



# RN16 'Sociology of Health and Illness'

## Call for Papers ESA RN16 Mid-Term Conference

May, 19-21, 2016

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, New University of Lisbon, Portugal

Local Organisers: Helena Serra and Tiago Correia

## New directions in health care work and organisations

In contemporary societies, the social organisation of healthcare is facing many challenges that may lead to fundamental transformations. Major challenges emerge from global economic trends towards marketization and the ways most States are restructuring the public sector. Side effects are already taking place, in particular how work is structured and organizations compete in the context of limited resources. Consequences are set also on the side of users. However, it must not be undermined that some fields in healthcare and players may face expansion and new opportunities in this context, namely those linked to technologies and management. In sum, changing policies and governance result in comprehensive challenges to the social organisation of healthcare that warrant further attention, including different models of governance; greater involvement of technologies; the emergence of new health professions and competition for professional jurisdictions; the incentive of private healthcare systems; possible implications for users in the access to and consumption of healthcare. These new directions may vary within and among countries and globally.

We invite papers that explore these developments in comparative perspective or in a single country or professional group. Next to an open Call for Papers, a number of thematic sessions are also proposed; please **clearly indicate your session preference** and choose either the open call session(s) or one of the thematic sessions (see the list below).

Please submit your abstract by email to: [abstracts-midlisbon@fcsb.unl.pt](mailto:abstracts-midlisbon@fcsb.unl.pt) with a copy to [helena.serra@fcsb.unl.pt](mailto:helena.serra@fcsb.unl.pt); [Tiago.Correia@iscte.pt](mailto:Tiago.Correia@iscte.pt); **deadline is 30 November 2015**. Abstracts must be submitted as an email attachment in the format of a word file and must be prepared in the following style: preferred session; title of the paper; name of author(s), institutional affiliation and email address; followed by an abstract of no more than 200 words. Please note: abstracts that do not follow these guidelines cannot be considered.

A decision on acceptance (or otherwise) will be made in close consultation with the session organisers; authors will be informed on the status of their abstract no later than 30 December 2015.

# List of Sessions

## **Session 1 – (Open Call) New directions in health care work and organisations (see the Call for Papers for this Mid-Term Conference)**

Organisers: Helena Serra and Tiago Correia (Portugal)

## **Session 2 - Emerging and resurgent actors in health contexts**

Organiser: Brígida Riso (Portugal), Mário Santos (Portugal) and Violeta Alarcão (Portugal)

Since the nineteenth century, Medicine has occupied a central position in Western societies, namely in the provision of healthcare, in research, and in social regulation, achieving new fields of expertise and often winning social legitimacy over other forms of knowledge and action. However, contemporary trends in healthcare have opened a window of legitimacy for different actors to emerge or resurge, and conquer their own fields of expertise. These actors compete with Medicine, proposing non-medical rationalities and strategies. Notwithstanding, in particular cases, medical practice depends on these new professionals, or the boundaries between medical and non-medical professionals are diluted. How are these new actors challenging existing models of care management and provision, and institutionalised dynamics of knowledge and power? And to what extent are they re-shaping concepts of health and illness? We welcome presentations addressing these and other issues related with new and resurging professional actors in the healthcare sector.

## **Session 3 – Working time arrangements, work-life-balance and health of health care professionals**

Organisers: Johanna Muckenhuber (Austria) and Hannah Volk (Austria)

Working hours play an important role in the life, health, and well-being of workers in contemporary Europe. On the one hand, recent studies have demonstrated long working hours being negatively associated with health and well-being, whereas for time autonomy positive effects were assumed. Health care professionals are particularly affected by this phenomenon.

On the other hand, long working hours, shift and night work are often related to higher income. Therefore, an ongoing discussion to which extent and under which conditions health care workers wish to reduce their working hours exists.

This session invites contributors concerned with health and wellbeing of health care professionals, focusing on the effects of long working hours and time autonomy. It also welcomes research examining how health care workers manage to maintain a balance between private and working life.

We particularly invite empirical papers and papers conducting international comparative research.

