



PARTICIPACIÓN DE LA RED DE INVESTIGACIÓN TRASLACIONAL EN SALUD (RITS) EN LA 9ª EDICIÓN DE LA CUMBRE DE LA CIENCIA EN LA 78ª ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS 2023 SSUNGA78

Session:

**Translational Health and the Socio Epidemiological impacts of Covid19 pandemic: How can we translate social research findings into public health actions?**

 20/09 - 9 A 12 H (ARG)

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## Convenors



### **Mora Castro, PhD**

Mora Castro is an Associate Researcher at CONICET (National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina), after being awarded a doctoral grant for basic research in this field (2008–2013) and then a postdoctoral scholarship (2016-2017). She has also worked for the Council at the Scientific and Technological Development Management (2013-2016), coordinating a wide range of projects at the science-policy interface. Currently, she is the Technical Coordinator of the RITS (CONICET's Network for Translational Research in Health).

Castro has a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Buenos Aires. She has a teaching position as Associate Professor of Anthropology of Health at the School of Health Sciences, Arturo Jauretche National University (UNAJ). She also supervises students for graduation thesis and postgraduate programmes in Anthropology and health related fields in Argentina and other countries. She published articles in different indexed scientific journals at a national and international level.

Mora Castro is interested in Medical Anthropology, Healthcare Systems, Translational Health Sciences, and Applied Anthropology. Her work focuses on the analysis of public health services in a particular region (Southeastern Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires), characterized by an increasingly vulnerable population with different difficulties in accessing care providers in the area. Her methodological approach includes Social Network Analysis perspective, health statistics and GIS models, which allows exploring basic science fields and science - policy articulation within the health system in Argentina, including an international dimension through Science Diplomacy strategies.

### **Ramiro Fernandez Unsain, PhD**



Graduated in Anthropology and master's degree in Anthropological Sciences from the University of Buenos Aires; PhD in Health Sciences from the Federal University of São Paulo. He has postdoctorates at the University of São Paulo, Faculty of Public Health, nutrition/food area and Faculty of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine, where he is a researcher. He has experience in the area of Anthropology, with emphasis on Anthropology and Sociology of Health and Food, working mainly on the following topics: collective health, food and food practices, obesity, intersectionality, sexuality, gender, identity, ethnicity and methodology

research. Member of the Research Group of the (co)Human Laboratory of Studies, Research and Transdisciplinary Extension in Integrality and Intersectionality in Health Care and Nutrition, Genders and Sexualities (LABTrans/UFRB). He was a researcher at the Fundação FioTec / FioCruz (Fundação para o Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico em Saúde). Researcher at the GPAC (Food and Culture Research Group) of the Faculty of Public Health, University of Sao Paulo. Guest researcher at the University of Buenos Aires and Science and Technology with emphasis on Food Technology, Health and Society. Member of the Brazilian Society of Sociology, Brazilian Society of Food and Nutrition, College of Anthropologists of Argentina, and editor of its magazine. He was a professor at the University of Buenos Aires, Department of Anthropology and at the University of São Paulo, in the Departments of Life Cycles, Health and Society and Preventive Medicine.

## Organizing Committee

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## Program

**09.00 AM Introduction:** the RITS initiative. Mario Pecheny, PhD (Director elected by the Great Area of Social Sciences and Humanities, CONICET), Mora Castro (CONICET) and Ramiro Fernandez Unsain (Federal University of São Paulo).

**09.10 AM Tensions at work during the pandemic: the experiences of public health workers in Argentina** - Anahí Sy, PhD (Instituto de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, Departamento de Salud Comunitaria, Universidad Nacional de Lanús, CONICET), Valeria Alonso, PhD (Instituto Nacional de Epidemiología (INE-ANLIS) - Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata) and Mariana Lorenzetti, PhD (Universidad Nacional de Misiones, CONICET).

