre attività del RC quali gestire forum/congressi e supportare conferenze internazionali relative alla sociologia della salute e della medicina. Perciò, è molto importante reclutare nuovi membri come pure rinnovare la vostra adesione al RC15. Chiediamo pertanto a tutti coloro che non hanno ancora rinnovato la loro adesione di farlo.

Speriamo che molti di voi, per quanto possibile, saranno in grado di unirsi a noi il prossimo anno per rendere questo evento un’occasione memorabile.

Cordiali saluti,

Miwako Hosoda



ISA RC15 Board members

President: Miwako Hosoda, Seisa University, Japan (to December 2022)

Vice-President/Newsletter Editor: Mike Saks, University of Suffolk, United Kingdom (to December 2022)

Secretary/Treasurer: Nelson Barros, University of Campinas, Brazil (to December 2026)

Other members:

Alex Asakitikpi, Monash University, South Africa (to December 2022)

Susan Bell, Drexel University, USA (to December 2026)

Michael Calnan, University of Kent, United Kingdom (to December 2022)

Sigrun Olafsdottir, University of Iceland, Iceland (to December 2026)

Farah Purwaningrum, University of Sydney, Australia (to December 2026)



IV ISA Forum of SOCIOLOGY



July 14-18, 2020
Porto Alegre, Brazil

SESSIONS FOR RC15 AT THE ISA FORUM IN BRAZIL

Program Coordinators:

Nelson BARROS, University of Campinas, Brazil, filice@fcm.unicamp.br

Mike SAKS, University of Suffolk, United Kingdom, m.saks@uos.ac.uk

Abstracts for the following approved sessions should be submitted through the ISA website (www.isa-sociology.org) by Monday 30 September 2019 at the latest:

[Access to "Expensive" Medical Technologies](#)

There is evidence of major social inequalities in access to "expensive" medical technologies, particularly expensive medicines, within and between countries and these will be widening due to increasing pressure on resources particularly in publicly funded health systems. "Expensive" technology is a relative concept and its significance will depend on the socio-economic environment and on the cultural meaning assigned to its use. The session will focus on papers involving both theoretical and empirical analysis about gaining access to "expensive" technologies in different health systems in high and low to middle income countries. The session aims to throw light on what pathways patients navigate and negotiate to gain access and the cultural and socio-political influences that enable or provide obstacles to gaining access. Papers can focus on either consumption/demand and/or production/supply side pathways and influences. Examples on the demand side are the use by patients and their relatives of litigation to gain access. Examples on the supply side might include the decision making (front stage/back stage) of rationing or priority setting health agencies, such as CONITEC in Brazil and NICE in England, and how powerful corporate interest groups such as the drug industry may shape these decisions. The organization of the local health system and local culture may also be important influences in shaping different patterns of access to medicines.

Session Organizers:

Michael CALNAN, University of Kent, United Kingdom

Silvana LEITE, University of Santa Catarina, Brazil

[Bourdieu and the Inequalities of Healthcare](#)

It has become increasingly necessary in our globalized world to seek better understandings of the inequalities of health, and the role our healthcare systems play in mediating or reproducing these inequalities. This session offers an opportunity to engage with Pierre Bourdieu's concepts, including, but not limited to capital, habitus and field, and his unique methodology, and investigate the most significant issues facing healthcare analysts around the world today: Why do health inequalities, such as race, class and gender, persist, despite the growing levels of funding from governments and the private sector? Why is it so difficult to reform and improve healthcare services? Why do patients find the healthcare system so difficult to access and navigate? This session seeks both conceptual and empirical papers that address these questions about Bourdieu and the inequalities of health and healthcare. Session Organizer: **Fran COLLYER**, University of Sydney, Australia

[Digitalization and Health](#)

The advancing digitalization of medicine and health promoting options will further change the healthcare system in the coming years. Technical innovations in hardware and software will enable personalized prevention, more precise diagnoses and more individualized therapies. How far it will improve health care and reduce costs in the long term, is part of current studies which will be brought together in this session. For this reason, we welcome contributions, that deal with digitalized health promotion and disease treatment and contributions that examine the acceptance of these digital applications in the population with empirical data (A). Furthermore, we are interested in conferring about cause-effects and selection effects (B). Experimental approaches are desirable. The interplay of regional healthcare structures and digitalized possibilities can be addressed as well (C). These insights may help generating health related social sustainability (D), which can also be discussed.

