ISA Newsletter January 2024

Welcome

Welcome to the January 2024 issue of the newsletter. I have been working with fellow board members over the past few months and am pleased to present several exciting events and opportunities.

We plan to hold a number of seminars and events between conferences to stimulate debate and keep us in touch with one another. We will kick off with two seminars in January and February 2024 which will be co-hosted by the Centre for Death and Society (CDAS) at the University of Bath, UK. The first of these will take place on the 15th January and will feature Dr David Baker, from the University of Liverpool (UK) speaking on, 'Organisational learning, or organised irresponsibility? Risk, opacity and lesson learning about mental health related deaths'. The second event will take place on the 20th February 2024 and will focus on 'Sociological Perspectives on Suicide'. This event will feature a presentation by Professor Dariusz Galasinski, from the University of Wroclaw (Poland) entitled, 'Discursive constructions of relationships in parents' suicide letters'.   The session will also include a presentation from the vice-president of RC49, Dr Lynn Tang from Royal Holloway University of London (UK), who will speak on, 'Making sense of suicide in socio-political contexts: a case study of political crisis in Hong Kong'. Both events will be online. They are free but will require a ticket in advance.   Links to the Ticketpass website for both events are contained below.

In May, a joint event will take place between RC49 and the Social Production of Mental Health seminar series. It will take place on 14th May and is entitled 'Australasian Approaches to Critical Mental Health'. It will be chaired by RC49 member Dr Bruce Cohen, from the University of Auckland (New Zealand) and will feature presentations from researchers at the University of Auckland and the University of Sydney. The event is free to attend. It will be run on Zoom and joining instructions can be found below.

In addition to our normal news of new publications by members, the newsletter also includes a call for papers for an edited book collection. Professor Silvia Krumm and I hope to bring together an edited collection focussed on the sociology of community mental health care which will showcase the work of RC49 members. Further details are given in the newsletter.

I was very sorry to hear of the death of Professor Jorge Chauqui, who was a board member of RC49. A brief notice and obituary was sent round to RC49 members earlier in the year. However, I am pleased to present a longer obituary written by Jorge's good friend and colleague Gary Linn.

Finally, I am pleased to provide details of new members as well as colleagues who have re-joined. I and the board am keen to grow our community, so please do encourage others with an interest in this topic area to join. The link to join can be found here. New members need to join both the International Sociological Association and RC49. We have recently dropped our membership fees for RC49 to make the fees more affordable. Please do follow us on LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter) if you have an account and spread the word. More details in the newsletter.

Best wishes,

Jeremy Dixon (RC 49 President)

RC 49 Events

Organisational learning, or organised irresponsibility? Risk, opacity and lesson learning about mental health related deaths - A joint event by RC 49 and the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath, UK

Date and Time

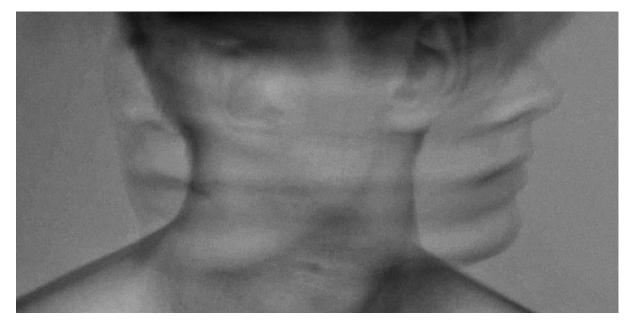Jan 15th, 2024: 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Free tickets available from: [Ticketpass - The Ethical Ticketing Platform for Events](#)

