

Health from whose lens? Learning from international experiences of grounding action and services for health and wellbeing inside community cultures, systems and control



Shaping health participatory satellite session Tuesday 9 October 2018 Conference room 14, 1330-1700

In the Global Symposium for Health Systems Research (HSR2018),
Liverpool, UK.

What is this session about?

In this session we will share evidence and learning from a multi-country *Shaping health* consortium on social participation in local health systems, and use participatory approaches to draw also on the experiences of those participating. These experiences show how social participation and power can make health systems more holistic in approach, more responsive and more inclusive. We will discuss and draw recommendations on practices that ground health action and services within community cultures and systems, what challenges they face, and how to facilitate and encourage such practice.



Community assessing health conditions in a local market, Quito, © J Arevalo, 2018

How do I participate?

The session is open and we will have many opportunities for delegates to raise their own views and experiences and to dialogue on shared learning.

However we only have a limited number of places in the session. We would therefore ask those wishing to attend the session to send an email to admin@tarasc.org with your full name, institution, area of work and country and we will reply to confirm your participation and to register you.

As we will need to close the session once we reach maximum numbers please do contact us early!

Some further information.....

Who is hosting the session?

The session is co-ordinated by Training and Research Support Centre (Dr Rene Loewenson), with colleagues from seven countries in the Shaping Health consortium <https://www.shapinghealth.org/> including Peter Bezec, Director, Centre for health and development Murska Sobota, Slovenia; Ruth Dudding, Director Health Education, Athens City County Health Department, USA; Patricia Frenz, Director, Escuela de Salud Pública Salvador Allende, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile, Chile; Ranjita Mohanty, sociologist, India; Francisco Obando, urban planner, Municipality of Quito, Ecuador; Roberta Delgado, Community Benefit Manager, PIH Health, USA; Lucia D'Ambruoso University of Aberdeen and Sarah Simpson, Director, EquiAct, France.

What will the session exchanges cover?

Today's health challenges, inequalities and opportunities cannot be managed simply with reactive care services. They demand holistic approaches that involve communities and other sectors to promote population health for all. Such social participation is not only a means to improved action on health-it is intrinsic to people's identity, values, rights and lived experience and a matter of social justice. In *Shaping health*, people directly involved in building innovative practice in local health systems from a range of countries in different regions globally have exchanged, shared and reflected on experience in community of practice in 2016-2018.

Building on that work, this session explores sustained approaches that are grounding health action and services within community cultures and systems, their contribution to proactive, holistic approaches to health, and the challenges they face.



Mural on awareness of violence against women, Chile © Fundación EPES, 2016

Those responsible for these approaches will share their experiences on grounding health and social power in health in local community processes and economies, and on building informal and formal mechanisms and processes for social voice in health. We will hear from Slovenia and Ecuador on their approaches to involving communities and local government workers in empowered action on health determinants and on embedding health within the economic development agenda; and from Chile and India on the informal community processes and community leadership and their engagement with formal state mechanisms to enable social power, trust and accountability in health .



Discussion with women and health services in a SC hamlet, Munari-Burkaini, India, © SSK 2017

We will draw on participants experiences and experiences

from all sites in the '*Shaping health*' consortium to share ideas and learning

- a. on common features of practice building meaningful social participation and power in health, and how challenges faced are being addressed;
- b. what this implies for the institutions and individuals that facilitate such practice, hearing US experiences of drawing on international practice, and sharing participant experience of how to strengthen, build and share knowledge on such practice across different contexts.

We will provide delegates with materials from the work in *Shaping health* and ways of connecting with the consortium for future discussions.

We will also provide refreshments during the session.