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RN16 – Sociology of Health and Illness Newsletter

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PRESENTATION OF THE NEWSLETTER NO. 12

(COORDINATORS)

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We are delighted to welcome you to this third newsletter (issue 12) from the current (2019-2021) RN16 Board. A lot has happened in the short time between our first newsletter (issue 10) in February of 2020, and even since the special issue (issue 11) of the newsletter of rapid response articles on COVID-19, which we distributed in July 2020.

Above all we hope that RN16 members are keeping well during the very difficult time we have all experienced – and continue to experience – in our personal and professional lives. One ray of light in the darkness of the pandemic, has been new and renewed interest in the sociology of health and illness; indeed, scholars who had little or no interest in our field are now researching and writing about health and illness. Indeed, RN16 has found itself a particularly popular partner for other RNs in proposing joint sessions for the Barcelona conference 2021 (over half of the joint sessions are on COVID-19) and many of the abstract submissions for regular sessions also addressed COVID. We hope that the interest stimulated by COVID-19 will translate into an even wider and sustained interest in the sociology of health and illness within the ESA community.

As the contents of this Newsletter attest, the RN16 Board has been very active. For example, in these pages you will find a report on our Midterm conference which, due to COVID-19, eventually took place virtually in Krakow in February 2021. We are sure that everyone who took part wished they could have been there in person, but Maria Swiatkiewicz-Mosny and the wonderful team at the Institute of Sociology at Jagiellonian University did such a great job in welcoming us and showing us the city virtually online, that we almost felt we actually were there! We are especially grateful to Piet Bracke and Zofia Słońska for their keynotes – you can find summaries of their talks in the pages that follow. Jagiellonian University also hosted our PhD and ECR Pre-conference Workshop, which took place in October 2020, also online. We hope that everyone who participated in the midterm conference and the workshop as presenters and participants in session discussions, found it a valuable experience.

Now, of course, we are looking forward to the ESA conference in Barcelona (late August/early September 2021) which, ESA has recently announced, will be online-only participation. RN16 is expecting to have a very strong presence at the conference. A large number of abstracts have been accepted for presentation in regular sessions; there will be 9 joint sessions with other RNs; and RN16 has a semi-plenary session (SP02) jointly with RN37 (Urban Sociology) on 1st September: *Covid-19 in the City: Building Positive Futures* with speakers, Antonio Maturo (RN16) on 'From Sociographical Disruption to Medicalized Futures: Integrating Covid-19 into Everyday Life in the City' and Raquel Rolnik (RN37) on 'Cities and Covid-19: Utopias and Dystopias'.

Our next RN16 Board meeting (open to all members) will take place during the Barcelona conference (details to come) and we hope to see you all there (you can find the Minutes of our last Board meeting, which took place during the Midterm conference, in this Newsletter). We encourage everyone reading this Newsletter who is not yet a member to join us by paying your fee via the ESA membership page <https://www.europeansociology.org/membership>, where you will see a link to 'add RN affiliation'. Later in the newsletter you will find some information about the election of the new RN16 Board, which will take place this summer.

We hope you find a lot of information of interest in this Newsletter. Don't forget to send your own news such as new books, research projects, and calls for collaboration to the editor, Lia Lombardi editor: rosalia.lombardi@unimi.it

Many thanks to Lia Lombardi and Marta Gibin for editing this Newsletter.

Ellen Annandale (Coordinator) and Ana Patrícia Hilário (Co-coordinator)

RN16 MID-TERM CONFERENCE REPORT

(Anna Prokop-Dorner, Natalia Ożegalska-Łukasik, Maria Świątkiewicz-Mośny)