**09.25 AM Care in pandemics: the extra-hospital isolation center Parque Sanitario Tecnópolis. New perspectives for nursing in Argentina (Buenos Aires, 2020)** - Lía Ferrero (Instituto de Estudios Sociales en Contextos de Desigualdades, Universidad Nacional de José C. Paz, Argentina) and Grisel Adissi (Instituto de Estudios Sociales en Contextos de Desigualdades, Universidad Nacional de José C. Paz, Argentina).

**09.40 AM Hesitation (insecurity) in vaccination against COVID-19 in the Province of Buenos Aires 2020-2021** – Diego Díaz Córdova, PhD (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Universidad Nacional de Lanús), María José Luzuriaga, PhD (Universidad Nacional de Lanús, Universidad Nacional de José C. Paz) and Marina Gabriela Zunino, PhD (Universidad Nacional de Lanús, Universidad Nacional de José C. Paz).

**09.55 AM** **Design of Tools for Healthcare Resource Management from a Multidisciplinary Approach** - Mauricio A. Porras, PhD (CEDETS - Universidad Provincial del Sudoeste (UPSO)/CONICET), Guillermo A. Durand, PhD (PLAPIQUI - Universidad Nacional del Sur (UNS)/CONICET) and Juan M. Virdis, PhD (IIESS) - Universidad Nacional del Sur (UNS)/CONICET).

**10.15 AM** Questions for participants - debate

**10.30 AM** BREAK

**10.45 AM** **Transgender woman and HIV prevention in Brazil before and during the pandemic of COVID-19** - Ramiro Fernandez Unsain, PhD (Universidade de São Paulo-Public Health Faculty), Dulce Ferraz Escola (FIOCRUZ de Governo, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz), Alexandre Grangeiro (Universidade de São Paulo-Medicine Faculty), Eliana Zucchi (Universidade Católica de Santos- Postgraduate program in Collective Health), Paula Andrea Massa (Universidade de São Paulo-Medicine Faculty), Lorrúan Alves Dos Santos (Postgraduate program in Collective Health, Medicine Faculty, Universidade de São Paulo), Xavier Mabire (Institut de Psychologie-Université Lumière Lyon 2), Charlotte Bauquier (Institut de Psychologie-Université Lumière Lyon 2), Marie Préau (Institut de Psychologie-Université Lumière Lyon 2), Ines Dourado (Universidade Federal da Bahia-Collective Health Institute) and Marcia Thereza Couto (Universidade de São Paulo-Medicine Faculty).

**11.00 AM** **The trajectories of community health promoters during the Covid 19 pandemic in General Pueyrredon** - María Victoria Sordini, PhD (INHUS-CONICET / School of Medicine / National University of Mar del Plata), Emiliano Mariscal (School of Medicine / National University of Mar del Plata), Camila Esteban (School of Medicine / National University of Mar del Plata) and Mariana Berberian (School of Medicine / National University of Mar del Plata).

**11.15 PM** **Ethnography Applied to Health: tools, adaptations and methodological innovations to address the COVID-19 sindemic** - Laura Teves, PhD (LINEA - Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo - Universidad Nacional de La Plata) and Lorena Pasarin, PhD (LINEA - Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo - Universidad Nacional de La Plata).

**11.30 PM** **New-Onset Type 1 Diabetes in Children Before, During, and After COVID-19 Pandemic in Argentina: A Multicenter study** – Valeria Hirschler, (SAD, Epidemiology).

**11.45 AM** Questions for participants - debate

**12.00 AM** CONCLUSIONS

## Session Introduction

The COVID19 pandemic is one of the most disruptive events on a global scale in recent decades. Its effects on the social and epidemiological level are only just beginning to be known and systematized for the development of public health strategies that allow populations and health systems to recover from the serious impacts they have had to face. Since health effects caused by COVID-19 cannot be attributed solely to the action of the virus, and infections cannot be considered independently of each person's socio-environmental context, pre-existent disparities in health amplified social inequalities and access to care services around the world. Thus, public health strategies require a reformulation of what is understood by disease and, consequently, face appropriate institutional and governmental responses to reverse both: health equity in the outcomes and in care provision. This reformulation of health policies and local implementations need to be based on scientific research to understand the current epidemiological configuration, population health demands and healthcare providers possibilities.

Interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration is essential to generate accurate and timely diagnoses according to the place and time where they are presented in order to establish an adequate translation between the Social Sciences research results and the implementation of public health strategies that contribute to solve the barriers to access to health services at all levels of care delivery and improve the quality of care services.

This session encompasses research work experiences that, from the Social Sciences, aim to generate new knowledge about the problems brought about by the COVID19 pandemic or that were deepened by unprecedented stress scenarios both on populations and on health systems. This proposal aims to highlight case studies that address socio-sanitary problems and challenges for health management today in Latin America that include, but are not limited to:

- ++ Access to healthcare services: the relationship between needs and availability
- ++Health workers experiences at work during the first years of the pandemic and at present. Good practices, conflictive spaces, institutional violence.
- ++Implementation of programs / public policy tools
- ++Health communication strategies and their impact on the population
- ++Analysis of vaccination processes (Covid19 and others)

This session is part of the Sustainable Development Goals in #3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

## Abstracts

**09.10 AM Tensions at work during the pandemic: the experiences of public health workers in Argentina** - *Anahí Sy, PhD (Instituto de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, Departamento de Salud Comunitaria, Universidad Nacional de Lanús, CONICET), Valeria Alonso, PhD (Instituto Nacional de Epidemiología (INE-ANLIS) - Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata) and Mariana Lorenzetti, PhD (Universidad Nacional de Misiones, CONICET).*

The socio-sanitary emergency caused by the unforeseen spread of the covid-19 disease impacted the health systems and their work teams, mostly made up of women. While the media installed the demand for hyper-specialized hospitals, respirators, the development of antivirals and vaccines, the workers experienced a complete transformation of their daily work in conditions of job insecurity and employment that are prior to the pandemic and are worsen with work overload during the epidemiological emergency.

In this panel, we present some results of a work carried out during the years 2021-2022, covering different regions of Argentina, which inquires about the care experiences displayed by workers in the public health sector in Argentina, based on interviews semi-structured in depth. We focus on their narratives to identify the transformations and difficulties faced, as well as the resolution strategies deployed in various parts of the country.

In this regard, we propose that the performative nature of the narratives gives meaning to the experiences of workers in the context of the health emergency, while enabling processes of discussion and reflection on their own work and the possibility of recognizing themselves as subjects of action in the social production of caring for oneself and others. We start from the premise that the needs, demands and the daily work process in health do not always coincide with what, from the health management policies, is normed and regulated as an epidemiological emergency and/or urgency, nor with the expectations and needs felt by the population. The narratives account for the main problems and difficulties faced and the modes of production of care and self-care, so that it is possible to transfer their learning for decision-making in the management of the health sector. Based on this, we propose guidelines for the definition of public health actions and policies that are attentive to the local diversities that exist in Argentina, from a rights-based approach and with a gender perspective.

**09.25 AM Care in pandemics: the extra-hospital isolation center Parque Sanitario Tecnópolis. New perspectives for nursing in Argentina (Buenos Aires, 2020)** - *Lía Ferrero (Instituto de Estudios Sociales en Contextos de Desigualdades, Universidad Nacional de José C. Paz, Argentina) and Grisel Adissi (Instituto de Estudios Sociales en Contextos de Desigualdades, Universidad Nacional de José C. Paz, Argentina).*

The COVID-19 pandemic unexpectedly broke out in Argentina in March 2020. One of the main measures taken by the national government at the beginning was the policy of Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation (ASPO), through which most of the population was confined to their homes. Exempted from ASPO were those workers defined as "essential personnel". Among them were nurses.

