



Centre for **C**ultures of **R**eproduction, **T**echnologies and **H**ealth



Annual Report

2019



www.sussex.ac.uk/corth



Welcome to CORTH

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 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 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, our 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 (SRH), emerging technologies and health and human rights. A specific aim is to facilitate international dialogue on 'Southern' analytic models and practices. CORTH fosters a strong

research environment for its international and home doctoral or postdoctoral students and 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 SRH research.

The CORTH team

We have 188 members, including 46 Sussex faculty, 40 international senior research associates and advisors, 49 external members and visitors, and 53 internal and external graduate members. Based in the School of Global Studies at Sussex, CORTH works closely with other Schools on campus: the School of Law, Politics and Sociology (LPS), the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), the School of Education and Social Work (ESW) and the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS). CORTH is directed by Maya Unnithan, Professor of Social and Medical Anthropology in the School of Global Studies. Maya leads CORTH with her fellow co-directors, Hayley MacGregor, Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, Maria Federica Moscati, Lecturer in Family Law (School of Law, Politics and Sociology) and Carrie Llewellyn, Professor in Applied Behavioural Medicine (Brighton and Sussex Medical School).

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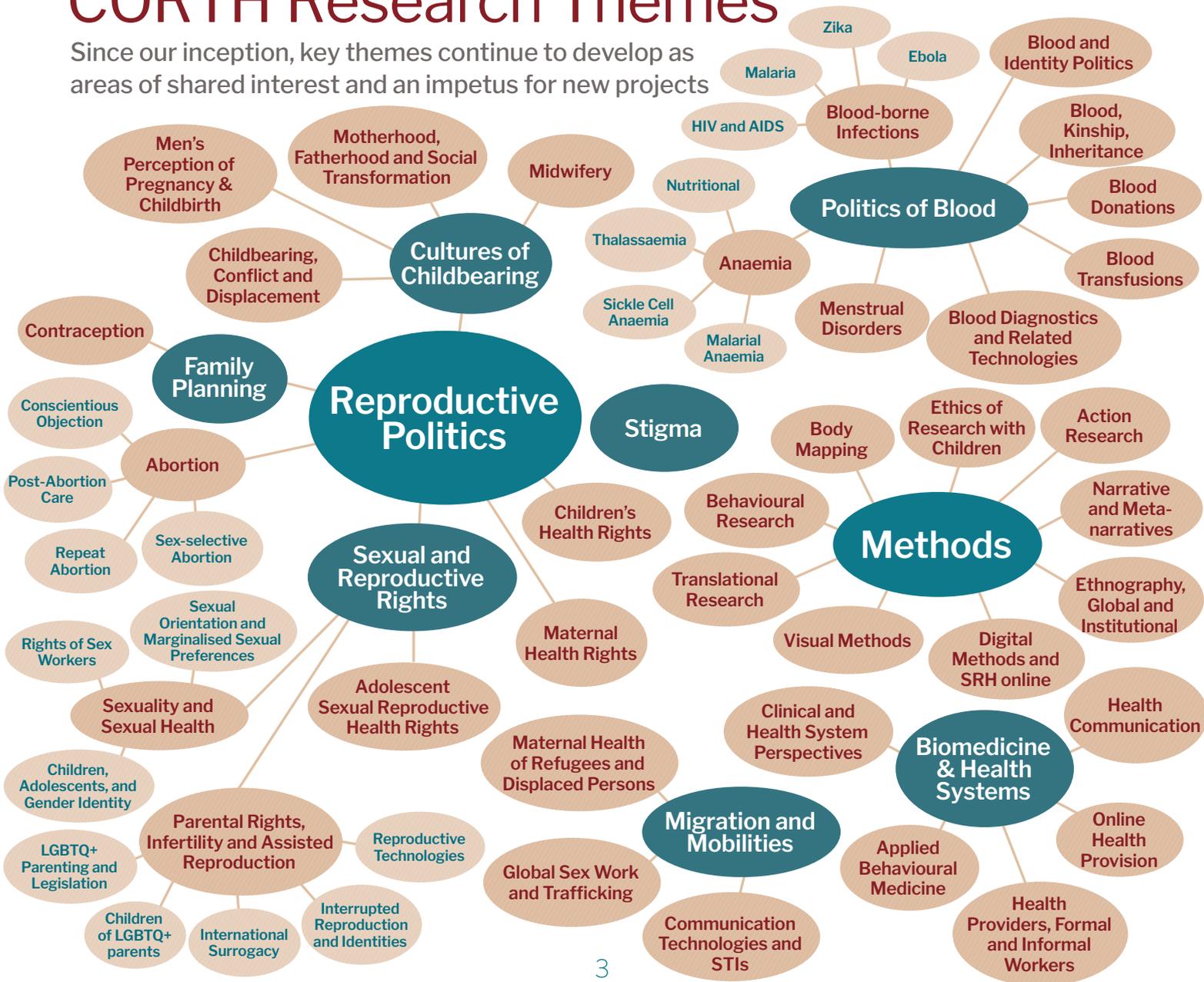
FRONT COVER IMAGE: A VISIT TO THE PRE-SCHOOL DAY CARE CENTRE IN TIRUPATI, ANDHRA PRADESH. PHOTO: MAYA UNNITHAN
ABOVE: HOSTING OUR BRAZILIAN VISITORS. PHOTO: ALICE WEBB

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 actively engage with the media to influence public debates on SRH related issues, the CORTH Blog is one outlet to achieve this aim.
 - 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 SRH issues across the university network to further enable **international links**.
- Values: interdisciplinary, critical thinking, collaborative research*

CORTH Research Themes

Since our inception, key themes continue to develop as areas of shared interest and an impetus for new projects



CORTH News

Felicitations

Doctorates

Congratulations to Liiri Oja (EUI, Florence) and Mary Frances Lukera (LPS, Sussex) for passing their doctoral examinations with flying colours.

