Call for Papers: Poverty, pathology and pills
Conference, 15th January 2019
Wellcome Trust, Euston Road, London

Poverty and deprivation create and exacerbate mental distress. Although recent years have seen governments committing to expand mental health provision, such strategies are usually underpinned by biomedical and diagnostic assumptions that draw on medical 'solutions' whilst overlooking the broader socio-economic context in which poverty-related distress manifests and plays out. This becomes particularly contentious in times of economic austerity, when strategies aimed at reforming systems of welfare support intersect with those aimed at supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Building on the findings of our ESRC funded project (DeStress), this full-day, interdisciplinary conference will analyse the inter-relationship between poverty and distress, and will interrogate the relevance and effectiveness of current mental health treatment options. The day will provide an opportunity for people to present their findings alongside DeStress and to develop new research ideas and collaborations.

We invite abstracts (<250 words) for papers that address these issues and that may provide diverse disciplinary and methodological insight into the following:

- how poverty-related mental distress is understood and responded to across diverse social, cultural and global contexts
- how austerity and welfare reform impacts on mental health and wellbeing
- how poverty-related mental distress can be conceptualised and responded to in a way that in a way that is helpful to patients and health providers
- how health professionals can be enabled to more effectively support those experiencing poverty-related mental distress
- the potential for non-medical intervention to alleviate poverty-related mental distress and support mental wellbeing
- participatory approaches to working with low-income groups and people with poverty related mental distress

This is a _free event_ that will be held in London on 15th January 2019.
A limited number of travel bursaries are available for early career researchers.

Please submit abstracts to Felicity Thomas at f.thomas@exeter.ac.uk by 30th July 2018.