

Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health [CORTH]

School of Global Studies, University of Sussex

Re-situating Abortion:

Bio-politics, Global Health and Rights in Neo-liberal Times

Workshop, November 13-14, 2014

Concept Note:

The theme of this one day workshop organised by the centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health (CORTH) is on the cultural analyses of reproductive practices and policies to do with termination and contraception (emergency contraception, abortion, including sex selective abortion). The aim is to bring together researchers, scholars, policy makers, practitioners and activists to focus on the relationship between abortion, globalisation and neoliberal reform. Does the emergence of globalised health discourse, new forms of health governance and rights-based-development paradigms shaping health policy and programmes close down or present new opportunities for re-configuring abortion services, conceptually and 'on-the-ground'? What kinds of transformations are occurring in medical and legal cultures and what is their effect on practitioners negotiating local realities and on the lived experience of abortion, including access to abortion services in a range of contexts? What are the differing issues, practices, perceptions and policies across the global North and South? The workshop will also serve as a platform to launch a Reproduction, Technologies and Health Network that will in future be coordinated from CORTH.

Key themes include:

- Abortion and gender ideologies; male perspectives
- Abortion, socio-moral boundaries, selfhood, identity, stigma
- Religion, morality and abortion (especially differences within a specific religious context); agency and the blurring of boundaries between abortion and contraception
- Abortion, rights and reproductive choice; moral autonomy, bioethics, eugenics
- Abortion, socio-economic inequalities and access to health services, drugs and technologies; marketization; neoliberalism
- Abortion and cultures of health professionals, physician perspectives and practices
- Abortion across the North and South, global health, politics and silences; national and global health policy; international aid cultures
- Sex selective abortion; comparative eg., in Asia and Britain
- Abortion, bio-politics and modernity; connection with family planning ideologies
- Abortion and legal cultures; co-existence of legality and restrictions
- Abortion and the politics of representation; media and visual cultures
- Methods in abortion research: focus on decision-making, narrative, lived experience, institutional ethnography