



Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health



Annual Report 2018



www.sussex.ac.uk/corth

Welcome to CORTH



FRONT COVER IMAGE: RESEARCHERS INTERACTING WITH MEMBERS OF THE FULANI HOUSEHOLD IN KENYORABA VILLAGE, MALI, AS PART OF THE REALITY CHECK, A MODULE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FUNDED POVERTY-RELATED DISEASE COLLEGE. PHOTO: ANDRÁS SÁRKY

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 over 145 members, including 41 Sussex faculty, 35 international senior research associates and advisors, 34 external members and visitors, and 35 internal and external graduate members. 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, Carrie Llewellyn, Reader in Applied Behavioural Medicine (Brighton and Sussex Medical School), and Maria Federica Moscati, Lecturer in Family Law (School of Law, Politics and Sociology).

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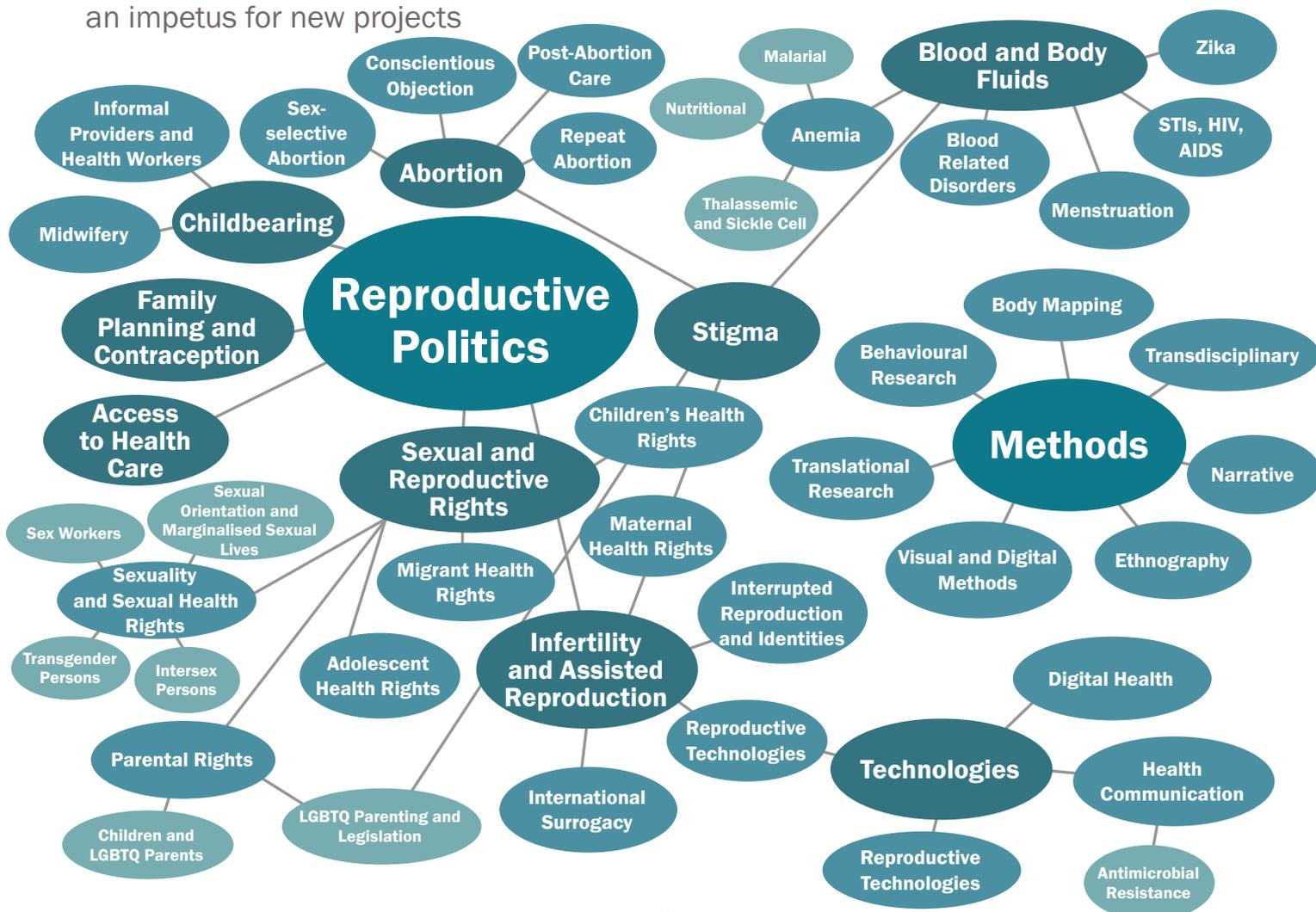
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Aims and Objectives

- 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*

Research Themes

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



What's New at CORTH

This year CORTH launched a new set of activities and received new members



CORTH Conversations

Our new CORTH Conversation series brought together experts in their fields to discuss their work in an informal environment.

