

UNCERTAIN TIMES, UNSETTLED LIVES?

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

ESA RN22 & ISA TG04 Midterm Conference 2023
Danish Sociological Association
University of Southern Denmark, Esbjerg, Denmark



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WELCOME

Welcome to the joint midterm conference of the ESA RN22 en ISA TG04 research networks on the sociology of risk and uncertainty, organized at the University of Southern Denmark in Esbjerg with support from the Dansk Sociologi Forening (Danish Sociological Association).

We are looking forward to an informal and engaging event, in which we aim to discuss with you your thoughts and work on sociological and inter-disciplinary perspectives on risks and uncertainty across a broad range of empirical domains. The conference includes a special stream focusing specifically on the role and relevance of the societal management of risk and uncertainty in rural areas, where, for example, climate change consequences are particularly noticeable (e.g., for farming and forestry).

For up-to-date information please see the website:

<https://event.sdu.dk/soru2023/conference>

Please reach out to the organizers in case of any questions or concerns:

soru2023@sociologi.dk

Looking forward to meeting you in Esbjerg!



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Address of Conference Venue: **University of Southern Denmark (SDU)**, Degnevej 14, DK-6705 Esbjerg Ø

Thursday 26.10

08:00 – 09:00	Registration and Coffee	Entrance area next to the vertical meadow
09:00 – 10:30	Opening, welcome and Keynote 1	Room 81113
10:30– 12:00	Sessions 1	Rooms: 81071; STORMEN
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	Cantine (close to entrance of UC Syd)
13:00– 14:30	Sessions 2	Rooms: 81071; STORMEN; 81103
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee Break	Piano lounge area
14:45 – 15:45	Keynote 2	Room 81113
16:00– 18:30	Tour to the Island of Fanø	Bus will pick us up at 16:00 (sharp!) in front of the building
18:30	Conference dinner	Madklubben Esbjerg (<i>Food Club Esbjerg</i>) Skolegade 44 (City Centre)

Friday 27.10

09:00 – 10:00	Keynote 3	Room 81113
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	Piano lounge area
10:30 – 12:00	Sessions 3	81071; 81070; 81104
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break	Cantine (close to entrance of UC Syd)
13:00 – 14:30	Sessions 4	81071; 81010
14:30 – 15:30	Keynote 4	Room 81113
15:30 – 16:00	Closing	Room 81113

For up-to-date overview, see: <https://event.sdu.dk/soru2023/programme>

OVERVIEW OF SESSIONS

<p>Sessions 1 Thursday, 26th October 10:30 – 12:00</p>	<p>Climate change risks and rural-urban issues & divides - RURAL STREAM 1 - Room 81071 Chair: Egon Noe, SDU eno@sam.sdu.dk</p> <p><i>Aistė Balžekienė:</i> Energy lifestyles and climate change concerns: urban-rural divide in Europe in times of energy crisis</p> <p><i>David Champagne:</i> Climate-Proof Futures across Megafire Seasons: Sacrifice Zones and Policy knowledge in British Columbia's Cariboo Region</p> <p><i>Srinivas Nallala & Upasona Ghosh:</i> Community participation as a means to strengthen system resilience towards climate change uncertainties</p> <p><i>Fabio D'Andrea:</i> A complex discourse on environment and transition: the case study of Terni</p>	<p>(Multiple) crises, risk perception and preparedness 1 - Room STORMEN Chair: Jens Zinn, University of Melbourne jzinn@unimelb.edu.au</p> <p><i>Kristin S. Scharffscher:</i> Societal resilience and 'mega-crisis' as the new normal</p> <p><i>Sebastian Sterl, Nils Lüttschwager, Daniela Stelzmann & Lars Gerhold:</i> Factors related to risk perception in complex, multiple and simultaneous crises and disasters: an empirical sociological approach</p> <p><i>Erna Danielsson, Linda Kvarnlöf & Elin Montelius:</i> Should I stay or should I go – citizens crisis preparedness in uncertain times</p> <p><i>Daniel Stein:</i> The construction of risk and failure in risk affine research contexts</p>	
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<p>Sessions 2 Thursday, 26th October 13:00-14:30</p>	<p>Risk in rural access to health and welfare services – RURAL STREAM 2 - Room 81071 Chair: Patrick Brown, University of Amsterdam p.r.brown@uva.nl</p> <p><i>Roland Bal, Jitse Schuurmans, Oemar van der Woerd, Nienke van Pijkeren & Iris Wallenburg:</i> Tinkering with accessibility of elder care in rural areas. Results from an ethnographic interventionist study</p> <p><i>Barbara Fersch, Egon Noe & Annette Aagaard Thuesen:</i> The Rural Risk of Digital Exclusion: A case study of local digital health and welfare services in Denmark</p> <p><i>Annette Aagaard Thuesen & Hanna Barbara Rasmussen:</i> At risk of closure - Scope of and reactions to centralization of services in rural communities</p>	<p>(Multiple) crises, risk perception and preparedness 2 – Room STORMEN Chair: Bert de Graff, Erasmus University Rotterdam degraaff@eshpm.eur.nl</p> <p><i>Paulina Budryte:</i> Participatory mapping of public risk perception</p> <p><i>Linda Kvarnlöf & Elin Montelius:</i> ‘Doing’ The (Crisis) Prepared Subject: On Crisis, Preparedness and Performativity</p> <p><i>Karin van Vuuren, Bert de Graaff, Robert Borst & Roland Bal:</i> Vulnerability in learning from crises: an ethnographic study into healthcare governance practices during the Dutch 2021 flooding events</p> <p><i>Minna Lundgren & Maja Klinga:</i> Understandings of disinformation in the Swedish heterogeneous society: experiences and vulnerabilities</p>	<p>State, conflicts & citizenship – Room 81103 (hybrid session) Chair: Maria Grazia Galantino, Sapienza University of Rome mariagrazia.galantino@uniroma1.it</p> <p><i>Tatiana Lysova:</i> Video surveillance with face recognition: from Covid-19 normalisation to authoritarian surveillance in Russia</p> <p><i>Kirill Gavrilov & Maria Butynko:</i> The perception of abstract ‘war’, ‘nuclear war’ and ‘military service’ in Russia: the psychometric paradigm approach</p> <p><i>Desasreeta Deb:</i> Living In-Between Inclusion and Exclusion: National Register of Citizens, Uncertain Citizenship and Unsettled lives in Assam.</p>
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<p>Sessions 3 Friday, 27th October 10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Risk in rural local planning and community resilience - RURAL STREAM 3 – Room 81071</p> <p>Chair: Annette Aagaard Thuesen, SDU aat@sam.sdu.dk</p> <p><i>Sophie Kolmodin, Olof Oscarsson, Jörgen Sparf & Dimitri Ionnides:</i> Local resilience in the ultra-rural North – challenges and opportunities in civil protection and preparedness</p> <p><i>Kasper Friis Bavnbæk:</i> Reducing or producing risk through planning for viable rural areas</p> <p><i>Natalia Beldyga:</i> The Role of Community Resilience in Polish Border Communities' Response to Refugee Crisis and Uncertainty caused by Russian invasion of Ukraine.</p>	<p>Pandemic / post pandemic risk – Room 81070</p> <p>Chair: Hanna Barbara Rasmussen, SDU hbrasmussen@health.sdu.dk</p> <p><i>Bert de Graaff, Sabrina Huizenga & Roland Bal:</i> Stumbling through crises: learning in healthcare governance during the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p><i>Sonia Bergamo:</i> Dealing with risk and uncertainty through a technocratic approach. A documentary analysis of the COVID-19 crisis in Italy.</p> <p><i>Barbara Fersch, Amy Clotworthy & Anna Schneider-Kamp:</i> COVID-19 risk categorisations, boundary work, and the value of generational groups in Denmark</p> <p><i>Patrick Brown & Javier Garcia-Bernardo:</i> Towards an evaluation of risk communication and risk governance in real time? Using AI to analyse expressions of (dis)trust in social media responses to Covid vaccine governance</p>	<p>Risk and Gender (hybrid session) - Room 81104</p> <p>Chair: Linda Kvarnlöf & Elin Montelius, Mid-Sweden University Elin.montelius@miun.se; linda.kvarnlof@miun.se</p> <p><i>Dilek Cindoglu:</i> Unsettled Lives of Young Migrant Women in Uncertain Times: Temporality in the Labor Market, Temporality in the Marriage Market</p> <p><i>Eyram Ivy Sedzro:</i> Weighing Up the Risks: regular and irregular female migration from Ghana to the Gulf States</p> <p><i>Serena Fiorletta & Maria Grazia Galantino:</i> RISKS TO GENDER EQUALITY: an analysis of the UN Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions (1995-2023)</p> <p><i>Upasona Ghosh & Srinivas Nallala:</i> Those who left behind: Gendered uncertainties of the Sundarbans, India and Bangladesh</p>
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<p>Sessions 4</p> <p>Friday, 27th October</p> <p>13:00-14:30</p>	<p>Uncertain welfare - Room 81071</p> <p>Chair: Barbara Fersch, SDU, fersch@sam.sdu.dk</p> <p><i>Martijn Felder, Iris Wallenburg, Jitse Schuurmans, Roland Bal:</i> Precarious life in a post pandemic welfare state: a multi-sited ethnography into the hidden politics of bedside rationing</p> <p><i>Karoline Duus Lindegaard:</i> Embracing courage and collaboration: Ethnographic insights into a Collective Impact mitigating welfare uncertainty.</p> <p><i>Isha Jha:</i> The non-elite middle class in post-reform India</p> <p><i>Yohann Garcia:</i> From regulation to self-protection. The strategic use of uncertainty regarding endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) public policies in France</p>	<p>Health – Room 81070</p> <p>Chair: Bert de Graaff, Erasmus University Rotterdam, deggraaff@eshpm.eur.nl</p> <p><i>Martin Lindhardt:</i> Technologies of Hope and Anxiety. A study of Danish women’s use of pregnancy apps</p> <p><i>Iris Wallenburg & Roland Bal:</i> Wanted: a student to take care of my handicapped daughter’: Telegram, Facebook and Tik Tok as Mediating Platforms to Find/Offer Care Work</p> <p><i>Hugo Peeters. Lieke Oldenhof, Wilma van der Scheer & Kim Putters:</i> VULNERABLE PREDICTIONS: negotiating epistemologies of developmental risk</p> <p><i>Fernanda Sousa-Duarte & Patrick Brown:</i> I know work can suck, I've been through things like that": how shared lifeworlds and (dis)trust in multiple systems shape psychologists’ handling of patients’ work-related mental health problems in Brazil</p>	
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KEYNOTES

