



National academic prize for sociologist's book on transsexualism

A book by a Lincoln sociologist which examines how transsexuals perceive their own bodies, and the potential conflicts with the medical and legal arenas, has won a prestigious national award.

In April Dr Zowie Davy (left) was awarded the Philip Abram's Memorial Prize for her first sole-authored book, *Recognizing Transsexuals: Personal, Political and Medicolegal Embodiment*, at the British Sociological Association's Annual Conference.

The book draws on interviews with 24 transsexuals at various stages of transition, giving an original account of their sense of

'embodiment' and exploring the reasons why some wish to modify their bodies to varying degrees.

Importantly, the book moves away from the conventional focus on gender identity that characterises much of the existing literature on transsexuals, and instead investigates the concept of bodily aesthetics – how transpeople view their own body image and identity and how others make judgements on trans bodies.

It highlights the multifaceted problems experienced by transpeople and especially those who do not fit within medical and legal definitions of what it means to be transsexual. Drawing on Dr Davy's doctoral research into the implications of the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the book contextualizes trans embodiment within personal and political domains.

The BSA prize is awarded for the best first and sole-authored book within sociology, and was established in honour of the memory of Professor Philip Abram, whose work contributed substantially to sociology and social policy research in Britain.

Zowie said "To win the award was so special on many levels. Personally, it was amazing to be recognised by my peers, but it is also an acknowledgement by the academic community that embodiment and gender theory are important aspects of the sociology of health."

On 2nd May Zowie was interviewed by Laurie Taylor on his show 'Thinking Aloud' on BBC Radio 4. She discussed her book and the Philip Abrams Prize.

Diary date

The summer **Research Forum** will take place on Wednesday 4th July in the Bridge house board room. Lunch will be served from 11:30 and presentations will commence at 11:50. Dr Sheila Greatrex-White from the University of Nottingham will talk about her student nursing experience overseas, Zahid Asghar is talking about 'Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination against Stroke and Transient Ischaemic Attacks' and Fiona Togher will present 'Using qualitative methods for generating patient reported outcome measures and patient reported experience measures for pre-hospital emergency care of stroke and heart attack'. If you would like to attend contact Sue Bower before 22/06/2012 at: sbowler@lincoln.ac.uk

University of Lincoln develop national training materials to support Mental Health Legislation Training in Wales

The Welsh Government has recently passed new mental health legislation, which may have a profound impact on many aspects of mental health practice. The Measure has four broad policy elements:

to provide assessment of a person's mental health and, where appropriate, provide treatment in primary care, by developing more primary care services across Wales

to create statutory requirements around care and treatment planning and care coordination for all persons within mental health services

to require mental health services to have arrangements for access to re-assessment for people who have previously been discharged from the service

to extend the group of 'qualifying patients' under the Mental Health Act 1983 entitled to receive support from an Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA)

Dr Christine Jackson & Ian McGonagle were asked by the Welsh Government to help develop a set of national training materials to support the implementation of the Measure. Additionally Ian McGonagle was asked to contribute sections to the Code of Practice to help health and social care organizations understand their duties and responsibilities under the legislation. The Lincoln team was aided by Paul Barrett, Paul Linsley and Andy Betts in the writing of the resources. Over 250 people and groups in Wales were consulted and aided development of the materials. Each version of the materials was shared with a full range of project partners in Wales. This large scale collaborative effort has resulted in a product which has a broad authorship and considerable ownership of mental health service users, carers and professionals in Wales. The final resources are due for publication by the Welsh Government in June 2012



Public presentation of research findings to get blood pumping

On 25th May 2012 a public lecture took place revealing exciting research findings which could potentially help prevent people from developing diseases of the blood vessels in later life. The pilot study into the effects of exercise and the Mediterranean diet on the efficient working of small blood vessels in people aged 50 and over was held in the Co-op lecture theatre. Afterwards attendees were also invited to a lunch with a Mediterranean flavour in the EMMTEC Gallery. Dr. Markos Klonizakis and his co-researchers Geoff Middleton, Dr. Ahmad Alkhatib and Dr. Mark Smith spent eight weeks working with volunteers to assess the effect of changes to

exercise and diet on the efficiency of blood flow in the small blood vessels – known as the microvascular system. Internal damage to these vessels is thought to be responsible for some common circulatory diseases, particularly varicose veins and leg ulceration. Results from their pilot study were very positive, suggesting potential health benefits for all, but especially for older people, who due to the effects of ageing are more at risk of developing circulatory problems.

Dr. Klonizakis said: "This was a pilot study, but the results are exciting and point the way for further research. We felt it was important to share these early findings not just with the academic community, but also anyone with an interest in health". The presentation was a chance for members of the public to hear more about the experiment and ask questions about what the results might mean."



New study published on how acute pain management could be improved in urgent care

Mohammad Iqbal, research fellow and PhD student at the University of Lincoln and research associate at East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS), together with Anne Spaight (senior research fellow at the University of Lincoln and Head of Clinical Governance, Audit and Research at EMAS) and Niro Siriwardena (professor of primary and prehospital health care) have a new study published online in the Emergency Medical Journal. The study entitled: 'Patients' and emergency clinicians' perceptions of improving pre-hospital pain management: a qualitative study' follows on from an earlier study investigating prehospital pain management which showed that under two-fifths of patients with a painful condition (heart attack or fracture) were provided with pain relief.

