Established in 2014, our centre provides an intellectual space for intensive research, critical thinking and the development of an interdisciplinary body of scholarship on reproductive, sexual and health cultures. Framed by a specific interest in the processes of power and addressing health inequities, we promote research on the social, medical, public health, legal, and moral lenses through which sexual reproductive health is perceived, produced, concretised and articulated (for instance, through new policies, engagement with new technologies, or new forms of social relations in reproduction).

With our unique focus on cultural-ethnographic perspectives, the centre facilitates knowledge transfer partnerships between anthropologists, social and human scientists, health researchers, medical professionals, practitioners, legal activists and policy makers working internationally on critical issues in global maternal, sexual reproductive health, emerging technologies and health and human rights. A specific aim is to foster international dialogue on ‘Southern’ analytic models and practices.

CORTH fosters a strong research environment for its doctoral and postdoctoral students. Through hosting visiting researchers and fellows, we seek to develop collaborative projects, produce quality research outputs and connect Sussex faculty and graduate students to key thinkers and policy makers in the field of reproductive and sexual health research.

### Aims and Objectives

- To bring **culture, political economy and discursive power frameworks** to the heart of maternal, sexual and reproductive healthcare scholarship, practice, policy making and implementation.

- To bring **researchers and non-academic partners** to address and have policy impact in the critical domains of reproductive, sexual and maternal health, especially with reference to **health inequalities, technology regulation and population policies**.

- To bring together **stakeholders in reproductive health research, practice and policy globally**, i.e., across northern and southern nations, through forging connections across a number of networks within each context, including; state and civil society actors, with a specific aim of engendering South-South exchange; to design **collaborative research and policy impact projects** with the partners identified in these networks; and to promote the work of researchers in civil society organisations.

- To translate and communicate ethnographic research methods for the understanding and use of health providers, public health practitioners and policy makers; to hold **training workshops** in ethnographic methods for health researchers; to **bridge the methodological gap between healthcare policy, quantitative health research and ethnography**.

- To gain **large programme and centre funding** to house active researchers and visitors, sustain international networks, and establish Sussex as a **global hub for research and dissemination on sexual reproductive health, maternal health and health rights**. To bring together a cross-section of Sussex academics working on sexual reproductive health issues across the university network to further enable **international links**.

**Values:** **interdisciplinary, critical thinking, collaborative research**
Research Themes
Since our inception, key themes have emerged as areas of shared interest and an impetus for developing new projects.

CORTH Research

- Reproductive politics
- Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Health Education
- Biomedicine & Health Systems
- Methods
- Mobilities

- Reproductive technologies
- Infertility and assisted reproduction
- Interrupted reproduction and identities

- Midwifery
- Family planning
- Abortion
- International surrogacy
- Surrogacy legislation

- Cultures of childbearing
- Sex-Selective Abortion
- Conscientious Objection
- Post-Abortion care
- Repeat Abortion

- Family planning
- Parental Rights
- Maternal Health Rights

- Reproductive technologies
- Sex and Sexual Health
- Rights of Sex Workers

- Health Education
- Menstrual health
- Sex education

- Biomedicine & Health Systems
- Contraception
- Access to health care
- STIs & HIV

- Mobilities
- Communication technologies

- Rights of Sex Workers
- LGBT parenting and Legislation

- Parental Rights
- Communication technologies

- Informal providers and health workers
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Post-Abortion care
- Repeat Abortion

- Infertility and assisted reproduction
- Interrupted reproduction and identities

- Conscientious Objection
- Conscientious Objection

- Antimicrobial resistance
- STIs & HIV

- Informal providers and health workers
- Visual

- Ethnography
- Body mapping
Research Highlights

Our research portfolio is extending. Here we report on selected current projects

Conscientious abortion in Europe
Dr. De Zordo’s ERC research project, is a 5-year, mixed-methods, multi-disciplinary study on the impact of procedural and social barriers to safe, legal abortion (gestational age limits, physicians’ conscientious objection and abortion stigma) on women living in countries with ostensibly liberal abortion laws (Italy, Spain, France), focusing particularly on in-country and cross-country abortion travel and on delayed gestational age at termination. This project is envisaged as a groundbreaking investigation that will advance and expand the debate in the social sciences on medicalisation, personhood, citizenship, gender and social inequalities and will provide new, fresh data on a topic that has been understudied, despite being highly relevant also from public health, medical ethics and human rights perspectives.

