Annual Conference of the DGSMP and DGMS

The joint annual conference of the German Society for Social Medicine and Prevention (DGSMP) and the German Society for Medical Sociology (DGMS) took place between 16 and 18 September at the Heinrich Heine University (HHU) in Düsseldorf under the motto Neue Ideen für mehr Gesundheit (New Ideas for More Health). Janine Bröder and Torsten Bollweg, researchers and PhD students at the CPI, attended the conference and gave an insight into their research projects during the session "Health Literacy in Childhood and Adolescence: State of Research, Theoretical and Methodological Approaches and Interventions". The abstracts of the two presentations can be read in the journal Gesundheitswesen (here and here), further information on the projects can be found on the website of the HLCA research consortium (here and here). On Twitter you can follow the congress under the Hashtag #düsseldorf2019.

Impressions

„Mothers’ and fathers’ perception of their child’s behavioural problems can differ vastly“, “does playing an instrument make young people more resilient?”, “school is a system that adapts very slowly. It takes ages until change takes place”, “you don’t know what my life is like. You should visit me one day” (handicapped person addressing a researcher), “we often assume that social networks have a positive influence, that isn’t always the case, though”, “even classical sociology is adopting biological perspectives”, “Spatial Capital: Institutions, services, infrastructure are not available equally in all areas. [the German federal state] Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is nice for vacation, but you better not get sick while you’re there”, “you can predict sociodemographic features based on behaviour on social media; can you do the same regarding health behaviour?”, “with whom are we competing when we want to improve health behaviour in the society?”, (regarding smartphone apps addressing mental health:) “when there is an effect, there are side effects. How do we deal with that?”, “politics are hindering people in reaching their full health potential”, “vulnerable, hard-to-reach, marginalised – how does it feel to be called this yourself? What image of human beings are we conveying?”