Grants, promotions and jobs

Hearty felicitations to:

- Our Sussex faculty who have received new grants: Hayley MacGregor; Maria Moscati; Catherine Will; Shahaduz Zaman
- Carrie Llewellyn for promotion to a professorship at the Medical School
- Alex Shankland for his promotion to IDS Senior Fellow/ Readership
- Ben Kasstan for his lectureship at the Hebrew University in Israel
- Liiri Oja for her new job in Tallinn, working with the Estonian Chancellor of Justice (Ombudsperson), managing the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) activities

Awards and Visitors



Anna Christina Maukner

Anna Christina Maukner, third year undergraduate in Anthropology and Development, has been awarded a Junior Research Award to work with the CORTH Narrating Blood network. The University of Sussex Junior Research Associate scheme gives undergraduate students the opportunity to take part in a research project under the guidance of an academic for eight weeks during the summer. Anna Christina will be working on how blood-related conditions in Ghana are linked to health inequalities in the care system comparing it to India and Bangladesh producing a briefing for the forthcoming visit by Sussex members of the Blood Network to Ghana.

CORTH welcomed international student **Marycarmen Rubalcava Oliveros** from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) for eight weeks this summer as part of Sussex University's International Junior Research Associate scheme. She is working with PhD researcher Rebecca Ashley and Maya Unnithan on a project exploring the role of traditional midwives on health, autonomy and sustainable development in Mexico. She will produce a blog of her findings for the CORTH website.

CORTH Co-Director Maria Moscati, along with the Sussex Clinical Legal Education team, has received the University's 'Learning Together' Award for 2019

Medical anthropology doctoral researcher **Marte E. S. Haaland** from the Global Health Research Group at the University of Bergen in Norway visited us for

6 weeks in the Spring term. Marte's PhD research explores the politics of abortion in Zambia with a special focus on abortion policies as an element of reproductive governance. In Norway, Haaland has examined maternal health care for immigrants with a special focus on antenatal care, addressing an existing health equity gap.



Dr Paula Baraitser

Dr. Paula Baraitser has joined CORTH as a Visiting Fellow for two years from July 2019. Paula is a consultant in sexual health at King's College Hospital, a Senior Lecturer in Global Health at King's College London, director of the community interest company, SH:24 (www.sh.24.org.uk) and a Health Foundation Improvement Science Fellow. Her research focuses on the innovation

and evaluation of sexual health services, particularly online sexual health services in the UK and abroad. Paula is a trustee of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Care (FSRH), chairs the International Affairs Committee of the FSRH and is a member of the sexually transmitted infections committee of the European Society of Contraception.

Welcome to New Members

Syed Abbas (PhD Candidate, Institute Of Development Studies), Deirdre Duffy (Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Care, Manchester Metropolitan University) Leah Eades (PhD candidate, University of Edinburgh), Paula Baraitser (King's College Hospital; and Department of Global Health, King's College London, UK), Anne Gateguta (Brighton and Sussex Medical School), Sreeparna Chattopadhyay (Associate Professor at the Ramalingaswami Centre on Equity and Social Determinants of Health at the Public Health Foundation of India, Bangalore), Jayna Kothari (Co-director, Centre for Law and Policy Research in Bangalore), Anuj Kapilashrami (Queen Mary University of London, Global Health), Kate Law (Nottingham Research Fellow, Faculty of Arts, University of Nottingham), Irene Maffi (Professor of Social and Medical anthropology at the Institute of social sciences, Universite de Lausanne), Anindita Majumdar (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad), Fernanda Meira (Visiting Fellow,

Universidade Federal de Pernambuco), Alan Msosa (University of York), Ciara O'Connell (University of Sussex), Papreen Nahar (Research Fellow in Medical Anthropology, Brighton and Sussex Medical School) Bronwyn Parry (Professor and Head of School Global Affairs, Kings College London), Heike Rabe (Neonatologist, Brighton and Sussex Medical School), Emma Varley (Associate Professor in Anthropology, Brandon University), Shahaduz Zaman (Senior Lecturer, Brighton and Sussex Medical School).



Marte E. S. Haaland

New Member Focus



Dr Papreen Nahar

Welcome to **Dr Papreen Nahar**, who is a Medical Anthropologist based at the Department of Primary Care and Public Health, University of Sussex as a Research Fellow. Papreen has been conducting social science research on diverse global health topics to strengthen the health services in the UK, India, and Bangladesh, focusing on a number of themes including,

marginality and inequalities in health, Co-designed digital health interventions, Gender, Society and Medicines, Ethnicity and Acculturation, Patient's experience, AMR, and Community engagement implementation study.



Dr Anindita Majumdar

Welcome to **Dr. Anindita Majumdar** who has been researching on commercial surrogacy, kinship and infertility since 2010. Her book based on her ethnographic research was published in 2017 by Oxford University Press and is titled Transnational Commercial Surrogacy and the (Un)Making of Kin in India. Anindita is currently researching and writing on the

linkages between ageing and assisted reproductive technologies in India which includes fieldwork in North India amongst post-menopausal couples who became pregnant through the use of assisted reproductive technologies.