Session Organizers:

Peter KRIWY, Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany

Philip ADEBAHR, University of Technologie Chemnitz, Germany,

[From Social Suffering to a Sociology of Negative?](#)

Following seminal publications, such as Kleinman, Das and Lock (1997), Bourdieu *et al.* (1999), Frank (2001), Wilkinson (2005), and Pickering and Rosati (2012), the concept of "social suffering" has acquired currency in contemporary social science as a means to refer to lived experiences of deprivation, frustration, and affliction by oppressed people in certain social situations. With reference to the concept of social suffering, it becomes possible to draw critical attention to how subjective components of distress are rooted and conditioned by social processes and cultural conditions of structural violence and political oppression. However, we can wonder whether the scientific legitimation of the concept of "suffering" can go beyond its social qualification to include other dimensions: such as the bio-psychic dimension of pain, mental and physical illness, and disability, which highlights the vulnerability of human nature in an increasingly performative society; or the ecological dimension with environmental disasters as a consequence of the illusion of an unlimited development and of non-consideration of ecosystem balances; or the existential dimension with the loss of meaning in a post-secularized society produced by the end of the "great ideological narratives" of the twentieth century and the increasing digitalization and virtualization of reality. All this brings out that "dimension of the negative" which, often interpreted by the different mythologies and religious theodicies of the past as evidence of the existence of "evil", is actually an unavoidable component of the human condition that allows us to highlight the intrinsic and extrinsic limits of social action.

Session Organizer:

Guido GIARELLI, University 'Magna Graecia' - Catanzaro, Italy

[Health Policy Reforms in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century](#)

Governments in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) have developed health policies toward universal health care but these efforts have not yielded the desired results. The economic downturn from the 1980s forced most Africa governments to turn to the Bretton Woods Institutions for financial assistance, and in the process, initiated policy reforms that were underpinned by a Western neo-liberal ideology. The result has been uneven successes with regards to accessibility, equity, and quality of service. While results are not uniform in specific terms, a general pattern of low performance may be discernible, with lessons to be learned. In this session, we invite scholars to engage in a discussion on these health challenges despite the significant progress made in the democratic process of most African countries since the turn of the century. The session will examine the evolution of health policies in SSA and an evaluation of the progress made to date. The session will be guided by five overarching questions:

1. What political and economic conditions necessitated health reforms in SSA?
2. How have health reforms addressed issues of health quality, accessibility, and equity?
3. In what ways have reforms impacted health conditions of citizens?
4. What lessons can we learn from historical and contemporary challenges? and
5. What appropriate health policy can be proffered towards achieving universal health coverage in SSA?

We request the submission of abstracts, which may be theoretical or based on empirical study of specific countries in the region, that address any of the above questions.

Session Organizer: **Alex ASAKITIKPI**, Monash University South Africa, South Africa

[Health Research in International Perspective](#)

International comparative research increasingly addresses health and health behaviour and highlights the enormous differences in health outcomes between countries. However, theory-driven studies that take the influencing factors at the macro and micro levels into account have so far been rare. In our opinion, the previously applied theory of relative deprivation does not go far enough. Therefore, we welcome (A) contributions which cover theoretical work, taking both the micro and macro level into account, to explain individual variation in health outcomes; or (B) theory-driven empirical research testing social mechanisms with sound analytical strategies; or (C) contributions that examine and discuss the methodological comparability of health items against the background of different cultural meanings.

Session Organizers:

Christiane GROSS, University of Wuerzburg, Germany

Peter KRIWY, Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany

[Health Social Movements](#)

It has been traditionally thought that there was an unbalanced relationship between patients and professionals. However, patient participation and collaboration with health professionals have been changing this hierarchical status. Healthcare reform that responds to unmet needs is a most urgent challenge and patients have recently been taking important roles. While many individuals and agencies, including governments, associations of healthcare professionals and lawyers have worked to solve these problems, the collective action of people with illnesses and disabilities and their families is just as important. By exchanging information among international sociological scholars, this session aims to explore changes in the relationship between patients and professionals by analyzing the patients' interaction with professionals in the healthcare field. Papers from studies conducted at local, national and international levels that contribute to conceptualization and/or methodological and empirical developments in this field are welcome.

Session Organizer: **Miwako HOSODA**, Seisa University, Japan

[Medicalization of Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Global South](#)

Sexual and reproductive health is increasingly defined and treated as a medical problem. The sociological framework of medicalization, the process by which non-medical problems become defined and/or treated as medical problems, has critical usefulness for understanding contemporary sexual and reproductive health issues. Empirical research to date has however mainly been focused on high income countries, for example on topics such as the medicalization of sexual dysfunction, the rise of cosmetic genital surgeries such as “rejuvenation”, the great amount of research done on fertility and childbirth. Increasing medicalization trends in sexual and reproductive health are also arising in the Global South, and develop simultaneously with the global health agenda being increasingly medicalized. In this session we want to shed light on the combination of both trends by presenting various research on the medicalization of sexual and reproductive health in the Global South and its policy implications and associated stratification mechanisms. Applying a sociological view on medicalization processes forces us to not merely look at the biomedical aspects of medicalization, but look at the broader social and political context including multiple determinants of health stratification. Moreover, discussing the medicalization of sexual and reproductive health issues in the Global South would bring with it an interesting discussion of the applicability of the current medicalization framework to the Global South. Possible topics might be the medicalization of female genital mutilation/cutting, increasing amount of C-sections as a consequence of medicalization of childbirth, oral pre-exposure (PrEP) prophylaxis programs for HIV patients, and so on.