Jagiellonian University

Local Organizing Committee



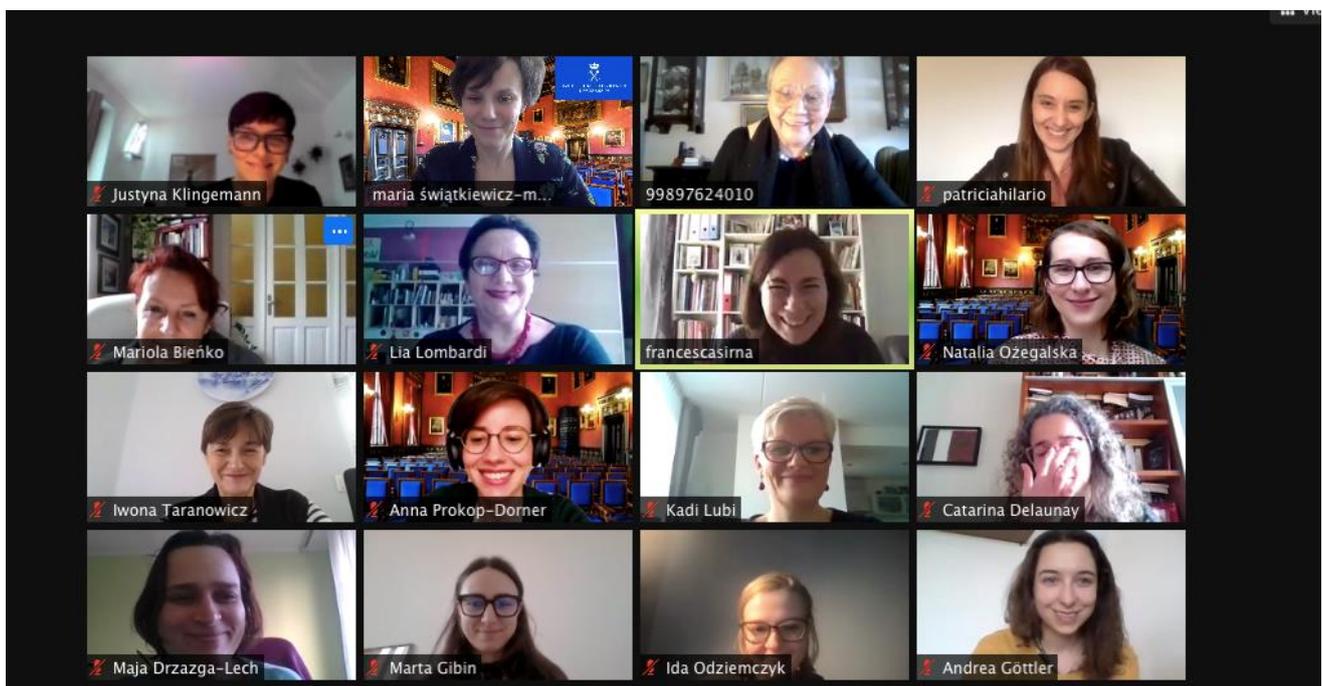
This year the ESA RN16 Midterm Conference “Health and healthcare in Europe: between inequalities and new opportunities” was somewhat unique. As the call for abstracts was closing, the health crisis connected with the spread of SARS-CoV-2 was slowly revealing its disrupting power across Europe. While we were excited to host a high number of sociologists interested in meeting in Krakow, the hometown of the oldest university in Central Europe, we started to feel very uncertain about event’s feasibility due to the newly introduced pandemic. Nearly a year after closing the call for papers, the conference was finally aired on February 17th, 2021. Back in Lisbon or Torino we probably would not have imagined that coming together as an international academic community could be arranged without travelling abroad or even leaving your home. However, we made it possible, thanks to technology.

Eventually, we organised a two-day online conference, incorporating special events and 18 regular sessions including one about the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plenary Lectures were given by Prof. Piet Bracke from Ghent University, Belgium and a former president of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS), as well as Dr. Zofia Słońska, a retired researcher from the National Institute of Cardiology in Poland and a current vice-president of ESHMS.

We are thankful to all 128 participants who joined us from their home offices, living rooms, or kitchens. Altogether, 67 presentations and 2 posters were presented and discussed during the conference. It would not have been possible if it was not for the involvement of the session organizers and the Scientific Committee, who supported us throughout the prolonged period of preparation. Even though we did not have a chance to meet in Krakow, but only via the Zoom platform, the Local Organizing Committee did their best to make all of us feel like we were in a wintery Kraków. After the regular sessions, we were invited to meet up for a chat on a Gather.town platform and the Facebook closed group [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/269276927901458>].

The ESA RN16 PhD and ECR Pre-conference Workshop was also rescheduled to October 20th, 2020 and organized virtually. The Local Organizing Committee received 15 applications from 9 countries. Eventually three young sociologists and two anthropologists took part in the workshop with the mentors. The mentees affiliated to the universities in China, Italy, Switzerland and the UK presented their research proposals or article manuscripts and reviewed works of their peers. Every participant also received feedback from one of the senior researchers: Dr. Zofia Słońska or Prof. Guido Giarelli. The topics of the accepted articles embraced the variety of research problems from the field of sociology of health and illness and methodological approaches. We keep our fingers crossed for the workshop participants' upcoming academic challenges and thank the mentors for their valuable input.

As much as sharing and discussing the burning problem of health care during the online conference was highly inspiring and stimulating, we hope that the conference and workshop participants will use future opportunities to visit Krakow in person. We are also looking forward to the upcoming ESA congress in taking place virtually in Barcelona!



Here you can find a map showing the location of the participants: <https://wherefrom-c9506.web.app/?fbclid=IwAR315KUh6Kmb9HCzZf1KMZbE57S8Zli7CQi2LLV9zuAziyz17UVIYrPMIts>

SUMMARY PLENARY LECTURE:

Health care, public health and social determinants of health. Sociological interpretation of possible links and their consequences for health

Zofia SŁOŃSKA (Vice-president of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology)

European health systems are facing currently a number of processes and phenomena, that significantly impede their abilities to respond adequately to the health needs of European populations. I am talking mainly about the common population aging process, persistent social inequalities, both accompanied by rising the rates of chronic diseases, a large number of people with low health literacy, shortages in the number of health personnel and the pandemic caused by various variants of the coronavirus. All the above mentioned problems and others not mentioned here, lead to an escalation of health care costs, which, in turn, makes the situation more difficult. That situation needs an immediate, effective response.

