

Mini-conference on Health Professions Education in Catastrophic Times

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The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the racial justice uprisings of 2020 have brought renewed attention to untenable structures of inequality in the contemporary United States. In the health professions, scholarly and popular sources have documented disruption in education and licensing processes, lack of personal protective equipment in clinical settings, public hostility toward health professionals, burnout and suicidality among trainees and professionals, and structural racism encountered by trainees of color. As a powerful institutional site which mitigates patient access to health, medicine reproduces inequalities and injustices in the wider society (Merton 1968). Now more than ever, sociological attention is necessary to understand how training and continuing education contexts in the health professions are implicated in these processes. Sociologists working on these topics contribute valuable insights to the discipline and to applied contexts like medical and nursing schools and licensing bodies.

This mini-conference will consider questions relevant to training, socialization, and education in the health professions in the pandemic landscape. We welcome submissions that consider a range of health professions, such as pre-medical, undergraduate, and graduate education in medicine; nursing, nursing assistantship, and advanced practice nursing; physical and occupational therapy; pharmacy; care workers, medical assistants and technicians; and others. We welcome submissions on a range of topics, including but not limited to: diversity and discrimination in education, status maintenance, cultural competency, professional and emotional socialization, specialization and new technologies, mentorship and pipeline processes, professional mental health and wellbeing, among others. We welcome theoretical or commentary submissions, as well as empirical submissions using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods data.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Those wishing to present papers in this mini-conference should submit an abstract of no longer than 250 words by December 10, 2021. Please submit abstracts directly to the ESS Portal, <https://ess.mymettingsavvy.net/>. Select “Organized Sessions,” input your abstract, and under “Session Type” select “Mini-conference on HPE.” We will notify you about the status of your submission by late December.