Session Organizers:

Nina VAN EEKERT, University of Antwerp & Ghent University, Belgium

Sarah VAN DE VELDE, University of Antwerp, Belgium

[Medication As a New Social Tool for Workplace Performance? Revisiting the Dissemination of Pharmaceuticalization](#)

The new social uses of medicines for physical, cognitive and social performance enhancement purposes, have attracted significant theoretical/sociological reflections, often centred on the concept of pharmaceuticalization (Williams et al. 2009, Abraham 2010). The heuristic value of this concept has shed light on new performance needs and/or demands, which are not dissociable from the modern social instrumentality of medicines use for non-medical purposes. The non-medical use of medicines has become a way through which to achieve a certain image or socially expected performance standards (Rose 2009). The sociological application of this analytical approach in labour environments, however, is still scarce. Yet, given the current transformations in productive processes and standards for work performance, work contexts constitute sites with a particular social permeability to the advancement, in various forms, of the pharmaceuticalization of work capacity and its enhancement. Therefore, the aim of this session is to gather contributions to the analytical depth of specificities of pharmaceuticalization in work contexts and its forms of dissemination. Particularly, we invite papers that look at (A) different social dissemination routes/pathways of pharmaceuticalization; (B) work contexts, perceived as "structured and structuring" spaces (Bourdieu 1979), and their effect on the (re)production of cultural dispositions to such performance consumptions; and (C) consumption trajectories and their connections and borders between pharmaceuticals, natural products or illegal stimulants. We welcome papers that engage with these or related issues, based on empirical studies and theoretical and/or methodological reflections.

Session Organizers:

Noemia LOPES, ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa; IUEM- Instituto Universitário Egas Moniz, Portugal

Carla F. RODRIGUES, AISSR, University of Amsterdam; ISCTE- Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Netherlands

[Mental Health in Latin America: A New Social Question?](#) (joint RC15/RC49 session)

Latin American countries have faced accelerated processes of modernisation, demographic and epidemiological transitions. In this context, the high prevalence of mental health problems in some countries raises the question of whether Latin American countries are dealing with a "new social question" related to new dynamic of organisation in labour markets and the social support system, the transformation of social structure, the implementation of new economic models, and the subjective effects of poverty and inequalities in everyday life. The aim of this regular session is to study the boundaries between social suffering and mental health in Latin-American countries from a historical, sociocultural and political perspective. Four or five presentations (20-minutes presentation) will be selected around the following themes:

- (1) Poverty, inequality, vulnerability and mental health in Latin America.
- (2) Social policies, health systems and mental health in Latin America.
- (3) Social dynamics and mental health: migration, social conflict,
- (4) Social Sciences perspectives and mental health in Latin America (historical, ethnographic and epidemiological approaches to suffering and mental disorders).

The session is expected to represent at least three different Latin American countries.

Session Organizer:

Alvaro JIMENEZ, University of Chile, Chile

[Participation in \(and with\) Digital Health](#)

The participation of citizens and/or patients in research, policy making, science and technology developments and healthcare is now common place, arguably becoming a new orthodoxy for publicly-funded projects of all kinds. Participation is no longer understood simply as a "right of citizenship" (Gaventa 2002) but also, following developments at both national and supranational levels, as an "obligation" on public policy makers and policy-related researchers alike. Such an obligation to participate then gives rise to inevitable questions about what happens when these societal actors do work together in this way. Another important development, and a key aspect of what has become known, in Europe at least, as Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), is the increasing incorporation of social scientists into project teams on the grounds that they can take responsibility for ensuring that the "ethical, legal and social implications" (ELSI) of new developments are adequately addressed. This session explores what happens when social scientists get involved in *digital health* projects, examining some of the opportunities and challenges that occur when we seek to intervene in, as well as understand, digital health developments. We are particularly interested in papers that work at the boundary of sociology of health and science and technology studies (STS) to explore participation at one (or both) of the following levels: (A) participation as it occurs in the development of digital health technologies; and (B) participation in health care through the uptake and use of digital health technologies.