KEYNOTE 1: Prof. Claudia Mitchell: Young People's Narratives of Risk and the Pedagogies of Time: Methods-in- Motion

"Time," as Bren Neale writes, "is a complex and endlessly fascinating phenomenon, not simply the medium through which we do research, but an important topic of enquiry in its own right" (2010). In risk research this may be particularly so when we consider categories framed by age (youth or young people, childhoods, older adults), various intersectional features of social identity, and in the context of recent pandemics such as HIV and AIDS and COVID-19. Time (and timing) and risk can be seen in the Cellphilm productions of Canadian young people talking about their experiences of COVID-19 risk, something highlighted in a research-creation documentary "If we can be elastic, why can't they?" but is also expressed in the ways that researchers working with youth write about risk and time (see *The Girl in the Pandemic; In My Life: Stories From Young Activists in South Africa, 2002-2022*). The presentation seeks to delve into time and timing in risk research through these various narratives with a view to deepening an understanding of how participatory methodologies can support these explorations.

Claudia Mitchell is a Distinguished James McGill Professor in the Faculty of Education, McGill University and an Honorary Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. At McGill she is the Director of the Institute for Human Development and Well-being and the founder and director of the Participatory Cultures Lab, a research and training unit in the Faculty of Education funded through the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). Her research focuses on participatory visual and arts based approaches to working with young people and communities in relation to addressing critical social issues such as gender-based violence and in a wide range of country contexts in West Africa, Southern and Eastern Africa, and East Asia Pacific. She is the founder and Editor-in-chief of the journal *Girlhood Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. She has received numerous awards for her research including the Jose Vasconcelos World Culture Council award in Education, the SSHRC Gold Medal for the impact of her work with young people, and the Leon Guerin Prix du Quebec. She is a fellow of the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation and a member of the Royal Society of Canada. She also holds an Honorary Doctorate from Mid-Sweden University.

KEYNOTE 2: Associate Professor Jens Zinn: In-between and other modes of dealing with risk and uncertainty in action: rationalisation, enchantment and subjectivation

Social risk communication depends on a good understanding of people's knowledge and ways of reasoning. Research has shown that rational evidence-based modes of engaging with risk is accompanied by non-rational (e.g. faith, hope) and in-between modes (e.g. intuition, trust). In everyday life these ideal-type modes rarely occur in pure but modified form. Therefore, I will introduce a dynamic model that rests on systematic epistemological

differences between the embodied and the abstract forms of knowledge people refer to when making sense of risk and uncertainty and distinguish the abstract forms according to their empirical saturation. Societal examples show tendencies of rationalisation, enchantment and subjectivation, which can help to systematise observable understanding and responses to risk and uncertainty. For example, scientific knowledge requires subjectivation to become socially meaningful while tendencies for re-enchanting science are observable as well. There are also tendencies for non-rational ways of reasoning such as faith to be rationalised and translated into everyday reasoning. In-between modes such as trust can only be fully understood when the conditions of its rationalisation (critical trust) as well as enchantment (will to trust) are taken into account. Such tendencies can help to better understand how institutions can convince people to support rational sensemaking of risk as well as people's susceptibility to misinformation.

Jens Zinn is T.R. Ashworth Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Jens founded a number of international research networks on the Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty (SoRU) with in the European Sociological Association (2005) and the International Sociological Association (2006). In 2015 he was awarded the prestigious Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel award by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. His research activities include a number of studies on people's management of risk and uncertainty during the course of their life (e.g. youth transitions into the labour market, certainty constructions in reflexive modernity, British veterans' management of risk and uncertainty). He led a collaborative research initiative Risk, Social Inclusion and the Life Course - A Social Policy Perspective at the University of Melbourne and a research project Decision Taking in Times of Uncertainty - Towards an Efficient Strategy to manage Risk and Uncertainty in Climate Change Adaptation funded by the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research. Another branch of his research uses corpus approaches for the analysis of discourse semantic change of risk (e.g. New York Times, UK press). In 2022-23 he was a Fellow at the renowned Institute of Social Research in Frankfurt/M. and the Centre for Uncertainty Studies at the University of Bielefeld. With a Fellowship at the prestigious Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg/Institute of Advanced Studies he will pursue his research on a sociological theory of risk communication from October 2023 to May 2024.

KEYNOTE 3: Prof. Ian Scoones: Navigating uncertainty in a turbulent world

Uncertainties are everywhere. Whether it's climate change, pandemics, financial volatility or the outbreak of war, we don't know what the future will hold. Navigating uncertainties, where we cannot predict what will happen, is essential. But how is this done, and what can we learn about responding to, managing and living with and indeed from uncertainty from different experiences?

The concept of 'uncertainty' contrasts with 'risk', where prediction and control-oriented management are possible. While the world has always been uncertain, perhaps it is our modernist attempts to predict, manage and control that are failing, bolstered by a hubristic faith in technology combined with controlling forms of economic and political order.

A focus on uncertainty suggests a very different way of doing things associated with a new politics that challenges a modernist control paradigm. As the presentation will show, this is as relevant to global finance and banking or pandemic response as it is to managing water or electricity systems in California or responding to drought in pastoral areas of Kenya.

As the PASTRES programme argues, embracing uncertainty requires fundamental shifts in both policies and practices, as well as professional training and support. Importantly, we can all learn from others who live with and from uncertainty, such as pastoralists across the world. From such lived experiences, key principles emerge for navigating uncertainties in a turbulent world.

Ian Scoones is a professor at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, UK. He is an interdisciplinary social scientist with a focus on environment and development issues particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. He is the principal investigator of the PASTRES programme (Pastoralism, Uncertainty, Resilience: Global Lessons from the Margins, pastres.org), which is supported by an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council. Earlier he was the co-director of the ESRC STEPS Centre (steps-centre.org) working on the politics of sustainability.

Some background documents:

[What is uncertainty and why does it matter](#) (2019)

[Uncertainty and the politics of transformation](#) (2020)

KEYNOTE 4: Assoc. Prof. Anders Blok: Inter-risk framing contests: elements of a research agenda for a crisis-prone Anthropocene?

The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 onwards presented sociologists with a fruitful opportunity to study framing contests over risks and risk management, and to further elaborate and theorize this vis-à-vis existing research on crises as focusing events. Notably, the pandemic created a situation in which other global risks, chiefly associated with climate change and biodiversity loss, were being re-envisioned by scientists, advocacy groups, and others. How were these risks – pandemic, environmental – to be tied together at the level of symbolic framings and thereby also often weighed up against one another in a material sense? In this context, the present talk aims to do two things. First, it presents the findings from a recently published empirical study of how Scandinavian, climate-active environmental or green non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in ‘inter-risk framing contests’ during the initial phases of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. Second, building further on the intersection of crisis exploitation, risk governmentality, and risk society concepts at work in this study, the talk attempts a simultaneous bounding and extension of Ulrich Beck’s world risk society argument, to suggest that the resulting framework crystallizes an important research agenda for a crisis-prone Anthropocene.

Anders Blok is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He has worked and published extensively in environmental sociology, science & technology studies, urban studies, and social theory. From 2013 to 2015, he was co-PI on the ERC-

funded “Methodological cosmopolitanism: in the laboratory of climate change”, led by Prof. Ulrich Beck. His collaborative research on inter-risk framing contests was funded by the Velux Foundation and published in the journal *Sociology* in 2023 (Enggaard et al., DOI: 10.1177/00380385221150379).

