



SUMMER 2007

Healthy Outlook

Division of Health, Health Policy and Health Services of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

Statement from the Co-Chair *Amy J. Schulz*

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Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Division.

The theme of this summer's SSSP meeting in New York City is "Research Matters: Creating Knowledge, Policy and Justice." I can think of few themes that provide greater opportunities for the members of our Division to showcase the contributions of research toward the elimination of the unequal structuring of life chances, expressed in inequalities in health, and length as well as quality of life. Research matters, providing frameworks that enable us to systematically critique assumptions about health, health care, and health policy. Research matters, documenting systematic inequalities that structure life chances in every arena, and contribute to longstanding racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in health. Research matters, providing evidence – both qualitative and quantitative – to frame and support social policies that promote equitable life chances across multiple axes of inequalities, including gender, class, race, sexuality, to name just a few. Research matters, helping to understand the impact of social stigma in contributing to inequitable access to health and health care. In all of these arenas, and more, the critical lens and focus on social justice

that guides the work of SSSP promotes the creation of knowledge and social policies toward the end of justice and equality in health.

We will have many opportunities to hear from, and engage in dialogue with our colleagues about this critical work at this year's meeting in NYC. Our Division's Thematic Session "Health Research Matters: Understanding Demographics and Social Networks" Friday, August 10, 10:30-12:10, is organized by our immediate past Co-Chair, Debora Paterniti with Marvella Ford. Our second Thematic Session, scheduled Sunday August 12, 12:30-2:10, is titled "Health Research Matters: The Impact of Research on Social Policy." We hope you will join us for these and the many other division-sponsored or co-sponsored sessions highlighting critical research and knowledge development to inform social policies toward the end of social justice in health.

You are warmly invited to join us for the Special Problems Division-sponsored reception, scheduled Friday, August 10 from 6:30pm - 7:30pm, in the Vanderbilt Suite of the Roosevelt Hotel. And please bring your program ideas and join us for the Health, Health Policy and Health Services Division Meeting, 4:30-6:10 p.m on August 10 in the Sutton Suite of the Roosevelt Hotel.

Please join me in thanking Valerie Leiter, Outgoing Division Co-Chair, for her intelligent, warm, and incredibly competent leadership of our division over the past two years. And please join me in a warm welcome to Emily Ihara, incoming Co-Chair of the Division, with whom I look forward to working in the coming year to further the work of the Division.

I look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting in New York City!

Amy

SSSP Health, Health Policy and Health Services Division Highlights

Here is a list of division sponsored and co-sponsored sessions and events at this year's annual meeting in New York City.

Friday, August 10

10:30-12:10pm	Health Research Matters; Understanding Demographics and Social Networks <i>THEMATIC SESSION</i>	Park Suite
12:30-2:10pm	The Social Organization of Disability	East End Suite
2:30-4:10pm	Health, Health Policy and Health Services Roundtables	Sutton Suite
4:30-6:10pm	Health, Health Policy and Health Services Division Meeting	Sutton Suite
6:30-7:30pm	SSSP Special Problems Co-Sponsored Reception	Vanderbilt Suite

Saturday, August 11

8:00-9:40am	HIV and AIDS Research: Sexuality and Health Issues	Fifth Avenue Suite
12:30-2:10 p.m.	Built Environment and Health	Lexington Suite
4:30-6:10pm	Stigma and Health	Beekman Suite

Sunday, August 12

8:30-10:10am	Drugs Research/Research with Drugs	Americas Suite
10:30-12:10pm	Transgender Embodiment and Identity	Lexington Suite
12:30-2:10pm	Health Research Matters: The Impact of Research on Social Policy <i>THEMATIC SESSION</i>	Lexington Suite
2:30pm – 4:10pm	“Scientists have Discovered...:” Disseminating Research through Media	York Suite
4:30pm – 6:10pm	Creating Knowledge for Racial Justice in Health	Lexington Suite

Graduate Student Paper Competition

Congratulations to **Cheryl D. Stults**, Brandeis University, on her winning paper “Chronic Pain on the Internet: A Comparison of Arthritis and Fibromyalgia.”

Here is an abstract of the winning paper:

Previous research has demonstrated that the type of chronic pain, whether it is “accepted” as a legitimate medical disease due or “contested” with no definite diagnostic criteria, influences how individuals experience chronic pain. However, the impact of the Internet upon their experience of illness for this kind of comparison has not been examined. This study analyzes the posts from four public message boards about chronic pain—two for an accepted illness of arthritis and two for the contested illness of fibromyalgia—following the grounded theory tradition, where themes emerged from coding the data. Consistent with previous research, participants on all four message boards received support and affirmation of their experience of illness from others with similar experiences, diminishing their feelings of social isolation. Some key differences emerged for each group, in particular, regarding the contested nature of fibromyalgia, in the areas of distinctions in their discussing their pain and the visible manifestations for arthritis and invisible nature of fibromyalgia. However, these are the same problems and dilemmas that have been found offline. Thus, this study demonstrates that even with the connectivity of the Internet, those with fibromyalgia still experience the same greater social isolation due to the contested nature of their illness that they experience offline. The Internet still remains primarily a reflection of previously existing dialogues.

