

The Spirit of 1848 Caucus: A Network Linking Politics, Passion, and Public Health

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

American Public Health Association: 136th Annual Meeting

“Public Health Without Borders”

San Diego, CA, October 25-29, 2008

The Spirit of 1848 Caucus is organizing 4 oral sessions and 1 poster session for the 136th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (San Diego, CA, Oct 25-29, 2008). The sessions will be organized around the 3 themes of our caucus, as described in our mission statement below. These themes concern the inextricable links between social justice and public health, as manifested in: the politics of public health data, social history of public health, and progressive pedagogy. To learn more about the Spirit of 1848 Caucus and sessions we have organized at past APHA meetings, please visit our website at:

<http://www.spiritof1848.org>

1) POLITICS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DATA SESSION

For APHA 2008, the session will focus on:

“Analyzing health inequities: what’s new in the 160 years since 1848? – applying new methods to longstanding problems of health injustice.”

Our twin premises for this session are that: (1) many of the types of health inequities that exist today, in 2008, were also present in 1848 – that is, unjust and unfair differences in health status and health care as caused by inequitable social divisions involving class, racism, gender, and sexuality, within and across countries, and (2) even so, much has changed in the 160 years since 1848. Within many countries, both the absolute rates and leading types of causes of disease, disability, and death have changed. Additionally, new technologies have altered the ability to define and detect disease and to conduct research to describe, explain, and depict the population distribution of – and inequities in – an array of outcomes involving health, morbidity, disability, mortality, and access to care. Examples of such new technologies include: geographic information systems (GIS) and the global positioning system (GPS), new tools for obtaining data (e.g., 24-hr ambulatory monitors, MRIs, genomic technologies, computer-assisted interview methodologies and computer-based tests, etc.), new statistical software for modeling data (e.g., for multilevel statistical analyses), and new technology-dependent approaches to visually presenting data.

For this session, we are issuing an open call for abstracts for presentations focused on how new technologies are changing the ability of public health researchers, practitioners, and advocates to analyze and depict the magnitude of health inequities and reveal their societal determinants. Abstracts addressing issues of the politics of public health data in relation geopolitics, immigration, and the very definitions of “borders” (geopolitical and social) are especially welcome!

This session will be in the American Public Health Association 136th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on Monday, October 27 in the 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm APHA time slot.

2) SOCIAL HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SESSION:

For APHA 2008, our session will focus on:

“History, Borders, Immigration, and Public Health: From 1848 to 2008 – 160 years of debate”

This session will critically examine the use of health exams, from 1848 until now, for deciding who is and is not fit, according to whom, to become a legal immigrant. Case examples will focus on the role that public health, as a field, has played in immigration policy in both the US and other countries, with particular attention to public health, immigration, and the US-Mexico border.

No unsolicited abstracts will be considered for this session.

This session will be in the American Public Health Association 136th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on Monday, October 27 in the 10:30 am to 12 noon pm APHA time slot.

3) PROGRESSIVE PEDAGOGY SESSION:

For APHA 2008, keeping in the spirit of commemorating 160 years of the Spirit of 1848, our session will focus on:

“Teaching Critical History of Public Health and Health Policy: Progressive Pedagogy in Action.”

Building on the discussion at our APHA 2007 session, we are seeking submissions that describe strategies for engaging learners in the histories of diverse aspects of public health and societal determinants of health, so that they can better understand how we got to where we are now, what the struggles and victories and setbacks have been, and what the options are for engaging in a more historically conscious and grounded way in the issues confronting us now. Continuing with our focus from 2007, we are interested in receiving submissions that are about teaching the critical history of public health in a broad range of settings including schools of public health and medicine, worksites, K-12 schools, legislatures, communities, undergraduate education, and professional schools other than public health/medicine, including law, social work, journalism, and policy.

For this session we are issuing an open call for abstracts: presentations for this session will be selected from abstracts submitted in response to this “call for abstracts.”

This session will be in the American Public Health Association 136th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on Tuesday, October 28 in the 8:30 to 10:00 am APHA time slot.

4) INTEGRATIVE SESSION:

Starting with the APHA 2002 Conference, the Spirit of 1848 has sponsored an “integrative” session that integrates the three themes of our Caucus. Embodying the inextricable links between social justice & public health, our three themes are: (1) the politics of public health data, (2) the social history of public health, and (3) progressive pedagogy.

For APHA 2008, our integrative session will focus on

“160 years of the Spirit of 1848: a critical celebration.”

Back in 1998, we organized an extravaganza to commemorate 150 years of the Spirit of 1848. We intend to do the same, albeit on a somewhat more modest scale, but still featuring, like the one 10 years ago, a combination of music, poetry, dramatizations, photography, and academic presentations to stimulate reflection on and commitment to public health activism. The intent is to regitalize the spirit of 1848 and ask us to think critically about the accomplishments of the past 160 years we can celebrate, the setbacks endured and the suffering they have caused, and the work we need to do now, in our generation, in our own times, to advance the agenda of social justice and public health.