Abstract

This paper examines how deaths related to mental health in England and Wales are investigated and the extent to which lessons are learned in their aftermath. It uses two concepts from academic literature to discuss organisational responses to these deaths: organisational learning, and organised irresponsibility. Organisational learning stresses the importance of learning lessons from data; in contrast, Beck's concept of organised irresponsibility states that organisational lesson learning is impeded by the fragmented and risk-averse nature of public institutions. The paper considers 210 organisational responses to Reports to Prevent Future Deaths (PFDs) issued by Coroners. PFDs are sent to any organisation Coroners believe could act to prevent future deaths. The paper identifies three findings: Firstly, organisations tend to produce generic responses rather than addressing specific issues raised by Coroners. Second, organisations tend to cite existing policies as responses to Coroners despite those policies not preventing specific deaths. Third, institutions seek to displace blame onto other organisations in attempting to avoid accepting responsibility for the death. The paper adds to the canon of knowledge on deaths in healthcare, and in the care of the state by identifying significant structural weaknesses that impede organisational lesson learning about preventable deaths.

Speaker biography:

Dr David Baker is Research Lead in the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology at the University of Liverpool. His work focuses on preventable deaths, death investigation and holding governmental organisations to account. He is the author of two books on police related deaths, the latest of which is 'Police Related Deaths in the United States' published in 2021 by Lexington Books. He has published extensively in academic journals and has also appeared on BBC Radio 4's 'Four Thought', in addition to contributing articles to The New Statesman and The Conversation. His latest work focuses on preventable deaths in mental healthcare that occur in inpatient, outpatient, community and criminal justice settings.

Sociological Perspectives on Suicide – A joint event by RC 49 and the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath, UK

Date and Time:

20th February, 6.00-7.30pm, online. Free tickets at: [Ticketpass - The Ethical Ticketing Platform for Events](#)

This event is the second of two events focussing on sociological perspectives on death and dying. This event presents sociological perspectives on suicide and features papers by Dr Lynn Tang, from Royal Holloway, University of London, England and Professor Dariusz Galasinski from the University of Wroclaw, Poland.

Making sense of suicide in socio-political contexts: a case study of political crisis in Hong Kong – Dr Lynn Tang

In conflict-affected areas, political unrest is thought to be a factor associated with increased suicide risk in the community. In particular, when protest-related suicides occur, mental health professionals often worry about the rise of copycat suicide. While social learning is often used to explain imitative behaviour related to suicides, we know little about how people actually make sense of suicide. In this seminar, I will explore how sociopolitical contexts shape the social meaning of suicide and how people respond to protest-related suicides. The analysis is based on a case study on the Anti-Extradition Bill movement that took place in Hong Kong in 2019. Led by young people, the

movement had a 'leaderless' character and was heavily reliant on horizontal organisation via social media apps and online forums. During the movement, a series of protest-related suicides took place. The first incident was broadcast live on social media. In-depth interviews were conducted with 35 people aged between 19-35 who self-identified as supporting the movement. I will first discuss the diverse meanings of suicide among the participants. Then I will shed light on five contextual factors that are crucial in understanding their sensemaking process, namely, perceived political climate, solidarity and connectedness in a leaderless organisational structure, digital media platform, the experience of collective emotions, as well as the agency of the protestors. Suicide prevention strategies in relation to these factors will be discussed.

Discursive constructions of relationships in parents' suicide letters – Professor Dariusz Galasinski

The aim of this paper is to explore discursive constructions of relationships in suicide notes written by parents and explicitly addressed to their children. I am primarily interested in how the writing parent represents their relationships with the child, the other parent and other significant people. The data come from the Polish Corpus of Farewell Letters, a set of 620 genuine suicide notes. Methodologically, the study is anchored in qualitative Critical Discourse Studies.

My argument is founded on three main patterns in the dataset we collected. First, the position taken by the parent is predominantly one of experiencing the world. The parents construct themselves as thinking or feeling about their children. The positivity of the image of the parent is contrasted with the ambivalence of representations of the children. When explicitly represented as in a relationship with the writing parent, the children are constructed as having a negative impact on the parent. The positive representation of the child is typically constructed outside a relationship with the parent. There were only a few letters referring to third parties (the other parents or others), all consistently describing them in negative terms.

