

Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association 2024
University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, Basel (MuttENZ),
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Call for Papers

Workshop Session: All equal in health care? Conditions, manifestations, and consequences of different treatment

Organizers:

Michael Gemperle (Zurich University of Applied Sciences), Gianni D'Amato (Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, University of Neuchâtel), Didier Ruedin (Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, University of Neuchâtel)

People from lower socio-economic backgrounds, migrant backgrounds or other marginalised social positions are often identified as being particularly vulnerable to health care. This vulnerability is usually attributed to the relative lack of economic, cultural, and social resources among these groups, which affects both health outcomes and health-related behaviours. Despite the pervasiveness of these inequalities, there has been a notable lack of research into the role of health care provision itself in perpetuating – or potentially reducing – such health inequalities. This gap is particularly notable given the known importance of the social profile of patients/clients to treatment outcomes. It is also noteworthy given the increased expectations of health care at a time of escalating global crises and pervasive social vulnerability.

The aim of the workshop is to explore the conditions, manifestations, and consequences of unequal treatment in health care. Despite the abundance of evidence on forms of discrimination in health care, this issue has not been the subject of much concentrated scholarly effort, despite its centrality to the principle of equal treatment enshrined in both the legal and the medical-ethical frameworks. We invite sociologists and scholars from related disciplines across national and linguistic contexts to share their research findings on unequal treatment in health care, including the management of difference and diversity in health care. The workshop is intended to bring together research on different aspects of the topic and provide a space for reflection on the empirical, theoretical, and methodological issues involved.

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 5 January 2024

Length of abstracts: max. 2000 characters

Language of the workshop: English

Proposals must be sent to: michael.gemperle@zhaw.ch