So, taking into account the above context it is surprising to some extent that, despite increasing knowledge of the scope and types of relationships between social factors and health among professionals, as well as the contribution of health care and public health knowledge to population health, the negative impact of social factors on the health of European populations still occurs to an unsatisfactory degree.

The current situation reminds us of the problems of developed countries at the turn of the 1940s and 1950s, when the epidemics of chronic diseases, dependent on lifestyles and their determinants led, as a result of underestimating social impacts on health, to the health and systemic crises.

Social determinants of health appeared in the consciousness of international medical communities as a result of recognizing lifestyle as the main factor determining the variability in the health status of contemporary, developed societies. This fact took place in 1974 and was related to the dissemination of the results of the so-called Lalonde Report in the developed countries. This report provided scientific evidence that undermined the key role of healthcare and attributed it to lifestyle.

It was a first step towards creation a new strategy, which in the year 1986, was to become health promotion. Implementation of health promotion, being a field of public health based on the concept of multi-factoral health determinants and multi-sectoral collaboration for health, creates conditions for the reduction of negative impacts of social factors on health.

At that time sociology and sociologists played a significant role in the emergence and development of this field in the world. The institutionalization of health promotion, despite its popularization, turned out not to be so simple. Among other reasons because of continuous attempts to medicalize it, and thus to give up interdisciplinary and intersectoral cooperation. The subject of the keynote was the analysis of key problems related to the implementation of the interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach in health care and public health, and the involvement of medical institutions in multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral cooperation to reduce the negative impact of non-medical factors, including social ones, on the European populations' health.

SUMMARY PLENARY LECTURE:

Expanding the institutional perspective on population health

Piet BRACKE (Ghent University, Belgium)

While much health sociological research pretends 'to bring in the context', the focus is often on the mediating paths that bring social causes to impact on health outcomes. Other research on health inequalities tends to consider income, education, or social class, as interchangeable proxy indicators of the vague concept of socio-economic status, thereby overlooking a more sociologically informed account of the various dimensions of social stratification. Finally, social conditions are often reduced to characteristics of individuals, such as gender, educational, and age differences instead of rooted in institutional arrangements.

To the contrary, as concerns the latter, we focus on the health consequences of gender stratification (Bracke, Delaruelle, Dereuddre, & Van de Velde, 2020; Willems et al., 2020), the impact of the expansion of education (Bracke, Van De Straat, & Missinne, 2014), and on modelling age and cohort differences in an effort to explore social change and population health (Delaruelle, Bracke, & Buffel, 2018; Delaruelle, Buffel, & Bracke, 2015). In other words, we try to connect health sociology with the sociology of social change and social stratification. Influenced by others, for instance by the work of Beckfield and colleagues (Beckfield et al., 2015), we came to see our research as part of an effort to contribute to the development of an institutional perspective on population health. This perspective invites health sociologists to consider the health consequences of institutions as both constraining and enabling contexts. It also helps to focus on the so-called fundamental social causes (Link & Phelan, 2010) and meta-mechanisms in the production of public health and health inequalities.

We enjoy a substantial amount of research on social class and social stratification, ethnic and gender stratification, and health. Also, a sociology of work and organisations often focusing on working conditions and occupational health is well developed. There is also a plethora of studies that focus on health effects of institutional arrangements in various societal subdomains, such as in housing or urban environments, in labour markets and unemployment policies, or in policies that impact on poverty and income inequality. Finally, we can enjoy a rich tradition of comparative research on more general welfare state policies and health inequalities. However, what is often lacking is a self-aware, overarching perspective that helps to unify these different types of research. An institutional perspective seems to meet this challenge, and others have already contributed substantially.

The development of an institutional approach could be hindered by prolonged discussions about what institutions are. Often definitions of institutions are so all-encompassing that the concept is in danger of being hollowed out. This is the case when beliefs, values, norms and regulations, social categories, social relations, social structures, and formal organisations, as well as practices are all considered as institutions. To the contrary, the concept is sometimes narrowly equated with laws, regulations, and state policies. This is the case for a lot of existing research on welfare regime policies and population health. Following a conventional functionalist approach, we consider institutions to have both a cultural and social structural dimension, and to be analytically different from practices or behaviours.

Important to notice is that institutions vary from being society wide to domain specific, and from general to risk group and vulnerable group specific. We can situate most societal institutions relevant for population health on both axes. A system of gender stratification is an example of a society wide institution, while labour markets and employment policies constitute an example of domain specific institutions. Both differ from institutions that are more risk group specific, such as health systems and, even more specific,

community mental health centres and specific cancer screening programs. Further specifications are possible, as some institutions target specific vulnerable groups, such as the persons with a migration background, or the unemployed.