To find out more contact, Dr Silvia de Zordo
silviadezordo@gmail.com

Access to sexual health care
Jackie Cassell is conducting ongoing research on the provision of sexual health care to young men, and myths about men’s health seeking behaviour which limit their access to services. This work was funded by the National Institutes of Health Research through a Programme Grant, jointly between Queen Mary, University of London, University College London and Public Health England. A newly funded NIHR Programme will now develop approaches to partner notification (contact tracing) in different partnerships and client groups with STI and HIV. Her doctoral students are working on partner notification for HIV, risk assessment for the targeting of STI and contraceptive services to young women, and HIV testing in primary care.

Contact Professor Jackie Cassell for more information, J.Cassell@bsms.ac.uk

Anaemia and inherited disorders in India
Maya Unnithan is Co-Investigator on an ESRC funded project to start from September 2016 for 40 months. Along with PI Sangeeta Chattoo K Atkin (York University, Dept. of Health Sciences), Veena Das (Johns Hopkins University) and others...
she will be contributing to research on ‘Inherited blood disorders, globalisation and the promise of genomics: An Indian case-study’. A central focus of the research is to show how ethnographic research can be used to create a dialogue with the more pragmatic, neoliberal policy concerns about ‘prevention’ of inherited diseases with a view to reducing childhood mortality and suffering in resource poor settings.

To find out more contact, Professor Maya Unnithan m.unnithan@sussex.ac.uk

**Transnational relationships between Europe and SE Asia**

The Sussex Mahidol Migration Partnership aims to open up a new field of cutting-edge research that investigates the transnational relationships between Europe and SE Asia that are driven by international migration flows. It is a collaboration led by the Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR) in the School of Global Studies at the University Sussex, UK, and the Mahidol Migration Centre (MMC) in the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), at Mahidol University, Thailand. The primary aim is to generate a research framework and capacity to conduct new empirical research projects in the field of migration.

*For more information visit [www.sussexmahidolmigration.ac.uk](http://www.sussexmahidolmigration.ac.uk) or contact CORTH member Sarah Scuzzarello, S.Scuzzarello@sussex.ac.uk*

**Reproductive health policy change in Malawi, Zambia, South Sudan, India and Pakistan**

Member Katerini Storeng is coordinating a five country study on policy change relating to abortion and family planning, conducted as part of an evaluation of the DFID-funded Prevention of Maternal Deaths and Unwanted Pregnancies (PMDUP) Programme being implemented in countries in Africa and Asia. The evaluation is led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and funded by DFID. Member Jen Palmer is conducting the case study of policy change in South Sudan, with a publication under review in Social Science & Medicine and an upcoming presentation at ASA2016 in Durham in July. We expect more publications in the coming years from India, Pakistan, Zambia and Malawi.

*For more information contact Dr Katerini Storeng, katerini.storeng@sum.uio.no, or Dr Jennifer Palmer, Jennifer.Palmer@lshtm.ac.uk*

**Education in Vietnam**

Member Padmini Iyer joined the Young Lives team in 2015 as an Education Research Officer. She is currently leading on the design and implementation of the Young Lives secondary school effectiveness survey in Vietnam, working closely with the Education Team.

