

SOC 6022H Sociology of Health & Illness Summer 2018

(Mid-May to end of June: Mon & Thurs, 10am-Noon)

Instructor: William Magee, Associate Professor

Medical sociologists work in diverse settings (e.g. NGOs, hospitals, public health organizations, academic departments at universities, etc.). Research in the field also employs many different methods and theoretical orientations. This course surveys select aspects of the broad field of medical sociology with an emphasis on illness etiology, distribution, and the experience of illness. We start out by examining historical trends in epidemiologic patterns in relation to medical and public health practices, and medicalization. Both progress (e.g., global reductions in child mortality), and iatrogenesis (e.g., increased mortality among large population segments due to over-prescription of opiates) can be observed, and this has implications for the requisite complexity of theory. We then consider health and illness over the life course. Emerging findings from research that investigates how biological and psychosocial factors are intertwined begs questions about the relation between causal models, paradigms, theories, and policies. Policies (under liberalism) are often loosely related to action, so we focus in particular on the material bases for action. Some action is governmental, some is extra-governmental though political, and some is private or situational. With respect to the latter, we will consider the argument that new individualized forms of health-related practices (e.g., “disciplinary projects of the self”) reflect broader shifts in the construction of what it means to be human, and agentic. Illness can shape human agency, as well as portend the end of agency. In the final sessions, we will consider these issues by focusing on the self, and the phenomenology of illness experience, in both physical and mental manifestations.

Summary of Evaluation:

Reaction Papers (5-6 pages, for 5 classes @ 8% each) - 40%

Final Paper (about 17 pages, excluding references & cover) - 40 %

Attendance - 9%

Verbal Participation – 11%

**Detailed Description of Evaluation**

*Attendance:* Attendance at all classes is expected. There will be no deduction for missing one class without documentation (e.g., illness verification), but after that there will be a deduction of 1 point per class. . If you have to miss class, it is good form to notify the instructor in advance.

*Verbal Participation:* Participation marks will be determined by your ability to respond knowledgeably to questions about the readings when asked, give your opinion about issues raised in the readings, and ask questions that reflect engagement with the ideas under discussion. Presentation about your final paper at the end of the course will be weighted relatively heavily.

*Reaction Papers:* For five of the classes that you will write about 6 pages that present your reflections about theoretically or methodologically relevant topics raised in two or more of the assigned readings, and address questions that I will pose. *Penalty for late submission* is 1 point per day (out of the 6 allotted).

*Final "Research Connections" Paper:* There is not enough time in this compressed course to expect you to write a decent 25-page research paper, but it is important for you to try to connect some of the material in the course to a topic you hope to pursue. Topics must be approved after an individual meeting. *Marking:* The main criteria for marking will be logical coherence and innovation or insight. However, part of the credit will be allocated on the basis of technical aspects of writing (i.e., grammar, sentence structure, references, etc.) Part of the credit will also be allocated on the basis of ability to draw upon or build upon the assigned readings, or topics raise in the assigned readings. *Penalty for late submission* is 1 point per weekday.

*Illness:* Please note that the following is "boilerplate": Requests for medically based exemptions from deadlines must be accompanied by a duly completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (available at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). A doctor's note is not acceptable. The original form must be given to me in person, with the opportunity for me to make a hard copy. Forms that are scanned or copied may not be accepted. The university will accept documentation of medical matters only on the U of T Verification of Illness or Injury form, which may only be completed only by a physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner, dentist or clinical psychologist.

### Reading List & Course Schedule

The following is a *tentative* reading list.

#### **I. Broad Trends in Health & Mortality**

##### Week 1. Class 1

##### **Overview & Introductions**

##### Week 1 class 2:

##### **Epidemiology, Public Health, Medicine & Medicalization**

James Colgrove. 2002. "The McKeown thesis: a historical controversy and its enduring influence." *American Journal of Public Health* **92**(5): 725-729.