ABSTRACTS

SESSIONS 1

Climate change risks and rural-urban issues & divides: RURAL STREAM Session 1

Energy lifestyles and climate change concerns: urban- rural divide in Europe in times of energy crisis

Aistė Balžekienė

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Keywords: energy lifestyles, climate change risk perception, ISSP, urban-rural

The aim of this presentation is to analyze the lifestyles related to the energy needs in European countries and how they are related to climate change risk perception. Furthermore, presentation will closer look at the urban- rural divide in European countries in for the energy-related behaviors and concerns.

Conceptual approach of this presentation is based on the idea that by measuring individual energy demands, it is possible to identify “energy lifestyles”. Energy demands at the individual level are related to traveling, eating, heating, leisure and other habits. that is specific patterns. The idea and measurement of energy lifestyles was developed by Hadler and colleagues (2022).

Analysis is based on International Social Survey (ISSP) data from participating European countries, from module “Environment” (representative surveys were conducted in 2020-2022). The presentation will reflect on the intertwining of environmental, economic and social concerns as reflected in energy behaviors in urban and rural settlements in Europe in the face of energy crisis.

This work is part of the KLIM-KOM project, that has received funding from the Research Council of Lithuania (LMTLT), agreement No. S-MIP-22-26.

Reference: Hadler et al. (2022) Surveying Climate relevant behavior: Measurements, Obstacles and Implications. Palgrave macmillan: Switzerland

Climate-Proof Futures across Megafire Seasons: Sacrifice Zones and Policy knowledge in British Columbia’s Cariboo Region

David Champagne

Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia

Keywords: Governmentality, Wildfire, Policy, Resilience, Rurality

Unprecedented forest fires and heatwaves overwhelmingly affecting rural areas have transfigured the climate vulnerability of the Canadian West Coast. Indeed, British Columbian

metropolises were not only less affected by hazards but inherited from decades of world-renowned climate policy preparation. This contrast showcases urgent social issues of climate urbanism: this global policy tendency which privileged an urban response to climate change over the past decades (Long and Rice, 2019). In understanding the unjust effects of climate governance, many document the logic of emergency response and the impact of climate adaptation policy on hazard preparation. However, additional research is needed when it comes to the sociological linkages between climate urbanism, climate governance, and disaster preparedness in the context of extreme heatwaves and forest fires.

By focusing on one of British Columbia's regions that were most affected by megafires in 2017, 2018, and 2021, the Cariboo Region, this article probes how climate urbanism induces climate sacrifice zones in such vulnerable environments. To find answers, my data encompasses policies and news articles. I use a sample of 40 contemporary sustainability and climate adaptation policies from the region's four main towns: Williams Lake, Quesnel, 100 Mile House, and Wells. To this, I add 20 policy texts from the Provincial and Regional governments. Through recent disastrous forest fires and heatwaves, I debate how Cariboo Region towns responded in their climate adaptation efforts. In this, I show how climate adaptation involves the uneven struggle over the production of legitimate climate-proof futures.

Community participation as a means to strengthen system resilience towards climate change uncertainties.

Srinivas Nallala, Associate Professor, Public Health Foundation of India;
Upasona Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Public Health Foundation of India

Key words: Uncertainties, Community participation, System Resilience, South-Asia

Climate change has emerged as a key environmental stressor in today's world. Uncertain rainfall, increasing cyclones, floods and more frequent heat waves threaten livelihoods and development outcomes – particularly of rural vulnerable population that depend on climate-sensitive natural resources.

Many policies and programmes have failed to understand the inter-linkage between climatic and social vulnerabilities of the communities, especially the marginalized rural communities, resulting in generalized and un-sustainable interventions. Policy actors are uncertain about the local impacts and lack nuanced understanding of dynamic coping strategies of the rural communities. Key reason behind this gap is lack of trust on community's capacities, leading to tokenistic representation in the local level decision making of climate change adaptation.

Though, almost in every country, there are mechanisms for communities to get engaged in local level planning but sub-optimal at implementation. However, during COVID-19 pandemic, globally the implementers realized the necessity of people's participation for effective decentralized COVID management. This reflects huge potential to engage communities in planning, implementation and monitoring the actions for climate change adaptation.

The proposed study argues community participation is an 'adaptive capacity' (IPCC, 2014) to reduce climate change uncertainty. Community's perception, knowledge and access to resources determine how they will behave towards a particular uncertainty in a given

context. This knowledge of the community is crucial to develop locally led adaptation strategies. The study is expected to generate empirical evidence on potential strategies for effective community engagement to strengthen system resilience and responses to environmental uncertainties. Specifically, findings would help strengthen institutions and processes of community participation for climate change adaptations.

A complex discourse on environment and transition: the case study of Terni

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Keywords: Climate Change, Expertise, Post-Industrial Society, Metamorphosis, Trust

As the 21st century wears on, it becomes apparent that some critical insights about a new kind of crisis were far too accurate for comfort. It is not only a matter of economism and monodimensional thinking; it is a perfect storm that combines political shortsightedness, long-term effects of expertise and the deeper shifting of the knowledge framework itself that Beck called “metamorphosis”. This paper is based on ongoing research aimed at investigating the connections between environmental conditions, marginalization and feelings of uncertainty by means of interviews with privileged witnesses and focus groups; in it I would like to contend that it is extremely hard to face climate change without coming to grips with some dogmas that still bend our vision out of shape. The case study of Terni – a medium-sized town in the centre of Italy that used to be a crucial site of the steel industry and is slowly trying to imagine a different future – clearly shows the distorting effect of the growing gap between abstract convictions and new reality: the ideal of an objective knowledge is shattered by its ideological use by opposing factions that enlist experts and counter-experts to support their point of view; the evidence of this clash of perspectives undermines trust in every actor on the scene, either on a subjective or a collective level; this in turn allows for the resurgence of age-old rivalries and resentments totally unaffected by rational evidence. What is missing in the whole process is the awareness of the fact that all these factors fit within the wider frame of the environmental crisis, are among its causes and need to be seen and understood from a different standpoint in order to find a way out and beyond.

(Multiple) crises, risk perception and preparedness 1

Societal resilience and ‘mega-crisis’ as the new normal

Kristin S. Scharffscher

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Keywords: Societal resilience, mega-crisis, crisis management, systemic risk, COVID-19

In the pandemic aftermath, renewed attention is given to how crises of a ‘systemic’ nature are managed (Boin & Rhinard 2023, Renn et al. 2019). Alongside the ‘emancipatory catastrophism’ of climate change (Beck 2015), current crises that are threatening on a global and existential level also include a lingering (and ever-mutating) COVID-19 as well as a war that entails geo-political volatility to the point of possible nuclear disaster. Through studies of community-level recovery processes in the wake of COVID-19, this paper is intended as a contribution to our understanding of 21st century societal resilience in the face of ‘mega-crisis’. It is in the nature of such crises to “have a wide, often direct global impact, being difficult to contain in the short and long run, and generating diverging ideas about appropriate solutions” (Helsloot et al. 2012). Albeit emerging reflections on sensemaking and conceptualisation (Bakken 2022, Harste 2022), crises of this magnitude has hitherto predominantly been studied in terms of how they are managed from a political and/or organisational perspective (Buchanan and Denyer 2013, Frykmer et al. 2018, Engen et al. 2021). While ‘mega-crisis’ are almost impossible to mitigate or manage at governance level, very little research has focused on societal resilience in relation to such events (Haavik 2020). In particular, marginal scientific attention has been given to social factors at play during the recovery phase of a mega-crisis (Boin et al. 2008, Prus 2021). This paper discusses whether management challenges of ‘mega-crisis’ are pushing civil society towards a new resilience ‘normality’.

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Factors related to risk perception in complex, multiple and simultaneous crises and disasters: an empirical sociological approach.

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Keywords: crises and disasters, risk perception, theory of social problems, complexity, simultaneity

The Corona-pandemic, inflation, extreme weather events or the Ukraine crises - in the recent past, the number of crisis and disaster events in Europe is increasing. At the same time, crises and disasters are becoming more long-lasting (e.g., Covid-19 pandemic), more complex (e.g., climate crisis, species extinction), and more intertwined (e.g., European security and energy crisis) (Boin, 2019). Previous studies provide evidence that different crisis events may elicit different perceptions (Bodas et al., 2022). Due to the increase in temporal, spatial, and systemic entanglement of crisis and disaster events and their impacts, the question arises as to how these developments affect risk perceptions and the overall experience of crisis and disaster events among different populations. Against the background of social problem theory (Schetsche, 2008), this article asks to what extent the simultaneous presence of multiple crisis and disaster discourses leads to different or similar perceptions. The focus of the study is on differences in perception in relation to socio-demographic characteristics, such as living in urban or rural areas, migration background or personal resources (e.g., resilience).

Methodologically, the research question will be investigated using representative, longitudinal population data in Germany (N = 1,500). Thereby, the perception of the risks of different, simultaneous man-made (Ukraine crisis, inflation) and natural crises and disasters (Corona-pandemic, climate change) and their related factors will be investigated longitudinally among the same individuals in a cross-section and between different points of time.