For example, using this framework, a former PhD student investigated cross-national variation in cancer screening participation amongst women in Europe, in collaboration with Swiss colleagues, thereby recognizing the impact of cancer screening programs as embedded in the broader context of gender stratification (Willems et al., 2020). We learned that in gender unequal countries, mammography and Pap smear participation rates are lower, especially among less educated, women regardless of a country's screening strategy. Research using a similar framework focuses on education-labour market misfit, resulting from the expansion of education outpacing the technological upgrading of the labour market, and its impact on educational mental health inequalities (Bracke et al., 2014) or on the medicalisation of mental health problems amongst the unemployed in European countries (Buffel, Beckfield, & Bracke, 2017).

In the future we need to explore how institutions create the context that helps to reconcile the amelioration of population health with the reduction of health inequalities; we need to consider how institutional capital acquired in one subdomain, for instance, primary care-oriented health systems, spills over in other domains, for example, the tackling of pandemics; the basic principles of fundamental cause theory could be reformulated from an institutional perspective and an institutional perspective could profit from a "high risk versus vulnerable groups versus population health" approach (Frohlich & Potvin, 2008).

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RN16 BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

Midterm Conference, 17 Feb. 2021

Francesca SIRNA (Secretary of the RN16 Board)

Ellen Annandale and Ana Patrícia Hilário welcomed members to the meeting. 19 people attended the meeting

Item 1 – RN16 Board Member Introductions

Presentation of members of the board:

Ellen Annandale, University of York UK and Ana Patrícia Hilario, Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa (ICS-ULisboa), are the Coordinator and Co-coordinator of RN16.

Francesca Sirna, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Centre Norbert Elias, Marseille, France, Secretary, in charge of the minutes.

Guido Giarelli, University of Magna Grecia, Catanzaro (IT), in charge of the relationships with others RNs and International organizations and National Sociological Associations. Guido works on comparative Health Care Systems, narrative medicine and aging.

Trude Karine Olaug Gjernes, Nord University in Norway. She is the Treasurer of the RN16, she is working on health behaviour, aging and Health.

Lia Lombardi, University of Milano. Her main research fields are reproductive health and biotechnology, migrants' health, gender and health inequalities. She is the editor of the RN16 Newsletter (NL)

Maria Swiatkiewicz-Mosny, Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow. Maria does research in Sociology, Social Psychology, Health and Medicine. She is interested in pandemic, infodemic (too much information including false or misleading information in digital and physical environments during a disease outbreak), vaccination and the anti-vax movement. She has been responsible for the mid-term Conference.

Marta Gibin, PhD student, University of Bologna is interested in illness narratives of cancer patients, patient empowerment, overweight programs and the elderly. She is the PhD student representative for RN16.

Item 2 and item 3 – Report and Matters arising from the 2019 Business Meeting at the Manchester ESA Conference

Ana Patrícia Hilário reminded members that the Minutes were sent to all RN16 Members. She drew attention to the publication coordinated by Johnathan Gabe, Angela Genova and Mario Cardano (edited) in the 2020, issuing from the Mid-term Conference which took place in Turin in 2018.

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/doi/10.1108/9781839091193>

Conference scientific board of the past Mid-term Conference (in 2018): Jon Gabe, Karen Lowton, Angela Genova, Pietro Paolo Guzzo & Arianna Radin (ESA RN16); Mario Cardano, Linda Lombi, Marco Terraneo & Cristina Lonardi (AIS SALUTE).

- i) Patrícia presented the proposal for a special issue of “Frontiers in Sociology”, an open-access journal based on papers from the current Krakow midterm conference. The journal offers two author processing fees (APCs) to the RN16 members, and RN16 hopes to also cover APCs for two further articles. The special issue is not yet determined, but it will probably be a special issue on Covid-19, the special issue of the journal will include presentations from today's session as well as other presentations. Patrícia invites RN16 members to share ideas and proposals about this possibility of this special issue of the journal. Guido agrees with this idea and reminded us that the RN members agreed with this proposition which was discussed in Manchester. Guido asks for the amount of the two articles costs. Patrícia reminds that Frontiers is an opens access journal and authors have to pay to publish US\$950 per article (approx. 786 Euro). So, if there are other accepted papers, the authors shall pay with their own professional funds in order to be published. The RN could not publish a special of 4 papers only. Trude explained that in the RN16 financial budget the expenditure is 1525€ for this. Ellen explained that the budget is yet to be approved by ESA and that the budget may need to be spent by the end of the current ESA Executive i.e. by September 2021 and this would be too early for the special issue. Guido underlined the need for great transparency in the process of selection of articles by RN16.

