

Society for the Study of Social Problems: Health, Health Policy & Health Services

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Division Co-Chairs

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Message from the Co-Chairs

Dear *Health, Health Services, & Health Policy* Division Members,

Most of us are well into our summer breaks and only weeks from the time we gather to refresh our academic connections through common interests, politics, and friendships. Our meeting provides opportunities to revitalize our individual persons and our collective. We look forward to meeting many of you in New York.

We have put together an exciting list of sessions and round tables and will be co-sponsoring a reception with other SSSP divisions. See page two of this newsletter for a brief outline of Health Division activities and events not to miss! Please attend our division meeting to meet the new Division Co-Chair, celebrate the Health Division Graduate Student Paper and Community Health Praxis awardees, and engage in opportunities for shaping the face of the Health Division this academic year.

Please expand your circle of colleagues as well as support old friends.
Safe travels to New York City!

— Debora Paterniti (2017-2019) & Meredith Bergey (2018-2020)

...from the 2018-2020 Co-Chair

Best wishes from Villanova, Pennsylvania! Thank you for electing me to serve alongside Debora as your division co-chair. SSSP and the Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division have been integral parts of my academic career since graduate school. From those early days, I have been committed to supporting the Division's aims of critically examining health and health-care delivery and advocating for social justice in matters of health. As a sociologist with a multi-disciplinary background in public health, medical anthropology, health services, and social policy, the Division has provided a valuable academic and professional home for thinking broadly about the many complex issues facing the health and well-being of populations around the globe. The work of our Division and its members is more important than ever amidst ongoing and widening disparities that exist in morbidity and mortality, access to care, and quality of life as well as significant changes in health-related technology, environmental circumstances, and policy. I look forward to serving our division's membership in their continued efforts to understand and address the social factors and experiences involved in these and other pressing issues. We have a great program of sponsored sessions lined up for the summer. I very much look forward to them and to seeing you all in New York City!

— Meredith Bergey (2018-2020)



Division Sponsored Sessions, Co-Sponsored Sessions, Meetings, & Activities

A look at our Division program in brief - summarized from the preliminary program for the 69th annual meeting, posted 07.02.19 <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/2199/fuseaction/ssspsession2.onlineProgram/>

Day & Time	Session (#): Session Title	Room	Co-sponsors
FRIDAY, August 9th			
8:30-10:10 AM	<i>Session 010: Inequities in Health, Care, and Contexts</i>	Riverside Suite	Poverty, Class, Inequality
12:30-2:10 PM	<i>Session 033: Contested Territories: Negotiated Spaces of Health and Family</i>	Lexington Suite	—
2:30-4:10 PM	<i>Session 048: Identity, Sexuality, and Health</i>	Vanderbilt Suite	Institutional Ethnography
4:30-6:10 PM	<i>Session 060: Sexual Politics, Abortion, and Health</i>	Vanderbilt Suite	Institutional Ethnography
SATURDAY, August 10th			
8:30-10:10 AM	<i>Session 070: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: From Childhood to Older Adulthood: Research Implications for State and National Public Policy</i>	Sutton Suite	Sociology & Social Welfare; Youth, Aging & Life Course
10:30 AM - 12:10 PM	DIVISION MEETING: Health, Health Policy, & Health Services Division	Vanderbilt Suite	—
12:30-2:10 PM	<i>Session 096: PAPERS IN THE ROUND: Health, Health Policy, and Health Services</i> Roundtable #1: Health Definition, Access, and Meaning Roundtable #2: Social Determinants of Health Roundtable #3: Structural Determinants of Health & Well Being Roundtable #4: Directions in Mental Health and Wellness Roundtable #5: Territories of Women's Health, Wholeness, & Wellness Roundtable #6: Movements & Methods in Health Conceptualization & Intervention Roundtable #7: Considering Drugs, Addiction, and Health(care) Roundtable #8: Conversations about Health and Health Management	Vanderbilt Suite	—
2:30-4:10 PM	<i>Session 099: Inequities in Health Care and Contexts II</i>	Hudson Suite	Poverty, Class, Inequality
7:45-8:45 PM	JOINT SSSP DIVISION RECEPTION (following awards ceremony)	Grand Ball-room Foyer	Health Division & Others
SUNDAY, August 11th			
8:30-10:10 AM	<i>Thematic Session 122: Illuminating the Social in Social Problems: Determinants of Health and Well-being in 2020</i>	Lexington Suite	—
10:30 AM - 12:10 PM	<i>Session 133: Shifting Policy Environments and Drug Use</i>	Lexington Suite	Drinking & Drugs; Law & Society
12:30-2:10 PM	<i>Session 148: Dimensions of Health and Environmental Contexts</i>	Riverside Suite	Environment & Technology
4:30-6:10 PM	<i>Session 166: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: (Re)Framing the Health Agenda: Pressing Questions and Future Directions</i>	Broadway Suite	—

New York City, NY

August 9-11, 2019

Health Division Student Paper Competition Award Winners

The recipient of the **2019 Health Division Student Paper Award** is **Alex Brewer** (University of Chicago), “Moralizing the Opioid Shortage: Race, Pain, and Interpretations of Resource Scarcity in an Urban Hospital.” Alex will present a version of the winning paper in Session 10: Inequities in Health, Care, and Contexts on Friday, August 9th at 8:30am.

