***Call for papers***

**Women’s mental health: Priorities, responses and everyday lives in African settings**

Special issue in ‘Health and Place’

Guest editors

***Dr. Rochelle Burgess****, London Metropolitan University*

***Professor Inge Petersen****, University of KwaZulu Natal University*

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

International calls for action to address mental health in low and middle income countries have highlighted women as a particularly disadvantaged group, shouldering most of the global burden of mental and neurological disorders. Experiences of poverty, power and gender disadvantage characterise many African settings, and significantly impact on women’s experiences of and responses to mental distress and interventions. As the global push for the expansion of services in low income country settings continues, there is a need to think critically about the impacts of complex social settings, so that services can be designed with women’s realities in mind.

The aim of the special issue is to expand on the paucity of evidence reporting on women’s mental health experiences across Africa. The issue seeks articles that explore the challenges and issues surrounding the conceptualisations of and interventions for mental health problems facing women in African settings in relation to two or more of the following dimensions:

**Place - Environmental infrastructure and issues of access**

**Symbolic Space- Socio-historical dimensions of community life that impact on lived experiences of distress as well as engagement in services. This could include attention to how cultures and history determine possibilities for action in various locations.**

**People- Attention to skills and capabilities of individuals, and how these are often times influenced by dimensions of place and space.**

We welcome contributions from across the social and health sciences, exploring the above dimensions in relation to any area of women’s mental health in Africa.

Empirical, theoretical and review papers are welcome. In particular, we welcome papers that privilege women’s voices through the use of case studies, ethnographic and anthropological perspectives, as they enable a more fine grained view of the intersecting complexities at play within women’s experiences in managing and responding to mental ill health.

Abstracts should be no more than **400 words in length**, and be submitted via email to Dr. Rochelle Burgess, at r.burgess@londonmet.ac.uk , with the subject line – ***Women’s mental health in Africa***.

**Deadline for abstract submission**: June 30th, 2015

**Deadline for full article submission to Health and Place:** Early 2016 (TBC)

**Publication of full issue in Health and Place:** Mid 2016 (TBC)