

HEALTH DAY PROGRAM

11.00 am – 5.00 pm MONDAY 5th DECEMBER

11.00 am–11.30am: *Welcome and morning tea*
Lazenbys Bistro.

11.30 am–12.30 pm: *AGM Health Section*
Room 208, Faculty of Arts Building
(Chair: Gary Easthope)

12.30 pm–2.00 pm: *Lunch: Lazenbys Bistro*

2.00 pm–3.30 pm: *Invited papers: current issues in health sociology*
(Venue: Flexible Learning Space, University Centre,
adjoining Lazenbys)

Dr Jeanne Daly – *Evidence-based medicine*

Dr Mark Stranger – *Floundering in the Gene Pool:*
Tails of sociology

Dr Emily Hansen – *Sociology and epidemiological*
research into lifestyle

3.30pm –4.00 pm: *Afternoon Tea*

4.00 pm – 4.45 pm: *Postgraduate student presentations*
(Venue: Flexible Learning Space, University Centre)
Michelle Toms – *An investigation of the lay beliefs and*
knowledge of ten established complementary and
alternative medicine users.

Peta S. Cook – *Networks, actors and roles: an*
examination of the development of xenotransplantation in
Australia.

TASA Registrations are open from 5.30 pm

Lazenby's Bistro is located in the heart of the Sandy Bay Campus, University of Tasmania. It is building 25 on the campus map; grid reference H12. Room 208 is located in the Faculty of Arts Building. It is Building 28 on the campus map; grid reference H13.

INVITED PAPERS – ABSTRACTS

1. Evidence-based medicine: Dr Jeanne Daly

Evidence-based medicine is a recent phenomenon but it represents an important shift in the medical professional hierarchy that dates back to the post-war years. There was discontent about rising costs and lack of effectiveness and this enabled two groups of researchers to establish a new direction in medicine. In Canada this took the form of clinical epidemiology; in the UK it was more closely allied to health services research. Eventually the two strands came together in the Cochrane Colloquium. My paper will analyse who the people were who made these changes and the reasons why they succeeded.

Jeanne Daly is co-editor of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. Her absolute passion is research method and she has written and edited books on this topic. She is also convenor of the Melbourne-based 'Qualitative Research in Health Methods Group', a group examining the use of qualitative research methods in informing policy and practice. Recently she published *Evidence-based Medicine and the search for a science of clinical care* (University of California Press and Milbank Memorial Fund).

2. Floundering in the Gene Pool - Tails of sociology: Dr Mark Stranger

Developments in genetic research and technology are providing significant challenges to sociologists. A resurgence of the nature/nurture debate has been an inevitable consequence, with some geneticists engaged in research aimed at medicalising the most fundamental aspects of human identity; including individual behaviour, sexuality and personality traits. The spectre of eugenics has also raised its head again along with fears of discrimination based on genetic status. Our privacy is threatened at the most elemental level, and Biotech companies race to take out patents on our DNA. While there are clearly potential benefits for society in genetic technology, there is also a clear need to address the potential risks. However, the commercial imperative that drives research and development in this field is at unprecedented levels. Even academic research is regularly linked to biotech companies through various partnership arrangements. As a result, developments in the industry have left regulators around the world often floundering in a game of catch-up.

Mark Stranger will discuss his role as a sociologist with the Centre for Law and Genetics, his experience of the role that sociology is playing globally in the current debates about the regulation of genetic research and technology, and provide some background to the Centre's current research projects.

3. Sociology and epidemiological research into lifestyle: Dr Emily Hansen

The theme for Health Day 2005 is 'sociologists working in contentious areas'. The practices and technologies of the new public health and health promotion have been subject to considerable sociological critique and debate. From a sociological perspective, epidemiological and health promotion attempts to understand people's behaviours and actions using an individualised largely 'asocial' concept of lifestyle as a risk factor for disease are contentious. As a sociologist working on research teams alongside epidemiologists and other health professionals who are keen to use the research findings for health promotion purposes, I have observed firsthand the differences between sociological and epidemiological understandings of lifestyle. I have also encountered difficulties in developing a role for myself as a sociologist in working in multidisciplinary research teams involved with medical lifestyle research. In particular I have found it difficult to draw on sociological practices such as critical reflection and on sociological theory. I will discuss these issues while drawing on material from my PhD thesis, a co-authored monograph written with Gary Easthope and examples from three research projects.

Emily Hansen is a Research Fellow in the Discipline of General Practice, University of Tasmania. She completed a Phd in the School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania in 2001. She is the author of 'Successful Qualitative Health Research' (in press, Allen and Unwin) and co-author with Gary Easthope of 'Lifestyle in Medicine' (in press, Routledge).

Annual General Meeting
11.30 am, Monday 5 December 2005
Venue: Room 208, Faculty off Arts Building.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Confirmation of 2004 minutes
3. Reports
 - a. Convenor (tabled)
 - b. eSoc Health
 - c. *Health Sociology Review*
 - d. 2005 Health Day
4. General business
 - a. Formation of thematic group
Moved: That the TASA Health Section applies to the TASA Executive to become a thematic group
 - b. Other items from floor
5. Election of office bearers