

## **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.<sup>in</sup> Mag.<sup>a</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Ruth Kutalek

### **Project Staff**

Mag.<sup>a</sup> Elisabeth Sophie Mayrhuber

### **PhD Students**

Dr.<sup>in</sup> 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.<sup>a</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Doris Burtscher

Dr.<sup>in</sup> Edith Gahleitner

Dr. Igor Grabovac

Mag.<sup>a</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Margret Jäger

Mag.<sup>a</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Elena Jirovsky

Mag. Dr. Lukas Kaelin

Mag. Dr. Markus Oppenauer

Prof. DDr. Armin Prinz

Dr.<sup>in</sup> Melanie Raibulet

Mag.<sup>a</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Katharina Sabernig (Project FWF P 26129-G21)

Mag.<sup>a</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Yvonne Schaffler (Project T525-G17)

## Ongoing Projects

**2017 WHO Sierra Leone.** Evaluation of the Ebola Viral Persistence Study.

**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*

**2015-2016 WHO Liberia** Health care workers and communities post-Ebola.

**2014-2016 WHO Liberia** Psycho-social situation of Ebola survivors in Liberia.

**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>

Schaffler, Yvonne. "Wild" Spirit Possession in the Dominican Republic: From Expression of Distress to Cultural Expertise. In: C. Felbeck, A. Klump (eds.), *Dominicanidad/Dominicanity. Perspectivas de un concepto (trans-) nacional/Perspectives on a (trans-) national concept*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 221-237.

### **2016**

Cohn S, Kutalek R. Historical Parallels, Ebola Virus Disease and Cholera: Understanding Community Distrust and Social Violence with Epidemics. *PLOS Currents Outbreaks*. 2016 Jan 26. Edition 1. doi: 10.1371/currents.outbreaks.aa1f2b60e8d43939b43fbd93e1a63a94.

Holt D., Boudier F, Elemuwa C, Gaedicke G, Khamesipour A, Kisler B, Kochhar S, Kutalek R, Maurer W, Obermeier P, Seeber L, Trusko B, Gould S, Rath B: The importance of the patient voice in vaccination and vaccine safety – are we listening? *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cmi.2016.09.027>

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

Kutalek, Ruth. Geophagie – Das Essen von Lehmerde. *medi.um* 2-3/2016, 14-16.

Kutalek, Ruth, and E de Jong. Anthropology in Global Public Health Emergencies: The Case of Ebola Response. *The European Journal of Public Health* 26, no. suppl 1 (2016): ckw174. 095.

Nkomazana, Oathokwa; Wojczewski, Silvia; Phaladze, Nthabiseng, Kutalek, Ruth; Mash, Bob. How to create more supportive supervision for primary healthcare: lessons from Ngamiland district of Botswana: Co-operative inquiry group. *Global Health Action* 9:31263, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/gha.v9.31263>

Sabernig, Katharina: Anatomical structures and the structure of anatomy in Tibetan medicine. The fourth chapter of the explanatory tantra in its commentaries. *Curare* 39, 1: 22-32.

Sabernig, Katharina: Editorial, *Curare* 39, 1: 4-5.

Sabernig, Katharina (ed.) *The Human Body in Asian Texts and Images*. Curare 39

Schaffler, Yvonne; Cardena, Etzel; Reijman, Sophie, Haluza, Daniela: Traumatic experience and somatoform dissociation among spirit possession practitioners in the Dominican Republic. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 40, 1: 74-99. doi: 10.1007/s11013-015-9472-5

Wiesböck, Laura; Wanka, Anna; Mayrhuber, Elisabeth Anne-Sophie; Alex, 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, Fátima (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; Mworozzi, 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

Kutalek, Ruth; Wang, Shiyong; Falla, Mosoka; Wesseh, Sanford; Gilbert, Jeffrey: Ebola interventions: Listen to communities. *Lancet Global Health* 22. Jan, [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)70010-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)70010-0)

Kutalek, Ruth; Münzenmeier, Verena; Prinz, Armin: What about Ethnomedizin? Reflections on the early days of medical anthropologies in German-speaking countries. In: Hsu, Elisabeth; Potter, Caroline: *Medical Anthropology in Europe*. London: Routledge, 41-49.

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; Niederkrotenthaler, 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