

Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia

CALL FOR PAPERS

Controlling madness

Extant empirical and theoretical research

Call for papers, Special Issue of «Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia», edited by STEFAN SJÖSTRÖM (Uppsala Universitet, Sweden), LUIGI GARIGLIO (Università di Torino, Italy) and MARIO CARDANO (Università di Torino, Italy)

This call for papers aims to attract critical research on psychiatric control, casting new light on the classic question of the social control of madness, a theme fundamental to the sociology of mental health. Our objective is to explore recent theoretical developments in the post-deinstitutionalized era (Rosenberg 2009). The large asylums of the last century, and contemporary psychiatric hospitals, have often been administered in the interplay between coercion and dialogue. Contemporary community care approaches have stressed the role of dialogue between staff, patients, and caregivers. However, coercive practices – either formal or informal – have always been just around the corner (Sharp 1975; Molodynski *et al.* 2016). Today, as in the past, coercion remains a reality – whether explicit or implicit, formal or informal, within as well as outside institutions (Sjöström 2016; Szmukler 2017; Gariglio 2018; Flammer *et al.* 2020). Coercive practices are pervasive in day-to-day life (for example, in education, taxation and migration policies). However, they become particularly problematic in health care because they radically challenge the fundamental idea of patients' autonomy and free will. Moreover, since psychiatry is one of the most control-dense care institutions, it is fertile terrain for investigating modern developments in social control. All this concerns a particularly stigmatized population afflicted by a particular form of otherness (Cardano 2010) which is often called madness (Foucault 1961; Cohen 2018). The literature shows that in day-to-day situations madness is likely to meet a response of

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dialogue as well as informal and formal coercion. Although stricter, coercive controlling practices are more likely to occur in coercive organizations (Etzioni 1961) such as psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric wards, and prisons, gentler but still highly effective modes of control can appear unexpectedly «out there» in the «free world». Accordingly, any subject «acting out» – even one who has not been labelled «mad» so far – can be educated, motivated, persuaded, medicated, hospitalized, secluded, or even restrained, depending on specific national laws and welfare systems.

In order to tackle the multifaceted empirical dimensions of controlling madness, this call for papers is intended to solicit primarily empirical contributions, but we also welcome critical contributions challenging established theories of control and coercion in psychiatric settings, as well as reflection on ethical issues.

We welcome empirical papers that tackle «controlling madness» from any theoretical and methodological perspective including, for example, studies of madness, survivors' studies and convict criminology. Collaborative approaches are welcome. We hope to receive investigations of different modes or aspects of coercive practices adopted to control madness. Empirical studies may involve actors and stakeholders such as psychiatric patients, professionals, family members, policymakers and moral entrepreneurs. A wide variety of control settings will be considered: total institutions, such as psychiatric wards, removal centres for migrants, forensic psychiatric hospitals and prisons, private clinics, and community mental health contexts as well as everyday life in the family, workplace, and leisure settings.

Deadlines and guideline

Abstracts are due by **January 14th, 2022**. All abstracts (500 words), with 5 keywords, should be sent as e-mail attachments to: stefan.sjostrom@soc.uu.se, luigi.gariglio@unito.it, mario.cardano@unito.it. Empirical contributions should include details on research design and main results.

Decisions concerning the selection of articles will be given by **January 31st, 2022**.

Submission of first versions of articles to the editors by **April 30th, 2022**. Articles should follow the journal guidelines.

Communication from the Editor concerning the peer-review process by **June 30th, 2022**.

Revised versions sent to the editors by **September 15th, 2022**.

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We welcome submissions. The abstracts will allow us to focus the pool. We anticipate that all of the articles submitted as full papers will be subject to a peer review process, and a portion of those will be accepted for the Special Issue. When issuing the invitation for the submission of a full paper, we will be able to provide more details on the approximate number of articles in the Special Issue and the likelihood of acceptance. The articles will be published in English.

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