Patrícia stressed that it is not possible to publish a special issue of 4 articles and proposes to open the call for papers in order to establish criteria for selection too. Guido proposes that a proposal could circulate, that everyone could add remarks.

Actions: Ellen to contact ESA to determine when the budget needs to be spent by. RN16 committee to decide on a title and devise a process for the call for papers from the midterm (including approves for determining selection of articles and dispensing any APC monies. Ellen and Patrícia to have an online meeting with the Frontiers editors.

- ii) How to increase Eastern colleagues' participation and cooperation. Patrícia suggested that we could get in contact with some national associations because there are not so many colleagues from Eastern Europe in the RN. Guido said that Maria could help him to work on this issue. Guido could try to contact some member of the official organizations, but he doesn't know which ones. Guido suggests Maria to work with him to get in contact with these people.

Maria stressed that for this Mid-Term Conference, Poland is the second country by number of participants at the conference. The first one is Italy. Maria thinks that because of the Conference, many people know the RN16 now. Maria wonders which goal is suitable: make RN16 more visible in Central and Eastern European Countries or If we have to invite directly people coming from eastern countries to join the RN. This Mid-term conference is a good means to involve more eastern colleagues coming from the Czech Republic or from Slovakia. Patrícia thinks that it was a good idea to organize this conference in Poland to get more visibility in Eastern European Countries. Maria stresses that it is easier to come to Poland than to Manchester because of higher costs there, it seems to be quite difficult for Eastern colleagues to reach western countries for conferences. Ellen agrees with the idea to improve Eastern cooperation.

Actions: Guido and Maria to contact national sociological organisations in Eastern Europe about membership of RN16

Item 4 – Coordinators' report

- i) involvement of the RN members in the research applying in the European Funds. This involvement of the RN started when J. Gabe and A. Genova were coordinators and Mario Cardano sent an e-mail which they forwarded to all the RN16 members asking for collaboration for working on a Horizon proposal. Several members answered and there was a meeting organized in Manchester about this project. During the meeting, colleagues met and spoke to each other and what would be their contribution. In November 2019 there was a meeting in Jagiellonian University organized by Paulina Polak, and Pia Vuolanto will be the PI of VAX.TRUST project. The proposal on a cross-comparative perspective in 7 countries was successful in obtaining EU funding. This is one example of how collaboration can work through the RN.
Mario underlined that it was a very collaborative moment for the RN to strengthen relationships. Ellen congratulated everyone on this collaboration.
- ii) Ellen stresses the strong efforts made to collaborate with other ESA RNs, especially with the RN37 Urban Sociology for the semi-plenary at the Barcelona Conference, which title is "Covid-19 in the City: building positive futures". There will be two speakers, Antonio Maturo from RN16 and Raquel Rolnik from RN37 from Brazil. She underlines that this kind of collaboration makes RN16 more visible and known.

Item 5 – present midterm conference

Maria presented some records about the conference:

- 18 sessions organizers sent their proposal for sessions;
- 128 registrations (registrations remained open till the very last day);
- 66 presentations and 2 keynote presentations;
- 10 sessions + 2 joint sessions + 1 open session + 1 COVID session: 14 sessions all in all;
- 1 poster session (but finally only two posters were presented);
- 38 from Italy, 32 from Poland; others from Austria, Luxemburg, Netherland, UK, Russian Federation, Israel, Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain, France, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Germany, Switzerland.

Before this midterm conference, a PhD&ESR Workshop was held. Usually, it is organized at the same time as the conference. But this year, because of the on-line organization, it was organized in November ahead of the conference (20th November 2020); Anna Prokop-Dorner was in charge of the PhD workshop: dozens of applications received and 15 of them were accepted. Only 5 applicants sent articles and so only 5 took part in the Workshop. Initially there were RN16 4 members as mentors. But due to the reduced number of participants and because of the on-line organization, only 2 mentors participated: Guido Giarelli and Zofia Słońska. The participants had very different levels and were at different stages of progress in their PhD work. The participants came from different parts of Europe and Switzerland: 2 It; 1 CH; 1 UK; 1 China. The subjects were also very varied. Quite a successful event.

- iii) Maria presented some ideas that were implemented during the midterm conference to make it more "normal" (to make it a chance for networking and collaborating) like "shortened the distance", Facebook closed group. Natalia and Anna created a space (in gather town). In all these "places" people could virtually meet, got information on grants, called for articles and collaboration or just chat.

Item 6 – Next ESA Conference in Barcelona

Abstracts will be selected by the RN16 selection committee. The new deadline is March 1st. Then the abstracts will be distributed in the different sessions. The RN board members are the selection committee, but we needed to enlarge the selection committee to 10 persons. So, Mario Cardano, Antonio Maturo, Jonathan Gabe were invited and agreed to join the review committee. It is expected that the Barcelona Conference will be held in a hybrid way.

Item 7 – Report from Newsletter editor

Newsletter Lia Lombardi presented some slides on the Newsletter (NL).

