**Social determinants of health in the European periphery: A cross-sectional time-series analysis**

Sabine Israel (University of Oldenburg)

*Abstract submitted to the ESA Conference, Prague, 25.08.2015 - 28-08.2015*

[RN16 - Sociology of Health and Illness](http://esa12thconference.eu/rn16-sociology-of-health-and-illness): *„****Differences and social inequalities in health and healthcare in contemporary societies”***

Due to similar economic trends, individuals and households in the European periphery, that is the Central European countries (CEECs) and the Mediterranean Member States, are exposed to a comparable situation of lower wages and less expenditures on health and social protection (however on different levels). Reports from these countries suggest that unmet medical needs, deprivation, arrears and mortgage payment difficulties are health risks which increased in particular in the crisis period. These European issues are likely to have an impact on health as they put individuals with low resources in a situation of physical and psychological discomfort.

The purpose of the presentation is to set out in how far Mediterranean and Eastern European countries show similar or divergent trends in health and their social determinants. This is done on the basis of cross-sectional time-series analyses of EU-SILC data comparing health status and social determinants of health from before (2005-2008) to the within crisis (2009-2012) period.

The study observes that more than the Mediterranean countries, impacted by the Eurozone crisis, the Baltic countries show an increase in the degree of bad health. In particular the take-up of healthcare services has declined for poor individuals due to monetary reasons, bringing about unmet medical needs. Material hardship (difficulties to adequately warm one’s home, afford a substantial meal and other usual expenses) and psychological burdens on health from arrears are however a more important determinant of health in the Mediterranean countries.