Session Organizers:

Flis HENWOOD, University of Brighton, United Kingdom

Benjamin MARENT, University of Brighton, United Kingdom

Patients Participation to Make a Collective Impact

In modern times, the main disease structure has changed from infectious disease to chronic disease, and many people are now living with illness. Despite the patients' current situation, society still expects people with disease to behave consistently with the sick role which Talcott Parson's previously defined. Once people are diagnosed, for example, as a cancer patient, they may lose their job and social participation opportunities and their hope to live. To change this situation, people living with disease do a variety of things, for instance, changing their illness image and repelling social stigma which is related to diseases by collaborating with other stakeholders such as medical and health professionals, persons from the workplace, fellow patients, and their community. Although there are many challenges, we can see the collective impact as a result of this movement. By exchanging information among international sociological scholars, this session aims to explore the challenge for stakeholders in each society of theoretical and empirical research on the movement of patients and supporters who change this social norm to counter social barriers and stigma, and strengthen discussions on a global level. Studies conducted at local, national and international levels that contribute to conceptualization and/or methodological and empirical developments in this field are welcome.

Session Organizer:

Miwako HOSODA, Seisa University, Japan

Sociology in the Field of Health and Health in the Field of Sociology: Challenges of the Sociology of Health (Roundtable)

Despite the long tradition of research in the Sociology of Health, the scope of the subjects investigated and the possible fields of application present important challenges for the analysis of the constitution of this area of knowledge. The complexity is one of several puzzles faced by the researcher. This phenomenon is understood, firstly, as a consequence of the expansion of the sociological analysis frameworks on subjects related to health policy; health risks analysis; social representations of health, body and medicine; global health; and epistemology and history of medical knowledge, among others; secondly, by the growing presence of social scientists in interdisciplinary investigations. The identification of borders and their possible spaces of interaction require articulations that allow the recognition of differences within a framework of legitimacy, dignity and equality, replacing subalternization, inferiorization and the exclusionary power standards imposed by the fields of Sociology and Health. This session proposal intends to analyze the challenges and potentialities of the Sociology of Health, from questions of the field of Sociology placed in the field of Health and vice versa, at national and international level, and to reflect on the scope of new approaches capable of dealing with asymmetrical relations in the context of contemporary national and global challenges.

Session Organizers:

Marcia MARCIA GRISOTTI, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil

Aurea IANNI, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Nelson NELSON BARROS, University of Campinas, Brazil

Martinho MARTINHO SILVA, University of State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Luiz Antonio CASTRO-SANTOS, University of State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[Sociology of Complementary and Alternative Medicine](#)

Despite advances achieved by the biomedical model of healthcare, there has been an exponential growth in the use and interest in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) in the health field worldwide. Its increasing popularity has been followed by a proliferation of sociological research on different dimensions of this phenomenon. In this context, CAM has attracted social researchers to establish the field of the *Sociology of Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. The aim of this session is to discuss theoretical and methodological developments related to the Sociology of CAM through diverse analytical and empirical research on CAM dynamics across different countries and experiences. This session attempts to deepen sociological debate on the emergence of heterodox practices in healthcare and on the impact of these on contemporary medicine and society, not least in the modern Western world. Papers are therefore invited at a macro, meso and micro level focusing on different facets of this fascinating debate.

Session Organizers:

Nelson BARROS, University of Campinas, Brazil, filice@fcm.unicamp.br

Mike SAKS, University of Suffolk, United Kingdom, m.saks@uos.ac.uk

[The Professionalization of Healthcare: Facing the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century](#)

(joint RC15/RC52 session)

The professionalization of healthcare has been seen as one of the great developments over much of the past two centuries. Together with advances in medical science, it brought with it a belief in progress and a sense that human beings might lead longer and richer lives. However, following the 1960s/70s counter cultural critique, a series of well-publicized medical scandals, technological change, greater user engagement, a growing appreciation of the value of other forms of health work, and the intensification of organizational management, health professions from medicine to nursing in the modern world appear to be in retreat. Amongst other things, they seem to have lost public trust and have been ever more penned in by regulatory reform, which has increased their exposure to external criticism and control. Papers are welcomed on both theoretical and empirical aspects of the changes involved and the challenges that health professions now face in the twenty-first century. Are health professions best considered as problematic and perhaps counterproductive groups in the division of labour or are they still important saviours of humanity in an ever more complex world? What form might professionalization in healthcare most helpfully take in face of the changes that have occurred in the societies in which they are embedded?