Honorable Mention for the 2019 Health Division Student Paper Award goes to **Derek Siegel** (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) for “Managing Abortion-Related Emotions: A Feminist Perspective.” Derek’s paper will be presented in *Session 060: Sexual Politics, Abortion, and Health* on Friday, August 9th at 4:30pm.

Congratulations to Alex and Derek!

The **Health, Health Policy, & Health Services Division** invites all graduate students to apply for the annual paper award competition. The submission should be related to the Division’s broad interests, including health and illness, health policy, and health services. Details regarding paper submission and the deadline for next year’s submission will be announced in the Fall/Winter 2019 newsletter.



Fall/Winter Newsletter Submissions

We want to hear from a broad range of our membership!

It is important for us to communicate with one another about innovations in teaching, research, and policy as well as commentary on the things that are happening politically, both locally and nationally. Your contributions can include images as well as written text, as long as they can be easily reproduced and transferred. As always, we welcome announcements of recent publications, media appearances, reports on community events, job opportunities, and other breaking news from Health Division members.

Please submit all newsletter items to
Meredith Bergey
(meredith.bergey@villanova.edu).

What's news?

2018 Health Division Student Paper Award Winner - Emily Allen Paine, PhD

“Embodied Disruption: ‘Sorting out’ Gender and Nonconformity in the Doctor’s Office.”

Among LGBTQ people, those who are gender nonconforming (GNC) may be at heightened risk of both discrimination and underutilization of healthcare - yet little is known about what happens during healthcare encounters to compel GNC individuals to continue or avoid seeking future care. This study qualitatively examines the healthcare experiences of a racially diverse sample of 34 adult LGBTQ cis women, transgender men, and non-binary individuals in a metropolitan area of the United States who do not conform to dominant biomedical schemas of sex and gender. GNC individuals experience *embodied disruption* in medical settings when patients are *mis/recognized*; providers respond to disruption in ways that further distress patients. Broadly, participants reported similar experiences across racial and gender identities, but patients manage disruption somewhat differently depending on their embodied positions to gender norms. This study contributes to literatures of stress, stigma, and sex, gender and sexuality within medicine by illuminating how stigmatizing healthcare interactions work to deter LGBTQ individuals from seeking healthcare. Findings point to the importance of considering both structural factors and embodied visibility in future research addressing how stigma and discrimination manifest within health settings to disadvantage LGBTQ groups.



Emily Allen Paine, medical sociologist and scholar of gender and sexuality, received her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was affiliated with the Urban Ethnography Lab and the Population Research Center. Emily is currently a Fellow in the NIH Postdoctoral Training Program at the HIV Center at Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

As a Fellow, Emily will write a book about how gender, sexual, and racial schemas within medicine shape healthcare experiences and decision-making among LGBTQ people. She will also receive additional training in order to design and launch new studies at the intersection of HIV/AIDS, identity, stigma, technology, and social relationships.

Public Health Initiatives to Reduce Smoking

Commentary by Danielle Rhubart, PhD

Over fifty years have lapsed since the surgeon general concluded that “cigarette smoking is a health hazard of sufficient importance in the United States to warrant appropriate remedial action” (National Library of Medicine, n.d.). Since then, a wide variety of public health initiatives and policies have been enacted to reduce cigarette smoking, and tobacco use more broadly. The patchwork of state and local initiatives coupled with federal laws have resulted in a good deal of success (Hopkins et al. 2010). Though, in many parts of the US, smoking is still widely prevalent. For example, nearly one in four adults smoke in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Arkansas. Those individuals who continue to smoke, as well as those who are exposed to second-hand smoke, are at risk of a wide array of adverse health outcomes, including a number of cancers, stroke, coronary heart disease, chronic OPD, pneumonia, emphysema, bronchitis, and diabetes (HHS 2014; Sherratt et al. 2017, Helms et al. 2017).



The most recent, sweeping, and targeted measure in this series of public health initiatives was the 2016 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulation which bans smoking in or near public housing (Federal Register 2016). The new regulation gave housing agencies 18 months to implement the new regulation, which took full effect on July 31st 2018. In this article, I will provide some background to this new regulation and also identify pathways for future research around it.

Public housing includes multi-unit buildings as well as Section 8 housing programs. Of those in public housing, it is estimated that approximately 33.6 percent smoke cigarettes (Helms et al. 2017). Moreover, it is nearly impossible to prevent second-hand smoke from moving between multiunit dwellings. The smoke filters through air systems, piping, electrical routes, and cracks (Kraev et al. 2009). Even in trace amounts, second-hand smoke can cause health risks for other residents. In 2006, the Surgeon General concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke (HHS 2006). Therefore, not only are those residing in a unit facing a wide variety of health risks, but so are those in adjacent units. It is estimated that banning smoking in public housing could result in a savings of over 500 million dollars per year from health-care costs associated with second-hand smoke, expenses associated with renovating units occupied by smokers, and fires caused by smoking (King et al. 2013).