- i) The RN16 published 2 NL: The First one was published in February 2020; Lia was the editor and Francesca and Marta were the co-editors. It was about the presentation of the new board and the report of the ESA Conference in Manchester (August 2019) and the forthcoming mid-term Conference in Krakow.
The second one was a Special Issue published in June 2020, entirely dedicated to the pandemic: “The Challenge of Covid-19: Global Health and Inequality”. Lia, editor of the NL with the kind support of Ellen, Patrícia, Maria, Marta as co-editors. The NL Special Issue consists of 11 contributions and is divided into two parts:
 - 1) “Politics, Healthcare, Changes”, with contributions by Graham Scambler, Guido Giarelli, Gábor Scheiring, Francesca Sirna and Simeng Wang, Antonio Maturo and Veronica Moretti, Pietro Paolo Guzzo.
 - 2) “Social/Health Vulnerabilities and Inequalities”, with contributions by Kadi Lubi, Mario Cardano and Alice Scavarda, Lia Lombardi and Alessandra Sannella, Magdalena Ślusarczyk and Maria Świątkiewicz-Mośny, Isabel Roque.
- ii) Lia is planning to produce two more NLs by the end of the board mandate: 1. the first relating to the Mid-Term Conference in Krakow; 2. the second NL will be drawn up after the ESA Conference in Barcelona.

Item 8 – Collaboration with other RN or National Associations

- i) Guido reported on a successful point: very large number of joint sessions totalling 9 for the Barcelona Conference, because of Covid (see program) matters:

Joint Sessions

JS_RN04_RN16: “The effects of the Covid-19 crisis on children and young people” (Joint session with RN04 Sociology of Children and Childhood)

JS_RN09_RN16: “In ourselves and pharmacists we trust? New developments in health care and pharmacy markets” (Joint session with RN09 Economic Sociology)

JS_RN12_RN16: “Interplays between the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis” (Joint session with RN12 Environment & Society)

JS_RN16_RN22: “Risk perception, trust and control in public health prevention” (Joint session with RN22 Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty)

JS_RN16_RN26: “The role of civil society organizations in future European welfare systems between marketization and co-optation” (Joint session with RN26 Sociology of Social Policy and Social Welfare)

JS_RN16_RN28: “Sport, physical activity and health” (Joint session with RN28 Society and Sports)

JS_RN16_RN32: “The Covid-19 pandemic and the emergency policies: a renewed role for the State?” (Joint session with RN32 Political Sociology)

JS_RN16_RN33: “Covid-19 and Gender inequalities” (Joint session with RN33 Women’s and Gender Studies)

JS_RN16_RN35: “Health and migration. Migrants “under” the Covid-19 pandemic” (Joint session with RN35 Sociology of Migration)

RN16 organised a semi-plenary session COVID in the city: building positive futures with RN37 (urban sociology)

RN16 Keynote Speaker Antonio Maturro

- ii) Less successful point: Guido tried to contact the Medical sociology associations working in Europe, European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS). But It was not productive. In September 2022, the ESHMS congress will be held in Bologna and Guido hopes to get closer in touch with them.

Actions: Guido to report back on response of EHSMS.

Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report

Trude presented the financial situation:

- i) The RN16 plans to spend 700€ to support PhD accommodation and 1525€ to support two publications for Frontiers; around 800€ on travel registration and fees for semi-plenary speakers. This budget is pending approval by the ESA.
- ii) Ellen stressed that each RN receives for the two years period 2000€ from the ESA for Mid-Term – although we initially budgeted midterm costs, in the end we did not need to use this money for the Mid-term in Kraków because it was on-line, and all expenses were covered by fees. We can also use these monies for other Network activity. And every RN is also able to use its fee income, i.e., 10€ for member (for RN16 this amounts to 1030€), so the RN16 income is 3030€. This money could be spent in supporting PhD student registration fees and the costs of semi-plenary speakers at the Barcelona conference or for publications (APCs – see agenda item 2/3).

Ellen reminded that if the RN doesn't spend this money, the 2000€ will disappear because we must spend this money in the two years.

Maria asks if the RN can spend money for publication fees. Ellen says yes, but she fears that the publication process will take too long and that we have to find other ways to spend money. (see agenda item 2/3).

Item 10 – ESA website

Ellen and Patrícia keep it UpToDate. Capacity of the website is small. Please let them know if you see anything missing.

Item 11 – PhD student matters

Marta says that one of the main goals of the RN is to promote the PhD student's participation in the activities and events. In the last NL, PhD students and early career researchers have been invited to take part in the NL publication to present their works and publications, but unfortunately, we haven't received many replies.

The ESA Summer school for PhD students in Barcelona - call is still open. There will be interactions with editors, and it will be a great opportunity for students to get in touch with them and with mentors. RN16 will try to cover registration fees for 1 to 3 PhDs. Marta suggested to remind our PhD students to take part in the RN16.