CORTH (2)

CORTH Social Media



anthropological study on the impacts of diagnoses and prognoses of fetal malformations in the daily lives of women and their families in the state of Pernambuco". The blog can be read at: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/corth/publications/blog/2019-02-28>



Example of our blog posts



Devanik Saha

CORTH Twitter has a highly active presence in the University of Sussex. Our Twitter handle has a regular engagement, daily tweets, live tweeting of events and the publicising of the work of our members. We have an average of 500 profile visits every month with more than 10,000 tweet impressions. Our Twitter handle is managed

by CORTH social media officer **Devanik Saha**, a PhD researcher based at the Institute of Development Studies and the School of Global Studies at Sussex.

CORTH Blog Highlights

Our blog site continues to be a space for the exchange of knowledge and critical discussions from around the globe. Our recent blog posts include:

"But will this research produce any results?" Zika, Moms and Science in Brazil (February 2019)

This blog has been written by Dr Soraya Fleischer (University of Brasilia) and is based on her ethnographic experiences from the research project: "Zika and microcephaly: An



Abortion protest, Norway.

TORILL BJØRGENSEN FRØISE

Research Highlights and Updates

In Between Sex Work and Trafficking: From Interviews and Network Analysis

Principal Investigator: Professor Kaoru Aoyama, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University, Japan (funded from Japan) (Researchers from the University of Sussex – Paul Statham, Sarah Scuzzarello part of UK team)

This project investigates the contemporary sex trade across national borders exacerbated by globalisation through lived experiences of those who undergo the trade. To do so, the project conducts 1) in-depth interviews with those who are (formerly) involved in sex work and categorised as ‘undocumented/illegal migrants’ and (former) ‘trafficking victims’ and 2) network analysis centred on the link between them and mediators or traffickers who then connect them to the sex industry. The countries in focus are the U.K., the Netherlands and Japan, which have seen each characteristic phenomenon and produced distinctive research and policy results about this topic, and other countries, i.e. the Philippines, Thailand and China, connected to the former three via the sex trade

‘We exist too’: Young Trans Perspectives on Legal Gender Recognition Laws in England and Wales

Co-Investigators: Dr Maria Federica Moscati, School of Law, CORTH, University of Sussex and Dr Peter Dunne, University of Bristol

The aim of this project is to listen to, document and disseminate the voice of trans young people (13-17 years old) in relation to legal gender recognition laws in England. In particular, the project pursues four main objectives: (i) to investigate the extent to which trans children and adolescents are aware of gender recognition; (ii) to consider how (and whether) legal exclusion impacts young trans lives; (iii) to ask how (and whether) trans youth believe that children should be incorporated into the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA); and (iv) to disseminate the results among young people, policy-makers and academics. The GRA creates a process through which trans individuals can be formally acknowledged in their preferred gender. In order to obtain a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC), an applicant must have reached the age of 18 years. In 2018, the UK Government undertook a public consultation on potential reforms to the GRA. Although the Government proposed a model of self-identification for adult trans persons, it omitted the possibility that children and adolescents could access a GRC. The consultation survey did not contain any questions specifically relating to the views of trans young people.

Against this background and adopting a child rights perspective which emphasizes the voice of children, this project will provide original data on how trans young people in England experience legal invisibility. The project adopts a participative methodology which employs four main methods (e.g. semi-structured interviews, focus groups, diary writing and artistic expression), and is developed in collaboration with Gendered Intelligence.

Narrating Blood International Research Network Update

Maya Unnithan and Janet Boddy from the University of Sussex visited Bangladesh from 4th – 8th January 2019 where they were hosted by Professor Sabina Rashid, Dean of the James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) of the BRAC University, Dhaka. Sabina Rashid is an international partner of the Sussex Narrating Blood network set up in 2018. During their 5-day visit Maya and Janet met with a range of professional, development, and community stakeholders exploring the local

meanings and practices relating to blood and health. They also spent two days in one of the largest slums in Dhaka known as Korail Slum (bosti). Discussions with young researchers, doctors, and community members provided meaningful insight into blood transfusion, nutrition and blood-related health conditions. The key lessons learned from the visit include people’s ideas of gaining blood and receiving blood, the importance of thinking about gender, the role of social media and body image that links with nutrition as well as the central importance of nutrition and *durbolota* (weakness).

Community health worker in Dhaka testing haemoglobin levels.



Marginalisation and the microbe: how to mobilise against antimicrobial resistance without increasing social inequalities

Led by Dr Catherine Will (Reader in the Sociology of Science and Technology, University of Sussex) this research will examine mobilisation in response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), asking how scientists, clinicians and publics relate to issues of inequality in infectious disease, and raising questions about the stigma that may accompany resistant infections. The project draws on theories of scientific and clinical classification work to examine where and how different vulnerabilities are made visible and actionable, using the concept of marginalisation to understand risks developing at the intersection of age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity/race, poverty and class. We will consider the role of the state using critical contrasts between the UK and US and analyse carefully selected cases in sexual and reproductive health. Mapping histories and geographies of resistance in gonorrhoea, *Mycoplasma genitalium*, and *E.Coli* urinary tract infections (UTIs) will illuminate how the problem of AMR is known in policy, microbiology, epidemiology and clinical medicine. In particular we will document practices to manage bacterial resistance and possible stigma through comparative ethnographic work on sexual health settings – exploring how different forms of marginality are addressed in the clinic. Other members of the team (PhD students) will analyse observed and reported patient experiences of resistance and antibiotic use and non-use in reproductive health, engaging with women discussing recurrent/persistent UTIs online, debates about treatment of these in family practice, and groups mobilising around Group B streptococcus risks in childbirth in the UK.

Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal urban Settlements for Equity in health and well-being (ARISE).

CORTH Co-Director Hayley MacGregor is leading the IDS component of a GCRF HUB grant that is led by Sally Theobald from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. This is a large grant over five years with partners in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Bangladesh (CORTH partner Sabina Rashid at BRAC University)

and India which involves academic and NGO partners – such as the Slum and Shack Dwellers International. The focus is on mechanisms to improve accountability for health and wellbeing outcomes for people living in informal urban settlements.

The NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

Brighton & Sussex Medical School member **Shahaduz Zaman** who has recently joined CORTH works at the NIHR Global Health Research unit. The NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) at Department of Global Health and Infection, BSMS was established in 2017. The unit aims to improve the ability to diagnose, prevent and treat three specific NTDs including, Podoconiosis, Mycetoma and Scabies. To achieve these aims the unit has designed a programme of work that will be carried out in collaboration with three overseas partners: CDT-Africa at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; the Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and the Mycetoma Research Centre, University of Khartoum, Sudan. The unit runs

world-class interdisciplinary research utilizing perspectives from epidemiology, clinical management to provide an evidence base for interventions targeting the neglected tropical disease (NTD) epidemic.

ZIKA Research Network Update

IDS researchers **Alex Shankland**, **Hayley Macgregor** and **Isabele Villwock Bachtold** have been collaborating with CORTH and Brazilian institutions to explore how the Zika virus in Brazil feeds into the broader dynamics that shape the emergence of an epidemic and the policy responses to health crises. The project supported by a Newton Fund Institutional Links grant, aims to understand the social and emotional impact on families affected by the Zika virus, as well as the reorganisation of public services to meet their needs. In February 2019, researchers from the partner institutions gathered at IDS during a week to present their key project findings and discuss future collaborations. Members of the visiting team **Professor Parry Scott** and **Dr. Soraya Fleischer** engaged in the CORTH conversation series.

Impact and Engagement

Law clinics at Sussex with a focus on the family law clinic

CORTH Co-director **Maria Moscatti** is involved in the challenging Sussex Clinical Legal Education initiative that facilitates a variety of pro-bono (not for profit) projects. These projects range from:

- giving direct legal advice and assistance to the public through the Law Clinics
- assistance in the County Courts
- projects assisting local charities with community issues such as homelessness and employment rights research for action groups and other non-governmental organisations in legal challenges

Nordic Midwifery Congress



Rebecca Ashley attended the 21st Congress of the Nordic Federation of Midwives in Reykjavík. Her research, examining the politics of midwifery work in the Nordic region, is based on over eighteen months of ethnographic fieldwork in Iceland, focusing on the unfolding occupational crises and protests among midwives there. Over 700 midwives attended the Congress, which explored a range of midwifery research projects in the region, including a challenging and urgent focus on addressing wellbeing

and burnout. Rebecca was interviewed by a Dutch midwife on her research for a podcast episode exploring the recent midwifery union dispute in Iceland, and this will be published later this year.

Son preference and gender equality: 5 British stories



with people of Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani origin. They conducted over 90 interviews to capture the diverse experiences in these minority communities and discussed whether and how son preference is shifting over time. In these videos, five women share their life experiences and personal views on son preference. They discuss the areas where gender norms had an impact on their personal or professional lives, including family inheritance, arranged marriage, education, employment, and childbearing decisions. The videos have been produced in response to claims that sex-selective abortion is widespread in these minority communities and is an issue that requires restrictions in abortion legislation. The videos instead highlight the need to tackle the root issue of son preference. Gender equality is an important part of contemporary Personal, Social, Health & Economic

From January 2018 to January 2019, **Ben Kasstan** along with **Maya Unnithan** travelled across the country to explore ideas around family-making and gender equality

Education (PSHE) and Relationships & Sex Education (RSE), and the hope is that the films will spark discussions about the challenges faced by all women in the UK. These videos are available at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/anthropology/research/uksonpref/projectvideos>