The results serve to identify and differentiate different facets of the perception of diverse, simultaneous crisis and disaster events and furthermore practically enable the derivation of

strategies for target group- specific risk and also crisis communication, which are closely related to adequate crisis management (Bundesamt für Bevölkerungsschutz, 2014).

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Should I stay or should I go – citizens crisis preparedness in uncertain times

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Keywords: Crisis, citizen preparedness, information campaigns

The need to involve citizens in crisis management has grown with increased societal crises. Historically, communication during the cold war focused on leaving home and caring for your neighbor. Today authorities such as MSB communicate information and guidelines on how people should prepare themselves and be safe at home similarly. Crisis preparedness information campaigns are instrumental, pointing to what one needs at home, e.g., food, water, heat source, and battery radio, rather than what essentials to bring in case of evacuation. Our home is seen as a safe place, not a place under threat. This study investigated how citizens made sense of household crisis preparedness. The interviewees described how they prepared for possible crises by describing crises they experienced and how to meet new crises. By relating their stories to the authorities' information and advice in the event of a crisis, the message communicated on crisis preparedness has been quite effective, resulting in people practicing preparedness in their homes. But often, they have no answer when asked what they would do and carry with them if their home is threatened and they must leave. In an evacuation, citizen preparedness is up to them. Even though citizens today have reasonably good preparedness at home, they are left alone to prepare how to act, where to go, and what to bring with them in an evacuation. The authorities' lack of knowledge about and support for citizens' preparedness in case of an evacuation is a significant weakness in today's crisis communication.

The construction of risk and failure in risk affine research contexts

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Keywords: Risk, failure, innovation, evaluation, science studies

I want to raise the following question: *How are risk and failure constructed in a setting where risks in research are not something to be avoided but necessary conditions for the acceptance of proposals?* This question will be answered by investigating research documents in the framework of the Reinhart Koselleck Program (DFG) which invites “exceptionally innovative or higher-risk projects”. Accordingly, this context offers the best conditions for investigating risk and failure in science since risks must be made visible. A total of 149 Proposals, 298 reviews and 149 votes of the review board are analyzed across different disciplines (which include the natural -, social- and life sciences as well as the humanities).

Two sub-questions are of special interest: 1) To whom or what are risks attributed to? While proposals evoke risks in relation to methodology, results or feasibility, reviews also relate risks to the researcher. Referring to the applicant as an (excellent) researcher is a common form of risk evaluation and rhetorical failure management. 2) How is the risk to fail managed? The portrayal of risks is met with statements that are supposed to reduce those risks and lower (or exclude) the probability of failure.

Failure in the framework of the Koselleck Program will be characterized as deeply ambivalent. The conditions under which a project could fail must be made visible and presented as risky. Proposals that are virtually without risk will not be funded. At the same time those failing conditions are not presented as entirely uncontrollable. They must be tamed and are only accepted in relation to potential gains. Failure then becomes something that is equally as desired as it is dreaded.

SESSIONS 2

Risk in rural access to health and welfare services – RURAL STREAM Session 2

Tinkering with accessibility of elder care in rural areas. Results from an ethnographic interventionist study

Roland Bal, Jitse Schuurmans, Oemar van der Woerd, Nienke van Pijkeren & Iris Wallenburg

Whilst most healthcare systems in the global North suffer from workforce shortages, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, this is particularly the case for rural areas. In the Netherlands, where this study is based, this is especially felt in older person care, where nursing homes suffer from a shortage of elderly care physicians and primary care is increasingly confronted with retiring (and not re-placed) general practitioners. Regional collaboration between healthcare providers in older person, primary and hospital care is increasingly seen as a way of managing the risks produced by this workforce scarcity.

Building on a 3-year action-oriented ethnographic study, in which we worked with healthcare organizations and professionals in ten Dutch rural regions, in this presentation we discuss the mechanisms that helped or hindered such regional collaboration as well as their scalability. In the study, we worked with regional coordinators to set up infrastructures for regional collaboration, develop new organizational formats for providing healthcare and for training professionals and encourage interprofessional collaboration.

Whilst collaboration is increasingly encouraged by policymakers, the Dutch healthcare system is based on competition between providers. Moreover, accounting for performance is done on an organizational basis and the regulation of professionals likewise takes an individual approach. Within such a system, regional, population-based initiatives are an upward struggle. We learned that reframing accessibility and quality problems on a regional level helped in creating movement towards collaboration, as did discussing the friction between different parts of the healthcare system (e.g. elderly being sent to Emergency care instead of being cared for at home). Stimulating learning between regions by having regular 'national' meetings helped in translating interventions to other regions. Transgressing organizational and professional boundaries however also was highly context-specific. In the presentation, we use illustrations from our rich dataset to illustrate these mechanisms.

The Rural Risk of Digital Exclusion: A case study of local digital health and welfare services in Denmark

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Keywords: Rural risks, digital exclusion, access to health and welfare services

Digitalization has for decades been touted as one of the major solutions for welfare state challenges, due to the potential to provide less cost-extensive, and more sustainable provisions of services to citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic that arrived in Europe in early 2020, served as a catalyst for digitalization, boosting uptake and experiences with digital solutions. However, it also clearly showed the challenges of this development, as some countries, local communities, and citizens were better prepared than others to handle the digital solutions of socially distanced pandemic life, leading to risks of inequality, less social cohesion, and exclusion for vulnerable citizens, specifically in rural areas with a high proportion of older people. Reasons for this are manifold and range from a lack of access to technological hardware to a lack of digital competences or motivation. These patterns have been coined digital exclusion by the research literature, that argues the “dividing lines of digital exclusion are closely aligned to those associated with social exclusion, for example income, age, ethnic minority, location and disability” (Watling, 2012, p. 126) In this paper we focus on patterns of exclusion from digital local health services studying three cases in Danish rural areas, and thus shed light on who is at risk of digital exclusion and in what way.

At risk of closure - Scope of and reactions to centralization of services in rural communities

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Keywords: Service closure, volunteering, social innovation, citizen engagement, risk.

Adaptability and social innovation capacity have taken on a renewed importance on Danish communities because the traditional universal Nordic welfare society is characterized by trends such as those seen in the UK ‘Big Society’, the Dutch ‘Participatory Society’ and the Danish ‘Competition State’. These developments include risks such as austerity and centralization, where the public sector withdraws from delivering services in some geographical areas while at the same time responsibilities are redistributed to citizens, communities, and the private sector. This both makes room for and necessitates citizen engagement. Based on a quantitative survey to all Danish local community associations in both rural and urban communities in 2020, this paper, intends to study the service closures which have occurred since the local government reform in 2007, whether service closures lead to risks of decreased community engagement, and the extent to which a risk exist that only strong communities open their own new compensatory voluntary services. The article is based on conceptualizations of civic engagement and social innovation supplemented by literature on the impact of rural service closures on citizen engagement and the startup of compensating services. Many have studied what citizens in action can achieve in relation to services, however only seldomly by use of a quantitative research design and country-wide data.

(Multiple) crises, risk perception and preparedness 2

Participatory mapping of public risk perception

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In times of crisis, an in-depth understanding of public risk perception is crucial if we aim to make solving and implementing decisions effectively. Traditional methods, such as surveys and expert interviews, rarely, if any, capture local context, its specificities and complexities. Yet, they could significantly impact and shape public risk perception. To overcome these limitations, researchers are turning to qualitative methods, including participatory mapping, to thoroughly investigate public risk perception and to predict its implications. A comprehensive understanding of public risk perception through participatory mapping activities was carried out in the third-biggest city in Lithuania – Klaipeda. It is a port city located close-by the Lithuanian-Russian border with a significant amount of polluting industries (like paper production, municipal and biodegradable waste sorting companies, shipping-related activities, etc.). The city also has its fair share of a history of industrial accidents. However, the city is also known for its very active communities. So, this presentation aims to showcase the potential of participatory mapping as an innovative qualitative method to assess public risk perception through this case study in Lithuania. However, it is not limited just to presenting the findings of this case study. It is also to promote the use of qualitative methods to investigate public risk perception. Additionally, the application of this method could help to create better political and public administrative decisions. As it is shown by the studies carried out in citizen science projects, participatory mapping could help to co-create insightful knowledge that, in Klaipeda's case, could contribute to addressing pending crises around us.

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Doing' The (Crisis) Prepared Subject: On Crisis, Preparedness and Performativity

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In this paper we outline a theoretical framework that emphasises the performativity of citizen crisis preparedness. Inspired by intersectional risk theory (Olofsson et al., 2014; Giritli Nygren et al., 2020) that not only emphasize the fact that risk and inequalities are mutually constituted but that risks also are performative as they bring certain subjects into certain kinds of being (Montelius & Giritli Nygren, 2014; Giritli Nygren et al., 2020), we argue that both crisis and preparedness in a similar way can be conceptualized as being performative. In line with Butler (2004) and Giritli Nygren et al. (2020) we emphasize the need for separating performance and performativity, not as two distinctively separate phenomena but

as two different aspects of performativity. While performance emphasize the ‘doing’ of for example gender, performativity refers to constitutive and regulatory notions that brings certain subjects into specific kinds of being (Butler 2004; Giritli et al. 2020:75). Drawing on examples from Swedish crisis preparedness campaigns and policy documents on civil preparedness our analysis reveals how the construction of “the (crisis) prepared citizen” intersects with gender, functionality, urbanity and rurality as well as with neoliberal ideals and ideologies about the responsible, resilient and prepared subject.