*To learn more visit [http://younglives.org.uk/content/padmini-iyer](http://younglives.org.uk/content/padmini-iyer) or contact Dr Padmini Iyer, padmini.iyer@geh.ox.ac.uk*
Knowledge Exchange

CORTH members seek to translate our research into real life policy and practice. Our members are actively engaged in a number of knowledge and experience sharing activities:

**CORTH Reproduction, Technology and Health network members mobilise to oppose proposed criminalisation of gender selective abortion bill in the UK**

Over 2014–2015, CORTH’s Reproductive Health and Technologies Network mobilised in response to moves to criminalise sex-selective abortion by drafting an open letter to the Telegraph newspaper to express concerns about the Amendment to the Serious Crime Bill to make abortion on grounds of sex selection a criminal offence. This was published on 30th Jan 2015 with over 40 signatures, and prominent CORTH associates featured on Newsnight and other press and TV media outlets.

**Inter-disciplinary assessment of ZIKA**


CORTH members Maya Unnithan and Sajida Ally have contributed to the new report of the UK All Parliamentary Party Group on Population Dynamics and Reproductive Health report launched at the House of Lords on July 8th 2015. The report on Population Dynamics and the Sustainable Development Goals examines the interplay between population dynamics and urbanisation, climate change, migration and conflict. It will be used to guide discussion, funding and programmes of the post 2015 development agenda.

**Designing national audit of STI diagnosis and treatment**

Co-director Jackie Cassell was involved in the audit, which was funded by HQUIP, to design a national audit led by MEDSAF.

**Organization of indigenous doctors of Chiapas (OMIECH) in Mexico**

Doctoral member Mounia El Konti has been collaborating with the organisation and has served as an external adviser for the Women and Midwives Section since 2013. For more information contact Mounia El Kotni, melkotni@albany.edu

**Performatve knowledge exchange**

Member Rachel Thomson has been working on Wellcome ‘Sexology & Song’, research contribution to public engagement project collaborating with Brighton Youth Centre, The Dome, Rhythmix, and CIRCY, along with collaborators Lucy Robinson and Ester McGeeaney. She has also been active in a collaboration with the Tricycle Theatre young company, resulting in the production Bred (along with her collaborators Lucy Robinson, Ester McGeeaney and Elsie Whittington). For more information on the latter visit [https://goodsexproject.wordpress.com/2016/04/06/bred/](https://goodsexproject.wordpress.com/2016/04/06/bred/) or contact Professor Rachel Thomson, R.Thomson@sussex.ac.uk
Conferences and Workshops

CORTH has had a dynamic 18 months since its launch in November 2014 featuring and organising a number of conferences, workshops, and talks.

Read reports, view pictures, and listen to podcasts on our website: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/corth/newsandevents/centreevents

Inaugural Doctoral Forum
16th October 2014
An insight into the wide range of inter-disciplinary research being done by CORTH doctoral students, exploring issues relating to sexual and reproductive rights, gender, health, bodies, politics and culture in almost all the regions of the world.

Re-situating Abortion: Bio-politics, Global Health and Rights in Neoliberal Times
13–14th November 2014
Working on the cultural analyses of reproductive practices and policies around termination and contraception (emergency contraception and abortion, including sex selective abortion), this workshop brought together researchers, scholars, policy makers, practitioners and activists to focus on the relationships between abortion, globalisation and neoliberal reform.

Reflections on Body Mapping: Methods Workshop
27th March 2015
Hosted by CORTH’s doctoral forum, Dr Beth Mills (Institute of Development Studies) and Nondumiso Hwelele (University of Cape Town) shared reflections on their use of body mapping to explore women’s embodied experiences of AIDS biomedicine in South Africa.

MAGic 2015 Conference on ‘Anthropology and Global Health: interrogating theory, policy and practice’
9th–11th September 2015
Jointly organised with the European Medical Anthropology Network and the Royal Anthropological Institute Medical Anthropology Committee, CORTH hosted a major conference on anthropology and global health on campus. The international conference was a resounding success! In the three days of lovely Sussex sunshine, we attracted 418 delegates, 45 panels and 288 papers. CORTH hosted a number of panels including ‘Maternal precarity at the intersection of households and health systems: Interrogating meanings of risk and power in maternal health’, M.Unnithan (University of Sussex), A.Mari-Saez (Charite-de-Berlin), B.De-Kok (Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh).