Focused on assistance tasks, mostly in-hospital at that first epidemiological moment, be it triage or hospitalization care, a novel insertion took place starting in July, when the Tecnópolis Health Park was inaugurated.

Along with the multiplication of cases, extra-hospital isolation centers were set-up in different parts of the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (AMBA). This health policy, originated from the initial response to those who arrived to the country from parts of the world affected by the pandemic, was aimed especially at those who had a confirmed or suspected diagnosis and did not have the stipulated conditions for isolation in their homes.

The Tecnópolis Health Park was one of these centers, but it distinguished itself by including an integral and community perspective, despite being an inpatient facility with isolation. Located in the province of Buenos Aires, crossing the border of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires with the District of Vicente López, it was co-managed by the municipal, provincial and national governments, with an intersectoral perspective and the participation of civil society. It ran until November 2020 and was heavily resourced, as it was designed to be scalable and adapt to the pace of the pandemic.. As the pandemic in the northern hemisphere had triggered a critical collapse of the healthcare system, the Health Park occupied twelve hectares and had up to 5000 beds. The fact that the response to the pandemic then took a different course than expected, however, meant that only 120 people could be accommodated at the same time, which is why the available resources were even more plentiful than planned..

Considered an innovative facility, it was configured as a frame of reference and a condition of possibility for the deployment of novel ways of understanding nursing. The possibility of having all kinds of resources, and with a significant number of workers per inmate, also contributed to enhancing the creative and comprehensive nature of the proposal. In this presentation, we will describe general aspects of this therapeutic proposal and then go into more detail about the everyday situations that took place there, based on the accounts of four nurses who played different roles.

We will be interested in visualizing the counterpoint between the innovative character of the Park and what it enabled in professional terms, given that beyond the specific experience, it is shown as a point of view of unprecedented possibilities for work in health in general and nursing work in particular.

**09.40 AM Hesitation (insecurity) in vaccination against COVID-19 in the Province of Buenos Aires 2020-2021** – *Diego Díaz Córdova, PhD (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Universidad Nacional de Lanús), María José Luzuriaga, PhD (Universidad Nacional de Lanús, Universidad Nacional de José C. Paz) and Marina Gabriela Zunino, PhD (Universidad Nacional de Lanús, Universidad Nacional de José C. Paz).*

In this presentation we analyze the vaccination against COVID-19 campaign and the hesitancy in the population of the Province of Buenos Aires (PBA) in the year 2021. Some considerations were included regarding the socio demographic situation, the progress of the Immunization Program in PBA, the speeches about the vaccine against COVID-19 in the main national newspapers, web and social networks; the complacency, confidence and convenience in the vaccinated and non-vaccinated population in PBA. All these considered, we proposed

recommendations for a communication strategy appropriate to the hesitation in vaccination found in the PBA.

We found that the media did not follow their ideological position in relation to vaccines, right-wing media showed positive expectations of vaccines at certain times of the year, and media considered left-wing were very critical at other times. Although the sentiment analysis showed that the tone was never very negative or very positive, in strict terms they had a slightly negative position. As they usually do with other topics, the vaccine was used as a political artifact (with some vaccines their nationality was highlighted). In some cases there was no coherence between the title and the body of the note.

We also conducted interviews with vaccinated and unvaccinated people (20 total people), over 18 years old and living in PBA, looking for their opinion on trust (efficacy and safety) and complacency (risk, knowledge, prejudice and convenience). Among those vaccinated, some explained their trust in terms of belief in science and others in terms of hope in vaccines. In some cases, this belief was not blind, but rather accounted for the uncertainty in relation to vaccines against COVID-19 and that were publicly known. Unvaccinated people were differentiated into: those who trust in the efficacy of vaccines in general but who decided not to get vaccinated during a pandemic (until the interview), and people who do not accept any vaccine. None of these people defined themselves as "anti-vaccination", and only 3 out of 9 said that it is not necessary to resort to vaccines as a means of prevention.