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Vulnerability in learning from crises: an ethnographic study into healthcare governance practices during the Dutch 2021 flooding events

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Keywords: Health system, Learning, Vulnerability, Resilience, Limburg

Disaster resilience in healthcare is often conceptualized as a static capacity of systems. In this paper, however, we contribute to social science research that aims to understand such crisis governance as a dynamic assemblage of practices fraught with politics and uncertainties. We do so by questioning how vulnerabilities are enacted in crisis governance, particularly during evaluations and moments of (organizational) learning.

We take as our ethnographic case-study the major 2021 flooding events in Dutch Limburg. Whilst dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, regional healthcare organizations were suddenly exposed to consequences of flooding and patients in several facilities, including a hospital, were evacuated. In the months after, the effects of the flood came to light, insurance companies inventoried costs, communities faced what was destroyed, and governance actors evaluated their roles and decisions made during this layered crisis.

We specifically zoom-in on the various ways in which vulnerabilities of healthcare in the region were enacted during evaluations of the flooding event itself. We interviewed and observed key-actors in the domains of healthcare, crisis management and watermanagement in Limburg on their risk work during the flood whilst (attempting to) draw-out concrete lessons for future flooding events and health system resilience. Our analysis stresses how the diverse enactments of vulnerabilities in healthcare during a crisis work to

value what is at risk, and what is not. In doing so, they allow for, and constrain, translations across multiple layers and domains of crisis governance in healthcare.

Understandings of disinformation in the Swedish heterogeneous society: experiences and vulnerabilities

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Keywords: disinformation, risk communication, vulnerability, crisis communication

Reaching the public with essential and correct information about risks and during disasters has become more complex given the immense flows of information that characterizes the digital and globalized society of today. In this context, disinformation is pronounced as one of the major challenges and has additionally been named a threat to democracy. However, the occurrence and dispersion of disinformation is in fact a common phenomenon during as well disasters and societal crises as during peaceful times. We therefore argue that the dispersion of disinformation can be viewed both as a risk and as a crisis in itself, and in this presentation, we aim to provide knowledge about the understandings and experiences of disinformation amongst people in Sweden.

Departing from a bottom-up perspective we draw on material from qualitative individual and focus group interviews to capture the width of understandings and experiences of disinformation. We analyze the results using the framework of communication-related vulnerability showing that situational, individual and socio-structural factors affect the ways in which disinformation is understood, experienced and how people respond. The results indicate that there are differences in how people understand and express their ability to cope with disinformation depending on their age, background and experiences. Furthermore, we conclude that situational factors such as crises and critical events can make people more vulnerable to disinformation.

State, conflicts & citizenship (hybrid session)

Video surveillance with face recognition: from Covid-19 normalisation to authoritarian surveillance in Russia

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Keywords: authoritarian regimes, civil liberties, face recognition, surveillance creep, video surveillance

The Covid-19 pandemic sparked a debate among researchers, media, and activists about the normalisation of surveillance technologies, the potential risk they pose and the possibility of their presence after the end of the pandemic (Kampmark, 2020; Kitchin, 2020). Video

surveillance with face recognition stands out from other technologies implemented to contain the virus spread as it has been implemented without implicit consent from those subjected to it (Kitchin, 2020). In turn, it raises concerns about civil rights violations. In authoritarian states, surveillance technologies enable the regimes to sustain and further maintain their power (Burgers & Robinson, 2016; MacKinnon, 2011) by allowing to exercise biopolitics (population-level management) that is followed by discipline (individual-level punishment). This paper has two objectives: firstly, to examine the justification for implementing face recognition in Russian cities during the pandemic and, secondly, to analyse how media outlets portray its use to repress protesters and military draft evaders. The study analyses articles mentioning face recognition published in Russian-speaking media outlets, divided into independent and state-controlled, from February 2020 until December 2022. The research results indicate that the independent and state-controlled media generate two distinctive and parallel discourses. While independent outlets highlight cases of abuse of facial recognition and the risks it poses to civil liberties of some social groups, state-controlled media produce discourse on benign surveillance, presenting it as a technological achievement of Russian developers and ignoring repressive measures.

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The perception of abstract ‘war’, ‘nuclear war’ and ‘military service’ in Russia: the psychometric paradigm approach

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Keywords: war, nuclear war, military service, risk perception, psychometric paradigm

Our study uses the “psychometric paradigm” methodology that is aimed at finding risk perception dimensions by analyzing judgments people make about risks (Slovic, 1987; 2000). In this paper we study the changes in the perception of such risks as “war”, “nuclear war” and “military service” before and during the Russian “special military operation” (SMO) in Ukraine.

The first wave of the survey was conducted in November, 2021. More than 1500 respondents were recruited via Yandex Toloka platform (a crowdsourcing platform similar

to MTurk). The second wave of the survey was conducted in September, 2022, with 1400 respondents. A split questionnaire design was used in both waves.

The analysis was done using the PCA technique and cluster analysis. The key finding was that the changes in the perception of the three risks were minor. Nevertheless, we found out that “war” and “nuclear war” were perceived as newer risks, at the same time “war” appeared to be more unknown to people, and “nuclear war” as a more dread risk. On the two-dimension “dread-unknown” perception plot these two risks were found to be closer to each other and were placed close to the “terrorism” risk. “Military service” during the SMO began to be perceived as a less unknown risk with no changes on the dread dimension. That made “military service” closer to “surgery”, “heart surgery” and “nuclear power plants” than to “prescribed drugs”, “construction of bridges / tunnels” and “panel housing constructions” as it was in 2021.

In our presentation we will discuss the reasons why the changes of perception of these risks were minor. We will also present the difference in perception of these risks by respondents supporting and opposing the SMO: it turned out that the latter perceived the “nuclear war” as a much dread risk than the former.

Living In-Between Inclusion and Exclusion: National Register of Citizens, Uncertain Citizenship and Unsettled lives in Assam.

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Keywords: Assam, National Register of Citizens, Crisis, Uncertainty, Citizenship

Between inclusion and exclusion, liminality can be found. Liminality is the hyphen space of living in-between the security of inclusion and perils of exclusion; a place “betwixt and between all the recognized fixed points in space-time of structural classification” (Turner, 1967, p.97). Yet, liminality also conveys a crossover where inclusion and exclusion can be experienced simultaneously; it is a grey space in which individual “border dwellers” (Wood, 2016, p.492) may concurrently exist as the un/accepted and which is described by Menijvar (2006) as the “grey area between legal categories” (p.1000). Using this understanding, the paper maps the grey areas of citizenship and belongingness under the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a complex citizenship verification exercise conducted in the state of Assam in India where residents of Assam were called upon to prove their citizenship status through the furnishing of archival official documents issued on or before 1971 as proof of citizenship. Those who are unable to produce any of the prescribed documents are likely to be decitizenized under the NRC provisions. The final list of the NRC released on August 31, 2019 in which names of 1.9 million people were missing thus stripping them of their citizenship status. The citizenship determination exercise under the NRC and the discriminatory institutional and legal practices has transformed millions of people into unequal citizens or second-class citizens and pushed them into new liminal spaces or expanded pre-existing spaces of liminality, as a result of which they have found themselves in a continuous state of rightless or quasi-rightless existence. Citizenship is thus situated in a Kafkaesque world in which the paper trail precedes – if not overshadows – existence.

Against this backdrop, this paper, through fieldwork conducted in Assam explores how human lives have been 'stuck' in the citizenship crisis in Assam. It shall highlight the experiences of people who have been left out of the NRC list and found themselves living in-between states of inclusion and exclusion. Finally, the paper also emphasises on boundary-drawing, a process by which we categorize others as worthy, valuable, or legitimate along dimensions of deservingness. The paper concludes that such symbolic boundaries, ones that distinguish insiders and outsiders, can be accompanied by reinforcing consequential social boundaries, as manifested by laws and institutional rule, reflect the endearing nature of exclusionary citizenship regimes in South Asia, which are categorically meant to keep vulnerable minorities in a bottomless abyss of rightlessness.

