

update

Health @ Warwick

The Institute of Health is an umbrella organisation, which nurtures and frames social science research in health and continuing professional development (CPD) activities in health at the University of Warwick. It is based within the School of Health & Social Studies within the Faculty of Social Studies and has been taking shape over the past year.

Health Research Network

Research in the area of Health is being carried out in many different departments and research centres within the four Faculties of the University of Warwick. The Institute aims to:

- facilitate internal networking for social science researchers working in this area;
- provide a central gateway for clinical and scientific researchers to contact social scientists;
- promote and profile research in health externally.

The Institute is like a large golf umbrella of many different colours - it brings together researchers based within the Faculty of Social Studies in the departments of Law, Politics, Sociology, Health & Social Studies, the Business School, Economics, Education, Continuing Education and Philosophy. It works with research centres within these departments such as Health Services Studies and the Centre for Research in Health, Medicine & Society. In addition, there are links with Centres

based in other Faculties such as the Centre for Medical Science & Technology, Maths into Medicine and the Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine. The Institute aims to pull together the plethora of activities in health research which are currently fragmented and scattered throughout the University.

The Institute of Health has a number of research development groups with convenors on topics such as Genetics & Society, Equity & International Health, Medical Education, Health Inequalities, Ageing, User Involvement and Ethics of Risk. In addition, there are NHS/Academic collaborative research groups in Diabetes, Ageing and Mental Health. Details of the membership and activities of these groups can be found on the web page www.healthatwarwick.warwick.ac.uk. These groups hold meetings and develop research proposals.

Continuing Professional Development in Health, Medicine and Social Care

CPD activity in Health, Medicine & Social Care is again offered by providers based in different departments and centres within the University. The Institute of Health supports and markets all these programmes, develops new programmes and runs conferences. There are courses provided by the Postgraduate School of Medical Education, the Centre for Primary Health Care Studies, the Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Philosophy, to name a few. Full details are available from the web page.

Prof Gillian Hundt
Director, Institute of Health

Health@Warwick: Interfacing the past and



Meg Stacey

Gillian Hundt, Professor of Social Sciences in Health at the University of Warwick, has described the nascent Institute of Health, of which she is Director, as 'like a large golf umbrella of many different colours' (see front page of this newsletter).

Working together the multi-coloured sections of the umbrella will be an exciting challenge, Gillian says. Furthermore, she finds it pleasing that the complexity of her task is mirrored by the highly successful, yet equally diverse and wide-ranging, career of Margret (Meg) Stacey, Professor Emerita in the Department of Sociology at Warwick.

Having laid the foundations of Medical Sociology at Warwick, and stimulated and encouraged generations of research students, including Gillian herself, it is Meg who stands beneath the golf umbrella, her hand gripping the handle, keeping it upright. Without Meg, sociology at Warwick may have taken a very different course, and she continues to play an important role as a member of the Institute's Advisory Board.

A new book, *Gender, Health and Healing: the public/private divide* (Bendelow G., Carpenter M., Vautier C., and Williams S., eds., Routledge, 2002) has just been published to celebrate Stacey's contribution to sociological research. It is a *Festschrift* of her work, a collection of essays selected from papers presented at a conference held in April 1999 by the Centre for Research in Health, Medicine and Society at Warwick, which Meg helped to found.

Meg, who retired formally in 1989, says: 'I feel very pleased with the book, both with the wide sweep of it, and with its coherence. At the conference, it was really comforting to me to find that people are still now working on issues that I think are really important.'

The content of the book is indeed diverse. There are chapters on gender and psychiatric disorder, the sociology of funeral directing, the ethics of the new genetics, the role of illustration in understanding biological processes, gender and the politics of self-regulation, and health research with children, to name but a few.

Yet all chapters engage with themes that are relevant to Meg's work, says Simon Williams, Reader in Sociology at Warwick, former Co-Director of the Centre for Research in Health, Medicine and Society, and one of the book's editors. He adds: 'One of these themes is that much health care work goes on outside of formal health care spheres. Meg has always emphasised the importance of talking and thinking in terms of health and healing, itself gendered, rather than simply medicine. She recognises the paid and unpaid divisions of labour, the relationships between these divisions and gender, and the way in which these divisions also cross the public/private divide.'