Among the unvaccinated interviewees, there was also strong criticism to the vaccination campaign. They considered that it was implemented authoritatively and that there is a hidden obligation. Regarding complacency, two different positions were identified. On the one hand, a perception of low severity of COVID-19 (or of high complacency) and, on the other, a belief that the virus does not exist and a consequently nil perception of risk. An interesting aspect to highlight that emerged among the vaccinated people: half of the interviewees (6 out of 9) reported they were vaccinated as a collective care strategy.

Among most of the unvaccinated people, reading and contrasting different sources of information stood out in order to draw their own conclusions and not be manipulated. Social networks were referred to as a preponderant source of information, especially in the group between 20 and 40 years old. And all the interviewees highlighted the use of the Internet as a mechanism to contrast and check the information of national circulation or of the local media.

**9.55 AM Design of Tools for Healthcare Resource Management from a Multidisciplinary Approach** - *Mauricio A. Porras, PhD (CEDETS - Universidad Provincial del Sudoeste (UPSO)/CONICET), Guillermo A. Durand, PhD (PLAPIQUI - Universidad Nacional del Sur (UNS)/CONICET) and Juan M. Viridis, PhD (IIESS) - Universidad Nacional del Sur (UNS)/CONICET).*

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Argentina in March 2020, the Municipality of Bahía Blanca (Buenos Aires Province, Argentina) sought the collaboration of the Economics and Engineering of Health Systems Group (gEISS, Spanish for "grupo de Economía e Ingeniería de Sistemas de Salud"). The idea was to develop a tool for estimating the resources needed to address the pandemic, including human resources, beds, respirators, medical supplies,



personal protective equipment, and more. The local authorities identified several key activities: i) review the literature to explore existing tools for calculating necessary supplies, ii) interpret the process of care for patients with COVID-19, iii) identify the materials and human resources required at each stage of the process, and iv) project infection curves to determine the number of patients who would need those healthcare resources. Unfortunately, in the literature review, no adequate developments in Spanish were found to adapt to the reality of local health systems, which encompassed the complexity of public hospitals managed and financed by the national, provincial and municipal governments, primary healthcare centers, private hospitals, and labor union-managed facilities, among others. To address this unmet need, specific tools were designed, adapted to local realities, and developed in collaboration with the actors of the health system for the effective management of the pandemic.

The result was the creation of two tools: m-COVID, in which a mathematical model was implemented that generates predictions of infection curves for different scenarios and parameterizations, and i-COVID, a calculator of necessary health resources, which uses the predicted infection curves generated with m-COVID. Together, these tools offered several advantages: i) differentiation of supplies based on phases of care for COVID-19 patients, ii) integration of complementary functions of the WHO tools into a unified calculator of essential supplies, iii) adaptability to the requirements of local or regional decision-makers, iv) incorporation of current supply stock by assessing the gap between projected need and available resources, v) consideration of different scenarios based on various epidemiological models for disease spread prediction, and vi) ease and intuitively implementation. During the validation stage, the estimation of different scenarios made it possible to observe how fluctuations in infection rates impacted the potential saturation of the health system. Additionally, parameters related to distancing measures, changes in population authorized for social and preventive isolation, regulation of recreational activities, segmentation of isolation by age range, and more, were discussed.

This project highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary research collaboration and served as a valuable learning experience, addressing complex health sector demands that transcend individual expertise. It showcased the usefulness of applying process system engineering tools and economic analysis to healthcare resource management, offering robust solutions and informed decision-making.

