A five-part webinar series  November – December 2020
Acknowledgement of Country

Noel Campbell
Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies
Welcome

The impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health in Latin America

Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies

and the

Centre for Mental Health Research

in collaboration with

University of Newcastle, University of Notre Dame, Sydney University Research Community for Latin America & University of NSW
Important

All webinars in the series will be recorded & made available publicly & freely.

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Please use Chat to write your questions during the webinar and select enable all participants so everyone will see your question.

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If there are questions on the same topic or theme, then questions may be combined, and not necessarily asked in the order received.

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Characteristics of health systems

Similarities

• First cases occurred March 2020
• Declaration of national health emergency
• Mitigation and containment measures
• Agreed triggers for lifting measures
Characteristics of health systems

Differences

- Political systems
- Health spending as percentage of GDP
- Population: Mexico (126 million); Cuba (11.3 million); Costa Rica (5 million)
- Mix of public and private coverage

There can be no one-cap-fits-all approach to dealing with COVID-19
COVID19 - Situations in-country

Variation in case numbers and deaths

- Mexico has 1.05 million cases (10% of total Latin America caseload), 102,000 deaths
- Low testing rate means statistics for Mexico are probably underestimates
- Costa Rica 133,000 cases and 1662 deaths
- Cuba 7879 cases and 132 deaths
Policy approaches to COVID

Mexican leadership
• played down the pandemic

Costa Rica and Cuba (and state and local governments in Mexico)
• Acknowledged the reality of COVID
• Intervened with mitigate measures
• Border closures, increased testing, quarantines
What worked well?

Some policies worked better than others

• Increased funding for health sector
• Cuba’s strong centrally planned public health sector an advantage
• eg. Rapid roll-roll-suit of testing, surveillance and contract tracing
• Scientific Advisory bodies provided evidence-based recommendations to government
What should be improved?

Some obvious shortcomings
- Poor alignment of economic and health measures
- Mitigation measures relaxed too early
- Unequal access to information technology
- Lack of track and trace capability
- Inconsistent messaging
Main socio-economic impacts

Intervention measures also resulted in:

• Severe economic contraction
• Further weakening of fragile economies
• Rise in unemployment
• Rise in poverty rates
• Deterioration of mental health
Lessons for the future

Speakers underlined the need to:

• Develop integrated national COVID policy
• Act early, swiftly and decisively
• Invest in medical research and technology
• Care for and protect health workers
• Ensure clear and consistent messaging
• Establish framework to manage distribution of a vaccine
Luis Salvador-Carulla is Head of the Centre for Mental Health Research at the Research School of Population Health, Australian National University. He has been an advisor to the Government of Catalonia (Spain), the Spanish Ministry of Health, the European Commission (EC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).
The impact of COVID-19 on mental health in Denmark

Thursday 9 April 2020
5.00pm Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne

Presenter:
Dr Mikkel Rasmussen

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Health Policy and Technology
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/hlpt

Rapid response to crisis: Health system lessons from the active period of COVID-19
Luis Salvador-Carulla, Sebastian Rosenberg, John Mendoza, Hossein Tabatabaei-Jafari, Pandemic-Mental Health International Network

International experiences of the active period of COVID-19 - Mental health care
Sebastian Rosenberg, John Mendoza, Hossein Tabatabaei-Jafari, The Pandemic-Mental Health International Network (Pan-MHIN), Luis Salvador-Carulla
The impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health in Latin America

PROGRAM
9.00 am Introduction & Housekeeping – Noel Campbell
9.07 am Introduction to the event – Luis Salvador-Carulla
9.15 am The impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health in Latin America
with Matias Irarrazaval (Chile), Maria Elena Medina Mora (Mexico), Denise Razzouk (Brazil)
10.00 am Q&A with speakers and hosts – Moderated by Luis Salvador-Carulla
10.27 am Closing comments – Noel Campbell
Matias Irarrazaval

Matias Irarrazaval is Director of Mental Health, Ministry of Health of Chile. He also works for the Ministry of Health as a child and adolescent psychiatrist. Matias has several research projects which aim to implement prevention programmes and establish sustainable scaling of public health systems to improve access to mental health treatment in Chile and the Americas.
Maria Elena Medina Mora is founder of the Center for Global Mental Health Research, National Institute of Psychiatry, Mexico, and was recently appointed as Director, Faculty of Psychology National Autonomous University of Mexico. She is former Director-General Director of the Mexican National Institute of Psychiatry, and a member of WHO Advisory Groups on mental health and substance use disorders.
Denise Razzouk is a psychiatrist with a Master of Science and PhD in health sciences from the Department of Psychiatry, Universidade Federal de São Paulo (Unifesp), Brazil, an MBA in Health Management from Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) and post-doctorate in health economics, King`s College, London.
Q & A

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Next event

Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies

and the
Centre for Mental Health Research

present:

Webinar 5: (MESA REDONDA en español)

[The public health impact of COVID-19 in Latin America: Roundtable - Lessons learnt ]

9.00-10.30am AEDT Thurs 3 Dec 2020
Canberra

7.00-8.30pm Wed 2 Dec 2020
São Paulo

A five-part webinar series November – December 2020
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Thank you – stay in touch

We invite you to complete our brief evaluation questionnaire at the end of this session.

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