

Preface

We are very pleased to bring you Volume 17 of the *Clinical Sociology Review* (CSR). The first volume of the CSR was published in 1982 and Volume 16 was published in 1998. The original sponsor, the Clinical Sociology Association, decided to expand the scope of the organization and the CSR became part of a journal with a different name. Many colleagues thought it was time to reinvent the original journal. We hope you enjoyed reading the first 16 volumes of the CSR by visiting the Wayne State University website at <https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/csr/> and that you look forward to reading the new issues.

There have been considerable developments in the field of clinical sociology in many countries since the first known use of the term in Spain by a surgeon named Rubio y Gali in 1899. We felt it was time to share the local, national, and international contributions by publishing an open-access journal in several languages. The articles in the new CSR, published by the University of Johannesburg Press, will appear in French, English or Spanish but the reader will have an immediate translation available in the other two languages.

Clinical sociology is a creative, humanistic, rights-based and interdisciplinary specialization that seeks to improve life situations for individuals and groups in a wide variety of settings. Clinical sociologists work independently and with client systems (individuals or groups assisted by a clinical sociologist or an intervention team) to assess situations and/or avoid, reduce, or solve problems through a combination of analysis and intervention. *Clinical analysis* is the critical assessment of beliefs, policies, or practices, with an interest in improving a situation. *Intervention* is based on continuing analysis; it is the creation of new systems as well as the change of existing systems and can include a focus on prevention or promotion (e.g., preventing sexual harassment or promoting healthy communities).

Clinical sociology (analysis and intervention) and applied sociology (research for practical purposes) are the two specialization areas in sociological practice. Sociological practitioners can have skills in both areas, but usually choose to characterize their main work as applied or clinical based on their main contributions. Clinical sociology and

applied sociology at times are referred to as sociological practice or by other names (e.g., engaged public sociology, problem-solving sociology, translational sociology, counseling sociology). All these interests fit under one of the two general forms of practice or are a combination of clinical and applied. Sometimes the use of special terms is because there is a limited focus (e.g., excluding business) or an interest in calling attention to a special area of clinical and/or applied sociology such as counseling, organizational development, health practices or criminology. It should be noted that in some countries, sociologists are more familiar with the term applied and will list clinical under the broad heading of applied sociology even though some clinical sociologists do not do research and there is no special term for applied researchers who do not do intervention work.

This issue of the CSR, like our other issues, will have a *History* section to make sure that information is available about the many who have contributed to the field in different countries. In this issue, the *History* section has an article about the contributions of activist scholar-practitioners in the United States and South Africa. The *Articles* section in this issue contains three contributions by well-known clinical sociologists in France, Canada, and the United States.

The *Resources* section provides a list of basic publications about clinical sociology from many countries and relevant websites.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Because of the translation feature that is made possible through the University of Johannesburg, we look forward to clinical sociologists across the world being more easily able to discuss the work of their colleagues in other countries.

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