SESSIONS 3

Risk in rural local planning and community resilience - RURAL STREAM session 3

Local resilience in the ultra-rural North – challenges and opportunities in civil protection and preparedness

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Keyword: resilience, Sweden, risk management, organization

The civil protection and preparedness conditions in Europe have radically changed in the last couple of decades. Hazards and risks are no longer confined and controllable but global, systemic, and interconnected. Compound, consecutive, and cascading consequences have a mounting impact and far-reaching ripple effects on the social and natural environments. A majority of research in risk, crisis, and disaster management studies urban environments, their infrastructures, and governing structures. Thus, most knowledge and frameworks mainly support urban stakeholders in dealing with risk and resilience. Because of the increasing pace of European urbanisation, there are good reasons for this focus. At the same time, large parts of the continent sit on critical natural resources and hosts considerable, albeit in many cases dispersed, populations. In Sweden, the place for this study, the risk preparedness, legislation, and governance structure have not changed at the same pace as the risk landscape—strong norms and principles in emergency management and civil protection prevail. The ultra-rural Northern inland of Sweden witnessed economic restructuring and a changing demographical structure in the same period as above. In this paper, we study the organising and workings of local authorities in charge of civil protection in this region. The preliminary results from interviews with public officials and policy documents indicate huge challenges due to an imbalance between the available resources and competence, along with the governing of vast geographical areas on the one hand and the same statutory duties and responsibilities as the rest of the country, on the other. The analysis identified four crucial aspects for maintaining local resilience: (i) knowledge of the place, (ii) informal networks, (iii) key-person dependency, and (iv) adaptive capacity. These aspects involve pros and cons in practical application and organising for civil protection and preparedness.

Reducing or producing risk through planning for viable rural areas

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Keywords: spatial justice, risk, rural development, viability, discourse

This paper sets out to examine inherent risks in rural planning, related to the conceptualization of viability. Development for viable communities in villages are one of the requirements in the Danish municipal planning, and the risk related hereto is that of the variability in the assumptions of what is seen as a viable community. This in terms of a spatial justice issue are expected to either produce or reduce intra- and intermunicipal equity. Discourse analysis inspired by Laclau and Mouffe, is used to crystalize the node of viability, relating it back to whether these plans are reducing or producing risks for the communities, in terms of what is permitted in terms of local plans and strategies for future village development. In this way, this paper seeks to encapsulate a reality in time made up of a discursive reality, in form of the language of local planners and politicians; a physical reality, as described by the local plans; and a social reality, related to the expectations towards local communities. Data consist of 37 Danish rural- and outskirt municipalities municipal plans who have sections related to strategic village planning as of early spring 2023, as it is here the requirement for the viable communities are located. The paper shows that even though the discourses on viability is framed in similar veins, the connection to local plans for these communities are varied. I argue, therefore, that social, physical and the discursive realities are interrelated in line with existing literature, and that the strategic village planning thus introduce an issue of spatial justice as communities are facing different forms of risks, due to their ability to interpret and support the strategies for development in rural areas.

The Role of Community Resilience in Polish Border Communities' Response to Refugee Crisis and Uncertainty caused by Russian invasion of Ukraine.

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Keywords: response to crises and uncertainty, refugee crisis, humanitarian crisis, community resilience, risk perception, riskscape, relational theory of risk

Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022 caused refugee and humanitarian crisis to which Poland, EU and other countries had to respond. In the light of a growing sense of risk and uncertainty about the impact of the developments at the crossroads of Europe and Russia on other countries, this study aim is to analyze the role of community resilience in Polish border communities' response to crises and uncertainty caused by the invasion. Theories applied in this research, namely riskscape - orientation maps navigating complex risks (Müller-Mahn et. al, 2018) and relational theory of risk setting a framework to study why and how people perceive something as risk (Boholm and Corvellec, 2011) were instrumental in research tasks of firstly examining core dimensions of community resilience which enhanced communities' resilience and secondly of studying how individual

internalized risk perception affected their response. Two cases of responses of Polish border communities, in Biecz and Suwałki, known as “Suwałki Gap”, were analysed. Qualitative interviews were conducted with informants in three interview groups of volunteers, community members and municipality.

The results reveal that agency, one of the core dimensions of community resilience, was activated and exercised by both communities due to their awareness of the source of risk and value at stake in this unprecedented situation. Responding to crisis by helping Ukrainian refugees was both an act of solidarity and support and a way to protect freedom and sovereignty of Ukraine and other countries. Russia-Ukraine conflict could potentially affect.

Pandemic / post pandemic risk

Stumbling through crises: learning in healthcare governance during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Keywords: risk work, pandemic preparedness, resilience, healthcare, the Netherland

Whereas there is now a body of literature studying the ways in which we can learn from crisis (and how this often does not happen), there is little empirical research done on collective action and learning *during* a crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic forms an excellent opportunity for such a study, given its prolonged duration as well as its broad societal implications.

In this paper we take a risk work perspective on the governance of the Dutch healthcare system to prepare for next pandemic(s). Doing so, we explore how resilience is being done as a specific form of risk work. We built in this paper on an organizational ethnography of the Dutch crisis-organization in healthcare which we were able to follow between March 2020 and August 2022. We zoom-in on the second year of the pandemic in the Netherlands (from August 2021 to August 2022). During this period our participants sought to learn from previous experiences and started to look forward to a post- pandemic situation.

Our analysis underscores how the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be grasped as one singular risk-object posing a risk to a healthcare system. Instead, we see a multitude of risk-relations emerging in the work of our participants as they continue to work through the pandemic and its aftermath. We discuss work in which the healthcare system was at risk, individual healthcare organizations, healthcare professionals, and public health measures. Overall, our participants were offered very little time and energy to reflect on their own work during the pandemic. We find few instances in which system-wide lessons are being drawn for future pandemics. This raises crucial questions on how to learn, or create conditions for learning, during a pandemic.

Dealing with risk and uncertainty through a technocratic approach. A documentary analysis of the COVID-19 crisis in Italy.

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Keywords: Documentary analysis, risk sociology, crisis risk communication, COVID-19, uncertainty

Within the COVID-19 pandemic to date, the discourse analysis is limited to media or leaders, with little analysis of official crisis communication used by governments. Despite that, government crisis communication played a strategic role since restriction measures were implemented without scientific consensus and following the precautionary principle. This contribution aims at presenting a documentary analysis of the Italian official documents produced between the declaration of the state of emergency (January 31, 2020) and its cessation (March 31, 2022). The goal of this qualitative study is to understand how uncertainty and risk have been communicated in order to produce the legitimacy of the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures.

Results shed light on the technocratic approach the Italian crisis discourse layed on, in which the nature of risk is objective and knowable. This epistemological approach brought to the foundations of an emergency architecture in which the Scientific Technical Committee (CTS) played a strategic role and the authorities decisions progressed at the same pace as the evolving epidemiological scenario. The communication useful for changing public attitudes defined risk as imminent and catastrophic and invoked common and shared values like solidarity and individual responsibility. The work poses possible future developments as regards other global risks governmental communication or to produce inferences starting from the traced concepts.

COVID-19 risk categorisations, boundary work, and the value of generational groups in Denmark.

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When the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in early 2020, the Danish government and health authorities quickly implemented protective policies based on the evidence available about the virus. These policies included estimations of the risk for developing serious illness due to an infection, which resulted in measures to protect people perceived to have a higher risk. But that risk estimation differed for certain societal groups: specifically, parents (whose children were placed in the lowest-risk category, and they themselves who were the generation-in-the-middle) and older people who were placed in the highest-risk group.

In this paper, we examine how some members of these two generational groups managed their newly assigned risk-group categorisations. We discuss how these categorisations were determined and implemented in pandemic policies, how they were communicated to both

the low-/high-risk groups as well as the general public, and how such categorisations led to certain social consequences. The strong age component in these categorisations meant that there was a blunt use of chronological age to define their boundaries. This created a narrative about these generational groups during the pandemic. Our analysis thus explores the process of negotiating risk-group categorisations and their boundaries, and how these two generational groups engaged in symbolic boundary work. Moreover, we illuminate how these processes can be intertwined with questions of morality and the societal value of specific generational groups.

The paper is based on the secondary analysis of self-collected qualitative data that were generated from two COVID-19-related research projects conducted in Denmark. Both projects aimed to qualitatively assess the social consequences of the first phase of the COVID-19 lockdown from March to July 2020; i.e., the initial lockdown of schools and restrictions on access to long-term care facilities, as well as the gradual reopening of society and the first careful easing of protective restrictions.

Towards an evaluation of risk communication and risk governance in real time? Using AI to analyse expressions of (dis)trust in social media responses to Covid vaccine governance

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Keywords: trust, pharmaceutical governance, vaccines, regulation, ChatGPT3

Abstract: The potential for the state to intervene effectively in risk governance is importantly shaped by trust in state organisations. Where complex novel crises emerge rapidly, as in the case the Covid-19 pandemic, then risk governance institutions need more dynamic and fast-paced ways to grasp public opinion and public trust. Given that risk communication strategies have been shown to gradually impact on (dis)trust in institutions, for example in terms of perceived transparency, then the potential for rapid evaluation of ongoing risk communication and risk governance strategies is highly salient. In this article we describe the process and outcomes of a collaborative project where we have sought to harness machine learning tools and, later, AI, to analyse social media expressions of risk, uncertainty and emotions regarding the Covid-19 vaccines in early 2021. In particular we have been analysing large quantities of twitter posts to analyse expressions of (dis)trust towards public health and regulatory bodies in Denmark, the Netherlands and Spain. We focus in this paper on the methods and challenges of coding trust in terms of conceptual nuance, validity and reliability. We conclude by considering potential applications of this approach, such as through the development of a dashboard of risk, trust and emotions for the European Medicines Agency.

