

2021 Annual Report

Research committee “Sociology of Health and Medicine” / “Gesundheits- und Medizinsoziologie” / “Sociologie de la santé et de la médecine”

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Activities in 2020

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, our research committee (RC-SHM) organised a one-day conference “Sociology of Health and Medicine in Switzerland: Trends and Challenges”, which was hosted at the School for health professions in Lausanne (HESAV – HES-SO) on 2 October 2020. The objective of this event was to celebrate 40 years of activities of our research committee “Sociology of Health and Medicine”, by addressing some significant developments of the field over the last years, its current situation and future challenges. The conference included different kinds of contributions as the programme included three keynote speakers (Karen Lowton, University of Sussex; Patrick Brown, University of Amsterdam; Peter Meyer, former director of the ZHAW health department, with Thomas Abel as discussant, University of Bern), a session dedicated to young researchers’ presentations (Luna de Araujo, Mike Deml, Vladimir Jolidon, Audrey Linder and Andrea Lutz), two topical workshops and an E-poster session. Between two waves of the pandemic, the conference was successful with more than forty participants in Lausanne, who enjoyed the scientific and informal exchanges. We thank the following institutions for their financial support: Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Science (ASSH/SAGW), the Population Health Laboratory of the University of Fribourg, and the RC-SHM. We look forward to celebrating the 50 years of our research committee! For more information: <https://www.sgs-sss.ch/en/research-networks/health-and-medicine-sociology/>

The RC-SHM was also involved in coordinating a special issue in the Bulletin of the Swiss Sociological Association devoted to “The Covid-19 pandemic, health and medicine: Sociological investigations and perspectives”, edited by Michael Gemperle (ZHAW) and Raphaël Hammer (HESAV). The Bulletin includes contributions addressing different aspects of the complex current situation. Available at: <https://www.sgs-sss.ch/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SGS-Bulletin-157.pdf>

We regularly distributed information by email to our members (over a hundred members) on scientific meetings (conferences, congresses), call for papers or job opportunities in areas relevant to the sociology of health and medicine.

Planned activities for 2021

The research committee will be involved in the organisation of the next “Dreiländerkongress” (Switzerland, Germany and Austria) which will take place in München (4-5 March 2021) – “Gesundheitssystem der Zukunft - Zukunft der Gesundheit: alles neu nach Corona?”. Moreover, the research committee is co-organizing a workshop as well as a plenary session at the joint congress of the German Sociological Association and the Austrian Sociological Association in Vienna (23-25 August 2021).

The RC-SHM has launched five calls for papers for the next Swiss congress of sociology (Geneva, June 28-30) and intends to organize different workshops.