



Mental Health
and Illness

Newsletter

Vol. 22, Issue 2, July 2022

Dear RC49 Members, Colleagues and Friends

Time flies and it is less than a year from now until the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology takes place in Melbourne, Australia from June 25-July 1, 2023.

The deadline for submission of session proposals ended in May and we received a number of RC49 session proposals. Please find the session descriptions in this newsletter. The next step is to submit your valuable abstracts! The call for abstracts is open from July 1st to September 30th 2022. For more information about deadlines and rules for submitters please visit the ISA website <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023/deadlines-2023>

We are all looking forward to the ISA World Congress and the RC 49 sessions where researchers present papers and discuss their research subjects and ideas. The hybrid format allows both face-to-face and virtual interactions. In order to foster active participation of PhD students, RC49 offers 2 travel grants for the best abstracts submitted by PhD students to one of the RC49 sessions for the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology. Please find the call in this newsletter.

Apart from the ISA World Congress, we will put further strengths to increase exchange and collaborations between RC49 members, and particularly among younger scholars interested in the sociology of mental health and illness. Following up on the success of our 1st RC49 Online Symposium "*The Sociology of Mental Health and Illness – Emerging Issues and Perspectives*" in November 19th 2021, we currently prepare the 2nd RC49 Online Symposium in January 20th 2023. **Please save the date.** The call for papers will be send out soon!

Last, not least, please find some of the recent academic activities by RC49 Senior Board Members.

With very best wishes,

Silvia Krumm
RC 49 President

RC49 Mental Health and Illness – Sessions for the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology

1.) Covid-19 and Mental Illness: A Syndemic & Structural Perspective

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

The global spread of Covid-19 since 2020 is the worst pandemic in over 100 years. An estimated 15 million people have died world wide from the virus and at least 500 million have been infected (WHO, 2022). Tens of millions have been hospitalized and many more have suffered without access to hospitalization. An outcome of the Covid-19 pandemic has been a global epidemic of mental illness. Millions experience anxiety and depression, while many others have committed suicide. The unrelenting nature of Covid-19 has also undermined the sense of personal well-being among entire populations who fear contracting it. This session is focused on the relationships between Covid and mental illness in populations of different income strata, educational levels, and gender, ethnic and racial groups. Papers using a syndemic and structural approach from Latin America, Africa, and Asia are particularly encouraged. Papers may be submitted in French and Spanish as well as English. The gravity of the Covid pandemic has given greater attention to the concept of syndemic. This epidemiologic term emerged in the 1990s with the global HIV epidemic (Singer, 1990). A syndemic occurs when two or more diseases are intertwined and they interact with environmental, social, economic, cultural and physical factors of a population. They are particularly severe in groups that have been marginalized by historic and continuing social and economic inequality.

Session Organizers:

James LINN, Optimal Solutions in Healthcare and International Development, United States, jlinn87844@aol.com

Michele KADRI, ILMD, FIOCRUZ, Brazil, michele.kadri@gmail.com

2.) Ecologías de cuidados: Saberes y prácticas entre profesionales de salud, organizaciones sociales y migrantes en la periferia de São Paulo

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

Language: Spanish

Session Type: Oral

La Salud Colectiva o Medicina Social Latinoamericana es un campo en disputa entre diferentes saberes y prácticas en salud. La promoción, prevención y vigilancia de la salud permanece en constante contradicción entre la hegemonía del paradigma biomédico y sus propuestas alternativas, a través de los principios de autonomía y participación en salud para la emancipación de los procesos de salud-enfermedad y cuidados a nivel local. A partir de las propuestas de las "Epistemologías del Sur" de Boaventura de Sousa Santos, el proyecto de investigación propone explorar ecosistemas dinámicos donde emergen la diversidad de prácticas y saberes que dialogan en los procesos de atención y cuidados de la población migrante en barrios segregados de la ciudad. A través de un trabajo etnográfico en el distrito periférico de la zona Este de São Paulo - Brasil, el estudio analizará las relaciones de interacción que configuran las "ecologías locales del cuidado". Específicamente, el trabajo

de campo explora la relación de los Agentes Comunitarios de Salud en el territorio, junto con las acciones de las organizaciones locales, las instituciones religiosas, y las prácticas de (auto)cuidado y (auto)cuidado de los grupos, familias e individuos migrantes de la comunidad. El investigador responsable espera que se reconozca el carácter parcial del conocimiento científico y se respete la diversidad de cosmovisiones presentes en el territorio. Además, se espera analizar las similitudes y diferencias existentes entre los distintos modelos de (auto)cuidado, a fin de buscar convergencias y puntos comunes para futuras políticas en salud.