**10.45 AM Transgender woman and HIV prevention in Brazil before and during the pandemic of COVID-19** - *Ramiro Fernandez Unsain (Universidade de São Paulo-Public Health Faculty), Dulce Ferraz Escola (FIOCRUZ de Governo, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz), Alexandre Grangeiro (Universidade de São Paulo-Medicine Faculty), Eliana Zucchi (Universidade Católica de Santos- Postgraduate program in Collective Health), Paula Andrea Massa (Universidade de São Paulo-Medicine Faculty), Lorrúan Alves Dos Santos (Postgraduate program in Collective Health, Medicine Faculty, Universidade de São Paulo), Xavier Mabire (Institut de Psychologie-Université Lumière Lyon 2), Charlotte Bauquier (Institut de Psychologie-Université Lumière Lyon 2), Marie Préau (Institut de Psychologie-Université Lumière Lyon 2), Ines Dourado (Universidade Federal da Bahia-Collective Health Institute) and Marcia Thereza Couto (Universidade de São Paulo-Medicine Faculty).*

In Brazil, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the population in numerous manners. The distancing measures, the uncertainty arising from an unknown disease, and the health system

crisis that was suddenly caught with a profuse number of cases, all this within a context of poor and inappropriate responses from the Federal Government, raised many challenges. The pandemic may have impacted differently marginalized populations, such as the women who self-defined as transgender. Considering that there is evidence that transgender women faced difficulties in accessing HIV prevention and services before and during the pandemic. Our goal is to describe and understand the ways and arrangements that transgender women, PrEP users, constructed to face and resist the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of HIV prevention.

Our empirical material emerged from semi-structured online interviews conducted between 2019 and 2021 with 45 adolescent and adult transgender women participating in two PrEP cohorts in São Paulo. The scripts used in conducting the interviews with both groups explored HIV protection measures; in addition, interviews during the pandemic period investigated the impact of the pandemic on participants' life conditions and HIV prevention practices, including PrEP use. In both periods, the interviews sought answers about the intersections of structural oppressions and their relation to health prevention.

In relation with the results, common elements regarding HIV prevention appear in both moments as decisions to use or not preservatives, drug consumption before, during, and after sexual intercourse, or doing or not sex parties, among others. The narratives showed that transgender women dealt with the pandemic using the elements and repertoires of resistance constituted even prior to the pandemic to confront the systems of structural contexts of oppression before and during the COVID-19 crisis. However, during the pandemic, the strategies to articulate HIV prevention concomitantly with the tactics to avoid contagion from COVID-19 managed to crystallize diversified arrangements that establish dialogues and tensions between the narratives that recreate the presence of different threats. The results show that the interviewees question the new socio-epidemic context and organize their daily lives based on resistance and struggle. New solidarity webs are established, a different health narrative is shared, and new sexual practices are appointed. While structural oppressions endure, the dynamics of inclusion/exclusion are re-signified and impact the ways of organizing and re-signifying health prevention.

The interviewees can construct a reflexive responsibility to adhere to a framework of ethical and social justice that aspires to a better society. Moreover, they engage in rational analysis that conceptualizes critical approaches in the context of socially situated power relations and have reflexive responsibility for their practices. These practices can be thought of from theoretical referents that propose a praxis that rescues a commitment to survival, resilience, and care and, in the sense of health, situated and implicated preventive practices that collaborates with the collective health of a larger community. Evidence articulating the intersections of structural oppressions and their relationship with health prevention, coupling them with the inclusion/exclusion dynamics and considering their economic, political, and symbolic strategies are needed to inform public policies better.

**11.00 PM** **The trajectories of community health promoters during the Covid 19 pandemic in General Pueyrredon** - *María Victoria Sordini, PhD(INHUS-CONICET / School of Medicine / National University of Mar del Plata), Emiliano Mariscal (School of Medicine / National University of Mar del Plata), Camila Esteban (School of Medicine /*

*National University of Mar del Plata) and Mariana Berberian (School of Medicine / National University of Mar del Plata).*

The collective organization of the health emergency was essential in the intervention of multiple health and social programs. In Argentina and in the region, broad social sectors have been experiencing for decades conditions of social inequality under governance models in which citizen participation, the mediation of the public administration and the private sector converge to address the social issue. The Covid-19 pandemic arrived in a context in which the interruptions to contain the health emergency were supported by a network of community self-organization that has persisted for decades. The objective of this study is to characterize the trajectories of the community health promoters who intervened in the implementation of social and health programs for the attention of the health emergency due to the Covid 19 pandemic in the General Pueyrredon District during 2020- 2021.

