



East Midlands Medical Sociology Group Winter Event Chronicity, care and emotion work

Friday 15th December 2017

11.30am – 3.30pm

**Room 4.09 Edith Murphy House
De Montfort University, Leicester.**

You are invited to attend a seminar organised by the East Midlands Medical Sociology Group, hosted by De Montfort University.

Keynote Speaker:

**Professor Jon Gabe, Professor of Sociology, Royal Holloway
University of London
'Making sense of childhood asthma'**

**Kerry Quincey, De Montfort University
'Exploring shifting masculinities amongst men diagnosed with breast cancer'**

**Charlotte Overton and Dr Fiona Moffatt, University of Nottingham
'The value of emotional labour and confessional tales in routine
ethnographies'**

Cost of attendance:

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided and there will be the opportunity for networking and discussion. To cover our costs and to enable us to hold future events the following charges will be applied:

Academic staff and salaried researchers

BSA members £10; Non BSA members £15

Postgraduate researchers

BSA members £5; Non BSA members £10

Booking your place:

Booking is essential. Venue numbers are restricted and it is advisable to book early. Book your place here:

<https://portal.britisoc.co.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT10682>

Full joining instructions will be circulated to delegates prior to the event. For academic enquiries please contact catherine.coveney@dmu.ac.uk. For administration and conference enquiries please contact events@britsoc.org.uk.

Professor Jon Gabe, Professor of Sociology, Royal Holloway University of London:
'Making sense of childhood asthma'

Asthma has been described as one of the most common non-communicable diseases of childhood, with a UK prevalence rate of over 24% in young people aged 13-14. In Ireland the prevalence rate for this group is close to 22%. Given these prevalence rates it is surprising how so little attention has been paid by sociologists to researching children and young people's experience of this condition. In this presentation findings will be reported from a study of young people with asthma in south west Ireland, conducted in conjunction with Lee Monaghan from Limerick University. Thirty one in depth interviews were conducted with young people diagnosed with asthma in this part of Ireland. The sample included boys (n=15) and girls (n=16) aged between 5 and 17, from the Irish Traveller community and the larger settled community. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of asthma on these young people's embodied health identities and the extent to which they experienced the condition as biographically contingent.

Kerry Quincey, De Montfort University:
'Exploring shifting masculinities amongst men diagnosed with breast cancer'

Under-acknowledged both clinically and socially as a threat to men's health, breast cancer in men continues to be a critical health issue, with complex ramifications for those affected. Research exploring men's experiences of breast cancer, and life for men beyond the illness episode, remains limited. Hence, this inquiry asked 'How do we understand the experiences of men diagnosed with breast cancer?' Photo-phenomenological interviews were undertaken with 31 British men with a history of breast cancer who drew on self-authored photographs to illustrate their experiences. These visual and verbal data were analysed together using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis leading to the identification of three superordinate masculinities: 'threatened/exposed', 'protected/asserted' and a 'reconsidered/reconfigured' masculinity. This presentation will explore how together, these themes demonstrate the ways in which the participants implemented and transitioned between masculinities across the breast cancer trajectory, as they managed, made sense of, and lived through the illness. It concludes with a discussion of the schematic representation this research identified to explain how these masculinities were processed by the men from pre-diagnosis through to being 'in-recovery'.

Charlotte Overton and Dr Fiona Moffatt, University of Nottingham:
'The value of emotional labour and confessional tales in routine ethnographies'

Ethnography is an increasingly used methodology organisational research. A number of papers have described the emotional labour inherent in such research, but these have generally been confined to critical ethnographies, or areas of extreme sensitivity.

This paper extends Hochschild's concept of emotional labour – the process of regulating feelings to fulfil the emotional requirements of a job - to consider routine ethnographies conducted in a setting that is familiar to the researcher. The premise is that in such a situation, the 'insider status' of the researcher confers particular identities, values, virtues and beliefs. The researcher may be exposed to experiences that challenge these professional ideologies, requiring them to reflexively manage, and conceal, the associated discomfort or distress.

Such insider status, and the resultant emotional labour, has been discussed as potentially problematic, with implications for data collection, analysis, representation and researcher wellbeing. This paper offers an alternative stance. Utilising an autoethnographic perspective, and specifically drawing on the 'confessional tales' of an experienced healthcare professional conducting an ethnography of healthcare quality improvement, the authors suggest that emotional labour can instead be used to add methodological integrity.

Specifically, emotional labour can be utilised by the researcher as a 'trigger' to challenge initial conceptions, preserve ethical integrity, facilitate connection with the 'actors' under observation and subsequently attain a higher level analytical position. Researchers should be cognisant of the value of emotional labour in routine ethnographies, in terms of enhancing scholarship.