

*A brief report of what we discussed at the CORTH Doctoral Forum that took place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the University of Sussex.*

### **Doctoral research presentation and update**

Sajida Ally (Global Studies) - Sri Lankan migrant women's experiences and constructions of wellness and health. Sajida recently submitted her thesis, well done!

Rebecca Ashley (Global Studies) - The politics of 'birth work': an ethnography of risk technology and Icelandic midwifery. Rebecca has submitted her Research Outline and she is going to fieldwork from January!

Mary Frances Lukera (LPS) - Promoting sexual and reproductive health of sex workers in Kenya: a human rights approach. Mary has returned from fieldwork, she is now analysing the data and writing up the thesis!

Lavinia Bertini (Global Studies) – Enacted obesity (ies): understanding everyday practices and discourse of obesity in the UK. Lavinia has just started her fieldwork in Brighton and Hove.

### **Future events at CORTH**

As discussed during the forum, we would like to organise two doctoral workshops for the next spring and summer terms.

Workshop on “Sexuality, reproductive health and the law” (Spring term): possibly 2 hour workshop, organised by Mary. This could be a chance to talk about qualitative research in sexual health and reproductive rights, discussing different approaches.

Workshop on “Doing qualitative research in medical settings” (Summer term): possibly 2 hour workshop organised by Lavinia. The idea is to open a dialogue between anthropologists that make research in medical settings (e.g. studying practices and discourses of obesity in primary care) and doctors that use or have used qualitative methods in their researches.

Both workshops aim to widen our presence and involve people from other departments, i.e. BSMS and Law, Politics and Sociology.

### **Issues addressed**

Two main related issues have been identified and addressed:

- a) Need to involve more PhD students
- b) Need to widen our presence throughout the university

We all agree that we need to involve more PhD students as well as guarantee a wider presence of the current members.

A possible way to address the latter is to create a PhD students mail list so to be sure that everyone is effectively informed of the activities going on at CORTH. It can also be used as a channel to update each other, circulate materials and information about our researches, events, workshops, articles, etc. that can be of interest for us and for the centre.

In order to widen our presence, current members can promote the centre talking about it with other students (especially new PhD students), researchers, and academic staff from different

departments or universities that could be interested in taking part in the centre's activities.

We also have to be sure that our events are well advertised: with flyers and posters, on our web and facebook page, email, etc. (for example in the departments' newsletter?)

Another good idea it might be to organise an "informal" open event on campus, maybe at Dhaba Café or IDS bar, with some drinks and nibbles during which we can promote CORTH activities: e.g. by distributing flyers about CORTH future and past events, talking about our researches, etc.

*Thank you to all of you that take part in the forum and helped organise it!*