Session Organizer:

Mike SAKS, University of Suffolk, United Kingdom

CONFERENCE AND OTHER REPORTS

Florence ISA Professions Conference



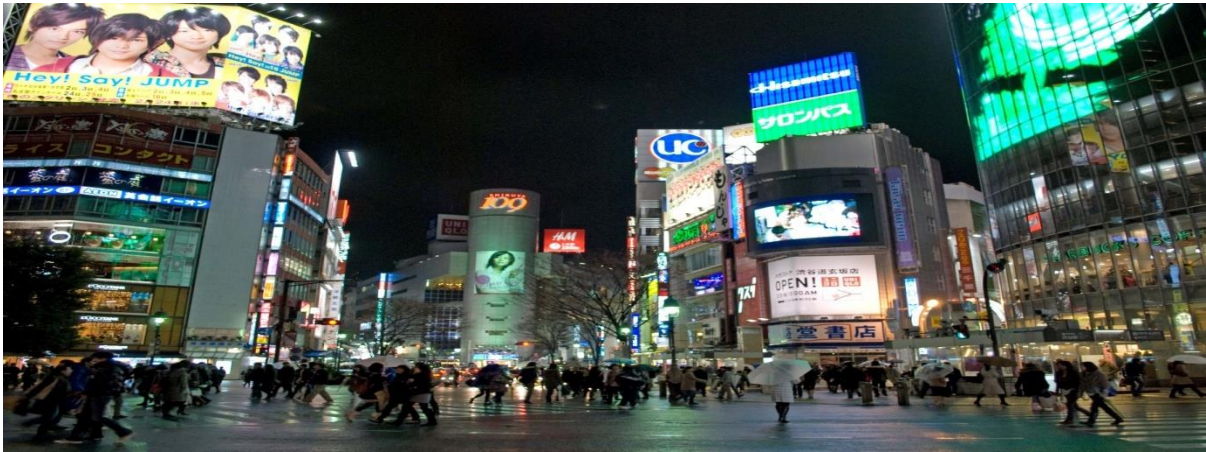
The ISA RC52 (Sociology of Professions) Interim Conference on Professions and Society: Facing the Challenges of Marketisation, Globalization and Digitalization took place on the Social Sciences Campus of the University of Florence on 4-6 July 2019. It was attended by some one hundred delegates.

Included in the programme were papers by a number of members of RC15 (Sociology of Health), as well as various presentations on health and related themes. These ranged from those covering the forces shaping health professional regulation in Australia (Anne-Louise Carlton), medical education in Turkey (Murat Atalay) and advanced practice nursing and the medical profession in Francophone countries (Ricardo Ayala and Mike Saks) to the impact of ICT on health care in Italy (Roberto Lusardi), the implications of Emeritisation for health workforce governance (Stephanie Short, Nikhil Hawal, Nasser Albusaidi and Farah Purwaningrum) and co-engagement for chronic diseases (Alberto Ardisson).

Pictured above are Mike Saks and Stephanie Short, along with other delegates at the event, in the very scenic location of the conference dinner held on the evening of Friday 5 July.

Mike Saks
RC15 Vice President
Emeritus Professor
University of Suffolk, UK
& Visiting Professor
University of Lincoln, UK
Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK
University of Toronto, Canada

Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology conference in Tokyo



The Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology met in 2019 on the 30th anniversary of its establishment. The Society held its 30th anniversary commemoration meeting on 18-19 May 2019, at The Jikei University School of Medicine in Tokyo. The chief of assembly was Dr Misuzu Nakamura, who is a member of Council of the Society.

The Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology originated from an informal group of sociologists, public health researchers, medical doctors, and nurses in the late 1950s and the early 1960s. The members of the group gathered once a month, and read articles on Western medical sociology and gave presentations about their own work. In addition, they worked on some research projects and published pioneering interdisciplinary books and articles on health, medicine and society in Japan.

At the commemoration meeting, there were various speeches, symposiums, and oral and poster presentations. In particular, at the main symposium of the meeting, the speakers and discussants considered further possibilities in the field of health and medical sociology. The first speaker, Dr Yuzo Shindo, described the history of establishing the society, addressing preceding fields such as medical sociology in the United States and sociology of health and illness in Britain. The second speaker, Dr Masahiko Kaneko, pointed out that the World Federation for Medical Education prescribes that schools of medicine should have education programmes for medical sociology and medical anthropology. The last speaker, Dr Sumie Yoshida, discussed how nurses can apply the knowledge of health and medical sociology to nursing practices. The symposium gave us a new perspective on health and medical sociology in Japan.

At the highest decision making meeting during the commemoration meeting of the Society, Dr Kyoko Asakura was appointed as the President of the Society for the next two years. During this presidency, the academic meeting of the Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology will be held at Osaka in 2020 and Tokyo in 2021.

Dr Kyoko Asakura
President of the Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology
Graduate School of Medicine
Tohoku University
Japan

Canadian-Australian Health Sociology conference in Vancouver



The Canadian Society for the Sociology of Health (CSSH) and the Health Sociology Thematic Group of the Australian Sociology Association (TASA) came together to organise the first Canadian-Australian Health Sociology conference in Vancouver on 7-8 June 2019, with sponsorship from ISA Research Committee 15.

There were over 35 attendees. In addition to Canada and Australia, they also came from the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan.