## **Session 4 - Labor of management in case of management of labor: changing policies of maternity care in post-socialist societies**

Organisers: Anna Temkina (Russia) and Anastasija Novkuns kaya (Russia)

Maternity care causes special attention in post-socialist societies where medical institutions undergo crucial transformations under influence of state healthcare reforms and marketization. Though, diverse and heterogeneous across the region, reforms of obstetric

systems constitute a case of important changes and crucial challenges for labor of management of maternity hospitals and birth centers. Managerial transformation of reproductive health care on the level of medical institutions predetermines influential institutional shifts in obstetric system, resources and position of medical staff and patients/clients. In particular, management of labor becomes dramatically dependent on both bureaucratic requirements of administration, market demands and liberalized, consumer expectations of patients. This ambivalent and contradictory character of institutional changing predetermines different challenges for medical professionals, healthcare providers and care receivers.

This session addresses the issues of organizational shifts which occur in obstetric health care services in post-socialist societies and invites contributions that will explore transformations in maternity homes and birth centers on the institutional and interactional levels, their changes throughout recent state reforms and strategies of collective and individual adaptation to the new bureaucratic and market formats of birth care.

### **Session 5 - Maternity care in Europe: social changes and institutional challenges**

Organisers: Ekaterina Borozdina (Russia), Mário Santos (Portugal) and Ema Hřešánová (Czech Republic)

Childbirth is a complex social phenomenon. While pregnancy and delivery can be seen as mere physiological events, in reality they are surrounded by an on-going debate on the power and legitimacy, in which women, families, professionals and institutions are involved. Maternity care is shaped by and developed through the interplay of social politics, market forces, professional powers and gender ideologies. Across Europe, differences in the organisation and provision of maternity care surpass plain physiological differences and reveal discrete mechanisms of social normalisation and control. This session explores policies, institutions and ideologies which regulate and shape maternity care, structuring experiences of inclusion/exclusion, recognition/marginalization, choice/constraint. It investigates contradictory trends in the consumption of medical services, such as the acceptance of new technologies vs. anti-technocratic calls for more "natural" childbirth. Its papers will address contemporary challenges brought up by the transformations in professional jurisdictions over childbirth, global shifts in public, occupational, and state initiatives, issues related to social inequalities etc.

### **Session 6 - The Challenges of the Assisted Reproductive Technologies: Gender, Medicalization, Inequalities**

Organisers: Lia Lombardi (Italy) and Alice Sophie Sarcinelli (France)

This proposal aims to critically analyse the development of ART (Assisted Reproductive Technologies) in Europe. More precisely, we would like to investigate their impact on social and family structure, gender relationships, parenting and parenthood, on legal and political approaches, as well as the medicalization of reproductive issues and healthcare policies.

Therefore, we propose a reflection about ART starting from sociology of health and medicine, medical Anthropology, gender studies, public health and sociology of family.

According with these premises we invite scholars interested in this session to propose theoretical and/or empirical contributions dealing with the following themes:

- The medicalization of the reproductive body
- Gender, medical technologies and power
- Health and reproductive rights: e.g. contraception, abortion, pregnancy, ART
- Social and health inequalities in gender perspective
- ART in European countries: comparative analysis
- The impact of ART on gender relationships and "new parenthood" (homoparenthood, monoparental families, etc.);
- Transnational reproduction and Cross-border reproductive care

### **Session 7 - Patient-centered care and public involvement in health technologies**

Organisers: Cláudia de Freitas (Portugal), Alicia Renedo (UK) and Susana Silva (Portugal)

There is increasing emphasis in making healthcare governance participatory. Pressure to develop more sustainable and quality healthcare systems and innovative technologies is calling upon the development of policies and services centred on patients' values, needs and preferences. As a result, efforts to implement patient-centred care have spurred the creation of participatory spaces where lay people are invited to have a voice on healthcare governance. This has implications for the social organisation of healthcare: managers, professionals and staff must adjust to working together with service users in planning, designing and implementing changes in healthcare. However, there has been little reflection upon the sociological conceptualisation of patient-centred care and on how public involvement can contribute to its development, as well as to the implementation of quality healthcare. This session invites contributions on these subjects, with particular attention to the evolving field of health technologies.

### **Session 8 - Care at distance: telemedicine and transformations of health-care settings**

Organisers: Carlo Botrugno (Italy) and Joana de Sousa Ribeiro (Portugal)

According to specialized literature in the field, telemedicine services offer to reduce cost, whilst improving quality and widening access of healthcare services. Nonetheless, a massive introduction of these models in public health system could provoke striking effects on the current organization of healthcare services delivery. Telemedicine is able to profoundly restructure the social division of labour and professional jurisdiction in medical setting, stimulating a redefinition of medical tasks that could overweight the activities of paramedic professionals. Moreover, externalisation of activities to off-shore specialised center in developing countries can led to dismiss a quote of national health professionals. This panel intends to debate the conditions, consequences and coalitions involved in the use of telemedicine services for the healthcare access and provision. Papers dealing with a comparative perspective, an interdisciplinary approach or a mixed methods research are especially welcomed.