- Anne Case and Angus Deaton. 2017. "Mortality and Morbidity in the 21st Century (Final Post-Conference Version)." Vol. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*. 1-59  
[https://www.brookings.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2017/03/casedeaton\\_sp17\\_fin\\_draft.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2017/03/casedeaton_sp17_fin_draft.pdf)
- Blader, Joseph C. 2018. "Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors Increased among Young Adults. Why?". *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* 57(1):18-19.
- Han, Beth, Wilson M Compton, Carlos Blanco, Lisa Colpe, Larke Huang and Richard McKeon. 2018. "National Trends in the Prevalence of Suicidal Ideation and Behavior among Young Adults and Receipt of Mental Health Care among Suicidal Young Adults." *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* 57(1):20-27. e2.
- Reubi, David. 2017. "A Genealogy of Epidemiological Reason: Saving Lives, Social Surveys and Global Population." *BioSocieties*:22pages. doi: 10.1057/s41292-017-0055-2.
- Jocalyn Clark. 2014. "Medicalization of Global Health 1: Has the Global Health Agenda Become Too Medicalized?". *Global health action* 7. 1-6
- Joan Busfield. 2017. "The Concept of Medicalisation Reassessed." *Sociology of Health & Illness*. 1-16.
- Simon J Williams, Catherine Coveney and Jonathan Gabe. 2017. "The Concept of Medicalisation Reassessed: A Response to Joan Busfield." *Sociology of Health & Illness*. 1-6.
- Rebecca L Siegel, Stacey A Fedewa, William F Anderson, Kimberly D Miller, Jiemin Ma, Philip S Rosenberg and Ahmedin Jemal. 2017. "Colorectal Cancer Incidence Patterns in the United States, 1974–2013." *JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 109(8). 1-6

## II. Life Course & Health in Context

### Week 2, class 3:

#### **Lifecourse & Illness: Micro to Macro Issues**

Michael EJ Wadsworth and Diana Kuh. 2016. "Epidemiological Perspectives on the Life Course." Pp. 639-659 in *Handbook of the Life Course*: Springer.

Brea L. Perry. 2015. "The Sociology of, in, and with Genetics: The Role of Medical Sociology in the Era of "-Omics"." Genetics, Health and Society (Advances in

Medical Sociology (Volume 16) Emerald Group Publishing Limited, **only pp. xi-xix** (9 pages total)

Kate Weiner, Paul Martin, Martin Richards and Richard Tutton. 2017 (forthcoming). "Have We Seen the Geneticisation of Society? Expectations and Evidence." *Sociology of Health & Illness*. 1-16

Chioun Lee, Tsenkova V and Carr D. 2014. "Childhood trauma and metabolic syndrome in men and women" *Social Science & Medicine* 105: 122-130.

Alexandra Michel. 2015. "Dualism at Work: The Social Circulation of Embodiment Theories in Use" *Signs and Society*, 3(S1), S41-S69.

Matthew A. Andersson. 2016. "Chronic Disease at Midlife: Do Parent-Child Bonds Modify the Effect of Childhood SES?". *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 57(3):373-389.

Boyce, W Thomas and Clyde Hertzman. 2018. "Early Childhood Health and the Life Course: The State of the Science and Proposed Research Priorities." Pp. 61-93 in *Handbook of Life Course Health Development*: Springer.

Yakeley, Jessica (2018). Psychoanalysis in modern mental health practice. *The Lancet Psychiatry*. Online 1-8

#### Week 2, Class 4

#### **"Social Determinants of Health":**

#### **Social Positions, Mediation & Moderating Processes & Health**

Sean AP Clouston, Marcie S Rubin, Jo C Phelan and Bruce G Link. 2016. "A Social History of Disease: Contextualizing the Rise and Fall of Social Inequalities in Cause-Specific Mortality." *Demography* 53(5):1631-1656.

Karen Lutfey and Jeremy Freese. 2005. Toward Some Fundamentals of Fundamental Causality: Socioeconomic Status and Health in the Routine Clinic Visit for Diabetes. *American Journal of Sociology* 110: 1326-1372.  
<http://go.utlib.ca/cat/7684063>

Bradley R Crammond & Gemma Carey. 2016 "What Do We Mean by 'Structure' when We Talk About Structural Influences on the Social Determinants of Health Inequalities?". *Social Theory & Health*:1-15.