No unsolicited abstracts will be considered for this session.

This session will be held at the American Public Health Association 136th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on Monday, October 27, in the 4:30 to 6:00 pm APHA time slot.

5) STUDENT POSTER SESSION:

Title: “*Social Justice & Public Health: Student Posters*”

The Spirit of 1848 Caucus is soliciting abstracts from students of public health and health-related programs that highlight the intersection between social justice and public health from a historical, epidemiological, and/or methodological perspective. We welcome abstracts on topics ranging from public health research to public health practice to student-initiated courses on connections between social justice & public health. The work presented can be global, country-specific, or local.

We encourage students at ALL levels of training in their work on public health to submit abstracts, whether undergraduates, master students, MPH students, or doctoral students; submissions will be judged in accordance to expectations appropriate for each level of training. Postdoctoral fellows are NOT eligible to submit posters.

Abstracts should focus on furthering understanding and action to address the ways that social inequality harms, and social equity improves, the public’s health. Examples of social inequality include inequitable social divisions within societies based on social class, race/ethnicity, and gender, as well as inequitable relations between nations and geographical regions. Given the theme of the conference, we especially welcome abstracts on the topic of public health and borders, whether referring to geopolitical boundaries or social divisions that harm health.

For this session we are issuing an open call for abstracts: all posters for this session will be selected from abstracts submitted in response to this “call for abstracts.”

This session will be held at the American Public Health Association 136th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on Tuesday, October 28, in the 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm APHA time slot.

If you have any questions about the proposed Spirit of 1848 sessions, please contact the relevant subcommittee contacts for these sessions, listed below:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1) Public Health Data: | Nancy Krieger (nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu) |
| 2) Curriculum: | Suzanne Christopher (suzanne@montana.edu) |
| 3) History: | Kirby Randolph (krandolph@kumc.edu) |
| 4) Integrative session: | Nancy Krieger (nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu) |
| 5) Student poster session: | Vanessa Watts (vwatts@hsph.harvard.edu) |

For additional information about the Spirit of 1848, including our mission statement and why our name is "Spirit of 1848," please see below--and also please visit our website, where you can learn more about our Caucus and see past sessions that we have organized at APHA:

<http://www.spiritof1848.org/>

And, if you are interested in subscribing to our email bulletin board, we welcome posting on social justice & public health that provide:

- a) information (e.g. about conferences or job announcements or publications relevant to and making explicit links between social justice & public health), and
- b) substantive queries or comments directly addressing issues relevant to and making explicit links between social justice and public health.

If your posting is only about social justice/political issues, or only about public health issues, and does not explicitly connect issues of social justice & public health, please do not post it on this listserv. Please note that the listserv does not accept attachments. For petitions, please post only the text, accompanied by the explicit instruction not to reply to the listserv but to reply to you directly with signatures.

Community email addresses:

Post message: spiritof1848@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe: spiritof1848-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: spiritof1848-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

List owner: spiritof1848-owner@yahoogroups.com

Web page: www.spiritof1848.org

To subscribe or un-subscribe send an e-mail to the address specified above with the word "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" in the subject line. To change to digest mode (one daily e-mail containing the day's postings), you need to access your account via the YahooGroups website and select the digest option under "Message Delivery."

For more information, please see the Spiritof1848 Listserv Semi-Regular Reminder or e-mail the list owner.

SPIRIT OF 1848 MISSION STATEMENT

November 2002

The Spirit of 1848: A Network linking Politics, Passion, and Public Health

Purpose and Structure

The Spirit of 1848 is a network of people concerned about social inequalities in health. Our purpose is to spur new connections among the many of us involved in different areas of public health, who are working on diverse public health issues (whether as researchers, practitioners, teachers, activists, or all of the above), and live scattered across diverse regions of the United States and other countries. In doing so, we hope to help counter the fragmentation that many of us face: within and between disciplines, within and between work on particular diseases or health problems, and within and between different organizations geared to specific issues or social groups. By making connections, we can overcome some of the isolation that we feel and find others with whom we can develop our thoughts, strategize, and enhance efforts to eliminate social inequalities in health.

Our common focus is that we are all working, in one way or another, to understand and change how social divisions based on social class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, and age affect the public's health. As an activist and scholarly network, we have established four committees to conduct our work:

- 1) Public Health Data:** this committee will focus on how and why we measure and study social inequalities in health, and develop projects to influence the collection of data in US vital statistics, health surveys, and disease registries.
- 2) Curriculum:** this committee will focus on how public health and other health professionals and students are trained, and will gather and share information about (and possibly develop) courses and materials to spur critical thinking about social inequalities in health, in their present and historical context.
- 3) E-Networking:** this committee will focus on networking and communication within the Spirit of 1848, using e-mail, web page, newsletters, and occasional mailings; it also coordinates the newly established student poster session.
- 4) History:** this committee is in liaison with the Sigerist Circle, an already established organization of public health and medical historians who use critical theory (Marxian, feminist, post-colonial, and otherwise) to illuminate the history of public health and how we have arrived where we are today; its presence in the Spirit of 1848 will help to ensure that our network's projects are grounded in this sense of history, complexity, and context.