Sexual & Reproductive Lawfare

Siri Gloppen, 15 May 2018

University of Bergen Professor of Comparative Politics and Director for the Centre for Law and Social Transformation (Chr Michelson Institute, Bergen, Norway) Siri Gloppen sat down with CORTH director Maya Unnithan to speak about 'lawfare' and her work surrounding it. The concept of lawfare is the strategic use of rights and law in long term battles for social change. Siri's work at the Centre for Law and Social Transformation looks into how the law plays into many different social dynamics and interactions. Ranging from women's rights, rights of sex workers, to



those in the LGBT community, she spoke about the need to understand not only how the law is being used, measured and understood in different ways.

Female Genital Cutting: Gynecological and Legal Perspectives

Geetha Subramanian and Zimran Samuel, 17 May 2018

Geetha Subramanian (Honorary Consultant Gynaecologist at Bart's Health NHS Trust) and Zimran Samuel (Human Rights Practitioner at Doughty Street Chambers) spoke on their medical and legal experiences of work on Female Genital Cutting. Geetha discussed her extensive clinical work with FGM/FGC survivors to focus on how those in the medical profession can care for and engage with women living with FGM in England. Zimran spoke on his extensive legal work and the recent changes to FGM/FGC protection in England. He discussed how the new shifts in the FGM/FGC protection laws are being implemented, and how the variety of cases display different reasoning behind and ways in which FGM/FGC is carried out.



An International Research Network

Narrating Blood: An International Research Network

Maya Unnithan, Janet Boddy (CIRCY), and Hayley MacGregor (IDS)

The Narrating Blood international network is a CORTH project in collaboration with the Sussex Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY) and the Institute for Development Studies (IDS). Maya Unnithan, Janet Boddy, and Hayley MacGregor won a joint bid from the International Research Partner Network fund at Sussex to bring together a unique network of interdisciplinary scholars across the globe to ‘talk about blood’. Exploring the social, economic and health burden of often hidden, blood related conditions such as anemia in lower and middle-income countries, it focuses on the way blood (from menstruation to anemia) is narrated within policy discourse, and in everyday family, school and livelihood contexts in poor, rural, urban and migrating populations. International partners include the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, India, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Prayas, Chittorgarh, India, and Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalam (Women’s University), Tirupati, India, are joined by national partners the Department of International Public Health, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Department of Anthropology, Durham University. The first meeting of the network was held between June 25th and June 29th at the University of Sussex.

Engaging with Publics Through Our New Blog

Our exciting new blog site is a space for exchange of knowledge and critical discussions from around the globe. It consists of original contributions on recent developments regarding cultures of reproduction, technology, and health from all disciplines.

Also included are more general critical reflections on advocacy, academia/scholarship and knowledge production, and commentary on



workshops, conferences, field work such as abortion, the Zika virus, gender violence and contraceptive security. Please visit us at www.sussex.ac.uk/corth/publications/blog

New Doctoral Graduates

CORTH congratulates members Dr. Gillian Love, Dr. Anjali Borhade, and Dr. MaryFrances Lukera for successfully passing their VIVAs and completing their PhDs. Gillian from the Sussex School of Law, Politics and Sociology defended her thesis, “Contextualising Abortion: A Life Narrative Study of Abortion and Social Class in Neoliberal England”. MaryFrances (School of Law, Politics and Sociology) also successfully defended her thesis, “Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health of Sex Workers in Kenya: A Human Rights Approach”. We send our best wishes to PhD Candidate and former CORTH Visiting Research Fellow **Liiri Oja** from the European University Institute on submitting her thesis and wish her luck for her VIVA examination.