The first day kicked off with keynote speaker Jocelyn Clark, Executive Editor of *The Lancet*. Dr Clark made an incredibly powerful presentation on the sociology of medical publishing based on her experiences at *The Lancet*.

Over the next two days, participants presented and sat in on a wide variety of interesting and dynamic sessions on mental health, sexual and reproductive health, women's health, health care migration and health organisations' re-structuring from a comparative ethnography perspective across Canada and Australia.

The conference closed out with a keynote address from Dr Kerreen Reiger, an Australian historical sociologist who presented on ongoing comparative research on maternity care between Australia and Canada, including a biography of prominent Canadian obstetrician Murray Enkin, who was also one of the architects of evidence-based medicine at McMaster and Oxford Universities.

A number of the presenters are working on publications for submission to *Health Sociology Review*, where discussions of a potential special issue are ongoing. The CSSH and TASA would like to thank the ISA Research Committee 15 for their financial support.

Professor Ivy Bourgeault
Research Chair in Gender, Diversity and the Professions
Telfer School of Management
University of Ottawa
Canada

Research and Educational Project in Brazil: Interprofessional Education in Health

Michael Calnan



Michael Calnan participated in a research and educational project called 'Interprofessional Education in Health' based at the University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) in Florianopolis, Brazil in March 2019. This project received support from a national fund for public universities in Brazil to promote the internationalization of their research and teaching. The project includes the PhD programmes on Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health and PhD programmes in Nutrition, Pharmaceutical Services and Sports. He gave a keynote lecture at the launch of the programme and spoke about sociological perspectives on interprofessional working practices exemplified by a case study exploring the importance and difficulties of providing 'dignified' care in practice. This lecture formed part of an introductory course which he taught on the sociology of health and illness and medicine. The course was convened in collaboration with Professors Silvana Leite and Mareni Farias from UFSC.

The course was organised around the general theme of a discussion of current debates in the sociology of health, illness and medicine drawing on both theoretical analysis and empirical research. These teaching sessions focused on specific themes which included the social construction of health and the changing boundaries between health and illness including consideration of the impact of innovative health technology; a critical assessment of the concepts of medicalization and pharmaceuticalisation and discussion of the perspective of the political sociology of health and medicine illustrated by the case of the regulation of medicines in different countries and the relationship between the state and powerful interests such as the pharmaceutical industry.

Twenty Masters and PhD students from Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Systems, Public Health and Nursing attended the course. Students had the opportunity to critically assess evidence and arguments; to formulate problems; to propose possible solutions; and to recognize the importance of theoretical concepts and perspectives. Michael Calnan also participated in research meetings with professors and students to discuss current and future projects on comparative studies in assessment of health technologies.

Michael Calnan
Professor of Medical Sociology
School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research
University of Kent, UK

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES 2019/20

2019 TASA CONFERENCE

Diversity & Urban Growth

NOVEMBER 25 - 28



Western Sydney University
Parramatta City and South Campuses

Western Sydney University (WSU) is pleased to host the 2019 Australian Sociological Association Conference, a return to Sydney for the first time since 2010. WSU's School of Social Sciences and Psychology and Institute of Culture and Society will hold the conference in Greater Western Sydney (GWS) at our new Parramatta City campus and at other sites nearby.

The region is an ideal place to hold a sociology conference on the theme of Diversity & Urban Growth. GWS has one of the fastest growing populations in the country and has the third largest economy in Australia. It is home to nearly 10% of all Australians, with 35% of its almost 2 million residents born overseas. It is also home to the largest single Indigenous community in the country.

The combination of actors and capabilities in these spaces presents both successes and serious challenges for the region. The success of growth begs the questions of what gets expelled in the development and what are the causes of growing inequality. A little over 50 years since the sociologist Henri Lefebvre declared a 'right to the city' (le droit à la ville), the theme of Diversity & Urban Growth has never been more relevant, and will form the theoretical, conceptual and empirical basis for this TASA conference. We are very pleased to have keynotes/plenaries from extraordinary scholars such as Maggie Walter, Rob Stones, and Deborah Stevenson. We also have a number of innovative features at this year's conference, including sessions with Indigenous peoples and events which seek to engage with the communities and civic structures of the region.

Western Sydney University is committed to being 'an anchor institution and leading advocate and champion for GWS and its people' and 'a research-led university with regional, national and global impact'. Hosting a TASA conference on Diversity & Urban Growth will help advance important dialogue about the trajectory of cities extending from Parramatta across the globe.

conference.tasa.org.au | Email enquiries: admin@tasa.org.au

PhD Opportunity in the Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark

A fully funded PhD Fellowship on 'The making of intersectoral coordination: Understanding the practices of health professions' is available.

Please contact Associate Professor Viola Burau (viola@ph.au.dk) to discuss your ideas for a PhD proposal and to clarify and queries you might have. The deadline for applications is Monday 16 September 2019.