Action: Marta to remind PhD student members to participate in the RN16 activities (via the RN16 email list)

Item 12 – New board election

Takes place every two years, next election is before the Barcelona conference. Every paid-up RN16 member will receive an e-mail to apply for election. Individuals can be a board member for two terms. Nominees are self-nominated (You can nominate yourself). The number of the board members are 8 and if there are only 8 nominees, there is a direct nomination (no vote). Otherwise, there will be a vote of all paid-up members.

Angela Genova suggested that we try to increase the representative aspects of the new board trying to keep different countries within the board, and to keep an eye on this aspect (Geographical variety) promoting a participation of members from different countries. Ellen agrees and the RN should encourage people they know to put in the nomination.

Item 12 – Other matters

Patrícia underlined that On-line meeting is cheaper, easier to reach, but not easy for exchange. She thanked Maria and all the staff for the amazing organization of the midterm conference.

Ellen and Patrícia closed the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RN16 Board Elections

RN16 Board Elections (2021-2023) will take place during the summer. The new RN16 board will be announced at ESA Conference in Barcelona.

A ballot will be sent to all RN16 members via RN16 Gmail account.

- Nominees must be members in good standing of ESA. If they are not paid up already members of RN-16, they would be expected to join RN16 if elected.
- Individuals can be board members for a maximum of 2 terms only (i.e., those who have already served for 2 terms are not eligible to stand for re-election);
- Nominees are self-nominated (you do not need someone else to nominate you, you nominate yourself).

Information will be sent through RN16 Gmail account.

Call for Papers

Call for papers for the interdisciplinary conference on:

The Ethical, Legal, and Social Aspects of Cognitive Enhancement Strategies Conference date: August 24–26, 2021

(planned time frame: 2pm-7pm CET, 8am-1pm EDT, 12am-18pm UTC)

Location: Cologne, Fritz Thyssen Foundation (Germany) & online

Submission deadline: May 12, 2021

Organizers:

- Dr. Sebastian Sattler (University of Cologne, Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Guido Mehlkop and Floris van Veen (University of Erfurt, Germany)

Keynote speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Barbara Sahakian (University of Cambridge, USA)
- Prof. Dr. Saskia Nagel (RWTH Aachen University, Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Amelia Arria (University of Maryland, USA)
- Prof. Dr. Martin Schütte (Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Germany)

Certain prescription drugs, transcranial magnetic stimulation, brain-computer interfaces, and even genetic modifications are all discussed as forms of potential cognitive enhancement. Cognitive neuroenhancement as a specific strategy can be defined as the improvement of brain functions with medications or other treatments when not medically necessary. This phenomenon has attracted increased media interest in recent years and is hotly debated in the public, professional, and scientific literature. It is often assumed that because of growing performance demands and the pursuit of success and perfection, an increasing number of people are turning to enhancement strategies (such as caffeine tablets, methylphenidate, or amphetamines) to improve their ability to concentrate, memorize, learn and make decisions.

Thus, considering globalization and digitalization with increasing competition and pressure for greater performance, proponents for cognitive enhancement view these strategies in a way similar to how they view education: the strategies are tools to foster the intellectual, technological, economic, and cultural wealth of nations. Opponents criticize the use and subsequent achievements as unauthentic and unfair, especially when access to the means of enhancement is restricted. This is accompanied by the fear that such technologies have a negative impact on social equality and threaten our evolution as a species or jeopardize significant cultural practices.

This interdisciplinary conference aims at:

- a) discussing new technological possibilities of cognitive enhancement;
- b) engaging in a debate about ethical, legal, and social issues associated with it;
- c) presenting empirical studies on the prevalence, willingness to use, and procurement strategies;
- d) exploring drivers and hurdles of usage and procurement strategies as well as associated beliefs about risks and moral concerns; and
- e) deliberating visions regarding legal norms and the regulation of enhancement technologies as well as prevention of health-endangering usage.

We invite scholars from various disciplines such as sociology, psychology, philosophy, medicine, law, and the political sciences. The three-day program will include keynote lectures by renowned scholars on the current possibilities and limits of enhancement, its ethical dimension, etiology of usage, and prevention. We will offer travel grants for selected junior researchers as well as an award for best poster. Online participation will be possible.

Information about abstract submission, fees, and grants:

Please **submit your abstract** via e-mail to: enhance.conference@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Please use our **abstract style sheet** ([LINK](#)). Deadline: **May 12, 2021**

Conference fee (*not applicable for online participation*): €45 regular and €20 for (Ph.D.) students

Travel grants for young scholars: Please check our website for more information:

<https://enhance-project.uni-koeln.de/en/conference/call-for-papers>

Please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail should you have any questions:

enhance.conference@wiso.uni-koeln.de

We are looking forward to your abstracts and to an enriching conference!