Sussex Glocal Health Hive
10th September 2015
CORTH presented a stand at this networking event, helping to bring together and showcase the wide array of global health related organisations in the Sussex region. Through this event, we extended the CORTH network and contact was made with potential collaborators and future visitors who will be affiliated with the centre.

Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, and the Law
15th March 2016
Recognising sexuality as a right has the potential to promote and advance sexual reproductive health rights in society, particularly for sexual minorities, sex workers, people living with HIV & AIDS, and less privileged men and women. By bringing together academics, doctoral students, practitioners across the University of Sussex and further afield (Bristol Law School, University of Essex), the workshop focused on the role of the law and legal processes in realising sexual reproductive health rights and the implications thereof for sexual and gender identities. The day comprised three panels (Legal responses to male-led parenting and gay rights; Sexual reproductive health rights and the law; and Sexual minority perspectives) and a reflective session with keynote speakers Cheryl Overs (Michael Kirby Centre, Monash University; Visiting Fellow, IDS, Sussex) and Róisín Ryan-Flood (Centre for Intimate and Sexual Citizenship (CISC), University of Essex).

Global Health & Development Conference on ‘Practical Solutions in Effective Healthcare Initiatives for All’
15th-16th April 2016
At this international conference hosted by Sussex students, CORTH co-director Jackie Cassel chaired a panel on who should pay for health funding in low-middle income countries – ‘financing major health development: how shall we split the bill?’. CORTH director Maya led a breakout session on Gender Issues in Global Health. Dr Sajida Ally hosted the CORTH table throughout the event.
Talks and Seminars

Making an Impact with Research on Sexuality and Reproductive Health
23rd November 2015

Dr Pauline Oosterhoff (IDS) spoke about her media-related work with Sajida Ally as discussant. The workshop examined the ways in which academic research on sexuality and reproductive health can have an impact beyond the academy and be made ‘of use’ to our informants, as well as to those who shape health-related policies and institutions, by exploring some of the applied dimensions of social scientific research, their value and surrounding challenges.

Holly Porter (LSE) After rape: justice and social harmony in Uganda
Anthropology -CORTH-SAC joint seminar
23rd February 2016

Dr. Holly Porter’s paper was based on her doctoral fieldwork in a region of Uganda that was at the time emerging from protracted violence. Her discussion focused on the rich and nuanced ways in which women discussed their experiences of ‘rape’, which often could not be easily categorised as either coerced or fully voluntary experiences. Holy prompted an examination of experiences of ‘rape’ through locally-grounded terms, idioms and practices associated with sexuality and having sex in Northern Uganda, providing a complex analyses of the need to re-cast understandings of the efficacy and relevance of legal, rights-based responses to rape.

Jo Vearey (University of the Witwatersrand) Researching the research: the politics of producing, communicating and using knowledge to improve responses to migration and health in southern Africa
SCMR -CORTH-SAC joint seminar
23rd February 2016

Dr. Jo Vearey visited in February to discuss future collaborations between CORTH and the Migration and Health Project Southern Africa (maHp) at the University of the Witwatersrand. New or alternate methodologies such as visual approaches, social network analysis, and remote event mapping emerged as shared themes of interest and there was lively discussion as to how to employ rights and evidence based approaches with relation to migration studies. Jo also presented her work at a talk co-hosted by the Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR) entitled ‘Researching the research: the politics of producing, communicating and using knowledge to improve responses to migration and health in southern Africa’.
Here we provide a selection of recent publications from CORTH members


**Macgregor, H.,** & **Bloom, G.** (2016). Health systems research in a complex and rapidly changing context: ethical implications of major health systems change at scale. *Developing World Bioethics.* 1471-8847 (online)