Speaker Biographies

Lynn Tang **is** a lecturer in Health Studies, Royal Holloway, University of London. She is a sociologist with her core research area in mental health, inequalities and related policies. She has a special interest in service users' lived experience and perspectives. She also researches on other health experiences among minority ethnic communities.

Dariusz Galasinski is professor and head of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research into Health and Illness, at the University of Wroclaw. His primary interest has been the narrated experience of mental illness and suicide, particularly in relationship with masculinity. He is also interested in the language of wine.

Australasian Approaches to Critical Mental Health - A joint ISA RC49 and the Social Production of Mental Health

Date and time:

Tuesday 14 May, 8-10am UK time (5-7pm in Melbourne, 7-9pm in Auckland)

 Zoom link:

https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/YLk5CD1vOJHGpxAqUWj3AZ?domain=unimelb.zoom.us

(Password: 187117)

 Abstract

While there appears to be a growing acceptance among the public of categories of 'mental disorder' as representing true disease, and pharmacological and therapeutic interventions as effective treatments, social scientists continue to ask uncomfortable questions regarding the nature of the Western mental health system as a potential site of policing, surveillance and social control of marginalised, disempowered, and socially deviant groups. But what exactly does such critical investigation in this area look like on the ground? Co-hosted by the ISA RC49 and the Australian-based *Social Production of Mental Health* seminar series, this panel discussion introduces dynamic critical research from established and emerging scholars in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, including studies focused on incarcerated women, trans communities, refugees, and young people. This session will give plenty of time for lively discussion with the panel members on the current state and future usefulness of critical mental health work in sociology.

Chair:

- Bruce Cohen (Sociology, University of Auckland)

 Topics/Panellists:

- Gender, psychiatric violence, and involuntary mental health service provision in Australia (Emma Tseris, Education and Social Work, University of Sydney)

- Policing mental health in Aotearoa New Zealand (Sam Vella, Sociology, University of Auckland)

- Psychiatric power and constructing the trans patient (Arin Hectors, Sociology, University of Auckland)

- Contesting mental health care for Rohingya (former) refugees (Zaheer Hla, Social and Community Health, University of Auckland)

- Counselling and the surveillance of young people in schools (Roberto McLeay, Counselling, University of Auckland)

- Psychotropics as psychiatric violence (Lynda Hills, Sociology, University of Auckland)

RC 49 Publications

Recent publications by members

- **Almqvist, A.L.** and Lassinantti, K., 2023. Tensions and change in liminal spaces-Young people in Swedish out-of-home care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, p.107395.

- **Almqvist, A.L.** and Lassinantti, K., 2022. Understanding complex needs through the concept of recognition. A qualitative study with Swedish young people about their encounters with welfare state actors. *Nordic Social Work Research*, *12*(5), pp.716-727.

- **Chuaqui K., J., Linn, J.G.**, Arredondo, E. and Molina Johannes, J., 2022. *Social Classes in Chile: Theory and Data (English version)*. Toronto: Garth University Consortium.

- **Edelblute, H.B.**, Baba, Z., Tinago, C.B. and Fyalkowski, S., 2023. Exploring acculturative stress and family dynamics in African immigrant students in the US: implications for mental health. *Ethnicity & Health*, pp.1-15.

- **Krumm, S.**, Krieg, G., Lamp, N., Marek, F., Nickel, P., Panzirsch, M., Stiawa, M., Beschoner, P., Brieger, P., Frasch, K. and Gertzen, M., 2023. The transformation of masculinity orientations and work-related attitudes in men treated for depression (TRANSMODE): study protocol for a mixed-methods observational study. *BMC psychiatry*, *23*(1), p.492.

- Matavel, J., Bila, G., Munguambe, K., **Linn, J.G.** and Loquiha, O., 2023. Frequency of different types of intimate partner violence in selected health units of the National Health Service of Mozambique: A retrospective study.