Risk and Gender (hybrid session)

Unsettled Lives of Young Migrant Women in Uncertain Times: Temporality in the Labor Market, Temporality in the Marriage Market

Prof. *Dilek Cindoglu*, Kadir Has University, Turkey

This paper focuses on the temporal environment young migrant women experience in Turkey, after their escape from the Syrian civil war, stuck between the informal labor market and unofficial marriages, leaving them with little or no legal and financial protection. (x) Trajectories of young migrant women from predominantly traditional large and underprivileged families from Syria have mainly two routes; marriage or work. Although desirable for the social and cultural integration of migrant women, legal marriage with a local man is possible, yet not too easy. Marriage procedures require proper paperwork that needs to be prepared by Syrian authorities, for which young, underprivileged women are hard to access. On the other hand, legal work opportunities require work permits, mostly given to professional and entrepreneurial migrants. Besides, the labor markets in these cities where migrants are heavily populated have predominantly small and medium-sized enterprises in services and manufacturing with limited demand for informal female labor. The more likely work route is seasonal agriculture work for these young women. Nevertheless, all these jobs demand long work hours and insecure opportunities for both men and women. Migrant women from Syria, under temporary protection, i.e., with limited legal work permits, are stuck between the informal labor markets, and the informal marriage markets. The prospective husbands in this marriage market for young Syrian women come predominantly from young underprivileged men from the lower social classes who seek obedient, uneducated women who can establish large families. Therefore, young Syrian women experience temporality both in the marriage markets and in the labor markets. In short, this paper argues that with minimal educational and skill capacity and legal constraints to work, young migrant women are stuck between the insecure informal labor market and marriage markets.

(x) The data for this paper was collected during my residency at Mardin Artuklu University and through TÜBİTAK-funded research (2018)

Weighing Up the Risks: regular and irregular female migration from Ghana to the Gulf States

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Keywords: Risk, Risk perception, Female migration, Cultural identity

Migration has historically served as a strategy for survival and social mobility, particularly for women seeking to enhance their agency. The phenomenon of women's migration more recently has been influenced by the imperative of social advancement, yet it is not without the specific risks that are inherent to female migrants. This migration is predominantly from rural to urban areas. That is, the phenomenon of women migrating from the Bono East and Bono regions of Ghana to the Greater Accra Region and subsequently to the Gulf countries

as labour migrants is experiencing an increase. The rise in female migration is evidently influenced by factors, including concerns related to climate change and gender dynamics, particularly within the cocoa and cashew cultivation sectors. In addition to this, the increase in the migration of women either as regular or irregular labour migrants has increased the risk of exploitation, abuse, and extreme forms of violence at points of departure, transit, and destination. The objective of this study is to therefore examine the ways in which women conceptualise the risk associated with migration, both domestically and internationally within their local context. The study employs an ethnographic method based on semi structured interviews and a thematic analysis in examining the conceptualisation of risk information and experiences by women . It applies the principle of narrative ethnography, allowing participants an opportunity to speak about themselves and their experiences of migration as potential, current migrants, and returnees. Using purposive and snowball sampling techniques, 40 participants were recruited for in-depth interviews which were supported by a semi- structured interview guide together with traditional and an online non- participant observation. The study also engaged policy makers and middlemen or agents as they play a critical role on the discourse of risk.

The research suggests that the complex interplay between cultural identity and social affiliations is a crucial factor in influencing women's risk perceptions.

RISKS TO GENDER EQUALITY: an analysis of the UN Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions (1995-2023).

Serena Fiorletta and Maria Grazia Galantino

Keywords: Risk; Gender; Women; CSW; Inequality

Pervasive gender inequality limits women's rights, choices and opportunities in political, economic, and social fields. The recent pandemic has only added to other global issues - such as wars and conflicts, climate change, access to work, poverty, and the digital age - that impact on women's lives leaving them at risk of exploitation and reinforcing structural inequalities.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the main UN body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, constitute an influential framework of reference for assessing factors contributing to gender inequality and implementing action to mitigate risks and promote women empowerment. Since the adoption of the Beijing Platform in 1995, the CSW annual session addresses emergent and structural issues posing gender equality at risk and provides recommendations for governments, institutions, civil society actors to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level.

Drawing on research that highlights the role of discourse in the social construction of risks and practices to address them, the present work examines the Agreed Conclusions (AG) of the CSW annual meetings from 1995 to 2023. Using a computer assisted textual analysis, it shows the main issues 'defined' as risks to gender equality and how they change over

time. Using an intersectional perspective, the study reveals how new categories of difference are produced and how they interact with old ones in CSW discourse. The diachronic perspective also allows to unveil developments in lexical and semantic language on sex, gender and inequalities and their relations to social change.

Those who left behind: Gendered uncertainties of the Sundarbans, India and Bangladesh

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Srinivas Nallala, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Public Health

This paper is based on empirical research conducted in Sundarbans - rural coastal region of India and Bangladesh, which is globally identified as one of the most vulnerable areas to sea level rise, cyclones, and other climatic adversities. The present study aimed to point out the differential experiences of the women on livelihood uncertainties and related social consequences through exploring perspective of women community members, policy makers and implementers in India and Bangladesh Sundarbans. The women in this rural and coastal region are sensitive towards short-term and long-term impacts of climatic uncertainties. While the male folk are migrating outside Sundarbans for alternatives, women and children are left behind in the island due to patriarchal norms. The women, who were engaged in traditional livelihoods like river fishing and agriculture, are now facing production uncertainty and searching for sparsely available alternatives within the region. Further, women who were not previously engaged in any kind of livelihoods now have to join the marginal workforce to sustain their families. This has increased women's burden of work in addition to their traditional care-taking role. Livelihood uncertainties are also creating social impacts on girls, like school drop-out, early marriage, human trafficking, and domestic violence. These impacts are making the women more sensitive and vulnerable towards future climatic uncertainties. The policy context-both policy framing and implementation, seems to have little connect with the communities and lack the knowledge of these ground realities. Using gender lens to explore climate related uncertainties expected to support gender specific adaptation planning and strengthening women's participation in the adaptation process.

SESSIONS 4

Uncertain welfare

Precarious life in a post pandemic welfare state: a *multi-sited ethnography into the hidden politics of bedside rationing*

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Keywords: bedside rationing; nursing; precarity; risk work

Even though Covid-19 has eased its pressure on most healthcare systems, many high- and middle-income countries have slipped into a persistent reality of scarcity. Soaring workforce shortages amongst healthcare workers, growing elderly populations and more complex caseloads make it increasingly difficult to organize and secure healthcare provision for individual patients. In this context nurses – as key actors in the organization and provision of healthcare services – need to make daily yet difficult decisions about whom to provide care to, transfer to others or even ignore. Yet we have little knowledge about how nurses engage in bedside rationing, nor the uncertainties and risks associated with them. That is, we have little understanding of the ‘risk work’ healthcare workers like nurses engage in.

Building on the sociological work of Giorgio Agamben and Judith Butler, we use the concept ‘precarity’ to foreground systemic conditions and relational practices of risk work and their situated consequences. Our inquiry is based on a multi-sited ethnography conducted in four Dutch healthcare organizations. Drawing on empirical findings, we show (I) how legal protections are becoming increasingly partial, allowing healthcare providers to shift responsibilities to act elsewhere, (II) how the establishment of individual healthcare trajectories therefore become highly arbitrary accomplishments that depend on solidarity actions of nurses, (III) how the needs of some patients become forfeited, and (IV) how certain groups and geographic regions become more vulnerable to experiencing precariousness and exclusion. These insights have important implications for academic inquiries into rationing and nursing work, the professional development and strategic positioning of nurses in response to scarcity challenges and add to a sociological understanding of risk work.

Embracing courage and collaboration: Ethnographic insights into a Collective Impact mitigating welfare uncertainty

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Keywords: social innovation; courage; collective impact; cross-sector collaboration

As the Nordic welfare model faces increasing pressures from strained resources, an aging population, and recent global crises, local municipalities respond by turning to social innovation to continuously meet citizen needs. In a socio-economically challenged neighbourhood in a Danish peripheral town, socio-economic challenges has prompted the formation of a cross-sectoral alliance partly funded by the municipality. This alliance operates on the Collective Impact framework, with the shared agenda of 'decreasing the consequences of child poverty and helping all children and youth through education and into employment'. A target population further burdened by the cost-of-living crisis.

Based on a year-long ethnographic study in the backbone office of this Collective Impact initiative, this research examines how cross-sector collaborations address the pressures on the Nordic welfare model through social innovation. Findings indicate that the Collective Impact framework has facilitated greater responsiveness and possibilities for innovative action in addressing these external risks, challenging current public sector practices built around logics of evidence and calculation and risk-avoidance.

