

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

INTERSECTIONALITY AS A TOOL TO PREVENT STRUCTURAL DISCRIMINATION

ethical, legal and social aspects of strategies
of anti-discrimination in mental health care

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

5 - 9 September, 2022

Applications by 15 March, 2022

Discrimination within mental health care based on structural systems of discrimination, such as ableism, racism, (hetero)sexism, classism and ageism, is a barrier to social and health care justice. It thus constitutes a pressing ethical, legal and social concern. Intersectionality has emerged as a tool to both analyse and resist structures of discrimination. As an analytical tool, it centres the simultaneity, complexity, interdependency, and co-constitution of overlapping systems of discrimination. As a practice, intersectionality may be used to inform projects that aim to achieve social justice. Originally developed by Black Feminist grassroots activists, the concept has been welcomed in academic research and has travelled across different disciplines. However, its application as both a theory and a practical tool is faced with numerous challenges that remain to be solved.

The aim of this international summer school is to bring together early-career (PhDs and postdocs) and senior researchers from various disciplines to critically examine intersectionality as a tool to identify and prevent discrimination. A special focus will be on the discipline of mental health care and research.

TOPICS:

1) Intersectionality

- Concept and philosophy of intersectionality
- History and development of intersectionality across different disciplines
- Philosophy of social categories and social structures

2) Approaches to understanding and measuring discrimination

- Concept and philosophy of discrimination
- Defining systems of discrimination such as racism, (hetero)sexism, ableism, classism, ageism
- Intersectionality, stigma and mental health
- Methodological questions of intersectionality in quantitative and qualitative research

3) A human rights perspective on intersectionality

- Intersectionality and anti-discrimination legislation
- Anti-discrimination, intersectionality and the CRPD
- Philosophy of human rights

4) Intersectionality as a praxis tool

- Strategies of anti-discrimination within mental health care
- Intersectionality as a practice: Intersectionality in social work, intersectional therapy
- Legal strategies to reduce structural discrimination

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

Prof. Claudia Bernard

Professor of Social Work and Co-head of Department of Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies, Goldsmith University London

Prof. Dr. Theresia Degener

Professor of Law and Disability Studies, Protestant University of Applied Sciences, BODYD Bochum

Prof. Stephani Hatch

Professor of Sociology and Epidemiology, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London

Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Heinz

Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Campus Charité Mitte, Berlin

Dr. Katharine Jenkins

Lecturer in Social Philosophy, University of Glasgow

Dr. Amma Yeboah

Psychodynamic supervisor and coach, psychiatrist, trainer for empowerment and Critical Whiteness, Cologne

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Participants with a background in medicine, health science, nursing science, social work, sociology, psychology, political sciences, legal studies, philosophy, medical ethics, theology, disability studies, gender studies or critical race studies, preferably from Germany and the UK, are invited to present their research at the workshop. The number of participants is limited to 15 young scholars. Applicants are asked to send an abstract in English on any of the subtopics (300 – 500 words) along with a short CV to insist-summer-school@rub.de by 15 March, 2022.

There will be four workshops as part of the conference, each on one of the main topics. Participants will give a presentation of 25 minutes, followed by a 30-minute discussion. The conference language is English. All participants are invited to prepare a manuscript. We aim to publish the articles in a special issue of an international peer-reviewed journal. Furthermore, all participants are invited to participate in a jointly written policy paper.

The international Summer School will take place as a **hybrid conference** at the Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Preventive Medicine, LWL University Hospital, Ruhr University Bochum (Alexandrinestraße 1-3, 44791 Bochum) from 5 - 9 September, 2022. The facilities are accessible without barriers. Participants from Germany are invited to participate in presence. Participants from the UK can decide whether they would like to attend virtually or in presence. Please state your preference in your application. Any needs regarding access or nutrition can be addressed in the application process and will be individually accommodated as far as possible. The Summer School is sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

REIMBURSEMENT:

Travel expenses and costs for accommodation will be reimbursed. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner is included. If the assistance of accompanying persons is needed, their expenses will also be covered. Participants will receive a remuneration of € 300 for preparing a manuscript.

Organisers: Mirjam Faissner, Jakov Gather, Georg Juckel