



8. Health Studies/Medicine

INVITATION: Working Group

1. Marine Studies, 2. Aviation and Aeronautical Studies, 3. Automotive, 4. Energy, 5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array, 6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation, 7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies), 8. Health Studies/Medicine, 9. Feminist, Womanist, Bosadi Theorisations, 10. Student Support and Co-Curricular Activities.

Working Group Session

You are cordially invited to the 1st 2026 series of CGS-facilitated Catalytic Niche Area Working Group meetings for Health Studies. The theme for series 1 is “Advancing Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity in Catalytic Niche Area Research”. In this series, we will anchor our 2026 approach by reaffirming the commitment to expansive conceptualisations of, and multidisciplinary avenues of participation into, the catalytic niche areas. Our framing for this session is: Health as biological, social, cultural, economic and political phenomenon.

Readings:

- McGrail, K. et al. (2022) Looking back and moving forward: Addressing health inequities after COVID-19. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas* 9 (100232). <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X%2822%2900049-7/fulltext>
- Greenhalgh, T., Papoutsi, C. (2018) Studying complexity in health services research: desperately seeking an overdue paradigm shift. *BMC Med* 16 (1). <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6009054/>
- Farmer, P. E., Nizeye, B., Stulac, S., Keshavjee, S. (2006) Structural Violence and Clinical Medicine. *PLoS Med* 3(10) <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0030449>

Discussion prompts:

- How does transdisciplinarity change how we understand health problems?
- What does health research look like when patients and communities are knowledge partners?
- How can distance education institutions contribute meaningfully to health research?
- How do history, ethics, narrative and structural violence shape health outcomes and health knowledge?
- How do social structures shape health outcomes?
- What does “health” look like beyond biomedical models?



Monday, 23 March 2026
14:00 – 15:00

REGISTER HERE

<https://forms.office.com/r/KU4r8mw9uQ>

ENQUIRIES:

CGScatalyticnicheareas@unisa.ac.za

FACILITATOR:

Prof Jessica Murray