Session Organizer:

Felipe SZABZON, Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal,

felipe.szabzon@gmail.com

3.) Mental Health and Risk

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

TG04 Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

The assessment and management of risk has become a key issue in mental health services in a range of jurisdictions. These concerns have been driven by the perceived danger that people with mental health problems have been assumed to pose to themselves or others. Policy responses have been complex. Mental health professionals have been charged with both identifying and reducing risks which are seen to be problematic. At the same time they are encouraged to promote “positive risk taking” in which service users are encouraged to take calculated risks in order to aid their recovery. In addition, people who use services have been encouraged to manage their own risks, although their views have been under-researched. Whilst risk is often viewed as a matter of common sense there are significant differences in the way different professional groups, people with mental health problems and carers conceptualise risk. This session aims to explore the way in which risk is conceptualised, contested and managed by mental health professionals, people with mental health problems and informal carers. Abstracts on any aspect of mental health and risk from a broad range of sociological and inter-disciplinary perspectives are invited.

Session Organizer:

Jeremy DIXON, University of Bath, United Kingdom, j.dixon2@bath.ac.uk

4.) Models of Mental Health Problems

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

Psychiatry and mental health services have long been dominated by biomedical models. In recent years, many new approaches such as Recovery, Neurodiversity or social justice have been developed. While the older approaches were predominantly generated by clinicians and researchers, the new models have increasingly been developed by services users and other people affected by mental health services. This session will gather models and research on models and how they have been

adapted to local or regional contexts. The session will also look into the consequences of newer models for all parties involved into mental health care, particularly service users, carers and professionals.

Session Organizers:

Dirk RICHTER, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland, dirk.richter@upd.unibe.ch
Jeremy DIXON, University of Bath, United Kingdom, j.dixon2@bath.ac.uk

5.) Social Inclusion of Mentally Ill Persons

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

Mental illness frequently leads to social exclusion because of social stigma associated with mental illness and psychiatric therapies that limit personal development. Individuals with mental illness require social support which nurtures their personal development. The most effective social support encourages activities that fulfill socially valued goals and produce individual empowerment. Ultimately, to the extent possible, persons with mental illness should be supported in their efforts to live an economically autonomous life performing recognized and socially valued work. This session invites studies of social inclusion using various theoretical approaches and methodologies

Session Organizer:

Jorge CHUAQUI, Universidad de Valparaiso, Chile, jorge.chuaqui@gmail.com

6.) Social Relationships and Mental Health and Illness

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

Studies on the role of social relationships for the maintenance of mental health, the etiology of mental disorders but also for coping with and recovery from mental illness have been a field of fruitful cooperations between sociologists and psychiatrists since the early 20th century. Despite this long tradition of research the topic of social relationships and mental health has lost none of its relevance today. Recent developments in late-modern societies such as globalization, individualization, migration, demographic aging, and the digitalization of communication with its far reaching consequences on social relationships can be also expected to affect mental health and the way how societies and individuals cope with mental disorders in many ways. During the last decades theoretical and methodological concepts like social capital or social networks as well as new developments in the human sciences such as meta-genetics have opened new perspectives of interdisciplinary research and provided new insights into the processes by which social relationships affect mental health and illness. In this symposium new research on the association between social relationships and mental health and illness should be presented. Theoretical contributions are also welcome as qualitative and quantitative empirical studies. The submission of interdisciplinary work would be particularly appreciated.

Session Organizer:

Reinhold KILIAN, Ulm University, Germany, reinhold.kilian@uni-ulm.de

7.) Social and Emotional Well-Being of Adolescents and Young Adults Living in Rapidly Changing Real and Virtually Constructed Worlds

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

We live in an uncertain and tense world of COVID-19 pandemic, economic recession, conflict, war, and division over political systems and ethnic groups in various parts of the world, and potential disparity and oppression. On the other hand, we are living in a virtual world that has been dramatized by social media, and a relational world that has been connected by social media. These modern social characteristics have different impacts on people at different stages of their life course. UNICEF (<https://www.unicef-irc.org/research/adolescent-wellbeing/>) has focused on the social well-being of youth, however, it has been pointed out that the improvement of wellbeing in adolescent and young adult is lagging due to social conditions. This is because they are a vulnerable group, exposed and susceptible to social structural factors such as violence and abuse, early marriage, young carers, dropout from secondary education, global economic stagnation, child poverty and isolation. During adolescence and young adulthood, it is important to foster resources to overcome obstacles such as negative abilities, positive youth development, and neighborhood environments rich in social capital in order to build a foundation for a lifetime. However, the social environments and cultural contexts in which young people live are diverse, and the problems they experience are different. How do rapidly changing societies in different contexts affect the social wellbeing of adolescents and young adults? What role does social media play in the social wellbeing of adolescents and young adults in developed and developing societies?