Background:

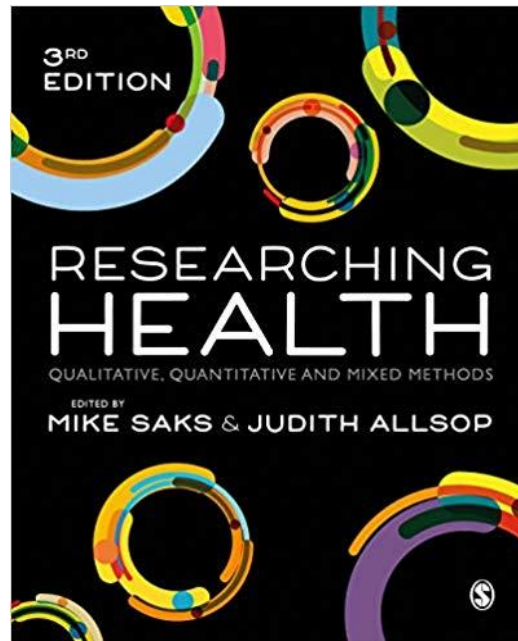
Intersectoral coordination has become a primary concern of health systems across industrialised countries. More specialised hospitals and earlier discharge are shifting health services to community-based primary care settings, including prevention and rehabilitation. The issue of coordination across hospitals, general practice, other local health and social care services has come to the fore. The practice of health professions is key to the making of intersectoral coordination. Health professions are important switchboards for changing health services. They transform political programmes and administrative objectives into services for citizens. Drawing on different forms of knowledge and norms, they define the substance and organisation of health services.

Yet we know surprisingly little theoretically and empirically: about how health professions through their practice contribute to the making of intersectoral coordination. In health services research, there are many applied studies of intersectoral coordination, but they do not fully acknowledge the role health professions in changing health services. Studies are more concerned with organisational factors such as leadership, communication and professionals as individuals. This overlooks health professions as collective actors and the potentials for intersectoral coordination arising from professional practice based on self-regulation and professional ethics. Sociological studies of professions typically retain a focus on individual professional groups and only few studies analyse how professions engage in intersectoral coordination. However, the focus on professional practice enables developing a conceptual understanding of intersectoral agency of professions in processes of organisational change.

The proposed PhD project aims:

1. Theoretically, to develop a conceptual understanding of intersectoral agency of professions in processes of organisational change.
2. Empirically, to systematically analyse health professional practices of intersectoral coordination and their contexts.
3. Practically, to develop a set of key components, which can support well functioning practices of intersectoral coordination.

London Launch of Third Edition of Researching Health



The third edition of Researching Health: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods edited by Mike Saks and Judith Allsop has recently been published by Sage Publications and was launched on 25 June 2019 with 40-50 attendees at the prestigious Fyvie Hall in Regent Street, London, near Oxford Circus at the University of Westminster.



The book is a one stop comprehensive review of the range of methods used to research topics within the field of health, health care and medicine. Its twenty-seven chapters provide a step by step account of how to carry out and complete a research project.

Following the two successful previous editions, this 600-page book updates important theoretical debates and shows how methods can be combined in research. There are new chapters on the principles of health research, sampling with qualitative methods, using secondary data and online resources and how to evaluate health research. All chapters have been revised to include recent material.

The contributors, from Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain, as well as the United Kingdom, are expert researchers who write on their specialism, providing a rich variety of case studies. The book demonstrates that the language and practice of health research crosses countries and health research has a global reach. It caters for both students and lecturers. Each chapter includes case studies, suggests class room activities, and provides end-of chapter exercises and annotated further reading. A comprehensive set of on-line resources is available through the website indicated in the book.

Part I: CONDUCTING HEALTH RESEARCH

- Ch 1 Introduction – Mike Saks and Judith Allsop
- Ch 2 Principles of Health Research – Judith Allsop and Mike Saks
- Ch 3 Strategies for Health Research – Judith Allsop
- Ch 4 Doing a Literature Review in Health – Kathryn Jones

Part II: QUALITATIVE METHODS AND HEALTH

- Ch 5 Methods of Sampling in Qualitative Health Research
– Lara Maestriperi, Arianna Radin and Elena Spina
- Ch 6 Using Documents in Health Research – Andy Alaszewski
- Ch 7 Unstructured and Semi-structured Interviews in Health Research
– Jacqueline Low
- Ch 8 Participant Observation in Health Research – David Hughes
- Ch 9 The Use of Focus Groups in Health Research – Judith Green
- Ch 10 Action Research and Health – Heather Waterman
- Ch 11 Qualitative Data Analysis and Health Research – Miwako Hosoda

