

CQHER SEMINAR

Finding the Social in Physician Narratives: The Example of Institutional Ethnography

Critical Qualitative Health and Equity-oriented Research (CQHER) is an emerging, interdisciplinary interest group at Western University comprised of researchers, graduate students, and community partners who share an interest in advancing critical qualitative and equity-oriented research methodologies and innovations. **Anyone sharing these interests is welcome.**

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Room 2130, Elborn College, Western University

Institutional ethnography (IE) is an approach to the sociological investigation of ruling relations that has become popular in health and health sciences research in Canada and beyond. In this presentation I will draw on a recent study that explored the social coordination of care for patients with chronic pain in order to introduce and explicate several key IE concepts. Our overarching research question over several studies has been “How do physicians describe the work they do in caring for patients?” Using an expanded definition of work allows us to understand the many types of work that physicians do and alerts us to how the discourses and concerns of institutions enters into the everyday language of care providers.



Fiona Webster is an Associate Professor in the Labatt Family School of Nursing at Western University. Since 2014 she has held CIHR funding for her IE investigations exploring the social organization of care for patients with chronic pain from both provider and patient standpoints. By turning a sociological eye to the challenges of providing chronic pain care within parameters currently delineated by the Canadian health care system, her aim is to identify structural and ideological components of contemporary health care that might be amenable to change.