Session Organizer:

Takashi ASAKURA, Tokyo Gakugei University, Japan, asakurat@u-gakugei.ac.jp

8.) The Social Genesis of Cognitive Difficulties

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

Cognitive difficulties associated with Schizophrenia and Autism are still subject to many theories trying to understand the biological, psychological, and social determinants of these diseases. Sociologically the new trend is to capture its relation to basic human habitus such as creativity and invention. The suffering of people with such difficulties could be comprehended as a complex interplay between brain characteristics, social stigma, culturally poor recognition of neurodiversity, and institutional settings. Papers addressing these questions theoretically or presenting substantial results from empirical research on brain structures, stigma, institutional structures, and discourses are most welcome.

Session Organizer:

Pia RINGOE, Aalborg University, Denmark, ringoe@socsci.aau.dk

9.) Victimization and Experiences of Violence Among Mental Health Service Users

RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

While only a very small number of people with severe mental illness will perpetrate violence, people with mental disorders are at increased risk for being victimised themselves compared to the general population. Victimization not only causes physical injuries but has detrimental effects on mental health and recovery. Victimization contributes to the development, perpetuation and exacerbation of mental disorders. There is a broad range of violence experiences including domestic, community, and institutional violence, e.g. coercive treatment during hospital stay. Despite the alarming prevalences of victimisation among service users, their violence experiences are often not sufficiently addressed by professionals in mental health and other settings. Victimization and violence experiences among service users are entangled with the social and biographical context, albeit not well understood yet. There is a significant need for research on the subjective perspectives on experiences of violence, the impact of gender on victimisation and violence experiences, biographical dynamics and trajectories of victimisation and re-victimisation, and the victim-offender overlaps. A comprehensive understanding of violence experiences should focus on the social, biographical and institutional context factors, and the identification of barriers for addressing experiences of violence within mental health settings. This session welcomes papers focusing on the diverse aspects of violence and victimisation in the context of mental health and illness including experiences of physical, sexual or emotional violence within private, public and institutional settings from childhood to adulthood, discourses on violence and mental illness, coercive treatment and violent behavior within mental health settings, and programs or interventions addressing these problems.

Session Organizer:

Silvia KRUMM, Ulm University, Germany, silvia.krumm@uni-ulm.de

Travel grants for PhD students for the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, Australia

In order to foster participation of PhD students at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, Australia, the Research Committee on the Sociology of Health and Illness (RC 49) is gifting 2 travel costs for PhD students doing research within the field of the sociology of mental health and illness.

PhD students are encouraged to submit an abstract for one of the RC 49 sessions at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, Australia (June 25- July 1, 2023).

In order to be eligible, applicants must be Phd students and RC49 members.

Abstracts for the RC49 sessions must be submitted via the online system by September 30, 2022 24:00 GMT

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023/deadlines-2023>

Submitted abstracts will be reviewed and the final decision will be made by RC49 Board Members.

Activities of RC49 members

Bronwen Lichtenstein

Conference Papers

- Lichtenstein, Bronwen and Joe Weber. "COVID-19 and The CARES Act in the Deep South: Mortgage Relief, Race, and Foreclosure." 117th American Sociological Association. The University of Alabama: August 5-9, 2022.
- Payne Foster, Pamela, Oths, Kathy, McClure, Stephanie, Ross, Levi, Lichtenstein, Bronwen. "Development of an Innovative Partnership to Increase Employer-Based Covid-19 Vaccination in West Alabama." 21st Annual Rural Health Conference, The University of Alabama: April 14-15, 2022

Award

- Bronwen Lichtenstein. (1st place, Judges' Choice – Professional Category). "Employer-Based Partnership for COVID-19 Vaccination in West Alabama." 21st Annual Rural Health Conference, University of Alabama.

Publications

- Lichtenstein, Bronwen and Joe Weber. (2022) "COVID-19 and the CARES Act: Racial Disadvantage, Mortgage Relief, and Foreclosure in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama." *Housing and Society*, 50. Online Ahead of Print. <https://10.1080/08882746.2022.2070699>
- Lichtenstein, Bronwen, with Stephanie McClure, Pamela Foster-Payne, Kathryn Oths, and Levi Ross (2021, November 24). "Health Justice for Alabama". *The Alabama Political Reporter*. <https://www.alreporter.com/2021/11/24/opinion-health-justice-for-alabama/>.