- Müller, K., Schuster, F., **Krumm, S.**, Leucht, S., Siafis, S., Heres, S., Brieger, P. and Hamann, J., 2023. Informing the development of a decision aid: Expectations and wishes from service users and psychiatrists towards a decision aid for antipsychotics in the inpatient setting. *Health Expectations*, *26*(3), pp.1327-1338.

- Nordström, L., Lassinantti, K., Carlsson, Õ.U. and **Almqvist, A.L.**, 2023. Service-user participation in coordinated planning, from the perspective of involved professionals. *Disability & Society*, pp.1-21.

- Schützwohl, M., Krönke, I., Reupert, A., Stasch, N., Mayer, L. and **Krumm, S.,** 2023. Development of practice-guided measures to improve guideline adherence in psychotropic medication for adults with intellectual disabilities. *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*, pp.1-5.

- Schützwohl, M., Krönke, I., Reupert, A., Stasch, N., Mayer, L. and **Krumm, S.**, 2023. Development of practice-guided measures to improve guideline adherence in psychotropic medication for adults with intellectual disabilities. *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*, pp.1-5.

Call for Papers for an RC49 Edited Collection on *Sociological Perspectives of Community Mental Health* (to be submitted to Policy Press)

Understandings of mental health problems and opinions on optimal treatments vary widely across societies. There has been a growing consensus, since the 1950s, that care for people with mental health problems should be delivered in the community, with most countries now delivering care in this way (Scull, 2015). This commitment to community mental health care looks likely to continue. The Lancet Commission on global mental health called for countries to scale up mental health provision and in doing so to redistribute mental health budgets "from large hospitals to district hospital and community-based local services" (Patel et al, 2018, p. 1554). Similarly, the World Health Organisation has committed to doubling mental health care facilities in several countries by 2030 (WHO, 2022).

Although community mental health care has been heralded as positive there is a need for sociologists to unpack its ideologies, organisation, theories, and character. As Rogers and Pilgrim (2021) note, there remains substantial ambiguity around how community care should be defined. Cross-national comparative studies indicate stark differences in policies and the types of support made available (Shen and Snowden, 2014). There are wide variations in the availability of community mental health treatments, with provision generally being much lower in low-income countries (Wang et al, 2007). The organisation of community mental health care may also vary internationally. For example, differences exist in the extent to which community mental health care is provided within primary care services, outpatient clinics, community mental health centres,

residential care services or by community mental health teams (Cockerham, 2020; Rogers and Pilgrim, 2021). The ethics of imposing western mental health models on developing countries has also been questioned by critics (Mills and White, 2017).

Whilst several edited collections have focussed on community mental health care, we are not aware of any which have done so from a sociological perspective. Our aim is to submit a book proposal for an edited collection to Policy Press (an imprint of Bristol University Press). We envisage that the book will be made up of 13 chapters. The word limit for each chapter will be 7000 words. Our aim is for the collection to highlight the work of scholars from the sociology of mental health and illness. We also intend for the collection to be international in its scope.

We are calling for colleagues to submit abstracts of 800 words. Thirteen abstracts will be selected and will be used to support the book proposal. We aim to include authors from a range of career stages and countries.

All papers should adopt a sociological perspective and focus on an element of community mental health care. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Theories of community mental health care and interventions and the forms of knowledge they draw on.

- How different policy frameworks promoting community mental health care are understood and applied by policymakers, professionals, people with mental health problems or carers.

- Models of community mental health care for different groups within the community such as children, adults, or older adults.

- Intersectional approaches and community mental health interventions.

- The role of the family in supporting community mental health care.

- The management of risk and uncertainty within community mental health care, including aggression and victimisation.

- Transformation of community care.

- Transitions between community care and hospital care.

- Social movements influencing the nature or character of community mental health care. We welcome both theoretical and empirical chapters. We are open to different definitions of community care if they are clearly explained and applied. Chapters should critically evaluate evidence, show awareness of contemporary theorising in the sociology of mental health, and contribute to our understandings of community mental health care. We are keen to support early-career researchers who are new to writing this sort of publication.

