Special session proposal

Changes in health care provision, spatial mobility and access to care

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Public health policies, in their objective to better meet the needs of the population (Illich, 1975; McKeown, 1979), face multiple challenges related to, among other things, population ageing, increasing rates of chronic diseases, the demographics of health professionals and high economic, social, and geographic inequalities in health (Haschar-Noé and Lang, 2018). Spatial reconfigurations of health services, generally under severe budgetary constraints, contribute to change the conditions of access to health care. In addition, the digitalisation of health care has led to the emergence of new forms of cooperation between health professionals and with the patients (Freeman, 2002; Normand 2017) that are changing the geographical coverage of health practitioners and services.

This special session proposes to focus on access to care (considered as "the fit between the patient and the heath care system", Penchansky and Thomas, 1981:127), physical accessibility (time or distance between the locations of the service and of the patient, Guagliardo, 2004) and spatial mobility. They can be considered in their multiple dimensions: economic, social, geographical and technological, at different scales (local, regional or national) and in different contexts, in countries of the North and the South.

Communications may focus on (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Reconfigurations of health care provision, geographical accessibility to facilities and access;
- Spatial mobility (travel behaviour, mobility resources, modes of transport used) related to care (patients, but also heath care professionals and family, friends or volunteer carers);
- Development of e-health, telemedicine (care networks, connected objects, remote care...), mobile/itinerant care (mobile medical unit / home care) and their effects on care practices;
- Continuity of care, relations between caregivers and patients.

References:

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Illich I., 1975, *Medical Nemesis: The Expropriation of Health*; Toronto – London: McClelland and Stewart in association with Calder and Boyars, 183 p.

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