Connections

International
- Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW, Australia
- Centre for Health and Social Justice, New Delhi, India
- SAHAYOG Lucknow, India
- Chittagong, India
- Action Research and Training in Health, Udaipur, India
- Copassa, Centre for Health and Social Justice, Delhi, India
- Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, India
- Centre for Community Medicine, Jawahar Lal University, Delhi, India
- Department of Sociology, University of Delhi, India
- African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
- Mahidol University, Thailand
- Department of Anthropology, Simon Fraser University, Canada
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mount Holyoke College, USA
- Department of Medical Anthropology, University of Arizona, USA
- FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights, Harvard, USA

United Kingdom
- Institute for International Health and Development, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
- Grand Network, Global Health Public Policy, School of Social and Political Science University of Edinburgh
- Women’s Health, Kings College London
- South Asia Institute, SOAS
- Department of Anthropology, University of Manchester
- Centre for Law and Human Rights, University of Essex
- Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge
- Gender and Health Group, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- Oxford Fertility, Reproduction and Sexuality Research Group, University of Oxford
- Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford
- Department of Social Policy and Intervention, Oxford
- Centre for Intimate and Sexual Citizenship (CISC), Department of Sociology, University of Essex

Meeting with auxiliary nurse midwife, Alwar, India.
CORTH members

Senior Research Associates and Advisors
- Prof. Peter Aggleton (Centre for Social research in Health, UNSW, Australia)
- Gillian Bendelow (Brighton)
- Marge Berer (Editor, Reproductive Health Matters)
- Prof. Susan Bewley (Complexi Obstetrics, Kings College London)
- Dr. Abhijit Das (Centre for Health and Social Justice, New Delhi & Dept of Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle, USA)
- Jashodhara Dasgupta (Coordinator SAHAYOG Lucknow, India)
- Prof. Jeannette Edwards (Anthropology, University of Manchester)
- Dr. Narendra Gupta (Prayas, Chittorgarh)
- Prof. Paul Hunt (Law and Human Rights, University of Essex)
- Prof. Marcia Inhorn (Medical Anthropology, Yale University)
- Dr. Kirti iyengar (Co-director, Action Research and training in Health, Udaipur)
- Dr. Karina Kiellmann (Institute for International Health and Development, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh)
- Prof. Lynn Morgan (Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mount Holyoke College)
- Prof. Mark Nichter (Medical Anthropology, University of Arizona)
- Prof. Tulsi Patel (Sociology, University of Delhi)
- Prof. Stacy Leigh Pigg (Anthropology, Simon Fraser University)
- Dr. Navtej K. Purewal (South Asia Institute, SOAS)
- Prof. Mohan Rao ( Jawaharlal Lal University, Delhi)
- Prof. Shalini Randeria (Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva)
- Professor Jane Sandall (King’s College, London)
- Prof. Marilyn Strathern (Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge)
- Dr. Sally Theobald (Gender and Health Group, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)
- Dr. Soraya Tremayne (Oxford Fertility, Reproduction and Sexuality research group and ISCA and Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies)
- Dr. Alicia Yamin (FXB Harvard School of Public Health)
- Rachel Thomson (Education and Social Work)
- Charles Watters (Education and Social Work)
- Catherine Will (Sociology)
- Anupama Roy (Health Sciences)
- Natalie Edelman (Medicine, BSMS)
- Bronwen Gillespie (Anthropology, Global Studies)
- Po-Han Lee (Law, LPS)
- Gillian Love (Sociology, LPS)
- Mary Frances Lukera (Law, LPS)
- Larissa Mulka (Medicine, BSMS)
- Wezi Mwangulube (Development, IDS)
- Anyesha Nandi (Development, IDS)
- Ciara O’Connell (Law, LPS)
- Darpo Oyewole (Development, Global Studies)
- Cassandra Anna Mary Wiener (Law, LPS)
- Elaney Youssef (Medicine, BSMS)