Guideline for abstract submission

The book will be edited by Dr Jeremy Dixon and Professor Silvia Krumm. Abstracts not exceeding 800 words in length should be sent by email to arrive no later than **31st March 2024** to Dr Jeremy Dixon at **jd582@bath.ac.uk.** Please ensure you include your full name and email address. Please include a subject heading: RC49 Edited Collection.

The abstracts will be used to submit a proposal to Policy Press. If this proposal is accepted, then the editors will write to authors to agree chapter deadlines. We envisage that authors will be given approximately 6 months to submit their chapter to the editors.

References

Cockerham, W.C., 2020. *Sociology of Mental Disorder*. New York: Routledge.

Mills, C. and White, R.G., 2017. 'Global mental health spreads like bush fire in the global South': Efforts to scale up mental health services in low-and middle-income countries', In, White, R.G., Sumet, J., Orr, D. M. R. and Read, U.M. (Eds), *The Palgrave Handbook of Sociocultural Perspectives on Global Mental Health*, London: Palgrave MacMillan, pp.187-209.

Patel, V., Saxena, S., Lund, C., Thornicroft, G., Baingana, F., Bolton, P., Chisholm, D., Collins, P.Y., Cooper, J.L., Eaton, J. and Herrman, H., 2018. The Lancet Commission on global mental health and sustainable development. *The Lancet*, *392*(10157), pp.1553-1598.

Rogers, A. and Pilgrim, D., 2021. *A Sociology of Mental Health and Illness. Sixth Edition. Maidenhead: Open University Press.*
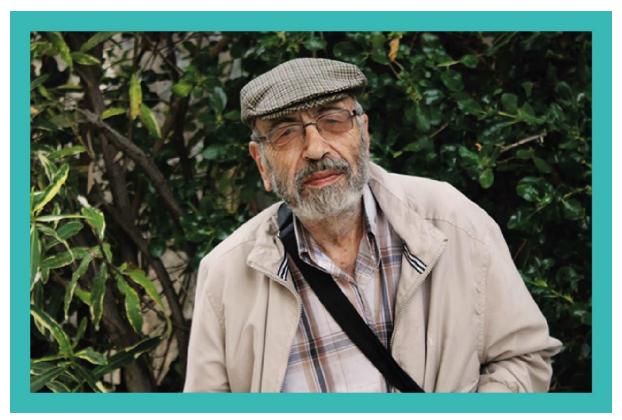
Scull, A., 2015. *Madness in Civilization: A Cultural History of Insanity, from the Bible to Freud, from the Madhouse to Modern Medicine*. Princeton University Press.

Shen, G.C. and Snowden, L.R., 2014. Institutionalization of deinstitutionalization: a cross-national analysis of mental health system reform. *International Journal of Mental Health Systems*, *8*(1), pp.1-23.

Wang, P.S., Aguilar-Gaxiola, S., Alonso, J., Angermeyer, M.C., Borges, G., Bromet, E.J., Bruffaerts, R., De Girolamo, G., De Graaf, R., Gureje, O. and Haro, J.M., 2007. Use of mental health services for anxiety, mood, and substance disorders in 17 countries in the WHO world mental health surveys. *The Lancet*, *370*(9590), pp.841-850.

World Health Organisation, 2022. *World Mental Health Report. Transforming Mental Health for All.* Geneva: World Health Organization.

Obituary - Professor Jorge Chuaqui passes

Professor Jorge Chuaqui of the School of Sociology of the University of Valparaiso, Chile died after a brief illness on October 9th 2023. He was a member of the Executive Committee of RC-49 and joined the International Sociological Association in 2014 at the encouragement of his institution which entrusted him with furthering the universities international involvement. Jorge was a prolific researcher who published many articles and books in the areas of mental health and sociological theory. He also was a beloved teacher and activist for greater social inclusion of persons with intellectual and other disabilities.