Hicken, Margaret T, Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz, Myles Durkee and James S Jackson. 2018. "Racial Inequalities in Health: Framing Future Research." *Social Science & Medicine*. 199: 11-18

Ellis P. Monk Jr, 2015. "The Cost of Color: Skin Color, Discrimination, and Health among African-Americans." *American Journal of Sociology* 121(2):396-444.

Andrea E. Willson and Kim M. Shuey. 2016. "Life Course Pathways of Economic Hardship and Mobility and Midlife Trajectories of Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 57(3):407-22.

McEwen, C. A., & McEwen, B. S. (2017). Social Structure, Adversity, Toxic Stress, and Intergenerational Poverty: An Early Childhood Model. *Annual Review of Sociology* (0). 445-472.

### Week 3, class 5

#### **Economics, Politics, Governance & Health: A Sampling of Levels & Contexts**

S`cheiring, Gábor, Dénes Stefler, Darja Irdam, Mihaly Fazekas, Aytalina Azarova, Irina Kolesnikova, János Köllő, Vladimir Popov, Ivan Szelenyi and Michael Marmot. 2018. "The Gendered Effects of Foreign Investment and Prolonged State Ownership on Mortality in Hungary: An Indirect Demographic, Retrospective Cohort Study." *The Lancet Global Health* 6(1):e95-e102.

Kehr, Janina. 2017. "'Exotic No More': Tuberculosis, Public Debt and Global Health in Berlin." *Global public health*:1-14.

Ramya Kumar, Anne-Emanuelle Birn and Peggy McDonough. 2016. "Agenda-Setting in Women's Health: Critical Analysis of a Quarter Century of Paradigm Shifts in International and Global Health." *Handbook on gender and health*:25-43.

Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English. from "Complaints & Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness." Pp 11-24

Kelly, M. P. and F. Russo. (forthcoming, 2017) "Causal Narratives in Public Health: The Difference between Mechanisms of Aetiology and Mechanisms of Prevention in Non-Communicable Diseases." *Sociology of Health & Illness* pp 1-18 doi: 10.1111/1467-9566.12621.

Gholam Khiabany. 2016. "Refugee Crisis, Imperialism and Pitiless Wars on the Poor." *Media, Culture & Society*: 1-8.

Sarah S. Willen, & Jennifer Cook. 2016. 'Health-Related Deservingness' pp. 95-118 in Handbook of Migration and Health, edited by F. Thomas: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Robert Aronowitz. 2015. "Lyme Disease Vaccines: A Cautionary Tale of Risk Intervention." Pp. 111-35 in *Risky Medicine: Our Quest to Cure Fear and Uncertainty*: University of Chicago Press.

Scott Vrecko. 2016. "Risky Bodies, Drugs and Biopolitics: On the Pharmaceutical Governance of Addiction and Other 'Diseases of Risk'." *Body & Society* 22(3):54-76.

Matthew Basilio, Jonathan Weigel, Anjali Motgi, Jacob Bor and Salmaan Keshavjee. 2013. "Health for All? Competing Theories and Geopolitics." in Farmer, Paul, Jim Yong Kim, and Arthur Kleinman. Reimagining global health: an introduction: 74-110.

Mel Bartley. 2016. Health Inequality: An Introduction to Concepts, Theories and Methods (second Edition): John Wiley & Sons. Chapter 11. The Way Forward for Research and Policy Debate (10 pages).

Week 3, Class 6:

### **Integration & Discussion**

We will "catch up", take stock, further integrate readings, discuss final paper topics, and discuss take-home test.

### **III. Cultural & Structural Considerations in Relation to Embodiment & Agency**

Week 4, class 7

### **Sociomateriality & Practices: Body Parts, Medicines, Cigarettes, Lifestyles, Health & Illness Behaviors, etc.**

Nikolas Rose. 2007. "Molecular biopolitics, somatic ethics and the spirit of biocapital" *Social Theory & Health* 5: 3-29. <http://go.utlib.ca/cat/7755576>

Charlotte Ikels. 2013. "The anthropology of organ transplantation." *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 42, 89-102

Oudshoorn, N. 2017. "Hybrid Bodies and the Materiality of Everyday Life: How People Living with Pacemakers and Defibrillators Reinvent Everyday Routines and Intimate Relations." *Sociology of Health & Illness* doi: 10.1111/1467-9566.12626.

