

TASA Workshop: Call for Papers

Alone in a crisis: Reflections on recent personal, financial, and health shifts

Virtual 1-day workshop

2 November 2022

'Alone in a crisis' is a full-day, virtual workshop presenting researcher findings and practitioner experiences on single and solo living people's personal, financial, and health-related experiences of recent crises, government pandemic measures and lockdowns, and the implications of any resulting shifts. It will bring together postgraduate, early career researcher, and senior academic sociologists, anthropologists, and social scientists, as well as practitioners and policy experts from across the world. Workshop participants will discuss the realities, consequences, and future needs of people living alone in times of crisis.

The workshop will explore being 'alone' from a number of different perspectives. Participants might examine the short and long-term implications of lockdowns and other government health measures for people's love lives, for instance, asking how dating, sex, singledom, and relationships have been reorganised (or not) across different national contexts. For example, in Australia, single people were largely restricted from forming in-person sexual and romantic relationships during lockdowns, while in Denmark citizens were encouraged to choose a 'seksbuddy' to visit. The workshop will also ask how people's personal finances have been impacted, in light of widespread job losses, the rising cost of living, and financial downturns across the world. Also of interest is the impact of the pandemic on health, ageing, and care. Most of those living alone are older people, yet discussion of this group has generally centred on aged care facilities, which were hard hit by COVID-19. The lives of solo-living older people, and those who experienced the deaths of their partners, have received less attention.

The workshop will thus take a broad approach to being 'alone' in a crisis, aiming to draw together sociologists and other social scientists whose work does not normally coalesce. These scholars might work in a range of areas, researching relationships, singledom, finances, work, health, and ageing. National and international practitioners and policymakers will also be invited. Following the workshop in November, academic participants will be invited to contribute to a journal special issue.

Please email paper proposals to lara.mckenzie@uwa.edu.au by **5pm AEST on Friday 7 October 2022**, including the following information:

- Paper title
- Name, email, and affiliation (if any)
- Paper abstract (250 words max)
- Are you a postgraduate or early career researcher? Yes/No

For any questions please email Lara McKenzie at lara.mckenzie@uwa.edu.au.