Jorge graduated from the University of Chile and received a doctorate in Human Sciences from the University of Pozman, Poland. He was a Professor in the School of Sociology of the University of Valparaiso. Despite persecution by the Pinochet dictatorship which forced him to leave his University faculty position for years during which he supported his family working in a textile factory, he later was able to complete over 80 publications and was completing a book on the personal well-being in Chile with colleagues at the time of his unexpected death. He is author of the following books (in Spanish): Society, Psychiatry and Schizophrenia (2002), Microsociology and the Global Social Structure (2012), Inclusion in Diversity or Exclusion (2012), Sociology of Health: Chile (2016), Social Structure, Power and the Individual: A Tribute to the Capital of Karl Marx (2019)and Social Classes in Chile: Theory and Data (2022).

In fulfilment of his mission in RC-49 of the International Sociological Association to disseminate more widely the work of Chilean and other Latin American Sociologists, his last two published works were translated into English by colleagues from RC-49. When completed, his last book on personal well-being in Chile will also be published in English.

Jorge was also recognized as an activist who worked tirelessly for better services and greater social inclusion for people with disabilities. The Chilean Society of Mental Health awarded him the

prestigious Dr Luis Custodio Munoz Award recognizing these contributions and in 2016 UNESCO brought him to Geneva Switzerland to present him with an award in recognition of his international contributions to the movement supporting the inclusion of persons with mental illness.

 Jorge had a brilliant mind and a stout heart and he maintained a sense of humour despite personal adversity. He is a role model for all of us.

James G. Linn,Ph.D - Past-President/RC-49/ISA

A welcome to new members

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

Anna-Lena Almqvist

Anna-Lena Almqvist is an Associate Professor of Social Work from Mälardalen University, Eskilstuna, Sweden. Her current research focuses on youth and their families, and social policy issues, often using a comparative perspective. Recent projects concern the complex life situations of young people, anti-violence work with men and HBTQI-persons 'encounters with the health care sector. She has published with Emerald Press, Policy Press and in the Nordic Social Work Research, amongst others. She recently co-author *"Tensions and change in liminal spaces - Young people in Swedish out-of-home care",(in press), in the Children and Youth Services Review.*

Emanuel Arredondo

Emmanual Arredondo studied Sociology at the Universidad de Valparaíso, Chile. He is now finishing a doctorate in education at the Universidad del Pais Vasco, Spain. He is 39 years old, and the father of Vicente. Emmanuel has a specific interest in research methodologies. He enjoys research, doing classes and analysing data. He has worked on various topics related to the sociology of work, education and health. He has tried to focus on the working conditions of school teachers and the impact on their mental health. He has collaborated with Professors Jorge Chuaqui and James Linn in different research and publications, related to the sociology of health and social stratification in Chile. In my free time he likes to play sports, mainly basketball and ride my bicycle.

Harry Bark

Harry Bark is a PhD candidate at the University of Bath, United Kingdom. He is a qualified social worker and has practised in English social care settings. He has also worked for a mental health charity in community, military, and primary care settings. His research is interested in the professional identity of mental health social workers, specifically relating to the experiences of those working within English Local Authorities. He is also interested in the relationship between Recovery Models of mental health and social work practice.

** Egle Sumskiene**

Egle Sumskiene is a social worker, sociologist, and expert on disability, mental health, and human rights issues. Since 2002, Egle has worked for Vilnius University Social Work and Social welfare department. In 2022 she took the position of professor. From 2018 to 2021 she was head of the Department of Social Work and Social Welfare, in 2021 she became director of the Institute of Sociology and Social Work. From 2003, Egle has been actively working with the Lithuanian NGO sector, focusing on mental health and human rights. During this period as an expert, she was involved in various international and national projects focusing on such areas as human rights and

disability, employment, discrimination, mental health care, policy, social integration of people with psychosocial disabilities. She is editor of one monograph and author of over 40 scientific publications covering issues of human rights and mental health.

