



This newsletter is produced to coincide with the Seventh International Conference on Social Work, Health and Mental Health at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, 'Pathways to Client-Centered Care' June 23rd – June 27th 2013

7th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health 2013

SWHIN members have been involved in organising a series of symposia on Health Equity. See your programme for sessions on:

- Mental Health and Disability
- LGBT Health Inequalities
- Health and Well-Being of Indigenous People
- Developing the Social Work Curriculum

Look out for other members who are presenting. These include Paul Bywaters' paper: '*Are child welfare services unintentionally exacerbating health inequalities?*' Also Randy Johner's paper on '*Disability is a never-ending story*', and Chris Hudson, Max Abott & Varda Soskolne's paper, '*Disparities in the Geography of Mental Illness in Three Nations: A Comparison of Israel, New Zealand, & the United States*' (F-1).

Shula Ramon & colleagues from Canada, Israel, UK & USA are presenting a symposium on recovery in mental health and Carolyn Messner is involved in an oncology symposium. Gonca Polat is presenting: '*Treatment Capital*' as a Means of Social Reintegration of Drug Addicted Adolescents: Findings from Turkey with a Social Capital Perspective (J-2). Fiona McDermott & colleagues are presenting: '*Changing the course of intergenerational disparities: improving the health of Australia's indigenous people*'. Rosalie Pockett is also involved in a panel session on the Mt Sinai Social Work in Health Leadership Program, New York.

We are looking forward to meeting SWHIN members and potential new members at the conference.

Wed, June 26th, 11.45 – 12.45
Tapir Hall -THH – Room 114
Meeting of members & others
interested in learning more about the network.

SAVE
THE
DATE

Navigating a Shared Voyage: An Indigenous Perspective

LS Ka'opua, University of Hawai'i-Manoa (USA)

Native Hawaiian elders teach that when visiting the homeland of another people, it is important to acknowledge our hosts and honor those who have walked the land before us. In so doing, a process of kuku kumuhana (foundation-building) begins as we deepen knowledge of those with perspectives different from our own, find commonalities, and perhaps, embark upon a voyage of collaborative work. In following the wisdom of my elders, I thank our hosts for their welcome and extend gratitude to all who dedicated their efforts to make our gathering a reality. Also, I pause to honor the spirit of the ancient peoples who first settled the land now known as the Los Angeles Basin. I commend their living descendants on the voyage to (re)discover traditions lost through centuries of colonization, to pass onto their children traditional knowledge, and share with us all the ancestral wisdom of ***nurturing a wholesome relationship to oneself and all creation*** (Four Corners Spirit Run, 2013).



Three diverse and thriving indigenous nations made their home here prior to European arrival in the 16th century. Their presence is glimpsed through place names like Malibu and Pomona.

Chumash settled in the western Los Angeles Basin, along the coast and offshore islands stretching from Malibu in the south to present-day San Luis Obispo County in the north. **Tataviam** lived in the northern basin, populating the area now

called the San Fernando Valley; their nation is traceable back to 450 A.D.

Gabrielino/Tongva were known as “people of the earth” and the most numerous. Their settlements spanned the entire basin stretching from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean and extending east and southeast to parts of present-day San Bernardino and Orange Counties, respectively. Gabrielino/Tongva continue to live on some ancestral lands.



The Chumash and Gabrielino/Tongva were seafaring peoples with knowledge of oceanic wayfinding (navigation by ocean currents, stars, other natural elements). Written history tells us that in 1542, their ti'ats (canoes) sailed out to meet the first Europeans entering the Pacific coastal waters. Linguistic evidence indicates that these indigenous voyagers made contact with **Polynesians**,

similarly skilled in navigation. This ancient connection of Gabrielino/Tongva natives and Native Hawaiians was renewed in 2007 through ***One Voyage, One People***, a trans-oceanic expedition relying solely on traditional wayfinding. **In like manner, we invite you to voyage with us in advancing health equity for all!**



Why participate in SWHIN?

Updates on global health & social work

The Global Agenda and the Global Observatory

The Global Agenda is a joint initiative involving the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW). The purpose of the agenda is to work together to promote social justice and human rights. The agenda has four themes: Social and economic inequalities within countries and between regions; Dignity and worth; Environmental sustainability and the Importance of human relationships. The Global Observatory has been created to collect evidence about the positive actions of social workers, educators and social development practitioners in support of the Global Agenda.

We would like to encourage SWHIN members to engage with this initiative and submit evidence to the Global Observatory.

More information about the Global Agenda and the Global Observatory can be found at: <http://ifsw.org/get-involved/agenda-for-social-work/> and <http://ifsw.org/news/compiling-an-international-picture-of-the-state-of-social-work/>

European Network for Social Action (ENSACT) Joint European conference in Istanbul, 16 – 19 April 2013 (G. Polat, University of Ankara, Turkey)

The 3rd ENSACT Conference focused on *Social Action in Europe: Inclusive Policies and Practice*. More than 600 participants attended the conference, which included workshops, symposia, poster presentations, and plenary speeches. Topics included:

- inclusive policies and practices
- human rights, ethics, and dilemmas in social action
- migration and discrimination
- elderly people
- disability and inclusion
- social work in health care settings and in promoting well-being
- sustainable development and social action

Network members including **Karen Adshead, Tuula Heinonen, David Jones, Pamela Trevithick, and Gonca Polat** attended the conference. Gonca Polat presented findings from a research study on the social work response to health inequalities in Turkey. The study was conducted by **Gonca Polat**, with assistance from **Lana Sue Ka'opua** (University of Hawai'i-Manoa).

The International Federation of Social Work (IFSW) convened a meeting on the second day of the conference. **David Jones** moderated discussion on the *Global Agenda and Global Observatory*. Participants were encouraged to report evidence from their efforts in promoting social and economic equalities.

4th European Conference for Social Work Research, April 2014

The 3rd conference took place at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland in March this year and was attended by Paul Bywaters and other SWHIN members. The 4th European Social Work Research Conference will take place in Bolzano, Italy from 15-17 April 2014. Further information is available from: <http://ecswr-2014.unibz.it>

Why participate in SWHIN?

Connect with members
of 25+ nations



Watch this space – Melbourne 2014

The next IFSW / IASSW conference is taking place in Melbourne in July 2014. SWHIN members are already involved in helping to prepare for the event and we are hoping that it will be another positive opportunity for network members to get together. More information about the conference can be found at:

<http://www.swsd2014.org/more-information/>

Future Development of the Network

Contact Julie Fish or Kate Karban, Joint Convenors if you want to find out more or have ideas about how we can develop the network.

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Why participate in SWHIN?



Access current developments in health equity
Strengthen local & global knowledge and action

Thanks to Lana Ka'opua for her involvement in producing this newsletter and everyone else who has contributed.