Jeremy A Greene. 2015. "Essential Drugs and Their Critical Legacies." *Reimagining (Bio) Medicalization, Pharmaceuticals and Genetics: Old Critiques and New Engagements*: 89-111

Stanley Blue, Elizabeth Shove, Chris Carmona and Michael P Kelly. 2016. "Theories of Practice and Public Health: Understanding (Un) Healthy Practices." *Critical Public Health* 26(1):36-50.

Sarah L Bell, Jessica Tyrrell and Cassandra Phoenix. 2016. "A Day in the Life of a Ménière's Patient: Understanding the Lived Experiences and Mental Health Impacts of Ménière's Disease." *Sociology of Health & Illness*: 1-16

Jarron M Saint Onge and Patrick M Krueger. 2017. "Health Lifestyle Behaviors among US Adults." *SSM-Population Health* 3:89-98.

Jon Ivar Elstad. 2010. "Indirect Health-Related Selection or Social Causation? Interpreting the Educational Differences in Adolescent Health Behaviours." *Social Theory & Health* 8(2):134-50.

Georgie J MacArthur, Nina Jacob, Pandora Pound, Matthew Hickman and Rona Campbell. 2017. "Among Friends: A Qualitative Exploration of the Role of Peers in Young People's Alcohol Use Using Bourdieu's Concepts of Habitus, Field and Capital." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 39(1):30-46.

Week 4, class 8:

**Health, Healthiness, Healthism: Regulating Health & Fitness**

Paul Higgs. 2012. "Consuming bodies: Zygmunt Bauman on the difference between fitness and health." In: Scambler G (ed) *Contemporary theorists for medical sociology*. London: Routledge. Routledge, 20-32.

Peter Freund. 2015. "Norbert Elias and Erving Goffman: Civilised-Dramaturgical Bodies, Social Status and Health Inequalities." Pp. 158-73 in *The Palgrave Handbook of Social Theory in Health, Illness and Medicine*: Springer.

Meika Loe. 2008. "The prescription of a new generation" *Contexts*, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 46-49

Dana Garbarski. 2016. "Research in and Prospects for the Measurement of Health Using Self-Rated Health." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 80(4):977-97.

Anna Wexler. 2017. "The Social Context of "Do-It-Yourself" Brain Stimulation: Neurohackers, Biohackers, and Lifehackers." *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 11:1-6.

Britta Pelters and Barbro Wijma. 2016. "Neither a Sinner nor a Saint: Health as a Present-Day Religion in the Age of Healthism." *Social Theory & Health* 14(1):129-48.

Peeters, Rik and Marc Schuilenburg. 2017. "The Birth of Mindpolitics: Understanding Nudging in Public Health Policy." *Social Theory & Health* 15(2):138-59.

Vitus, K. (2017). Ideology and resistance in young people's experiences of health under the 'imperative of enjoyment'. *Sociology of Health & Illness*. 1-15. \*

Week 5, class 9

**Self, Symbolic Interaction, and Illness Experience**

Carla Willig. 2011. "Cancer diagnosis as discursive capture: Phenomenological repercussions of being positioned within dominant constructions of cancer." *Social Science & Medicine* 73: 897-903. <http://go.utlib.ca/cat/7755526>

Annika Taghizadeh Larsson and Eva Jeppsson Grassman. 2012. "Bodily changes among people living with physical impairments and chronic illnesses: biographical disruption or normal illness?" *Sociology of Health & Illness* 34: 1156-1169. <http://go.utlib.ca/cat/7755682>

Maren Klawiter. 2004. "Breast cancer in two regimes: the impact of social movements on illness experience." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 26: 845-874.

Sarah Nettleton. 2006. "I just want permission to be ill': Towards a sociology of medically unexplained symptoms." *Social Science & Medicine* 62(5): 1167-1178.

