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A symposium considering the methodological and ethical dimensions of conducting health focused social science research through and beyond prison settings

May 18th and 19th - Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow and HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow

Call for Papers

We are inviting submissions for presentations at a two-day symposium considering the methodological and ethical dimensions of conducting health focused social science research through and beyond prison settings. This symposium will be held on May 18th (at the Social and Public Health Sciences Unit) and 19th (at HMP Barlinnie) 2016, in Glasgow.

Although prisons often house people from extremely disadvantaged and marginalised communities - many with multiple and complex health needs - research on health amongst prisoners and ex-prisoners has been less prominent than expected within both criminology and medical sociology. This relative neglect is important given that people who have served prison sentences have higher mortality rates from all causes compared to those with no prison experience. Moreover, there has been a marked increase in the population of older people in prison, partly driven by longer average sentence lengths. By examining the methodological and ethical issues of health- focused social science research before, during and after prison, this symposium will provide an opportunity to explore continuities and disconnections in people's health and wellbeing as they move through the criminal justice system.

Participants from a wide range of disciplines and interactions with the criminal justice system will take part, including prison service user-led and peer mentoring groups. It is hoped that the symposium will provide valuable networking opportunities for on-going discussions and future collaborations with colleagues. The convenors are keen to ensure that this event leads not only to discussion and new connections and collaborations, but also to specific written outputs and networks. The second day of the symposium will take place at HMP Barlinnie, which will provide the opportunity to engage with serving prisoners and prison staff regarding some of the ethical and methodological considerations of conducting health research within prison.

Papers are invited from students, researchers, practitioners and service users from a range of disciplines (including medical sociology, medical anthropology, criminology, public health). Abstracts of up to 300 words are invited.

The following are indicative questions, but all abstracts addressing the symposium topic will be considered: What are the implications of conducting health research prior to a person's entry

into the prison system? What specific ethical and methodological considerations need to be taken into account in prison health research? What problems relate to follow-up and intervention retention following prisoners' release?

Abstracts should be sent to matthew.maycock@glasgow.ac.uk by February 29th, 2016. Please include your full name, affiliation, postal address, email address, title of your presentation, and a short bio of up to 200 words. Limited travel bursaries are available for postgraduate students and former prisoners; indicate in your email if you would like to apply. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by March 11th, 2016.

Organising committee: Dr Matthew Maycock (Glasgow), Prof Kate Hunt (Glasgow), Dr Katie Buston (Glasgow), Prof Rosie Meek (Royal Holloway), Anita Mehay (Royal Holloway), Dr Sarah Armstrong (Glasgow), Dr James Woodall (Leeds Beckett), Dr Jane Senior (Manchester), Dr Nick de Viggiani (UWE)

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For more information please go to:

<http://www.sphsu.mrc.ac.uk/events/prison-health-symposium/>