Submission of evidence at House of Commons



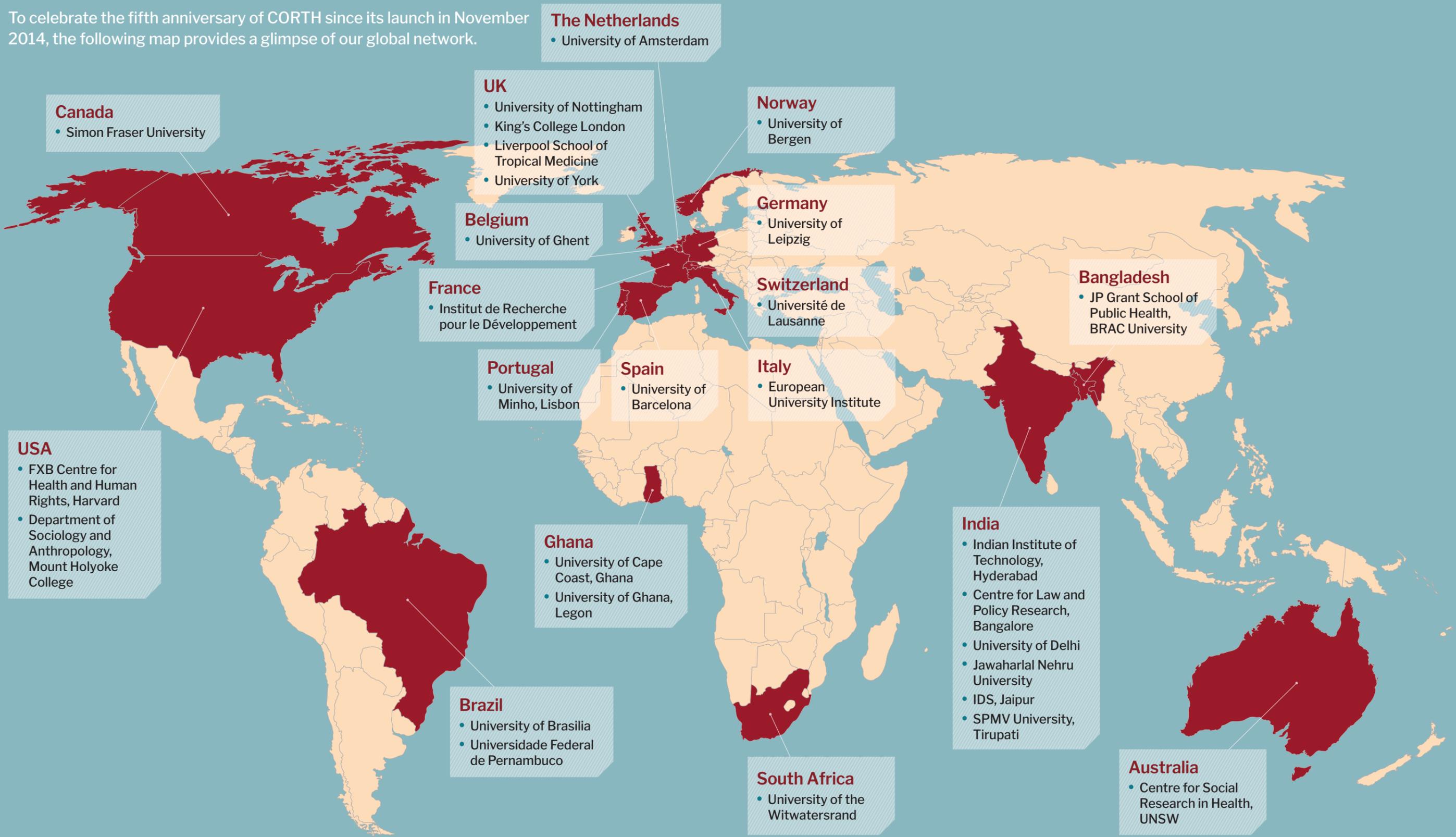
their 'Health and social care and LGBT communities' enquiry. In January 2019, she has been appointed as a Regional Chair of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research for Patient Benefit, South East and Central funding committee.

Op-ed article in leading Indian Newspaper

Jayna Kothari, Maya Unnithan and Siri Gloppen contributed to the debate on the invisibility of women's health and reproductive rights in the 2019 Indian general election with an article in the leading national newspaper calling for action. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-half-written-promise/article26914712.ece>

Celebrating Five Years of CORTH

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of CORTH since its launch in November 2014, the following map provides a glimpse of our global network.

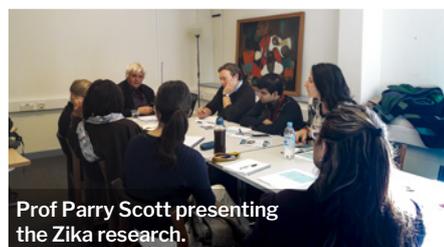


Conversations, seminars and workshops

We have had a very active year with stimulating conversations and seminars from visiting speakers

CORTH CONVERSATIONS 2018–2019

CORTH conversations, first introduced last year, has expanded to host a range of international experts invited by the Centre.



Prof Parry Scott presenting the Zika research.

CORTH CONVERSATION

Social Research Themes Emerging in the Zika Epidemic in Brazil

Parry Scott (Department of Anthropology, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil) In Conversation with Hayley MacGregor (INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)

24 OCTOBER 2018

Professor Parry Scott is a Senior Researcher of Brazil's Federal Council of Science Research (CNPQ), and Professor of Anthropology the Department of Anthropology and Museology, Federal University of Pernambuco. Parry's expertise involves Anthropology and Sociology, with emphasis on the intersections between domestic structures and other power spheres in diverse urban and rural contexts. Previously Parry has conducted research among rural workers and peasants in Northeast Brazil, with relocated populations of dams and other development projects related to the urban poor. More broadly he is interested in power, gender, family, health, reproductive health, migration, deficiency, education, anthropological theory, and national anthropologies.