Kathy Behrendt. 2017. "Narrative Aversion: Challenges for the Illness Narrative Advocate." *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 42(1):50-69.

David A. Karp and Lara B. Birk. "Listening to Voices: Patient Experience and the Meanings of Mental Illness." Chapter 2, pp23-40 The Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health, 2nd Edition, edited by C. S. Aneshensel, J. C. Phelan, and Alex Bierman. New York: Springer.

Rochelle Ann Burgess and J Gideon. 2016. "Dangerous Discourses? Silencing Women within "Global Mental Health Practice". *Handbook on Gender and Health*:79-97.

Brea L. Perry. 2011. "The Labeling Paradox: Stigma, the Sick Role, and Social Networks in Mental Illness." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 52:460-77

Robert Perinbanayagam. 2016. " The Dialogic of Madness." Pp. Read pp. **123-26 only** in *The Rhetoric of Emotions" a Dramatistic Exploration*. New Brunswick (U.S.A.): Transaction Publishers.



Week 5, class 10:

**Issues related to Mental Health**

A separate course focuses on mental health. These readings represent a select sampling of issues that resonate with some readings from previous weeks.

Booth, R. W., D. Sharma and T. I. Leader. 2016. "The Age of Anxiety? It Depends Where You Look: Changes in State Trait Anxiety, 1970-2010." *Social Psychiatry & Psychiatric Epidemiology* 51(2):193-202. doi: 10.1007/s00127-015-1096-0.

Piet Bracke. 2016. "Comparative Mental Health Sociology: In between Psychiatric Epidemiology and Theories of Societal Discontent." Pp. 125-54 in *Future Challenges for Health and Health Care in Europe*, Vol. 3: Aalborg University Press.

Alison Abbott. 2016. "The Troubled Minds of Migrants." *Nature* 538:158-60.

Decoteau, C. L. (2017). The "Western disease": Autism and Somali parents' embodied health movements. *Social Science & Medicine*, 177, 169-176.

Eyal, Gil. 2017. "Autism Looping." Pp. 141-49 in *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Mental Health*.

Pilgrim, David. 2017. "Critical Realism and Mental Health Research." Pp. 64-71 in *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Mental Health*.

Woods, Angela and Sam Wilkinson. 2017. "Appraising Appraisals: Role of Belief in Psychotic Experiences." *The Lancet Psychiatry* 4(12):891-92.

Bergey, Meridith R. 2017. "The Changing Drivers of Medicalization." Pp. 153-61 in *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Mental Health*.

Kenneth F. Ferraro and Lindsay R. Wilkinson. 2013. "Age, Aging, and Mental Health." Pp. 183 - 204 in [The Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health](#), 2nd Edition, edited by C. S. Aneshensel, J. C. Phelan, and Alex Bierman. New York: Springer.

China Mills. 2014. "Psychotropic Childhoods: Global Mental Health and Pharmaceutical Children" *Children & Society* 28: 194-204. <http://go.utlib.ca/cat/7694946>

Ecks, Stefan. 2017. "The Public and Private Lives of Psychopharmaceuticals in the Global South." Pp. 249-69 in *The Sedated Society*: Springer.

Howell, A., C. Mills and S. Rushton. 2017. "The (Mis)Appropriation of Hiv/Aids Advocacy Strategies in Global Mental Health: Towards a More Nuanced Approach." *Global Health* 13(1):44. doi: 10.1186/s12992-017-0263-3.

Des Fitzgerald, Nikolas Rose and Ilina Singh. 2016. "Revitalizing Sociology: Urban Life and Mental Illness between History and the Present." *The British Journal of Sociology* 67(1):138-60.

Katie Kilroy-Marac 2016. "A Magical Reorientation of the Modern: Professional Organizers and Thingly Care in Contemporary North America." *Cultural Anthropology* 31(3):438-57.

Week 6, class 11

**Integration, Discussion & Final Paper Presentations**

Catch up with discussion of material we were not able to adequately discuss previously.

Discuss Final Papers

Discuss Teaching of Sociology of Health & Illness

Week 6, class 12

**Final Paper Discussion & Future Directions**

Finish Discussion of Final Papers