



Berlin School of Public Health | BSPH

The Qualitative Research Group on Cancer at the Berlin School of Public Health invites abstracts for the conference:

***Qualitative Cancer Research:
Taking Stock, Stepping Further***

Monday, April 28 and Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Charité, Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany.

Research on cancer has become a major focus of qualitative health research for decades both challenging and supplementing studies grounded in the epistemology of biomedical sciences. Qualitative cancer research is committed to viewing data from the perspectives of actors involved in the cancer control continuum. It aims at understanding the different socio-cultural meanings assigned to a malignant tumorous disease. Considerable efforts are devoted to investigate the implications of contexts, relationships and processes related to a cancer diagnosis, its treatment, prevention, and the experience thereof. Topics equally picked up in qualitative cancer research are: the rapid increase in knowledge in the fields of molecular biology and genetics as well as novel developments in cancer-related biomedical sciences, such as the changing paradigm towards predictive, personalized, and preventive approaches; the evaluation of many cancer entities as chronic diseases; and the growing interaction between basic laboratory pre-clinical research and clinical medicine, known as translational research.

The conference will review the perspectives in current qualitative research on cancer from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. It provides the unique opportunity to bring together early- and mid-career researchers from anthropology, sociology, psychology, epidemiology, public-health, and biomedicine among others, engaging in qualitative cancer research and discussing topics that focus on critical issues in the field. We invite contributions from single- and multi-disciplinary research projects among a broad spectrum of cancer-related topics and a wide range of qualitative approaches to foster critical discussion around contemporary work (in-progress) and future challenges within this research area.

Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- theoretical approaches
- methodology and methods
- ethical issues
- emotions and emotional work
- cancer control continuum: primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, diagnostics, therapy, follow-up care, survivorship, end-of life care
- living with cancer
- doctor-patient-relations
- health care needs
- translational research
- diagnostic and therapeutic delays
- political and structural issues
- interdisciplinary cooperation

The Qualitative Research Group on Cancer at the Berlin School of Public Health, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin

The Qualitative Research Group on Cancer is a multidisciplinary research unit under the lead of social anthropologist and epidemiologist Dr. Christine Holmberg at the Berlin School of Public Health, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Since its inception in 2009 it seeks to generate, promote, and spread excellent academic research and knowledge on all aspects of different cancerous entities. By combining expertise in social sciences, epidemiology, and biomedicine, we continuously create, establish, and sustain a culture of qualitative research in the field of oncology.

Current research foci of group members include five clusters: prevention and prediction with a special focus on decision-making processes, pre-diagnostic symptom experiences and diagnostic delays, practices of interdisciplinary cooperation in cancer health services, psychooncology, and patients' experiences of cancer.

We are fostering dialogues across disciplines, national boundaries, and levels of academic education. We communicate with patients and providers, campus community and public, professors and students, theory and practice. Our ultimate aim in doing this is creatively facilitat-



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ing and enhancing a comprehensive understanding of the multiple dimensions of cancer and refining qualitative methodologies and theoretical approaches of our research.

In fulfilling these aims, the Research Group acts as facilitator of this unique conference where special priorities are also given to strengthen networking among researchers.

Process of abstract submission

If you are interested in submitting an abstract, please follow the instructions carefully and provide all requested information. Abstracts for presentation will be selected by members of the Scientific Committee who are blinded to the affiliation of abstract authors.

To ensure neutrality of the Scientific Committee, please submit your abstract in MS Word (doc., docx.) as an E-Mail-attachment and provide affiliations and name in a separate document. Please make sure that your abstract has been submitted to qualitative-cancer-research@charite.de by 17:00 GMT, January 31, 2014. Abstract submission will be acknowledged within one week of receipt. Final announcement of acceptance will be March 1, 2014.

For the separate document with personal affiliations, please include: Title, authors, affiliation, and e-mail address of corresponding author. The body of abstract should be no more than 300 words. Please disclose any source of financial support or any other relevant conflict of interest to your work at the end of the abstract.

Selected presenters may later be asked to submit their written papers for publication in a conference volume. Please indicate in your abstract submission whether you would be interested to publish your paper.

The conference will be free of charge, but participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

We are looking forward to your submission!

If you have any enquiries or further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Susanne Brandner or Wiebke Stritter at: qualitative-cancer-research@charite.de