Thursday the 15 September 2005 at 17.30 - 18.45

PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

This workshop is being repeated this year following its enormous success the previous year. It is open to everyone, although it will be particularly useful to novice academics embarking on publishing for the first time.

This year, the workshop will be introduced by Dr Ellen Annandale, Editor-in Chief of Social Science & Medicine. Dr Annandale will offer general advice about developing a publication strategy and specific guidance about compiling articles for peer-reviewed journals. She will also explain how the peer-review process works. Rachel Gear, Commissioning Editor, Open University Press, will describe the logistics of, and requirements for, getting a book published and the ingredients required for a successful book proposal. Finally, we will be joined by Michael Osuch, Clinical Medicine Publisher, Taylor & Francis who will talk about opportunities for publishing in an electronic environment

In the second half of the workshop, there will be a trouble-shooting session in which you will be given the opportunity to ask the speakers questions. We anticipate that this lead to a lively, supportive and informal discussion.

Please come along.

Earle, S.

Thursday the 15 September 2005 at 17.30 - 18.30

HUMAN REPRODUCTION STUDY GROUP MEETING

Please come to the annual meeting of the Study Group.

Find out more about the study group, become a member and share your ideas on the sociology of human reproduction.

All very welcome.

Lewis, L., Woodward, L.

Friday the 16 September 2005 at 12.30 - 13.30

SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH STUDY GROUP

This study group has how been established for a year. It aims to increase the profile of the sociology of mental health and to provide a forum for those either working in, or with a general interest in, the study area to meet and exchange ideas and information. In particular in aims to facilitate links between those working in the sociology of mental health in different environments. The group also aims to provide a forum for mutual support among its membership and for members to present and discuss their work, whilst also improving awareness of activity in the study area in general.

This second annual meeting will provide an opportunity to meet other members of the group and to reflect on and give feedback about the group's activities, including as follows:
- Web site. This was constructed following suggestions and input from members at last year's meeting at Med Soc. It can be viewed at: http://www.britsoc.co.uk/new_site/index.php?area=specialisms&id=237. Suggestions for additions or improvements, and particularly for papers, articles and issues of interest or concern that can be posted on the site, will be welcomed.
- Symposia. The first of these was held in Nottingham on 30th June 2005, with a plan to continue with annual events thereafter. Feedback from delegates who attended the event will be presented and ideas for next year's symposium sought.

There will also be the opportunity for new members to join and for the updating of member details that appear on the web site.

Convenors: Lewis, L., University of Aberdeen & Woodward, L., Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Tritter, J.

Friday the 16 September 2005 at 12.30 - 13.30

SOCIOLOGY OF CANCER STUDY GROUP

This session will review the work of the Study Group over the past year and plan events for the current year. In addition we will discuss a presentation from two Italian colleagues on their current work in Hospices "Negotiations in a closed awareness context: dying of cancer in Italy".

Professor Marco Marzano and Virginia Romano will present a paper based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork exploring the awareness contexts of those dying from cancer in Italy. Italian culture seems to lack a 'language of death'. Most patients are kept unaware of their terminal prognosis and sometimes unaware of their diagnosis as well. The family plays a major role in this process, being the main actor in the maintenance of a 'closed awareness context'. The actual situation, in fact, is usually one of a 'mutual pretence' context where the medical staff acts as the family wishes and, in most cases, agrees with the decision not to inform the patient. The motivations of the family and the staff are quite different, however.

The family members seem to be scared of the patient's reaction. It is possible to hypothesize that they are mainly afraid of the biographic disruption that death brings to all of their lives and by the need to negotiate a new type of communication with the patient. This contrasts with the doctor's decision 'not to tell' in order to avoid confrontation. Consequently, the staff, family and patients engage in constant negotiation within the cultural bounds limiting the patient's awareness of the nature and meaning of the hospital and hospice care they receive.

van Teijlingen, E., Yuill, C.

Friday the 16 September 2005 at 12.30 - 13.30

TEACHING MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY WORKSHOP

This year is the fifth year we are organising a workshop in York on teaching medical sociology to non-sociology students. Medical sociologists teach students in a variety of health care disciplines, ranging from Nursing to Physiotherapy, from Dentistry to Occupational Therapy and Midwifery to Medicine.
Previous workshop have addressed issues including questions such as: 'What do we teach as core sociology?'; 'How do examine our (small) contribution of medical sociology if the exam format is set by someone else?'; 'How do we work in a multidisciplinary education team when we might be seen as an add on, rather than core?'

This year we propose to focus on key texts for our teaching. As a range of introductionary texts exist for first-year sociology as well as a series of book focusing on social aspects of health and health care. What do medical sociologist use in their own teaching in an often full medical, nursing, allied health professionals, etc. curriculum.

The workshop facilitators welcome any other topics for discussion on the day. The focus on textbooks is only recommendation to get the discussion going!