Call for Papers

The Journal of Long Term Home Health Care is interested in articles of about 20 pages that are focused on any aspect of health care and social issues as they pertain to the elderly. Manuscripts may include position papers, reports of research studies, case reports, analyses of government policy, descriptions and/or evaluations of agencies, programs, and not-for-profit organizations serving any component of the aged population. Papers that offer detailed discussions of a topic, forecast developments, or provide readers with enhanced perspective are particularly welcome. The Journal also considers for publication commentaries on previously published articles, book and media reviews, etc.

The readership of the Journal consists of physicians, nurses, social workers, social scientists, and others who work directly with older persons, as well as managers and staff of not-for-profit and government agencies serving the elderly.

Author queries should be directed to DRPWB@aol.com or forwarded by mail to

F. Russell Kellogg, MD, Editor

or

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Department of Community Medicine

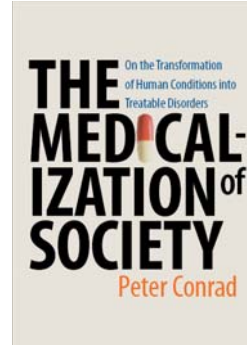
41-51 East 11th Street, 9th Floor

New York, NY 10003

NEWS OF NOTE!!!

Our division members have been quite busy in the past few months and are happy to share their news with the rest of you. We look forward to sharing your good news in the future!

Peter Conrad has published *The Medicalization of Society: On the Transformation of Human Conditions into Treatable Disorders* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).



Sherri Dworkin has published two articles and a book chapter this year:

Dworkin, S. Ehrhardt, A.A. (2007). Going beyond ABC to Include GEM (Gender Relations, Economic Contexts, and Migration Movements): Critical Reflections on Progress in the HIV/AIDS Epidemic. *American Journal of Public Health*, 97: 13-16.

Dworkin, S. Beckford, S.T., Ehrhardt, A. (2007). A Longitudinal Analysis of Sexual Scripts for Women Who Participated in a Gender-Specific HIV/STD Prevention Intervention. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. 36: 269-279.

and

Dworkin, S.L., O'Sullivan, L. (2007). "It's Less Work For Us and It Shows Us She Has Good Taste:" Masculinity, Sexual Initiation, and Contemporary Sexual Scripts. In M. Kimmel (Ed.), *The Sexual Self: The Construction of Sexual Scripts*. Nashville: University of Vanderbilt Press.

Jean Elson (Ph.D. 2007) is a coauthor of the *Our Bodies, Ourselves Menopause Book* published by the Women's Health Book Collective last October. With the assistance of her students, Jean is currently conducting a multi method study of voluntary abstinence among young adults. In April she presented "Like a Virgin' Young Adults Definitions and Experiences of Voluntary Abstinence" at the Kinsey Institute in Bloomington Indiana. Jean's cautionary comments on the new continuous birth control medication, Lybrel, were quoted in over 300 media outlets, including the AP wire service, "The New York Times," the "Washington Post," and "USA Today." In addition, she was interviewed on National NPR's "Weekend Edition" and the Canadian version of "Good Morning America." Jean continues to teach at the University of New Hampshire and was awarded the 2007 UNH "Pink Triangle Award" for outstanding contributions toward achieving equity and visibility for the UNH GLBT community. She also received a competitive faculty instructional technology grant from UNH.

.....More Great News on the Next Page.....

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Do you have News of Note?

We would love to hear from you!!!

Items of interest are new books, promotions, successful dissertation defenses, acquisition of first jobs and anything else you would like to share with fellow division members.

Also let us know about calls for papers and relevant grants or fellowships.

Send your good news to Alexis Bender at the correspondence address listed above.

NEWS OF NOTE, Continued

Barbara Katz Rothman was recently named a "Mother of Bioethics" by the Women's Bioethics Network.

Congratulations to **Lara Foley** who was granted tenure and promotion at the University of Tulsa. She also co-authored a book coming out in August. Crawley, Sara, Lara Foley and Constance Shehan. Forthcoming 2007. "Gendering Bodies." New York: Rowman and Littlefield. She says "While it's not solely focused on health, there are a number of health related issues addressed." She gave the following description:

In "Gendering Bodies," Crawley, Foley and Shehan explain how the social world shapes our physical bodies. They argue that bodies are constantly being gendered, or encouraged to participate in (heterosexual) gender conformity. Integrating gender performance theories, Foucauldian subjectivities, symbolic interactionism, and a sociology of everyday life, the authors demonstrate how the gendered messages that have developed about bodies in Western culture have effects in the social world and physical effects on bodies, including nutrition practices, work and employment choices, dieting, working out, cosmetic surgery, sexual practices, and training (or lack of training) in sports or fitness. They demonstrate how gender conformity operates in work, sports, and sex-common experiences of everyday life. This book is an accessible, yet comprehensive, theory of a sociology of the gendered body.

David Schleifer just published a short article about trans fats, on the website of a small magazine called N+1. According to David, it is for an intellectual audience, not an academic audience. He also notes this is the first thing he has published based on his dissertation research – a great milestone. Division members can read it at <http://www.nplusonemag.com/>

and

Aimee Van Wagenen is very excited about her first position. She has received a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Central Connecticut State University where (among other courses) she will teach Sociology of Health and Illness and Sociology of HIV/AIDS.



See you in New York!!!
Photo by Alexis Bender