### **Session 9 - The active ageing policy framework in Europe: challenges and potentialities for health care organisations**

Organisers: Angela Genova (Italy) and Micol Pizzolati (Italy)

The ageing society calls for a reorganisation of its health care system in accordance with the European 'active ageing' policy framework. The active ageing index was elaborated in order to monitor and support active ageing policy at the national and subnational levels on the basis of several indicators, some of which are strongly related to organisations of the health care systems.

We invite contributions on the discussion concerning the impact of the active ageing policy approach to local or national health care work and organisations, focusing on the following aspects:

- Health promotion and the role of physical exercise
- Unmet needs for health and dental care
- Independent living arrangements
- Mental health/well-being
- The use of ICT
- The role of social connectedness for people's health

The session invites internationally comparative papers as well as national case studies focusing on the implementation of active ageing policy and the related challenges and potentialities for health care work and organisations.

## **Session 10 - Listening to the voices of children: how to bring them into the sociology of health and illness**

Organiser: Ana Patrícia Hilário (Portugal)

Children have been on the margin when studying issues around health and illness within the field of sociology. There is a need to bring children back to the mainstream and to integrate child's health into the agenda of medical sociologists. One might question: how sociologists working in the field of health and illness may locate children at the centre of the production of scientific knowledge? Which methodologies could be employed to empower children? Which child health issues should be discussed in order to avoid a taken-for-granted adult model? Regarding the theme of the conference we might also ask: to what extent the voices of children have been neglected within health care systems? How the provision of health care services to children has been influenced by a taken-for-granted adult model? We invite submissions whether theoretical, empirical or methodological that aims to contribute to the development of a sociology of child's health.

## **Session 11 - Emotions and the Qualitative Health Researcher**

Organisers: Ana Patricia Hilário (Portugal), Ema Hresanova (Czech Republic) and Kàtia Lurbe I Puerto (France)

There is a growing recognition within the sociological literature of how emotions may influence the research process and its results. Indeed the emotions of researchers might significantly affect and inform the understanding of the phenomena being investigated which may compromise the quality and validity of the research. This is particularly relevant for researchers who conduct fieldwork in health care scenarios as most of the time they have to deal with emotionally sensitive topics and/or work with vulnerable populations. Nevertheless there is still little empirical evidence that demonstrates the emotionality of the research process and gives some insights on the best strategies that researchers might employ to manage their own and others people's emotions along the research process. Accordingly, this session invites contributions which aim at addressing the role of emotions within the process of doing qualitative research in the field of health, and on the effects that emotional experiences might have on researchers.

## **Session 12 - Doing sociological research with/within the "medical world": research ethics and methodology**

Organiser : Kàtia Lurbe I Puerto (France)

This session invites contributions that will explore the ways sociological research is produced in a dialogical work with medical and paramedical professionals. In particular, it seeks to bring together researchers doing fieldwork within clinical settings (hospitals, medical consultation, hospitals, nursing home, etc.) to discuss on the methodological and ethical issues that arise in the different phases of the research process.

As sociologists engaged in multidisciplinary research team, what specific challenges do we face? Is there any compromises or arrangement do we need to make? How does working within the clinical settings influence the methodology of research? What are the cautions to be taken in order to do a genuine sociological work?

Moreover, the session aims to interrogate the ethical dimensions of doing sociology in interdisciplinary context. How is confidentiality (i.e. either medical and research confidentiality) addressed during the whole process? What is the role played by the ethical committees?

### **Session 13 - What new direction in oral healthcare?**

Elena Spina (Italy) and Giovanna Vicarelli (Italy)

Sociological literature shows the existence of a very limited number of contributions related to the study of oral health and dental healthcare.

Instead, this field of study appears to be of particular interest, especially in the current historical phase in which, on the one hand, there is a reduction of public and private economic resources and, on the other, a massive development of dental technology and treatment techniques is taking place. The aim of the session is to understand if a reorganization of professional clinics (and their organizational models) is taking place (from solo-practice model to group practice, network, cooperatives, etc.) and if new forms of management are being adopted in European countries, where there are different oral healthcare systems. The session welcomes contributions (even empirical and / or comparative) that address this topic.