Meg Stacey became Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick in 1974. She already had some weighty achievements under her belt. She had been Director of the Medical Sociology Research Centre in Swansea, she had published her seminal 'locality study' of Banbury, in Oxfordshire, and she had carried out ground-breaking research into the welfare of children staying in hospital.

Yet the Warwick appointment was, she says, her most important academic move. 'It presented a real challenge in many ways. I had grown

up a feminist, and the academic challenge, along with the burgeoning women's movement, helped me to pull my work together and clarify the conceptual frameworks I was working in.'

A Clearer Analysis

Her seminal paper, 'The Division of Labour Revisited or Overcoming the Two Adams' (the title refers to Adam Smith the economist and the Adam of Adam and Eve) exemplifies how feminist thinking impacted on her work. This article, published in 1981, demonstrated how sociology had, from its outset, looked only at the public domain and at male divisions of labour, with women being considered only in their roles as part of the family, an aspect of sociology that had traditionally been accorded low esteem. Meg says: 'It was clear to me that sociologists' failure to see that health care spanned the public/private divide, and the fact that they had ignored both the health work carried out by patients and by their unpaid carers, and the gendered aspect of professional divisions between, for example, nurses and doctors, was hampering analysis and policy making about the division of labour in health care.'

This theme provided the backbone for her 1988 textbook *The Sociology of Health and Healing*, in which she examined, in historical and cross-cultural contexts, concepts of health and illness as well as the division of labour in health work.

In 1992, she published a sociological analysis of the General Medical Council, called 'Regulating British Medicine'. She was, she says, both 'hated and heralded' for it. Some doctors could not bear it, while others, including Sir Donald Irvine, President of the General Medical Council between 1995 and 2001 and member of the Institute's Advisory Board, welcomed it.

To the casual observer, the connections between the different threads of Meg's career might seem obscure. Yet the underlying theme, the backing through which those threads weave in and out, is, Meg says, to do with

Selected Current Social Science Research in the Area of Gender

Dr Susan Beckerleg (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), Prof Gillian Lewando Hundt (University of Warwick), Prof Suzanne Macgregor (University of Middlesex) – **Risking Independence: Reproductive Health Needs of Female Heroin Users on the Kenyan Coast** – Funded by the ESRC.

Ms Clare Blackburn, Ms Chris Coe, Mr Alan Dolan, Prof Nick Spencer – **Fathers, Infants and Smoking Study** – Funded by Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths.

Dr Frances Griffiths (University of Warwick), Prof Eileen Green (University of Teeside), Dr Gillian Bendelow (University of Warwick) and Dr Katherine Backett-Milburn – **Innovative Health Technologies at Women's Midlife: Theory and Diversity among Women and 'Experts'** – Funded by ESRC Innovative Health Technologies Programme.

Prof Gillian Lewando-Hundt (University of Warwick), Prof Jane Sandall (Kings College), Dr Clare Williams (Kings College), Prof Bob Heyman (City University), Mr Kevin Spencer (Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust) –

the present

reducing suffering. 'My work has always been about identifying things that were likely to cause pain and suffering if people either did not understand them properly, or did not realise what they were doing, or let the knowledge of them get into the wrong hands.'

She believes strongly that health professionals need to understand the social contexts and components of the illnesses that people present with, and to be aware of the interactions between them. 'In this way,' she says, 'the patient can continue to be looked upon as a person and not just a work object.'

The thrust of Meg's concluding chapter in *Gender, Health and Healing* has been succinctly summarised by the book's editors, in their Introduction. Meg, they write, argues that what underpins all the issues addressed in the book is a call to engage critically in a series of (bio)ethical, theoretical and political debates. They add: 'She insists that the ultimate aim of our research and analysis must be to help to mitigate intended, unintended and unnecessary human suffering associated with gendered inequality and ill health and with patriarchal forms of health intervention, both now and in the future, as an urgent agenda for the twenty-first century.'