Although patients and staff expected pain to be relieved in the ambulance, refusal of or inadequate analgesia were common. Pain was often assessed using a verbal pain score, but practitioners' views of severity were sometimes different from patients' views. Morphine and Entonox were commonly used to treat pain, but reassurance, positioning and immobilisation were used as alternatives to drugs.

The authors concluded that pre-hospital pain management could be improved by addressing practitioner and patient barriers, increasing available drugs and developing multi-organisational pain management protocols supported by training for staff. These findings may be used to inform guidance, education and policy to improve the pre-hospital pain management pathway.

Niro Siriwardena co-leads the NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research: Prehospital Outcomes for Evidence based Evaluation (PhOEBE).



ASCQI presented at International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care in Paris, April

In April 2012 Professor Niro Siriwardena and Fiona Togher travelled to Paris with colleagues, Nadya Essam, Debbie Shaw (East Midlands Ambulance Service [EMAS]) and David Francis (East of England Ambulance Service) to attend the 17th International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare.

The team presented work undertaken as part of the Ambulance Service Cardiovascular Quality Initiative (ASCQI) a two year nationwide project involving all 12 ambulance trusts in England and the University of Lincoln funded by the Health Foundation.

From the 2,000 poster submissions that were originally received, around 900 were selected for display following a two stage peer review process.

Fiona, Nadya and Debbie were all invited to present their work during the poster presentation session held. This provided a brilliant opportunity to talk to interested delegates from around the world about the quality improvement work and research that is being undertaken at the University and East Midlands Ambulance Service

Fiona represented the IS-PROVE team, which also includes Professor Siriwardena and Dr Zowie Davy. Their poster entitled "The importance of qualitative methods for generating patient reported outcome measures and patient reported experience measures for pre-hospital and emergency care of stroke and heart attack" attracted attention from French, Swedish and American delegates that were keen to find out more. Nadya presented on ergonomic redesign to improve care for heart attack and Debbie presented on 'Joining the dots' and the use of annotated control charts for quality improvement in ASCQI.

Publications

Peer reviewed journal publications

Siriwardena, A. Niroshan and Irish, Bill and Asghar, Zahid and Milne, Paul and Dixon, Hilton and Neden, Catherine and Richardson, Jo and Blow, Carol (2012) *Comparing performance among male and female candidates in sex-specific clinical knowledge in the MRCGP*. British Journal of General Practice, 62 (599). e446-e450.

Dexter, Laura J. and Teare, M. Dawn and Dexter, Matthew and Siriwardena, A. Niroshan and Read, Robert C. (2012) *Strategies to increase influenza vaccination rates: outcomes of a nationwide cross-sectional survey of UK general practice*. BMJ Open, 2. BMJ Open 2012; 2:e000851 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2011-000851.

Iqbal, Mohammad and Spaight, Anne and Siriwardena, A. Niroshan (2012) *Patients' and emergency clinicians' perceptions of improving pre-hospital pain management: a qualitative study*. Emergency Medicine Journal . pp. 1-6. online first doi:10.1136/emmermed-2012-201111.

Pluck, G. and Sirdifield, C. and Brooker, C. and Moran, P. (2012) *Screening for personality disorder in probationers: validation of the Standardised Assessment of Personality—Abbreviated Scale (SAPAS)*. Personality and Mental Health, 6 (1). pp. 61-68.

Klonizakis, Markos (2012) *Studying the cutaneous microcirculatory response during upper-limb exercise in healthy, older, sedentary people*. Clinical Hemorrhology and Microcirculation, 48 . pp. 1-7.

Books and book chapters

Davy, Zowie and Steinbock, Eliza (2012) *'Sexing up' bodily aesthetics: notes towards theorizing Trans sexuality*. In: Sexualities: past reflections and future directions. Genders and sexualities in the social sciences . Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, pp. 266-285.

Conference presentations

Essam, Nadya and Wood, Kate and Hall, Mark and Shaw, Deborah and Spaight, Anne and Baird, Andrew and Siriwardena, A. Niroshan (2012) *Ergonomic redesign using quality improvement for pre-hospital care of acute myocardial infarction*. In: International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare, 17-20 April 2012, Le Palais des Congrès de Paris, France.

Shaw, Deborah and Essam, Nadya and Wood, Kate and Spaight, Anne and Togher, Fiona (pictured right) and Black, Sarah and Gurkamal, Viridi and Siriwardena, A. Niroshan (2012) *Joining the dots: measuring the effects of a national quality improvement collaborative in ambulance services*. In: International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare, 17-20 April 2012, Le Palais des Congrès de Paris, France.

Togher, Fiona and Davy, Zowie and Siriwardena, A. Niroshan (2012) *The importance of qualitative methods for generating patient reported outcome measures and patient reported experience measures for pre-hospital and emergency care of stroke and heart attack*. In: International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare, 17-20 April 2012, Le Palais des Congrès de Paris, France.

Davy, Zowie (2012) *Bodily aesthetic affects in trans erotica: towards a wider 'spectra of desire'*. In: British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2012, 11th April - April 13th, University Of Leeds. Item availability restricted.

Milne, Paul and Dixon, Hilton and Blow, Carol and Siriwardena, A. Niroshan (2012) *Assuring the quality of an applied knowledge assessment for licensing purposes (Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners, MRCGP) in UK general practice*. In: 15th Ottawa Conference on the Assessment of Competence in Medicine and the Healthcare Professions, 9-13 March 2012, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia.

Davy, Zowie (2012) *Researching trans sexualities*. In: Self, Selves and Sexuality, 8th-10th March 2012, Dublin City University.