The General Pueyrredón district consolidated its community organization with the creation of Neighborhood Emergency Committees that, in dialogue with members of the municipal legislature, health authorities of the three governmental jurisdictions, and the National University of Mar del Plata, constituted a Health Board. Multiple social and health programs were also implemented through the work of community health promoters who accompanied soup kitchens, identified risk groups and activated assistance protocols in positive cases of Covid-19.

The design is qualitative, in-depth interviews (Piovani, 2007) and Expressive Creative Encounters (ECE (Scribano, 2014) were conducted with community health promoters who participated in social and health programs during 2020 and 2021. The sampling is theoretical. by snowball strategy for the interviews, and the ECE participants were summoned guaranteeing the representativeness of the intergroup intervention areas and sufficient intragroup homogeneity/heterogeneity according to the geographical distribution of the 33 Neighborhood Emergency Committees that worked in the city.

Types of trajectories of community health promoters were identified according to: a) pre-pandemic voluntary work linked to health and its recognition as registered work post-pandemic, b) registered work or in exchange for a pandemic program, and c ) ad-honorem voluntary community work. Community care is part of a practical know-how of women referents, considered natural and invisible, which was intensified in the context of the pandemic. Women increase their responsibilities inside the home to guarantee the conditions for the reproduction of life and well-being, but they also take responsibilities outside the home in a supportive role involving community and neighborhood tasks. Although the emergency context called for consolidating the solidarity bond during 2020 and 2022; the persistence of unequal conditions and the cessation of social and health programs, which financially contained some tasks, dismantled health promotion-prevention devices in the neighborhoods of the city. The purpose of this study is to generate a diagnosis on the post-pandemic scenario to design new promotion-prevention strategies appropriate to the situation and demands of each area of the municipality.

**11.15 PM Ethnography Applied to Health: tools, adaptations and methodological innovations to address the COVID-19 syndemic** - Laura Teves, PhD (LINEA - Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo - Universidad Nacional de La Plata) and Lorena Pasarin, PhD (LINEA - Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo - Universidad Nacional de La Plata).

During 2020 and 2021, we aim to analyze the problem of COVID-19, from the perspective of applied anthropology to address the syndemic. We worked on the articulation between research and the transfer of ethnographic knowledge, for the evaluation of the difficulties and potentialities in addressing everyday problems during COVID-19, in different sectors of the city of La Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina), particularly focused on problems related to access to health services and care, taking into account support networks and local community strategies.

The main objective was to collect and transfer novel information about the composition and functioning of personal networks during the isolation period, the perspectives of residents on support strategies in the city's neighborhoods, and the experiences of social and preventive isolation.

At the same time, we worked with the experiences of rapid adaptation to the new conditions of assistance by health workers in public hospitals, and the necessary and permanent updating and circulation of the protocols in the face of the rapid changes imposed by COVID-19 and the management of the necessary resources for the attention and care of the population. In this sense, we also observe the adaptation of health protocols according to the novelties and population dimensions of the cases and of the COVID-19 process, considering the different socio-sanitary scales involved in the pandemic.

The strategy was based on the design of various technical instruments, the registration and construction of databases of scientific value necessary for the systematization of qualitative and quantitative information, and the subsequent modeling through the strategies of social network analysis (ARS).