Consequences of War

And what of that agenda? What, in specific terms, does Meg believe should be on it? There are, she says, still new questions and topics arising from the application of the new knowledge of genetics and various related obstetric interventions, such as assisted conception techniques. Equally pressing, she believes, will be the study of the health consequences of war, from the health problems of refugees to the impact of bombing campaigns, through to bioterrorism. Perhaps, Meg suggests, even the radicalisation of Muslim youths in the towns and cities of the UK may be connected to the inequalities of wealth and income that exist there.

Research at the University of Warwick in Gender and Health

Social Implications of Genetic Prenatal Screening in the First Trimester – Funded by ESRC Innovative Health Technologies Programme.

Ms Pam Lowe – **'Power and the Pill' Mid-Life Women's Strategies for Reproductive Health** - ESRC PhD studentship.

Dr Hilary Marland – **Puerperal Insanity in 19th Century Britain** - Funded by Wellcome Trust/AHRB.

Ms Eileen McLeod – **Older Women, Secondary Breast Cancer and Self-help Support Groups** – Funded by Age Concern, Birmingham.

Dr Caroline Meyer – **Young Women and Eating Psychopathology**.

Prof Andrew Oswald – **How Life Events Affect Happiness**.

Ms Sylvie Summer (Community Education Development Centre, Coventry) and Prof Gillian Lewando-Hundt (University of Warwick) – **Addressing Awareness and Knowledge of Prostate Health** – Funded by the Men's Health Forum.

About the University of Warwick authors who contributed to *Gender, Health and Healing: the Public/Private Divide*

Dr Gillian Bendelow is a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology. Her current research interests include the sociology of pain and emotions; children, health and illness; and the development of sensitive methodologies, including the use of visual imagery, within both healthcare settings and other domains.

Dr Lynda Birke was until recently Senior Lecturer in Women's Studies. She is a biologist, and has for many years focused her research on various aspects of the relationship between biology and feminism. Another aspect of her current research focuses especially on the human/animal relationship.

Ms Geraldine Brady is an ESRC funded PhD student in the Department of Sociology. Her research explores the experiences of children who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and also takes into account parent's and health professional's views regarding the diagnosis.

Dr Mick Carpenter is a Reader in Social Policy at the Department of Sociology, University of Warwick. His current research interests include health policy in Greece and local community influences on health including those of social class, 'race'/ethnicity and gender.

Prof Gillian Lewando-Hundt is Professor of Social Sciences in Health and Director of the Institute of Health. Her work has been primarily concerned with eliciting the voices of marginalised groups. Her focus has been on gender and ethnicity in relation to women and children and therefore has been primarily in the fields of reproductive and child health.

Ms Caroline Vautier is an ESRC funded PhD student in the Department of Sociology, University of Warwick. Her doctoral research is concerned with exploring health professional cultures as evidenced through the provision of assisted conception treatment services.

Dr Simon Williams is a Reader in Sociology in the Department of Sociology. His current research centres on rethinking relations between the biological and the social in health and medicine and the development of a sociology of sleep.

No doubt these topics may be among those tackled by future generations of researchers at Warwick. Gillian Bendelow, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Warwick, co-director of the Centre for Research in Health, Medicine and Society and also an editor of *Gender, Health and Healing*, points out that Gillian Hundt's post as Director of the Institute of Health is a unique one within the Leicester-Warwick Medical School, focusing as it does on social science. Such a ground-breaking appointment may never have been made without the history of Medical Sociology at Warwick, she speculates.

Meg Stacey says Warwick gave her a 'wonderful opportunity' to get on with the research she wanted to do. 'I am also really glad to see, from the book, from the Centre for Research in Health, Medicine and Society, and from the research that will be drawn together through the Institute of Health, that such promising work is still going on over a wide field at Warwick.' Gillian's task now, Meg says, is 'incredibly important', pulling together the biomedical end of medical education, mainly at the new Leicester-Warwick Medical School, with the social end, mainly under the umbrella of the Institute of Health. 'It is essential,' she concludes, 'that doctors, nurses and other health care professionals should, from the beginning, be trained in the complexities of the social, and to understand that these are even more complex than the biological, so that their work can be more rounded, and they can avoid doing damage.'