Associated Sussex Faculty
- Janet Boddy (Education)
- Paul Boyce (Anthropology)
- Philip Bremner (Law)
- Alex Conte (Law)
- Andrea Cornwall (Anthropology)
- Vinita Damodaran (History)
- Priya Deshingkar (Migration)
- Mairead Dunne (Education)
- Jarker Edstrom (Development)
- Stefan Elbe (International Relations)
- Bobbie Farsides (Reproductive Medicine)
- Lyndsay McLean Hilker (Anthropology)
- Tamsin Hinton-Smith (Sociology, Gender Institute)
- Pamela Hea (Anthropology)
- Carrie Llewellyn (Medicine)
- JoAnne McGreggor (Geography)
- Elizabeth Mills (Development)
- Maria Moscatti (Law)
- Melanie Newport (Medicine)
- David Orr (Education and Social Work)
- Pauline Oosterhoff (Development)
- Alison Phipps (Sociology, Gender Institute)
- Rebecca Prentice (Anthropology)
- Margaret Slevboom-Faulkner (Anthropology)
- Hilary Standing (Development)
- Ruth Stirtor (Law)
- Dr. Sajida Ally (Global Studies)
- Dr Padmini Iyer (EPW, Global Studies). Congratulations also to Bronwen Gillespie (Global Studies) for submitting her thesis!

External Members and International Visitors
- Dr Elizabeth Challinor (Lisaon)
- Dr Jenny Diggins (Oxford Brookes)
- Dr Sylvie Dubuc (Department of Social Policy and Intervention, Oxford)
- Dr Kate Hampshire (Durham)
- Dr Bregle de Kok (University of Amsterdam)
- Dr Sheelah McGuinness (Bristol)
- Dr Rachel Olson (Independent consultant)
- Dr Jennifer Palmer (LSHTM)
- Dr Kaveri Qureshi (Oxford)
- Dr Sunita Reddy (JNU, Dehli)
- Róisín Ryan-Flood (Essex)
- Dr Katerini T. Storeng (University of Oslo)
- Dr Jo Vearey (African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand)
- Dr Anuj Kapilashrami (Edinburgh)

External Graduates
- Mounia El Konti (Anthropology, University of Alberta)
- Thea de Gruchy (Migration, University of the Witwatersrand)
- Patricia Hamilton (Sociology and Gender Studies, Western University, Canada)
- Elo Luik (Anthropology, ISCA, Oxford)
- Tackson Makandwa (Migration, University of the Witwatersrand)
- Goitse Manthata (Migration, University of the Witwatersrand)
- Emilioni Ogbie (Public Health, University of Ghent)
- Elsa Oliveira (Migration, University of the Witwatersrand)

Postdoctoral Members
- Dr Lucilia Newell (Sussex)
- Dr Kirat Randhawa (Sussex)
- Dr Silvia De Zordo (Barcelona)
- Dr. Padmini Iyer (Oxford)
- Dr. Sajida Ally (Sussex)

Internal Graduates
- Rebecca Ashley (Anthropology, Global studies)
- Lavinia Bertini (Anthropology, Global Studies)
- Bethany Davies (Medicine, BSMS)
- Ebru Demir (Law, LPS)

Congratulations to our recent graduates! Dr Sajida Ally (Global Studies) and Dr Padmini Iyer (EPW, Global Studies). Congratulations also to Bronwen Gillespie (Global Studies) for submitting her thesis!
We regularly update our website with our latest events, research and members’ activities. Please visit:

www.sussex.ac.uk/corth

We tweet and welcome you to follow us on Twitter:

@CORTHSussex

Location
The Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health is part of the School of Global Studies, which is based in Arts C on the University of Sussex campus. The university is located at Falmer on the outskirts of Brighton, within easy reach of London and major international airports at Gatwick and Heathrow.

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Report compiled by Martha Newson