CORTH CONVERSATION

PREVENT Dissent: The self-censorship of NHS staff in counter-terrorism training

Dr Tarek Younis, University College London

5 DECEMBER 2018

The PREVENT policy introduced a duty for UK health professionals to identify



Dr Tarek Younis presenting his work on self-censorship of NHS staff in counter-terrorism training.

and report patients they suspect may be vulnerable towards radicalisation. Research on PREVENT's impact in healthcare is scant, especially on the lived experiences of staff. This study examined individual interviews with 16 dissenting NHS professionals who participated in mandatory PREVENT counter-radicalisation training. Results reveal two themes central among dissenting health professionals. The first theme is the moralising discourse experienced within PREVENT training. This moralising discourse offers that criticism towards PREVENT may be perceived as paramount to sympathies for terrorism itself and is experienced more acutely by British Muslim healthcare staff who felt silenced. The second theme relates to the structures which extend beyond PREVENT but nonetheless contribute to the silencing of dissent: distrustful settings in which the gaze of unknown colleagues stifles personal expression; reluctant safeguarding leads who admit PREVENT may be unethical but nonetheless relinquish personal responsibility from the act of training; and contemporary socio-political conditions affecting the NHS which overwhelm staff with other concerns. This paper argues that counter-terrorism policy within healthcare settings may reveal underlying structures of institutional racism which exacerbate the self-censorship of dissenting staff, especially Muslims.

CORTH CONVERSATION

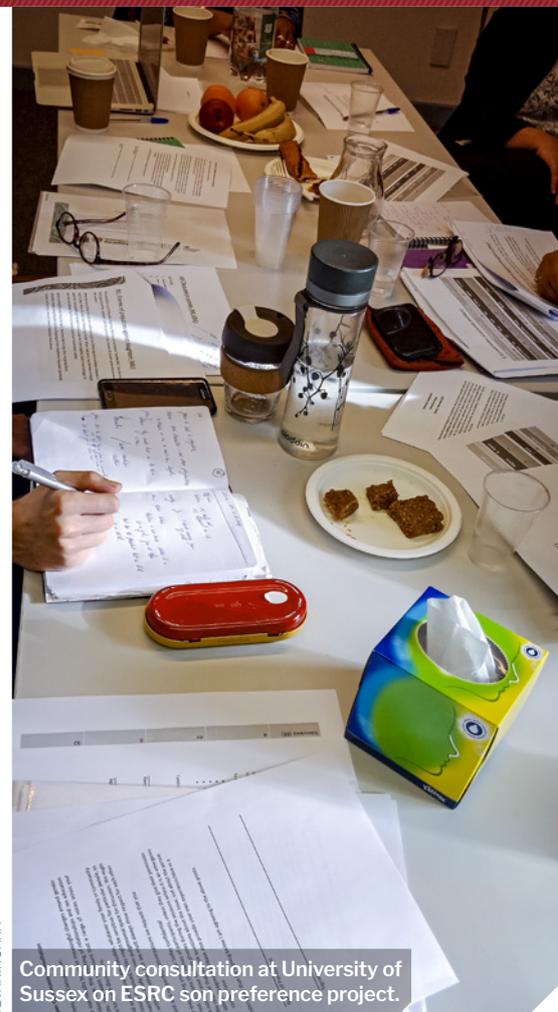
High pressure: When blood and city come together with a screening of WILD THING, a short documentary

Soraya Fleischer (Department of Anthropology, University of Brasilia)

20 FEBRUARY 2019



With around 600,000 people Ceilândia is the biggest town in the Federal District of Brasília, the capital of Brazil. It has been associated with a very negative reputation of urban violence, poverty and migration. Many of the men and women who constructed the national capital, back in the 1960s, live in Ceilândia. Now in their 70 or 80s, the elders have many stories to tell – from the monumental migration from their home cities, the endeavours to work under harsh conditions and the economic challenges to raise a family. They also hold heroic narratives of seeing Brazil undergo big transformations in the past decades. Whilst



Community consultation at University of Sussex on ESRC son preference project.

many of them have chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and hypertension, the blood has its own wanderings and can tell so much more than just the status of arterial life.

CORTH CONVERSATION

Surrogacy and gay male parenting: Balancing the rights and interests of those involved

Bronwyn Parry (Kings College London), Philip Bremner (Sussex), Maria Moscati (Sussex), Craig Lind (Sussex), and Maya Unnithan (Sussex)

1 MAY 2019

This conversation offered some reflections on the manner in which the recourse to surrogacy by gay male couples influences our perception of the rights and interests of the parties involved. In particular the Conversation will consider four dimensions of surrogacy and gay male parenting. How do cases of surrogacy for male gay parents challenge concepts like legal parenthood and parental responsibilities? How do same-sex couples plan for surrogacy and how is the best interests of the child considered during the decisional process? What are



CORTH conversation on surrogacy gay male parenting CORTH conversation on surrogacy gay male parenting.

the feminist concerns about surrogacy for male gay couples and how has the legal and cultural landscape of surrogacy changed in India over the last few decades? The Conversation that was chaired by Professor Bronwyn Parry (King's College), offered insightful reflections on the manner in which surrogacy by gay male couples may influence our perceptions of the rights and interests of the parties involved. The scholars engaged in a lively debate, followed on twitter, in which the topic of surrogacy and male gay parenting was scrutinized from a variety of positions. During the conversation, Maya Unnithan, Maria Federica Moscati, Philip Bremner and Craig Lind presented papers that touched upon the issue from varied and complementary perspectives.

WORKSHOPS, TALKS, AND SEMINARS

CORTH is now well established since its launch in November 2014, featuring and organising a number of conferences, workshops, talks and seminars

CORTH DOCTORAL FORUM

Methods in Research and Practice
Dr. Emilomo Ogbe (International Centre for Reproductive Health, Ghent University), Dr. Ben Kasstan and Dr. Paul Boyce (CORTH)
 10 OCTOBER 2018



Dr Emilomo Ogbe

Doctoral researchers were invited to join us for a forum on methods in research and practice, where they explored opportunities and challenges of qualitative and quantitative methods in research around gender, health and wellbeing. This was the first event of the 2018 autumn term, where participants had shared lively discussions on research positionality, and new CORTH governance member, Dr Paul Boyce introduced his book. We had visiting doctoral researcher, Emilomo Ogbe, talked about her fascinating work on sexual health of refugees in Belgium. During this same event, Dr Ben Kasstan also spoke on gender and reproductive research from a male perspective.