Forthcoming Events

Institute of Health and the Government Office West Midlands/Health Development Agency
Food Matters: Food and Health in National Policy and Regional Action
 9 May, 12pm – 4pm,
 Panorama Suite, University of Warwick

Institute of Health and the Institute of Psychiatry
'A bitter heritage': The Mental Health and well-being of Ethnic Minority Children
 22 May, 2pm – 5:00pm,
 Institute of Health Seminar Room, University of Warwick

Institute of Health and the Men's Health Forum
Sex, Gender and Men's Health: Issues in Theory, Research, Policy and Practice.
 27 June, 10am – 4pm,
 Panorama Suite, University of Warwick

Institute of Health and Association for Education and Ageing
Productive Ageing and Health
 17 September, 10am – 4pm,
 Panorama Suite, University of Warwick

Continuing Professional Studies: Short Courses available April – July 2003

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|----------------|--|
| 29 April-3 May | Organisation and Management of Health Information Systems*: School of Postgraduate Medical Education |
| 13-17 May | Community Gynaecology*: School of Postgraduate Medical Education |
| 13-17 May | Contemporary Issues in Health*: Centre for Primary Health Care |
| 20-24 May | Quality and Standard Setting within Healthcare Organisations*: School of Postgraduate Medical Education |
| June 2002 | (5 day course) The Theory and Practice of Insulin Initiation*: School of Postgraduate Medical Education |
| June 2002 | (4 day course) Hypertension and Nephropathy*: School of Postgraduate Medical Education |
| 10-12 June | An Introduction to Immunology: Biological Sciences |
| 10-14 June | Health Management*: Centre for Primary Health Care |
| 17-21 June | Community Gynaecology*: School of Postgraduate Medical Education |
| 8-11 July | Techniques and Applications of Molecular Biology – a course for Medical Practitioners: Biological Sciences |
| 8-12 July | Design of Vaccination Programmes: Biological Sciences |

Courses marked * can lead to a postgraduate award of the University of Warwick.

For further details please contact:

School of Postgraduate Medical Education

Kerry Drakeley, phone 02476 523913

Centre for Primary Health Care Studies

Carmel Parrott, phone 02476 524625

Biological Sciences

Dr Steve Hicks, phone 02476 523540

Institute of Health

John Moorhouse, CPD Manager, phone 02476 524483

Or visit: www.healthatwarwick.warwick.ac.uk

Email: enquiries@healthatwarwick.warwick.ac.uk

Professional Studies in Health, Medicine and Social Care: taking research into practice

The pressure is on health professionals to meet higher standards in service delivery driven by the new National Service Frameworks, while keeping ahead of developments in practice methods, new technology, clinical procedures, evidence based practice, and organisational change.

The Institute of Health is part of the University of Warwick's response to this challenge: first by stimulating a vigorous cross-disciplinary research programme addressing key issues in partnership with a range of agencies; secondly by encouraging and supporting new provision in professional development which aims to increase the transfer of research benefits into practice.

Continuing Professional Development at the Institute of Health addresses multi-professional issues: courses are being designed now in areas such as Ethics and Values, Law and Advocacy in relation to community and health care, and Researching health care practice.

The University has introduced a new form of postgraduate award which enables us to accredit short courses in specialist subjects, either as 'stand-alone' courses or as a route into more extended postgraduate study. There is now a large number of such modules in health subjects, providing a new accessible option for professionals who want to take practice-related study to a high level, but who can take only limited time from their duties.

At Warwick, there is a strong track record in Postgraduate Medical Education, in Post-qualifying education in Social Work, and in specialist short courses for clinicians in subjects such as microbiology, virology, assisted reproduction. We have a rapidly developing Primary Care programme and a centre of expertise in Diabetes Care, as well as a unique programme in the Philosophy and Ethics of Mental Health Care. Part of our role in the Institute is to provide a single point of access to all the research expertise and CPD opportunities which the University can provide.

Please visit our website – www.healthatwarwick.warwick.ac.uk – for further details.

Welcome to Warwick !

John Moorhouse
 CPD Manager

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