Part III: QUANTITATIVE METHODS AND HEALTH

- Ch 12 Methods of Sampling in Quantitative Health Research
– Martin von Randow, Barry Milne and Nichola Shackleton
- Ch 13 Quantitative Survey Methods in Health Research – Michael Calnan
- Ch 14 Randomized Controlled Trials – George Lewith and Paul Little
- Ch 15 Experimental Methods in Health Research – Niro Siriwardena
- Ch 16 The Use of Economics in Health Research
– Steve Parrott and Alan Maynard
- Ch 17 Quantitative Data Analysis – George Argyrous
- Ch 18 Researching Health Care Management Using Secondary Data
– Ian Kirkpatrick and Gianluca Veronesi

Part IV: ISSUES IN HEALTH RESEARCH

- Ch 19 Ethics in Health Research – Priscilla Alderson
- Ch 20 Identity and Health Research – Teresa Carvalho and Tiago Correia
- Ch 21 Public Involvement in Health Research – Sophie Hill and Anneliese Synnot
- Ch 22 Comparative Health Research – Viola Burau
- Ch 23 Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care – Paul Williams and Janet Lum
- Ch 24 Mixed Methods in Health Research – Jonathan Tritter
- Ch 25 Online Research in Health – Denis Anthony

Part V: APPLYING HEALTH RESEARCH

- Ch 26 Health Research: Proposals, Planning and Writing Up – Judith Allsop and Mike Saks
- Ch 27 Disseminating and Evaluating Health Research – Mike Saks and Judith Allsop

The third edition of the book is now available for a reasonable price in paperback, alongside the hardback version. There is a special launch offer of a **25% reduction** on the paperback version (978-1-5264-2429-7) with a reduction from **£31.99 to £23.99** if it is ordered online at sagepub.co.uk using the discount code UK19AUTHOR at the checkout.

BOOK SERIES

SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS: FUTURE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTIONS

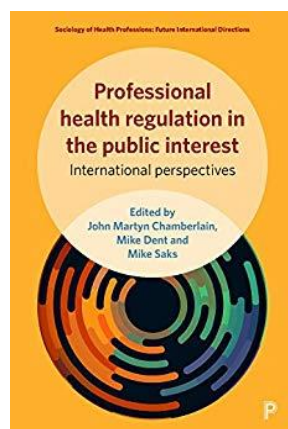
The series co-edited by Mike Saks and Mike Dent centres on the production of high quality, original work in the sociology of health professions with an innovative focus on the future directions of such professions. It covers a wide range of health professional areas, and interrelated health fields such as social care, medicine, nursing and allied health.

It is oriented towards final year/postgraduate students, academic lecturers and researchers, practitioners and policy makers. Its general aims are:

- To inform/stimulate debate about the sociology of health professions
- To influence policy development and practice in the fields concerned
- To make a significant contribution to thinking in the sociology of health
- To produce original national/international work of recognised high quality.

One volume has already been published in the series:

Chamberlain, J. M., Dent, M. and Saks, M. (eds) (2018) Professional Health Regulation in the Public Interest: International Perspectives, Bristol, Policy Press.



In addition, the following have been commissioned to date for publication:

Balasubramanian, M., Brennan, D., Spencer, A. J., Gallagher, J. and Short, S. D. The Age of Healthcare Migration: Dentistry and Globalisation, Bristol, Policy Press.

Denis, J-L., Régis, C., Germain, S. and Veronesi, G. Medical Doctors in Health Reforms: A Comparative Study of England and Canada, Bristol, Policy Press.

Nancarrow, S. and Borthwick, A. The Allied Health Professions: A Sociological Perspective, Bristol, Policy Press.

Saks, M. (ed) Support Workers in the Healthcare Workforce: International Perspectives on the Invisible Providers of Healthcare, Bristol, Policy Press.

Proposals for future books are invited. These should be submitted to the series co-editors Mike Saks (m.saks@uos.ac.uk) and Mike Dent (Mike.Dent@staffs.ac.uk). They are happy to discuss future proposals in advance with prospective authors.

The prestigious international Editorial Advisory Committee drawn from ten different countries is comprised of: Davina Allen, Nelson Barros, Debby Bonnin, Ray De Vries, Jean-Louis Denis, Jonathan Gabe, Guido Giarelli, Miwako Hosoda, Ian Kirkpatrick, Donald Light, Susan Nancarrow, Mirko Noordegraaf and Stephanie Short.

Items for the Next Issue

If you have any items relevant to RC15 – from conference reports/announcements to publications - for inclusion in the next Newsletter, please send them by the end of December 2019 at the latest to Mike Saks, email: m.saks@uos.ac.uk

Membership

The membership dues for RC15 are 60 USD (20 USD reduction) for four year membership. The ISA membership registration form is available at: <https://isa.enoah.com/Sign-In>