The study highlights how 'being brave' and 'having courage' become guiding principles in socially innovative action. The Collective Impact framework transcends traditional public sector paradigms, exemplifying how social innovation can mitigate the effects of crises, such as the current cost-of-living, by becoming a partly public-funded local space for agile and innovative handling of uncertainties. This approach ultimately influences the lives of local citizens, providing insights into the potential of cross-sector collaborations in fostering resilience amidst uncertainty and emphasizing the importance of social innovation and courage in enhancing public sector responses to crises.

The non-elite middle class in post-reform India

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The 1990's is really a 'turbulent' time (Singh 2011) and the middle class occupies a prominent space involved closely in the developments around economic liberalization, politics of Hindutva, rise of the politics of Other Backward Classes opposing the affirmative actions and consuming global consumer products. In discussing the middle class, the work delineates the non-elite middle class as a category of enquiry which elucidates on the functioning of the State, market, everyday institutions and self-care in post-reform India. The neoliberal structure exposes an individual to both opportunities as well as risks and the individual by imbibing the individualized strategies to cope with these changes resorts to self-care measures to remain productive employee, thereby reinforcing the neoliberal structure. The non-elite middle class through their everyday negotiations and balancing act bring to light the struggles of everyday life that have been amplified by the neoliberal system. Thus, by looking at the everyday life struggles of the middle class working in the economic enclaves such as their risks at workplace, their struggles to survive the ordeals, the self-care choices made to deal with the struggles and the never ending aspirations that keeps them in the whirlwind, the work attempts to understand the macro picture i.e. the nature of shift in

the political economy after 1991. The ethnographic work through several case studies would discuss the plight of the non-elite middle class in India exposed to risks and vulnerabilities under the new working conditions resort to self-care practices to recuperate from the stress and anxieties and remain neoliberal productive employees.

“From regulation to self-protection. The strategic use of uncertainty regarding endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) public policies in France”

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Keywords: endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), social problem, environmental health, ethnography, public policy.

Whether it comes to marine environments, agricultural lands, groundwater, or even our modern habitats, chemical pollution is becoming increasingly inevitable. The various effects of this “global contamination” (Jarrige & Le Roux, 2020) are well documented. The 1990s marked the discovery of “endocrine disruptors”, a new class of chemicals interfering with the hormonal system (Colborn et al., 1996). Despite several scientific statements that underline the impact of these synthetic chemicals on both human health and the environment (Diamanti-Kandarakis et al., 2009; Gore et al., 2015), some aspects of this concept remain controversial such as the “low-dose” effects. Using a constructivist approach to the sociology of social problems (Spector & Kitsuse, 2009) and the framework of discursive analysis of public policies (Durnova & Zittoun, 2013), we analyze how uncertainty is strategically used by groups competing with distinct interests during the elaboration of public policies aiming at tackle this issue in France. Based on ethnographic interviews with civil servants, environmental campaigners, and lay people and qualitative analysis of public and internal documents, we show how private firms manage to impose “soft-regulation” measures (e.g., information and communication policies) that allow them to preserve their economic activities. We thus explain how uncertainty becomes a register of justification for public action to govern bodies and individual conducts (Fassin & Memmi, 2004), while paradoxically, exposure to chemical substances is ubiquitous and remains a “collective risk” (Borraz, 2008). Finally, the communication sets out the consequences of these “uncertain policies” in terms of environmental justice and gender inequalities.

Health

Technologies of Hope and Anxiety. A study of Danish women’s use of pregnancy apps.

Martin Lindhardt, Associate Prof. SDU Esbjerg

For women in many parts of the world, including Denmark, attending to one’s own pregnancy is increasingly becoming a disciplinary body project, which is shaped by frameworks of mediation and technologization. Thus, studies have shown that women in different places use pregnancy apps to seek information and advice during their pregnancy. The self-monitoring practices that such apps foster fit perfectly with neo-liberal visions of the self-

regulating self, but the use of pregnancy apps by pregnant women also reflects what scholars such as Deborah Lupton refer to as “techno-utopia” the understanding that individuals can optimize their health and take measures to reduce risks by using technological devices. In this paper, which is based on a qualitative study, I look at Danish women’s use of pregnancy apps. Following Lupton, I use the concept of “technologies of hope” to refer to the understanding that relief of anxieties can be achieved through the use of technology. However, I also argue that technologies such as apps can shape the way women relate to and experience their own pregnancy, sometimes at the cost of marginalizing bodily knowledge. I demonstrate how technologies end up shaping socio-material infrastructures through which anxieties are produced and maintained.

Wanted: a student to take care of my handicapped daughter’: Telegram, Facebook and Tik Tok as Mediating Platforms to Find/Offer Care Work

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Policy reforms to ‘keep people at home as long as possible’ (i.e. through hospital-replaced and community care) and accompanied financial arrangements (e.g. personal budgets to purchase tailored care) have opened up space for an unanticipated gig-economy of care service delivery. Building on these politics and financial infrastructures, a new platform economy of care has emerged. Through social media platforms—and mediated through the affordances such platforms provide—patients and/or relatives search for individual care givers. Care givers get into contact and make arrangements (hourly rates, working time) about how and when care will be provided and paid for. As such, social medial platforms offer a new way of organizing care on an individualized basis, highlighting aspects of flexibility and choice for both care receivers and care givers and discussing the risks for both patients and healthcare workers. We study how these platforms play a role in mediating care services and how they constitute an alternative or ‘shadow’ world of algorithmic mediated caring.

We build on sociological insights of ‘liquid modernity’ (Bauman, 2000) and social media studies and platform work (McDonald et al., 2020; Schor, 2020) to understand how the on-demand economy impacts on the organization and delivery of health services and care work, and what uncertainties and risks emerges from this. We are particularly interested in the emergence of digitally mediated care work that navigates the traditional and highly institutionalized health system of employing professionals and regulating access and quality of care. We study how the new gig-economy intertwines with the traditional healthcare system and ensues its own logics of care. In presenting our (preliminary) findings, we discuss new opportunities to organize and provide patient- as well as professional-centered care, and the precariousness(es) this involves.

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VULNERABLE PREDICTIONS: negotiating epistemologies of developmental risk

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Keywords: vulnerability, risk, big data, ethnography, parenting

Pregnancy is increasingly seen as a critical phase of child development that has long-lasting and even transgenerational implications (Lowe et al., 2015, Pentecost, 2018). This has engendered novel research into early risk-factors of adverse developmental outcomes. Our article presents an ethnographic case-study of a transdisciplinary research consortium in the Netherlands that uses big data and predictive analytics to promote earlier identification of high-risk parents. Within this four-year project participants with diverse research repertoires (Ankeny and Leonelli, 2016) collaborate to design a data-driven risk-assessment dashboard that supports professionals in counselling high-risk parents. Even though many experts have argued multi-disciplinary collaboration is vital to a responsible use of big data analytics in the public domain, these collaborations remain relatively scarce in practice (van Zoonen, 2020, Isin and Ruppert, 2020) Because of this we know relatively little about the dynamics of multi-disciplinary collaboration in large-scale data-science projects. At the same time sociological studies of risk work have shown that (re)embedding abstract risk-knowledge in client-facing practice can cause tension between different approaches to risk knowledge (Brown and Gale, 2018a, Brown and Gale, 2018b). Drawing on social studies of science our study investigates what tensions emerge prior to implementation. It asks how the researchers in our project negotiate frictions (Edwards et al., 2011) between conflicting approaches to risk and uncertainty within different research repertoires (Ankeny and Leonelli, 2016) – including data-science, econometrics, midwifery, obstetrics, ethics and social work. Our study traces these frictions through interviews and observations of consortium meetings, co-creation workshops, external audits, ethics seminars and living labs. By studying how our respondents negotiate, challenge, and coordinate different notions of risk our study reveals some of the nuances underlying the production of risk knowledge(s).

"I know work can suck, I've been through things like that": how shared lifeworlds and (dis)trust in multiple systems shape psychologists' handling of patients' work-related mental health problems in Brazil

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Keywords: abstract systems, phenomenology, professional-patient relations, psychology, trust

The Brazilian welfare-compensation system recognizes some mental illnesses as occupational diseases, but those reporting work-related mental illnesses are still stigmatised and theoretical consensus among mental healthcare professionals about work and mental health is lacking.

Drawing on 14 in-depth interviews with patients with work-related mental health issues and clinical psychologists in private practices in Brazil, we investigated interpersonal and system-related trust between psychologists and patients with work-related problems. In the psychotherapeutic encounter, ontological and epistemological assumptions, critiques of biomedical models of health/illness, and negative experiences in the Brazilian labour market formed the basis of psychologists' trust in their patients. For patients, expectations of professional neutrality and secrecy were fundamental for their willingness to trust psychologists in early phases of treatment. Later on, however, positive experiences during treatment not only increased but also reshaped patients' broader positive expectations in psychotherapy. Drawing upon a phenomenological understanding of trust, we analyse how participants' experiential and professional knowledge shaped processes of (dis)trust in persons and systems, and how these two processes of trust reinforced and reshaped each other. In contrast to northern European contexts, the Brazilian case is useful in illuminating the multiple systems and epistemic traditions which are pertinent to (dis)trust amid mental healthcare.