The implementation of HUD's new regulation raises a number of questions for public health and social science researchers. First, medical and health-focused social scientists can play a key role in exploring new questions around the effectiveness of this new regulation. A variety of resources were provided to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to assist with effectively implementing the new regulation. As different PHAs adopted different strategies for implementing the new regulation, social scientists can help to explore which strategies were most effective and what individual-, cultural-, and contextual factors help to explain successful smoking cessation among residents. Moreover, this change in context (i.e. the smoking ban in public housing) can be placed within the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) framework to examine long-term health outcomes associated with changes to health behavior and in the health environment.

Second, while those who violate the new smoking ban will not be evicted without a warning system, it is likely that evictions will take place among those who are unable to or choose not to stop smoking in or near their homes. While this will be a difficult population to track, health-focused social scientists should look to explore the prevalence of this phenomenon, as well as the circumstances, risk factors, and potentially unequal implementation of it. In addition, for those who are displaced, the short- and long-term consequences on mental, emotional, and physical well-being of such an eviction must also be explored.

Third, further research could focus on the ethics and implications of this new regulation. For example, a great deal of normative work has been dedicated to advocating for tobacco control under a human rights framework (e.g. Dresler et al. 2012). Indeed, the human rights violations that occur during the production, sale, and consumption of tobacco products rightfully require greater action. However, other work uncovers the lived experiences of those who smoke, the stigma they encounter (e.g. Ritchie et al. 2010), and the challenges they face as they attempt to adapt to new top-down policies that could threaten their access to shelter. In particular, this policy targets a specific low-income segment of society. If in fact cost savings was a driving factor, why were not other groups that rely on publicly-sponsored or subsidized resources targeted (e.g. federal employees)? Researchers should give voice to the

Initiatives to Reduce Smoking

(...continued from page 4)

apparent targeting of this new regulation.

As this new regulation takes shape in the lives of those who live in public housing, there are a number of new research questions for social scientists to explore. From assessing the effectiveness of this public health initiative and the potential for its unequal implementation to examining the lived experiences of those who face eviction, displacement, and stigma – there are many pathways for us to explore. And those health scholars within the Social Problems network are well suited to critically analyze and give voice to this new and changing context.

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- National Library of Medicine. n.d. The Reports of the Surgeon General: Smoking and Health, 1964. The Office of the Surgeon General. Retrieved from <https://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/NN/B/B/M/Q/>
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- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2006. Office of the Surgeon General. "The health consequences of involuntary tobacco smoke: A report of the Surgeon General." Retrieved from <https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/secondhandsmoke/fullreport.pdf>

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Dr. Rhubart is currently a full-time lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work and is a Faculty Research Fellow with UD's Human Rights Center. She has expertise in environmental sociology and medical sociology. Her research examines the intersections of place, policy, and environmental change. Her work has been published in *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Environmental Practice*, and *Society and Natural Resources*. She has also published public reports with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and the Carsey School of Public Policy.

2019 Critical Dialogue Session

The 2019 Critical Dialogue Session honors past Chairs and long-time active members of the SSSP Health Division by inviting them to a Critical Dialogue Session on **Sunday, 11 August at 4:30pm**. Honored participants include:

- *Barbara Katz Rothman* (Graduate Center, CUNY)
- *Peter Conrad* (Brandeis University)
- *Valerie Leiter* (Simmons University)
- *Deborah Carr* (Boston University)
- *William D. Cabin* (Temple University)
- *Eric R. Wright* (Georgia State University)

Invited panel members will discuss their current work and future directions for health, health policy and health services. There will also be opportunity for questions, answers, and engaged discussion.

Honoring Local Organization for Community Health Praxis

At last year's Health Division meeting, members voted to honor a local New York City organization for the praxis of social justice in the area of health, health policy, and/or health services. We urge our division members to nominate a local New York City organization for the first yearly Health Division Community Health Praxis Award.

Please send the name and a brief paragraph describing the mission and service of the organization to Debora (debora.paterniti@sonoma.edu) and Meredith (meredith.bergey@villanova.edu) no later than **Monday, 22 July 2019**. The award will be presented to a representative from the organization at the Health Division meeting.



Farewell from 2017-2019 Co-Chair



I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Health Division. I have appreciated the involvement of many Division members in putting together an exciting program for the New York meetings, and for the members who have contributed their achievements and expertise to our bi-annual newsletters and annual Division meetings. I thank my Co-Chair, Meredith Bergey, for her earnest partnership and dedication to the betterment of the Health Division. It has been both my pleasure and an honor to work with Meredith. Michele Koontz has made our work nearly effortless - she is truly the backbone of our Division and SSSP (Thank you, Michele!). I anticipate continuing my involvement with the Health Division; it has been my academic home for more than 30 years. I look forward to seeing many of you in New York this August and in meetings to come. Safe travels!

-- Warmly, Debora

Snapshots from SSSP 2018: Philadelphia, PA