Welcoming back previous members

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

William Cockerham

William C. Cockerham is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Chair Emeritus at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Research Professor, Department of Sociology, at the University of Maryland, College Park, USA. He previously held a joint appointment in sociology and psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a past President of the Research Committee on Health Sociology of the International Sociological Association and formerly served on the editorial boards of several journals, including the *American Sociological Review*, *Society and Mental Health*, and the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. A new edition (12th) of his book, *Sociology of Mental Disorder*, will be published by Routledge in 2024.

Dirk Richter

Dirk Richter was born in 1962. He was trained and employed as a nurse in mental health care during the 1980s. From 1986 to 1994 he studied sociology, psychology and philosophy at Muenster University, Germany, and graduated with a Dr.phil. Subsequently he worked as a researcher and quality manager at a public mental hospital in northwestern Germany and fulfilled the criteria for habilitation (PhD equivalence) in 2003 at Muenster University. After moving to Switzerland in 2009, he joined Bern University of Applied Sciences (BUAS). He currently is a professor for psychiatric rehabilitation research at BUAS and head of research and development at the Centre for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Bern University Hospital for Mental Health.

Eric R. Wright

Eric R. Wright is Distinguished University Professor of Sociology and Public Health and Chair of the Sociology Department at Georgia State University. As a medical sociologist, his research interests center on social and public policy responses to mental health and illness, substance use and addictions, and sexual health and sexual behavior, particularly among homeless youth as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people (LGBTQ).

Member News Items

ChenHsing-Jung - I'm developing a grant proposal on the life experiences of children with mentally ill parents, exploring family communication, interaction, and individual awareness and coping. While well-explored in Western literature, there's limited empirical evidence in Taiwan. Additionally, Taiwan doesn't mandate service providers to confirm if individuals with mental disabilities have underage children and provide proactive services. I'll employs an integrated QUALITATIVE-QUANTATIVE approach to investigate the experiences of high-risk children and mental health service providers. If anyone is conducting similar research or has completed similar topic, I'm open to collaboration. I'm considering co-authoring papers if we have similar questions or interesting

findings regard cultural issues. Although the grant's results won't be known until next June, I'm eager to start discussions early.

I'll be attending the 2024 SSWR conference in DC, USA, presenting a paper on the "Effects of Children's Emotional Regulation on Internet Addiction during the Pandemic: The Role of Depression." If others are attending, we can plan to meet. I'll be in DC during the conference and then reside in Virginia for an additional week, with convenient access to DC. If you would like to contact me please see my page at [Hsing Jung Chen | Graduate Institute of Social Work (ntnu.edu.tw)](#)

Jeremy Dixon - In April 2024, Jeremy will be moving from the University of Bath to take up a post as Reader in Social Work at Cardiff University. Jeremy will be joining the Centre for Adult Social Care Research (CARE). CARE is a new centre launching in early 2024, that will bring together multi-disciplinary expertise from across the University and foster collaboration with experts elsewhere in the UK, to develop cutting-edge research on adult social care, underpinned by substantial UK-level funding.

Gary Linn – has been involved in several activities over the past 6 months. He attended the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in August 2023 and met with scholars working in HIV prevention and treatment in Africa.   He also participated in the Mozambique" Intimate Partner Violence Study event at Mondlane University, Maputo Mozambique, attending virtual project meetings of research groups. He is set to be the Ph.D. thesis chair for Joaquim Matavel, scheduled for February,2024. at School of Public Health in Mondlane University, Maputo Mozambique.

News from other research groups and centres

Call for Papers - Culture and the Mind: Voices, Sites and Practices

CULTMIND will hold its first annual conference 16-18 May 2024 in central Copenhagen.

We invite scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and career stages to discuss the current state of research on the entanglement of culture and the mind and to outline new paths for future exploration.