The ENHANCE team

New Books

Health and illness in the Neoliberal Era in Europe

edited by Jonathan Gabe, Mario Cardano and Angela Genova, 2020.

Emerald, UK



Health and illness in the Neoliberal Era in Europe

Edited by
Jonathan Gabe
Mario Cardano
Angela Genova



Health and illness in the Neoliberal Era in Europe discusses the impact of neoliberalism on public health and the social construction of health and illness in Europe, analysing case studies at a European and national level.

The book focusses on three main topics: health inequity, self-responsibilisation and organisational reforms. Increasing inequity is one of the main outcomes of neoliberal policy in Europe and here the authors examine the impact of neoliberal policies on health inequality, providing a European comparative data analysis of healthy life expectancy and mental health issues in Spain. The book looks at self-responsibilisation, as part of neoliberal citizenship, through topics such as crowdsourcing medicine and citizen science. Finally, it analyses organizational reform in Europe using three case studies: Italian national health care reforms, mental health policy in Italy and maternal care in Russia.

The book includes contributions from the Czech Republic, Italy, Russia and Spain and fosters the development of sociological debate in such countries within a European framework. It presents quantitative data analysis as well as ethnographic research and outlines a complex scenario affecting the everyday life of European citizens, their health and illness.

Format: Hardback.

Pagination: 224.

Price: £70.00/ \$100.00/ €85.00

ISBN: 9781839091209

For the podcast discussion about the book, please click here:

<http://apple.co/2MWePWI> #EmeraldPodcastSeries

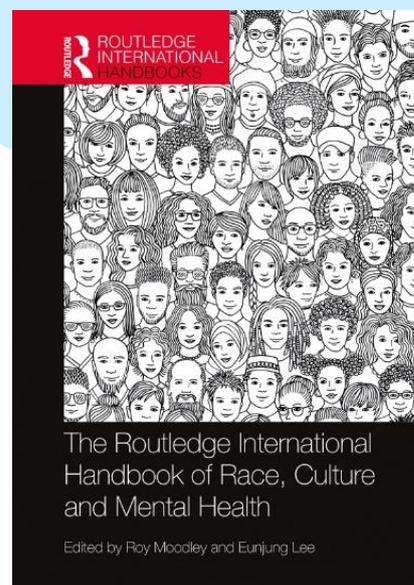
For 30% off, use code **EMERALD30** on Emerald's bookstore at the checkout.

A postcolonial critique of mental health. Empire and psychiatric expansionism

Bruce M. Z. Cohen, 2020

ABSTRACT

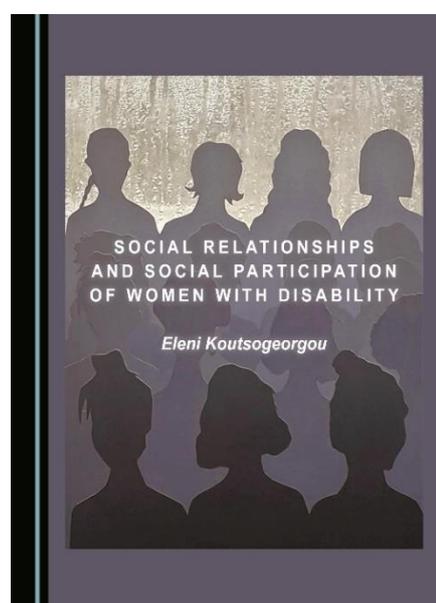
With growing calls from the World Health Organization and the Movement for Global Mental Health to 'scale up' Western mental health provision to meet a supposed 'treatment gap' in the Global South, this chapter offers a timely postcolonial critique of the historical imposition of such medical practices and discourse. The chapter begins by defining and explaining postcolonialism and the rare engagements with such theory in previous mental health literature. This is followed by a summary of the 'official narrative' of Western mental health interventions in colonial and 'post-colonial' societies which forwards the position that psychiatry's social control function in colonial times was less than systematic, and that their work has ultimately had a positive impact on the local population. The claims from medical scholars that psychiatric interventions in the Global South are benevolent, moral, and serve no economic benefit to Western imperialism does not stand up to close scrutiny.



<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781315276168-5/postcolonial-critique-mental-health-bruce-cohen>

Social Relationships and Social Participation of Women with Disability

Eleni Koutsogeorgou, 2020



This book provides insights into the experiences of women with physical, mental or sensory disability in terms of their social relationships and social participation, as well as the barriers and facilitators of their physical and social environments in that respect. It will be of interest to academics, health professionals, researchers, and other experts in the field, in addition to persons with disabilities who are exploring ways to overcome barriers they might be facing in terms of social participation. The book includes perspectives of women with disability on social relationships and social participation, as well as an extensive exploration of the current scientific literature. The points made here will contribute to the discussion around the full integration of persons with disabilities, by removing barriers to their social participation and autonomy, together with the strengthening of their social relationships and the social support they receive.

<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-5275-5692-8>