New Members

Welcome to new members Daniel Amoako-Sakyi (Department of Microbiology, University of Cape Coast), Kate Austin (Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Kings College), Isabelle Villwock Bachtold (MA Candidate, Institute of Development Studies), Anjali Borhade (Independent Researcher, Delhi, India), Tam Cane (Lecturer in Social Work, University of Sussex), Chi Eziefula (Senior Lecturer, Brighton and Sussex Medical School), Soraya Fleischer (Department of Anthropology, University of Brasilia), Bernice Kuang (Geography and Environmental Science, University of Reading), Simon Mariwah (University of Cape Coast), Miranda Marks (MA Candidate in Anthropology, Universität Leipzig), Papreen Nahar (Department of Anthropology, Durham University), Liiri Oja (PhD Candidate, European University Institute), Sabina Faiz Rashid (Professor, BRAC University), Zimran Samuel (Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers), Arianne Shahvisi (Lecturer, Brighton and Sussex Medical School), Alex Shankland (Lecturer, Institute of Development Studies), Mei Treuba (Lecturer, Brighton and Sussex Medical School), Uma Vennam (Professor, Women’s University in Tirupati, India), Ayo Wahlberg (Professor of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen), Giulia Zanini (Researcher, University of Barcelona).

CORTH New Appointment and Visiting Fellows 2017–2018

During the 2017–2018 academic year CORTH welcomed the following three fellows to Sussex



Ben Kasstan joined CORTH in October 2017 as a Research Fellow in Social Anthropology as part of an ESRC-funded interdisciplinary project on son preference leading to sex-selective abortion, led by Sylvie Dubuc (PI, University of Reading) and Maya Unnithan (CO-I, Sussex). Ben's PhD (Durham, awarded

2016) was funded by the Wellcome Trust and integrated archival and ethnographic approaches to explore cultures of maternity care and infant health among the UK's Haredi Jewish population. As CORTH coordinator Ben supports the Centre's activities and development.



Liiri Oja was a Visiting Research Fellow with CORTH for the Autumn 2017 semester. Liiri is a PhD candidate at the European University Institute in Italy. Her PhD is titled "Who is the 'Woman' in Human Rights Law: Narratives of Women's Bodies and Sexuality in Reproduction Jurisprudence". Liiri is

a human right's lawyer, having completed her law degree at Tartu University in Estonia. Before continuing onto a PhD, she completed two Masters degrees, one in Public International Law at Oslo University and, with Fulbright funding, in International Legal Studies at Georgetown University.



Miranda Marks was a Visiting Research Associate with CORTH for the Spring 2018 semester. She is a masters candidate in Social Anthropology at the University of Leipzig, Germany, where her current thesis research focuses on nulliparous women's experiences and narratives surrounding the

intrauterine device cross-culturally. Originally from the United States, Miranda received her BA in Anthropology and Gender Studies at Mount Holyoke College, with a focus in feminist and reproductive anthropology. Miranda engaged with CORTH's members, assisted various projects, and organised events, such as the Blood Narratives meeting.

Research Highlights

Our research portfolio is growing. Here we report on selected new projects of our members

Building Collaboration for Action Ethnography on Care, Disability and Health Policy, for Women and Caretakers of Zika Virus Effected Children in Pernambuco

Hayley MacGregor, Alex Shankland, Maya Unnithan

The Newton Fund Brazil network award for Zika research has linked CORTH to two research teams in Brazil who have initiated work on this topic. In late September 2017, Hayley MacGregor, Alex Shankland, and Maya Unnithan attended meetings in Brazil in order to strengthen this new network and to discuss research being conducted in Brazil that is linked to the award. The first meeting in Rio De Janeiro united all the institutions involved in the award and was held at the offices of Fiocruz (a Brazilian national public health institution). The focus of this discussion was on the health and social protection mechanism available in Brazil and the measures that have been made applicable for women and children affected by Zika virus. A visit to a hospital in Rio that offers medical services, as well as meetings with those involved in their delivery,

(This photo and next page): Visit to a centre providing services and support for women with children with Zika disabilities.





enabled further discussion of the challenges and political environment. A second meeting was held later in the week hosted by the University of Pernambuco and the FAGES research group. The FAGES group has several researchers working in the general area of gender, reproduction and care, with an eye to the provision of state and NGO services for families. Members of the group presented their work, which was followed by two illuminating visits to centres providing services and support for women with children with disabilities. The broader environment of Recife encouraged discussion of the challenges of meeting expectations of the state, especially for women living in low-income urban settlements. On the final day of the visit, Prof Scott Parry organised a seminar on the topic care, with key people in different sectors and academic institutions. Maya and Hayley also presented papers, which enabled discussion of parallels with infectious disease and reproductive health issues in South Africa, India, and Brazil. The team from Recife and Brasilia are organising various exchange visits to the UK and to CORTH over the next year.