SUSSEX DEVELOPMENT STUDIES LECTURE

Maya Unnithan (CORTH)
 22 NOVEMBER 2018

CORTH director Maya Unnithan gave a public lecture on 'The power of development goals: what they mean for



reproductive health and rights' as part of the Development Lecture series which this year was on the Sustainable Development Goals. Co-organized by IDS, Global Studies and SPRU.

IDS HEALTH AND NUTRITION SEMINAR/ CORTH CONVERSATION

Zika virus, access to care and the state in Brazil

20 FEBRUARY 2019

For the past three years IDS and University of Sussex researchers linked to the Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technology and Health (CORTH) have worked with colleagues from the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro State (UFF) and the University of Brasília (UnB) who have been carrying out ground-breaking research with the mothers of children with CZVS, their associations and their allies within civil society, academia and the bureaucracy. Visiting anthropology professor Parry Scott, who works in northeast Brazil, gave a personal account of his engagement with Zika research and further talked about legal and social-life focus of ethnographic research at his centre in Pernambuco. This seminar presented the key findings from this collaboration, supported by a Newton Fund Institutional Links grant.

ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT & CORTH RESEARCH SEMINAR

Varieties of life forms, and the return of animism

Professor Marilyn Strathern (University of Cambridge)

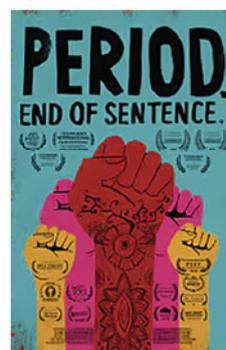
26 FEBRUARY 2019

Professor Marilyn Strathern, visiting Anthropology seminar speaker and CORTH member, gave a fascinating talk on varieties of life forms and the return of animism to a packed seminar room. Stimulated by a very pointed question concerning the immortality of the soul, her paper returned to some of anthropology's earlier concerns with animism alongside a renewed interest in other than human beings. Rather than converting the concept of the 'soul' into a more late-modern-friendly term, it kept close to a specific Victorian rendition with what seemed to her to have some interesting consequences. Her paper thus arrived at a question, among others, about the immortality of the body.

Screening of 'Period. End of Sentence' short documentary

8 MARCH 2019

CORTH hosted a screening of 'Period. End of Sentence' to mark International Women's Day. The film, winner of this year's Oscar for



best documentary short, the issue of access to menstrual hygienic products for rural women in India. Following the screening, we had a lively discussion around menstruation and its ties to recent research. The discussion also touched on the challenges in the representation of young rural Indians through a Western gaze, as well as feminist concerns challenges in destigmatizing menstruation in the Global South.

SUSSEX CENTRE FOR MIGRATION RESEARCH (SCMR) & CORTH RESEARCH SEMINAR

'Where shall thou rest': Death and dying of Syrian refugees in Lebanon
Shahaduz Zaman (Brighton & Sussex Medical School)

13 MARCH 2019



Dr Shahaduz Zaman presenting his research.

Shahaduz Zaman has more than a decade's experience of conducting of global health research on diverse topics. Set in this context he talked about his work as a medical anthropologist and on understanding mind/body issues in his work on global health. The discussion and talk centred around his recent film on 'Death and dying of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon', in which we heard the personal stories of those families and especially women who were living in a refugee camp. The stories especially highlighted how experiences of loss are felt and articulated, and where there is a sense of hopelessness and hope.

CORTH RESEARCH SEMINAR

Cross-country abortion travel in Europe: How women deal with legal restrictions and stigma, and build up effective transnational support networks
Silvia De Zordo and Giulia Zanini (University of Barcelona)

27 MARCH 2019

Why do many women travel in Western Europe to seek abortion care, including from countries with relatively liberal abortion laws? How do these women experience abortion travel? This multi-disciplinary research project, funded by the European Research Council, aims to answer these



Dr De Zordo explaining the finding of her EU abortion research.

questions by exploring women's experiences with legal, procedural and social barriers to access safe and legal abortions and abortion travel. Researchers Giulia Zanini & Silvia De Zordo presented data collected in the UK, the Netherlands and Spain during a 20-months data collection period.

CORTH RESEARCH SEMINAR

How should we respond to the increased genetic risk associated with close relative marriage in England?

Sarah Salway, Department of Sociolegal Studies, University of Sheffield

3 APRIL 2019



Sarah Salway

Public health Professor Sarah Salway has been working on the provision of services with regard to genetic risk in the UK since 2011. In this fascinating talk she tracked the history of the development of the public health services to do with genetic risk counselling in the NHS from 2003. She explained the evolution of the minimum standards of risk for new clinical services

with regard to equity issues. Her talk generated a stimulating discussion on when ethnicity appears and disappears in the context of how risk is approached in health service delivery.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Hosted by Centre for Law & Policy Research, Bangalore, India CMI Centre on Law & Social Transformations, Bergen, Norway & CORTH, Sussex, UK

“Sexual & Reproductive Rights in India: Social movements & Legal battles”

BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE (BIC) – BANGALORE, INDIA
APRIL 14TH – 15TH 2019

In the past decade, the discourse and legal advocacy around sexual and reproductive rights has developed rapidly in India. While mobilising action around maternal mortality, domestic violence, and sex-selective abortion has been rapid, it has been negligible around other key issues such as the right to abortion, and adolescent sexuality, which continue to be at the margins of activist and legal concerns. Similarly, the perspectives and the needs of persons with disabilities or LGBTI+ persons tend to be overlooked. This conference brought together prominent activists, academics and lawyers to

CORTH member Jashodara Dasgupta presents her experiences on sexual reproductive rights work in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India at the conference.



