

centre for health studies

fifth annual health studies day 2007



program

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Junior Common Room

Scott House, Trail College

Trent University

(between London St. and Dublin St.)

Coffee, tea, water and desserts will be available throughout the day at no charge.

If you have any questions
e-mail lindaward@trentu.ca

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome and opening remarks
Deborah Kennett, Psychology and Director,
Centre for Health Studies
- 1:15 p.m. **Ian C. Storey** and **Ian McIntyre**, Ancient History & Classics
A New Look at an Old Plague
- 1:45 p.m. **Elaine Scharfe** and **Nicole Black**, Psychology
Why Love Matters to Our Physical Health: Maternal Prenatal
Attachment and Infant Illness in the First Six Months of Life.
- 2:15 p.m. **David B. King**, Psychology
Dreams and Health: Examining the Connection
- 2:45 p.m. **David Morris**, Philosophy
On Time and Chronic Disease: A Phenomenological Study
of Diabetes
- 3:15 p.m. **Beryl Cable-Williams**, Nursing
"Mortality Data in the Age of Delayed Degenerative Diseases:
A Canadian Perspective"
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. **Jo Anne Colson**, Canadian and Native Studies
Some Ethical Dilemmas in the Distribution of Health Care
- 4:15 p.m. **Mark Skinner**, Geography
The Paradox of Volunteer Caregiving in the Countryside
- 4:45 p.m. **Rory Coughlan**, Psychology
A Death of Thousand Cuts: How Private Profit Seeks to
Destabilize Public Medicare Systems
- 5:15 p.m. **Peri Ballantyne**, Sociology
Medicines Proliferation: Reflections on a Sociology of
Pharmaceutical Health Care
- 5:45 p.m. Closing Remarks, Deborah Kennett

everyone welcome

Ian C. Storey and Ian McIntyre, Ancient History & Classics

A New Look at an Old Plague

In the second year of the war with Sparta (430 BC), Athens was struck by a devastating plague (loimos) which killed a sizeable part of the Athenian population, including their leader Perikles, and left a deep impact on public morale and morals. Thucydides, the great historian of the Peloponnesian War, himself had the plague and has left us a vivid record of its symptoms. Modern diagnoses range from typhoid, typhus, measles, ebola fever, glanders, influenza plus, smallpox, etc. In January 2006, examination of a mass burial at Athens from the 420s yielded evidence that the plague was typhoid, but (of course) there have been objections. We would like to bring interested listeners up to date on the state of play concerning the Great Plague of Athens.

Elaine Scharfe and Nicole Black, Psychology

Why Love Matters to Our Physical Health: Maternal Prenatal Attachment and Infant Illness in the First Six Months of Life

Although there is considerable support for the influence of maternal attachment on children's social development, this is one of the first studies to examine the effects of maternal attachment on children's health. We found that insecure mothers (as compared to secure mothers) were more likely to report that their infants experienced colic and illnesses associated with their immune, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems. Our results provide support for the idea that relationships influence health and wellness.

David B. King, Psychology

Dreams and Health: Examining the Connection

Research on the relationship between dreams and health will be discussed, beginning with a review of common dream imagery experienced during cardiac and respiratory events, gastrointestinal problems, cancer, pain and inflammation, migraines, neurological disorders, and emotional health problems. Dream imagery during pregnancy and the menstrual cycle will also be examined. Finally, recent findings from a study at Trent University will be presented which support a strong connection between dream content and physical health.

David Morris, Philosophy

On Time and Chronic Disease: A Phenomenological Study of Diabetes

Growing up means escaping biologically regulated feeding and sleep times, to appropriate time as a sphere of meaningful social interaction. A phenomenological study shows how diabetes disrupts this: instead of providing meaningful time, the diabetic body imposes time's rule. Managing diabetes also demands habit building in the present, a difficulty since habits become effective and are realized only in the future. I suggest how effective management of diabetes requires attention to these temporal (literally "chronic") aspects of the disease, especially with children, who might neglect diabetes, rather than having their escape into adulthood undercut by a chronic body.

Beryl Cable-Williams, Nursing

Mortality Data in the Age of Delayed Degenerative Diseases: A Canadian Perspective

In an aging population, detail concerning the issues of unique age subdivisions is essential for relevant policy and program planning. Unfortunately, many reports treat the senior population as a homogeneous group. This paper presents the analysis of mortality data from a Statistics Canada data set from 1950 to 1999, with particular focus on the oldest-old as compared to younger seniors. Patterns in age at death, location and cause of death are highlighted.

Jo Anne Colson, Canadian Studies and Native Studies

Some Ethical Dilemmas in the Distribution of Health Care

Allowing for-profit health care undermines critically important and vulnerable societal relationships, including ethical relationships based on trust between providers and consumers of health care services. On the basis of an analysis of the gift relationship in public blood donor systems, and of market forces governing health care, it is argued that for-profit health care cannot be morally justified.

Mark Skinner, Geography

The Paradox of Volunteer Caregiving in the Countryside

Drawing on research into the implications of health care restructuring for volunteerism in already-underserved rural and small town settings, this presentation scrutinizes our growing reliance on non-profit organizations, community groups and volunteers within the health and social care system. The findings reveal considerable uncertainty surrounding the viability of voluntary sector provision in rural communities and suggest that the downloading of responsibilities for caregiving is only exacerbating the uneven geography of health care across Canada. The paradox of a "threadbare" voluntary sector remains a critical challenge for rural health policy, research and practice.

Rory Coughlan, Psychology

A Death of Thousand Cuts: How Private Profit Seeks to Destabilize Public Medicare Systems

The construction of a perception of a "crisis" in Canadian health care has provided opportunities to transform care through "restructuring." However, this is really code for increasing the entry of private corporate interests; commodifying services; standardizing and reducing the quality of care; degrading the work environment; and redefining citizen/patients into passive consumers of care. The irony is that there is little or no evidence that practices organized around profit will be either effective or efficient in health care.

Peri Ballantyne, Sociology

Medicines Proliferation: Reflections on a Sociology of Pharmaceutical Health Care

The numbers of medicinal drugs available for human consumption have increased rapidly in the past 20 years, and physician prescribing behaviour reflects the growing reliance on medicines in health care. However, the nature of the technology of medicines itself has problematized taken-for-granted relationships among players in the field of health care. In this session, I draw on findings/reflections from my research program on the sociology of pharmaceutical health care to address key contradictions in the drug-related health policy, epidemiology, and clinical pharmacy research literature.