Work among these committees will be coordinated by our Coordinating Committee, which consists of chair/co-chairs and the chairs/co-chairs of each of the four sub-committees. To ensure accountability, all public activities sponsored by the Spirit of 1848 (e.g., public statements, mailings, sessions at conferences, other public actions) will be organized by these committees and approved by the Coordinating Committee (which will communicate on at least a monthly basis). Annual meetings of the network (so that we can actually see each other and talk together) will take place at the yearly American Public Health Association meetings. Finally, please note that we are NOT a dues-paying membership organization. Instead, we are an activist, volunteer network: you become part of the Spirit of 1848 by working on one of our projects, through one of our committees--and we invite you to join in!

NB: for additional information the Spirit of 1848 and our choice of name, see:

--Coordinating Committee of Spirit of 1848 (Krieger N, Zapata C, Murrain M, Barnett E, Parsons PE, Birn AE).

Spirit of 1848: a network linking politics, passion, and public health. *Critical Public Health* 1998; 8:97-103.

--Krieger N, Birn AE. A vision of social justice as the foundation of public health: commemorating 150 years of the spirit of 1848. *Am J Public Health* 1998; 88:1603-6 .

Community email addresses: Post message: spiritof1848@yahoogroups.com; Subscribe: spiritof1848-subscribe@yahoogroups.com; Unsubscribe: spiritof1848-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com; List owner: spiritof1848-owner@yahoogroups.com; Web page: www.spiritof1848.org

First issued: Fall 1994; revised: November 2001; November 2001; November 2002

Selected notable events in and around 1848

1840-

1847: Louis Rene Villermé publishes the first major study of workers' health in France, A Description of the Physical and Moral State of Workers Employed in Cotton, Linen, and Silk Mills (1840) and Flora Tristan, based in France, publishes her London Journal: A Survey of London Life in the 1830s (1840), a pathbreaking account of the extreme poverty and poor health of its working classes; in England, Edwin Chadwick publishes General Report on Sanitary Conditions of the Laboring Population in Great Britain (1842); first child labor laws in the Britain and the United States (1842); end of the Second Seminole War (1842); prison reform movement in the United States initiated by Dorothea Dix (1843); Frederick Engels publishes The Condition of the Working Class in England (1844); John Griscom publishes The Sanitary Condition of the Laboring Population of New York with Suggestions for Its Improvement (1845); Irish famine (1845-1848); start of US-Mexican war (1846); Frederick Douglass founds The North Star, an anti-slavery newspaper (1847); Southwood Smith publishes An Address to the Working Classes of the United Kingdom on their Duty in the Present State of the Sanitary Question (1847)

1848: World-wide cholera epidemic

Uprisings in Berlin, Paris, Vienna, Sicily, Milan, Naples, Parma, Rome, Warsaw, Prague, Budapest, and Dakar; start of Second Sikh war against British in India

In the midst of the 1848 revolution in Germany, Rudolf Virchow founds the medical journal Medical Reform (Medicinische Reform), and publishes his classic "Report on the Typhus Epidemic in Upper Silesia," in which he concludes that preserving health and preventing disease requires "full and unlimited democracy"

Revolution in France, abdication of Louis Philippe, worker uprising in Paris, and founding of The Second Republic, which creates a public health advisory committee attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and establishes network of local public health councils

First Public Health Act in Britain, which creates a General Board of Health, empowered to establish local boards of health to deal with the water supply, sewerage, cemeteries, and control of "offensive trades," and also to conduct surveys of sanitary conditions

The newly formed American Medical Association sets up a Public Hygiene Committee to address public health issues

First Women's Rights Convention in the United States, at Seneca Falls

Henry Thoreau publishes Civil Disobedience, to protest paying taxes to support the United State's war against Mexico

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels publish The Communist Manifesto

1849-

1854: Elizabeth Blackwell sets up the New York Dispensary for Poor Women and Children (1849); John Snow publishes On the Mode of Communication of Cholera (1849); Lemuel Shattuck publishes Report of the Sanitary Commission of Massachusetts (1850); founding of the London Epidemiological Society (1850); Indian Wars in the southwest and far west (1849-1892); Compromise of 1850 retains slavery in the United States and Fugitive Slave Act passed; Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852); Sojourner Truth delivers her "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the Fourth Seneca Fall convention (1853); John Snow removes the handle of the Broad Street Pump to stop the cholera epidemic in London (1854)