



Professor Dr David Fryer - Global mental health crisis upon global physical health crisis? Mass unemployment in the wake of the pandemic.

Modern research into the relationship between work, unemployment and mental health effectively began in the Vienna of Sigmund Freud amidst rising antisemitism and the beginnings of contemporary social science. It continued across Europe during the Great Depression, expanded and intensified under the sweeping political changes made by Margret Thatcher in the UK and under Ronald Reagan in the USA and received fresh impetus, in Australia, as austerity policies were adopted. We will look at the social history of unemployment and its accompanying health research, ways in which social scientists have attempted to demonstrate that unemployment causes misery, morbidity and mortality, theoretical approaches to explaining what it is about the lived experience of unemployment which is psychologically toxic and how politicians and policy makers have responded to the research. We will close by thinking through implications for the psychological impacts of part time, precarious, employment and retirement.

Professor Dr David Fryer is currently Honorary Research Associate Professor at the University of Queensland, where he supervises PhD research students, and is Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa. He was an invited speaker at an international conference, Pathologies of Capitalism and a contribution to his travel costs by Sunshine Coast Council enabled his attendance.

Professor Dr David Fryer formerly held positions as Professor of Community Psychology at Charles Sturt University, Professor of Psychology and Head of Research at the Australian Institute of Psychology (Brisbane), co-Editor of the Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology and President of the European Community Psychology Association. David is currently Honorary Research Associate Professor at the University of Queensland, where he supervises PhD research students, and is Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa. David lives in Maleny and is a volunteer in Maleny Film Society. David was an invited speaker at an international conference, Pathologies of Capitalism, at City University of New York in November 2018, on which is U3a presentations will draw. The conference was attended by researchers from Africa, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Central America, Denmark, England, Hungary, the Indian Sub-Continent, Japan and the USA. David was the sole Australian conference delegate.