In this presentation we will focus on the instruments developed for the application of information in specific contexts during the syndemic:

- 1- Informed consent protocols, with legal and ethical precautions for the protection of sensitive data, as established by national and international regulations.
- 2- Data collection tool on perspectives and experiences of health workers, researchers and decision makers.
- 3- Tool for standardized data collection of actors and relationships in the context of daily practices: essential resources for daily support or support network and social capital during isolation due to the COVID-19 syndemic
- 4- Database with qualitative-quantitative information on local management policies, guides and instruments and those of the other participating countries. Comparative analysis of public policies

Regarding the instruments, we will describe the characteristics of their construction and adaptation to different formats, ease and difficulties of application, type and quality of results obtained.

We consider it useful to transfer this experience so that it could be used as models and applied in other spaces and/or similar problems, both by consultants and by professionals from public services and institutions, managers and decision makers in health policies, and/or territorial and institutional referents.

**11.30 PM New-Onset Type 1 Diabetes in Children Before, During, and After COVID-19 Pandemic in Argentina: A Multicenter study – Valeria Hirschler, (SAD, Epidemiology).**

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 pandemic. The direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately impacted children with long-term conditions, including diabetes, especially those residing in low-income countries. We hypothesized that the COVID-19 pandemic might have impacted the rates and severity of new-onset-T1DM, particularly DKA.

To determine the rates and severity of new-onset-T1DM cases among pediatric populations in several Argentinean centers during the stay-at-home 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and compare them with pre-pandemic (2018-2019) and post-pandemic (2021-2022).

The study included a substantial sample size drawn from 28 medical centers across Argentina, including the country's referral public hospitals. A retrospective chart review investigated the rates of new-onset-T1DM in children aged 6 m- 16 y during the stay-at-home 2020 pandemic, the pre-pandemic (2018 & 2019), and the post-pandemic (2021 & 2022). The study extracted demographic and clinical information such as date of new-onset-T1DM, date of birth, insurance type, public or private clinic, location, age, sex, weight, height, BMI, BMI percentile, pH, bicarbonate, HbA1c, glucose, date of COVID-19 positivity, DKA at presentation, number of antibodies and dose of insulin. To determine the percentage of new-onset-T1DM for each year, we divided the number of new cases by the projected population for each year in Argentina.

The results showed that of 1997 (48.5% females) cases, 50.1% had medical insurance. The mean age was  $8.7 \pm 3.7$  years; glucose  $468 \pm 184$  mg/dL, HbA1c  $11.3\% \pm 2.5$ , pH  $7.21 \pm 0.2$ , and bicarbonate  $13.4 \pm 7.7$  mEq/L. There were no significant differences in age, BMI, glucose, and HbA1c from 2018 to 2022. However, pH (7.19 vs. 7.23) and bicarbonate (12.5 vs. 14.7 mEq/L) were significantly lower in 2020 than in 2018. The rate of new-onset-T1DM cases per 100,000 was higher during 2020, with a rate of 3.5, than the rates in the preceding two years: 2.9 in 2018 and 3.2 in 2019. However, during 2021 and 2022, the rates of T1DM were even higher than in 2020, with 4.4 and 4.0, respectively. Therefore, there was an increase in the percentage of patients but no difference in the proportion of females and mean age at presentation, BMI, BMI z score, and hemoglobin A1c between the stay-at-home period and any of the prior or post-years. Only 5.1% of new-onset-T1DM had COVID-19 infection at the time of presentation, and 1.6% of new-onset-T1DM had COVID-19 during the previous 30 days of presentation. Thus, the observed increase in the rate of T1DM-children-onset in this study was not attributed to concurrent or prior COVID-19 infection.

One of the main conclusions highlights an increase in new-onset-T1DM has been registered in Argentina's medical centers since the pandemic began. The bicarbonate and pH levels of new-onset-T1DM were significantly lower during the stay-at-home 2020 pandemic compared with 2018 pre-pandemic. The structural inequalities brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic have intensified the existing health disparities in diabetes among low-income communities, contributing to the disparities in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality.