

CFP: SPECIAL ISSUE OF HEALTH AND HISTORY

(Re)Writing Care: Critical Histories of Community Mental Health Services in Australia

Despite increased funding for community based approaches in mental health, it remains the subject of significant criticism and government inquiries. This special issue of Health and History aims to create an intervention into this situation by showcasing critical histories of community mental health.

Community care emerged in Australia from the 1970s, following processes of deinstitutionalisation where psychiatric hospital patients were discharged to live in the community. Support services for people with experience of institutional care were patchy, experimental and often geographically-specific. These beginnings coincided with a period of community activism in Australia, seen in movements such as anti-conscription demonstrations and feminism.

This special issue seeks to showcase novel approaches, leaders, experiences and challenges for developing effective and inclusive community mental health services. What past practices and experiences could usefully inform the present? What archives are relevant when discussing community mental health services? What do they look like, whose voices do they represent – and where are they found? The guest editors invite original and high-quality submissions addressing the development of community mental health. They also welcome submissions of more explorative formats, including interviews and lived experience narratives.

TITLE AND ABSTRACTS DUE: 31st January 2022 (pitches welcome before this)

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GUEST EDITOR: Gemma Lucy Smart (University of Sydney; Re;Minding Histories Lab)