



RN 16 'Sociology of Health and Illness'



ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DI SOCIOLOGIA
Sociologia della Salute e della Medicina

CALL FOR PAPERS

ESA MID TERM CONFERENCE Research Network 16 'Sociology of Health and Illness' joint conference with
AIS Italian Association of Sociology, Sociology of Health and Medicine
April, 18-20 April 2018, University of Turin, Italy
Local Organizers: Angela Genova and Mario Cardano

Health and Illness in the Neoliberal Era

The aim of the conference is to **discuss the configuration of health and illness in the neoliberal era in Europe**. In the social sciences neoliberalism has been defined simultaneously as an ideology, a set of policies and programmes and a set of distinctive institutional forms. It also refers to a complex array of normative conceptions of agency and responsibility that are rooted in ideology and embodied in policies, programmes and institutional forms. Neoliberal discourse has strongly influenced the social construction of health and illness in European societies. For example, it has encouraged a focus on productivity, efficiency, individual responsibility, and arguably has brought about new inequalities, discrimination and victim blaming.

The conference will foster discussion of the impact of neoliberalism on the social construction of health and illness at three main levels:

- macro level in terms of European or national health policy, health care organisations and systems
- meso level considering sub-national policy and the institutional level (regional or local health policy and practice),
- micro level considering the impact on the individual level from the point of view of patients and their family as well as the health care professions.

We welcome papers that consider the effects of neoliberalism on health and illness discourses in Europe. How, where and in what forms do the various processes of neoliberalism impact the social construction of health and illness in Europe? The board encourages the submission of abstracts offering a comparative European perspective, although global, national or local studies will also be considered.

The conference will focus on the following topics:

- Body and Health
- Mental Health
- Health Organisations and Policy
- Health Inequalities
- Health Technologies and Biomedicine
- Illness Narratives and Narrative Medicine
- Ageing
- Chronic Illness
- Health and Spirituality

Open session: contributions that do not fit with these main topics of the conference will be considered for an open session.

Abstract should be no longer than 400 words and presented as follows:

- 1) theoretical background; 2) research question; 3) methodology; 4) results; 5) discussion

Abstract should be submitted in English, by email to: esarn16.turin2018@gmail.com

Abstract proposals should be submitted by **15th January 2018**

Authors will be informed on the status of their abstract no later than 15 February 2018.