The conference will present a forum for discussing the cultural and social specificity of psychological distress, trauma and healing; for exploring the distinct cultural traditions in which ideas of mental health and treatment take shape.

We encourage early career researchers, tenured researchers, and clinical professionals to send us an abstract for a short oral presentation or poster to be presented on the conference. The conference will address the following topics:

- The social and cultural variety of ideas about mental disorder, trauma and treatment: How do conceptions of mental health and therapeutic modalities reflect distinct cultural traditions and social contexts? How have definitions of the mind responded to major historical changes?

- The entanglement of the arts and the human sciences: How have medical and scientific explorations of the mind presented a resource for cultural producers, and how have clinicians drawn on the insights and techniques of film, literature, theatre and art?

- Languages of illness and healing: How do medical and scientific understandings of the mind travel outside the clinical setting? How do patient narratives and voices expand psychiatric discourses and diagnoses?

- The intersection of expert knowledge and political ideology: How have medical and scientific ideas about the human mind overlapped with political agendas and imperatives?

- Cross-cultural encounters in mental healthcare settings: How do medical professionals account for cultural factors in the course of diagnostic and therapeutic processes?How have the psy-disciplines engaged with the consequences of cultural change and migration?

- The place of the medical humanities: What role can the medical humanities play in uncovering the cultural dimensions of mental health, illness and treatment?

Deadline for the submission of abstracts: 15th January 2024

Further information at: [Call for papers - Culture and the Mind: Voices, Sites and Practices – University of Copenhagen (ku.dk)](#)

Call for Book Chapters Intersectionality and the Experience of Disability: How and Why Race, Class, and Gender Matters

In recent years, research that contextualizes the experience of disability with the lens of "intersectionality" has become increasingly in demand. This proposed volume responds to this call for more scholarship concerned with how the lives of people with disabilities are influenced by a range of factors including racial background, gender, and class. For instance, what is the relationship between disability discrimination and racial/ethnic, gender, and class status locations? How does social status influence the experience of disability? How do contextual factors impact the acquisition of transitional or capacitybuilding skills and resources that benefit the experience of disability? And, how does the interplay between intersectional inequalities and disability differ cross-nationally?

The primary focus in this volume will be on the experience of disability and its relationship to intersectionality as a general idea or methodological approach. The proposed volume will examine the ways in which behavioral and other social characteristics affect the life chances and conditions of people with disabilities. The proposed volume invites theoretical, methodological, and empirical works examining the interaction between institutional and local level processes/factors impacting the lives of people with disabilities around the globe.

We encourage those interested to submit abstracts and complete articles. The following are a few examples of relevant themes: -Relationship between disability disadvantage and the social hierarchy -Role of intersectional inequalities in creating and maintaining capacity/building challenges among people with disabilities -Role of intersectional inequalities in creating, maintaining, and challenging disability statuses and identities -Role of social/political organizations and special interest groups in creating, maintaining, and challenging resource inequality among people with disabilities -How disability relates to class, race, gender as an axis of stratification -Social causes and socioeconomic consequences of disability status and identity -Interplay between intersectional inequalities and experiences with disability in educational and work settings across the life course -Effects of Race, Gender and Class bias on the experience of disability within health institutions -Politics of disability/rights advocacy in a global or local contexts

Submission Dates: Abstracts within 300 words should be submitted to the following email address by 30th January 2024. Selection of abstracts will be notified by 17th February 2024. Full papers within 6000 words to be submitted by 31st May 2024. Chicago Manual Style of Citation and Referencing (17th Edition) is the preferred reference method. Please send the proposal for abstracts to the editor, Dr. Katrinell Davis, Professor, Department of Sociology and African American Studies, Florida State University (kmdavis3@fsu.edu

Join us online

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

Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at https://twitter.com/SociologyMH

Call for news items

Please submit any news items for the next edition of the newsletter to Jeremy Dixon at jd582@bath.ac.uk