CLPR, BANGALORE

evaluate the past, present and future of sexual and reproductive rights work in India. The objective was not only to learn from past actions, taking into account the contemporary responses to SRR, but to draw attention to the issues that are often implicitly or explicitly excluded. The conference also served as a space to deliberate on litigation and other strategies and tools to mobilize around these concerns.

CORTH Sussex was an organizing partner in the conference.



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CORTH Publication Highlights

Here we provide a selection of recent publications from CORTH members

Aggleton, P., Broom, A., Moss, J. (eds) (2019) *Practical Justice: Principles, Practice and Social Change*. London: Routledge.

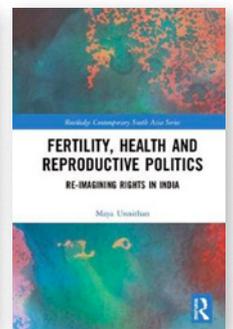
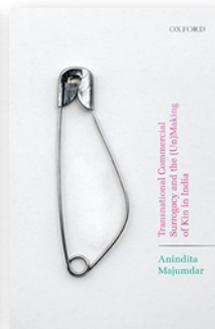
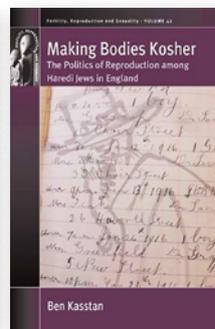
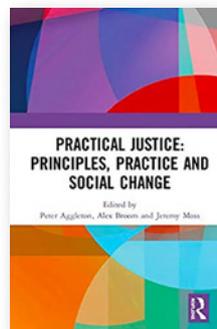
Chakravarthy, V., **Rajagopal, S.** & Joshi, B. (2019) 'Does Menstrual Hygiene Management in Urban Slums Need a Different Lens? Challenges Faced By Women and Girls in Jaipur and Delhi', *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 26(1-2), 138–159

Chattopadhyay, S., Mishra, A. & Suraj Jacob, S. (2018) "Safe", yet violent? Women's experiences with obstetric violence during hospital births in rural Northeast India." *Culture, health & sexuality*, 20(7), 815–829.

D'Alton-Harrison, R. (2019). Regulating International Surrogacy, 'The Elephant in the Room': Some Reflections on reform from a UK Study. *Child and Family Law Quarterly*, 31(1), 47-67. [3].

Duffy, D.N., Pierson, C. and Best, P., 2019. A formative evaluation of online information to support abortion access in England, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. *BMJ Sex Reprod Health*, 45(1), pp.32-37.

Haaland, M.E., Haukanes, H., Zulu, J.M., Moland, K.M., Michelo, C., Munakampe, M.N. and Blystad, A., 2019. Shaping the abortion policy—competing discourses on the Zambian termination of pregnancy act. *International journal for equity in health*, 18(1), p.20.



Howe, A., & **Alaattinoğlu, D. (Eds.) (2018)**. *Contesting Femicide: Feminism and the Power of Law Revisited*. Routledge.

Kasstan, B. (2019). *Making bodies kosher: the politics of reproduction among Haredi Jews in England*. Berghahn Books.

Lee, P. H. (2019). The struggle for marriage equality and intimate citizenship: a field occupied by multiple hegemonic discourses. *Taiwan Human Rights Journal*. ISSN 2224–6622

Llewellyn, C. S Ayers, C McManus, S Newman, T Revenson, K Petrie, J Weinman. Eds. *Cambridge Handbook of Psychology, Health and Medicine (2019) 3rd Edition*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

Majumdar, A. (2017) 'Transnational Commercial Surrogacy and the (Un)Making of Kin in India'. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Miners, A.H.; Nadarzynski, T; Witzel, T.C., Phillips, A.N.; Cambiano, V., Rodger, AJ;

Llewellyn, C.D. (2019) Preferences for HIV testing services among men who have sex with men in the UK: a discrete choice experiment. *Plos Medicine* 16 (4) e1002779. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002779>

Parry, B. (2018) 'Surrogate labour: exceptional for whom?', *Economy and Society*, 47(2), pp. 214-233.

Statham, P. (2019). Living the long-term consequences of Thai-Western marriage migration: the radical life-course transformations of women who partner older Westerners. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1–26.

Unnithan, M. (2019). *Fertility, Health and Reproductive politics: Re-imagining Rights in India*. Routledge.



Health app used by Community Health Workers in Dhaka.

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- University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- University of Ghana, Legon
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- SAHAYOG Lucknow, India
- PRAYAS, Chittorgarh, India
- Public Health Foundation India
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- Mahidol University, Thailand

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- Department of Medical Anthropology, University of Arizona, USA
- FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights, Harvard, USA

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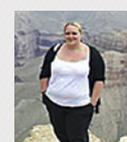
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We regularly update our website with our latest events, research and members' activities.

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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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