Grants

- Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative and the Rockefeller Foundation. (2020-2022). PI: Stephanie McClure. Co-PIs: Bronwen Lichtenstein, Pamela Foster-Payne, Kathy Oths, and Levi Ross. "The Community's Role in Equitable and Effective Covid-19 Vaccination Rollout." \$1,000,000. UA allocation: \$200,000.
- Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative and the Rockefeller Foundation. (2022). PI: Stephanie McClure. Co-PIs: Bronwen Lichtenstein, Pamela Foster-Payne, and Kathy Oths. "Development of Communihealth Coalition in Alabama." \$75,000.

James G. Linn

Articles in Journals and Books

2022 Linn, J.G., Chuaqui, J., Alencar, A., "Covid-19 in Chile: Personal and Political Outcomes," in *Systemic Inequality, Sustainability, and Covid-19*, Wejnert B., Research in Political Sociology, Vol, 29, 211-221, Emerald Publishing Co. Limited.

- 2022 Linn, J.G., "Perspectives of Social Stratification in the United States: Initial Concepts," J. Jorge Chuaqui and co-authors, 341-345, University of Valparaiso, School of Sociology. (In Spanish).
- 2022 Linn, J.G., Poku, K., Chuaqui, J., Matavel J., "The Global Health Impacts of Inadequate Waste Management in a Time of Pandemics and Wars" in Waste Management, The Human Health Impact, Marfe G., Journal of Advances in Environmental and Engineering Research (Under Review).
- 2022 Linn, J.G., D.R. Wilson and Chuaqui, J., Review of "Innovations in Global Mental", by Samuel O. Okpaku, M.D., Ph.D. Submitted to the Social Science Journal (Under Review).

Presentations

- 2022 Linn, J.G. "Covid-19 and HIV: Health and Social Implications of the Convergence of the Pandemics".
Presented at the Western Social Science Association, April 1, Denver Colorado.
- 2022 Linn, J.G., E Arredondo & J Chuaqui, "Mental Health Service Coverage in Chile" Presented at
the Western Social Science Association, April 1, Denver, Colorado.
- 2022 Linn, J.G. & M. Schmitz, "Chapter Experiences with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Projects",
Presented at the Partners of the Americas What Works Conference March 30, 2022. Virtual Presentation.

Jorge Chuaqui

1. Presentó la ponencia "Realism, Constructivism and POWER" en el IV ISA Forum of Sociology, Porto Alegre, Brazil, Febrero 23-28, 2021.
2. Jorge Chuaqui et.al.: SOCIAL STRUCTURE, POWER AND THE INDIVIDUAL. ISBN: 978-956-01-0686-5. Toronto: Garth University Consortium Publishers, 2019.
3. Linn, James, Chuaqui, Jorge, Alencar Aristoteles, 2022. "Covid 19 in Chile: Personal and Political Outcomes", Research in Political Sociology, Vol. 29 (in press).
4. James G. Linn, Optimal Solutions in Healthcare & International, Development & Meharry Medical College, U.S.A., Jorge Chuaqui, University of Valparaiso, Chile, and Emanuel Arredondo, University of Valparaiso, Chile, The psychosocial and political implications of Covid-19 in Chile. Research Committee 49 of the International Sociological Association, RC-49 Symposium, "The Sociology of Mental Health and Illness---Emerging Issues and Perspectives", November 19th, 2021
5. Jorge Chuaqui y otros: EL CAPITALISMO EN EL CHILE ACTUAL. TEORÍA Y REALIDAD. ISBN 978-956-404-874-1 Edición independiente digital, Viña del Mar, noviembre 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.17093177.v1>
6. Systemic Inequality, Sustainability and COVID-19 Research in Political Sociology, Volume 29, 211-221 Copyright © 2022 James G. Linn, Jorge Chuaqui and Aristoteles Alencar Published under exclusive licence by Emerald Publishing Limited ISSN: 0895-9935/doi: 10.1108/S0895-993520220000029016

7. Jorge Chuaqui et.al. (2022): CLASES SOCIALES EN CHILE: TEORÍA E INFORMACIÓN (Social Classes in Chile: Theory and Data). Edición Independiente digital, Viña del Mar, Chile. ISBN: 978-956-410-715-8. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.20402853.v1>
8. Jorge Chuaqui et. al. (2022): INTRODUCCIÓN AL ESTUDIO DE LAS CLASES SOCIALES (Chile y Latinoamérica). (Study of interaction of social classes (Chile and Latin America)). Edición independiente digital, Viña del Mar, Chile. ISBN: 978-956-410-716-5. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.20402976.v1>