Unit Medical Anthropology and Global Health

The Unit Medical Anthropology and Global Health of the Department of Social Medicine and Prevention, Center of Public Health, has a long history at the Medical University of Vienna. Formerly established under Armin Prinz as the „Abteilung Ethnomedizin“ we have since grown and developed new research fields, including socio-cultural implications and perceptions of infectious diseases (esp. Ebola viral disease, measles, yellow fever), nutritional anthropology (e.g. geophagy), access to health care for disadvantaged populations (e.g. migrants, elderly), mental health, representations of the human body, human resources in health care, and anthropological perspectives in emergency response and humanitarian assistance.

Head of Unit
Priv.-Doz. in Mag. a Dr. in Ruth Kutalek

Project Staff
Mag. a Elisabeth Sophie Mayrhuber

PhD Students
Dr. in Lena Hübl, “Yellow fever in Uganda: Local perceptions and socio-environmental factors”
Esther Mukooza, MA (OEAD), “Local perceptions of nodding syndrome in Uganda: implications for interventions”
Aloysious Nnyombi, MA (OEAD) “The social course of infant dental mutilation among the Acholi in Northern Uganda”
MD Students

Marianna Theresia Traugott, Geophagy in India.
Janna Gribi, Karoline Gutkas, Paul Kössler, Margerita Moser: Perceptions of measles and vaccine hesitancy in Austria.

Lecturers

Mag.a Dr.in Doris Burtscher
Dr.in Edith Gahleitner
Dr. Igor Grabovac
Mag.a Dr.in Margret Jäger
Mag.a Dr.in Elena Jirovsky
Mag. Dr. Lukas Kaelin
Mag. Dr. Markus Oppenauer
Prof. DD Dr. Armin Prinz
Dr.in Melanie Raibulet
Mag.a Dr.in Katharina Sabernig (Project FWF P 26129-G21)
Mag.a Dr.in Yvonne Schaffler (Project T525-G17)

Ongoing Projects


2014-2017 EthniCityHeat „ACRP6 - EthniCityHeat - KR13AC6K11022“, in cooperation with the University of Vienna and the Boku, Full project funding through Climate and Energy Fund.

Completed Projects (last 3 years)

2016 EUR-HUMAN, cooperation with the Department of General Practice and Family Medicine, European Refugees – Human Movement and Advisory Network. Third Programme for the Union’s action in the field of health.

2012-2016 MEDANIH “Master Course Medical Anthropology and International Health“, Gulu, Northern Uganda. Full project funding through the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development APPEAR


2011-2015 EU-Project HURAPRIM (cooperation with the Department of General Practice and Family Medicine) Human Resources for African Primary Health Care. Project partners: University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda; University of Botswana, Botswana; Ahfad University of Women, Sudan; University of Bamako, Mali; Aidemet Ngo, Mali; Oxford University, UK;
Ghent University, Belgium (Coordinator). Financed by the EU-Commission through the FP7-HEALTH.2010.3.4-1.

Publications 2015-2017

2017

Gundacker, C; Kutalek, R; Glaunach, R; Deweis, C; Hengstschläger, M; Prinz, A: Geophagy during pregnancy: Is there a health risk for infants? Environmental Research 156:145-147 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2017.03.028


2016


Huebl, Lena; Leick, Stephan; Guettl, Lukas; Akello, Grace; Kutalek, Ruth. Geophagy in Northern Uganda: Perspectives from consumers and clinicians. American Journal of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene 15, doi: 10.4269/ajtmh.15-0579


Sabernig, Katharina: Editorial, Curare 39, 1: 4-5.
Sabernig, Katharina (ed.) The Human Body in Asian Texts and Images. Curare 39


Wiesböck, Laura; Wanka, Anna; Mayrhuber, Elisabeth Anne-Sophie; Allex, Brigitte; Kolland, Franz; Hutter, Hans Peter; Wallner, Peter; Arnberger, Arne; Eder, Renate; Kutalek, Ruth: Heat vulnerability, poverty and health inequalities in urban migrant communities: A pilot study from Vienna. In: Filho, Walter Leal; Azeiteiro, Ulisses; Alves, Fâtima (eds.), Climate Change and Health: Improving Resilience and Reducing Risks. London/New York: Springer, 389-401, DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-24660-4_22

2015

Elemuwa, Chris; Kutalek, Ruth; Ali, Mohammad; Mwororzi, Edison; Kochhar, Sonali; Rath, Barbara: Global lessons from Nigeria’s ebolavirus control strategy. Expert Reviews in Vaccines 1-4, 10.1586/14760584.2015.1064313.

Hoffman, Kathryn; van Bijnen, Evelien; George, Aaron; Kutalek, Ruth; Jirovsky, Elena; Wojczewski, Silvia; Maier, Manfred: Associations between the prevalence of influenza vaccination and patient’s knowledge about antibiotics: A cross-sectional study in the framework of the APRES-project in Austria. BMC Public Health 15: 981, doi:10.1186/s12889-015-2297-x, http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/15/981

Jirovsky, Elena; Hoffmann, Kathryn; Maier, Manfred; Kutalek, Ruth: "Why should I have come here?" - a qualitative investigation of migration reasons and experiences of health workers from sub-Saharan Africa in Austria. BMC Health Services Research 03/2015. doi:10.1186/s12913-015-0737-z


Wojczewski, Silvia; Pentz, Stephen; Blacklock, Claire; Hoffmann, Kathryn; Peersman, Wim; Nkomazana, Oathokwa; Kutalek, Ruth: African female physicians and nurses in the global care chain - Qualitative explorations from five destination countries. PLoS ONE 10, 6: e0129464. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0129464.

Wojczewski, Silvia; Poppe, Annelien; Hoffmann, Kathryn; Peersman, Wim; Nkomazana, Oathokwa; Pentz, Stephen; Kutalek, Ruth: Diaspora engagement of African migrant health workers - examples from five destination countries. Global Health Action 8: 29210, http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/gha.v8.29210
Wojczewski, Silvia; Willcox, Merlin; Mubangizi, Vincent; Kathryn, Hoffmann; Maling, Sam; Niederkrotenhaler, Thomas; Natukunda, Silvia; Manfred, Maier; Mant, David; Kutalek, Ruth: Portrayal of the human resource crisis and accountability in healthcare: Content analysis of Ugandan newspapers. PLoS ONE 10, 4: e0121766. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0121766