Belonging and Sexual Citizenship Among Gender and Sexual Minority Youth

Peter Aggleton, Toby Lea, Christy Newman

Something like one in four young Australians are likely to experience serious mental health difficulties, disrupting education, relationships and work. Young people from gender and sexual minorities are especially prone to anxiety, depression and, in the worst case, suicide. Many of these problems are attributable to rejection at home, in school, and in the community. Despite this, many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people

successfully navigate the challenges of adolescence and attain similar levels of health and well-being as their heterosexual peers, despite the stigma and discrimination encountered. Central to success in such transitions is 'sexual citizenship', whereby individuals come to appreciate themselves as having equality before the law, as trustworthy, as deserving of respect, and as having the right to 'belong' – by participating in a range of practices including work and study, building families, and contributing to social networks and national cultures through volunteering and other forms of service. But what is it that supports young people in this process, and what are their interests and needs? The project will incorporate policy analysis, historical, archival, textual and online research together with individual interviews and focus groups with two different generations of gender and sexual minority youth: those of the 1970s generation, who were between 16-25 years old in 1995, and their counterparts twenty years later aged 16-25 years growing up today.

Migration, Mobilities and HIV/STI Vulnerabilities. An Interdisciplinary and Community Based Participatory Research in Lao PDR

Pascale Hancart Petitet; Croix Rouge Française, Expertise France

This research in Laos interrogates such issues in documenting especially the links between mobilities, intimacies and infectious vulnerabilities (MIGLAO-IRD/CRF/EF). Within this multidisciplinary community-based research program they collected from various perspectives the biographical experiences of women from poor rural areas who left their communities in order to join peri-urban industrial production areas in order to study and to work in factories, restaurant and entertainment venues both in Laos and in neighboring countries. The data highlights the intimate experiences of these young women and reveals their embodiments of new social codes and modes of consumption inner to the contemporary forms of development. It questions loving aspirations and desires and sexual and reproductive issues.

Crystal, Pleasure and Sex Between Men

Carla Treloar, Gary Dowsett, Max Hopwood, Martin Holt, Toby Lea, Peter Aggleton, Joanne Bryant, Kerry Drysdale

Crystal methamphetamine (aka ice, crystal, tina, meth) has had a particular impact on the gay community, where it is often used in sexual contexts such as dance parties, sex parties, sex-on-premises venues and saunas, and in private groups. In this study, we take a social practice approach to examining gay men's crystal use. We draw on the concept of sex-based sociality – a unique pattern of social relations within the gay community whereby sex and drug taking can be part of building belonging and connectedness. We draw on this concept to develop more nuanced and relevant understandings about the ways crystal is used, the pleasures and risks associated with its use, and the everyday strategies men may employ to reduce these risks.

CORTH SPECIAL RESEARCH FOCUS



Main picture: Dublin 2017 March for Choice.
Below: A Promise Fulfilled, 1967 Abortion Act Conference.



Abortion as a Reproductive Right

From its inception in 2014 CORTH members have been conducting research on abortion issues, exchanging knowledge to support advancements in policy and practice and influencing debates around legislative reform of abortion care in the UK, Ireland and internationally

Research projects

The Abortion Act (1967): A Biography

Sally Sheldon is leading a project that offers a fundamental re-evaluation of the Abortion Act (1967). It will trace the Act's changing interpretation and impact in each of the countries of the UK and offer a sustained consideration of the merits of a biographical approach to the study of law. The project takes seriously the idea of 'living law', offering a detailed analysis of how the same legislative text can impact very differently across both time and space. The research will draw on hitherto under-utilised and unutilised archival resources, with the aim of analysing how the 'life story' of the Abortion Act has developed.

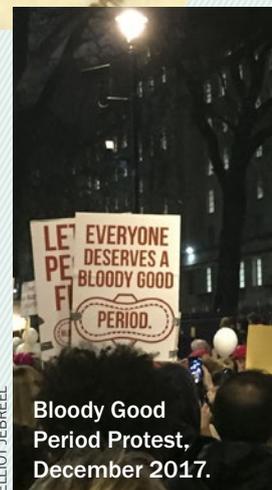
Europe Access Abortion Project

Silvia de Zordo and Giulia Zanini are conducting ethnographic research to understand why women from Western European countries with relatively liberal abortion law travel to obtain abortions and what their experiences of the barriers to access safe/legal abortions and abortion

travel are. At the same time, however, there are women from Central/Eastern European countries, like Slovakia and Hungary as well as women from countries with very restrictive abortion laws, like Malta, Poland and Ireland, who also travel to seek abortion care.

Son preference and sex selection against females in the UK: evidence, causes, trends, implications

Maya Unnithan and Ben Kasstan are undertaking ethnographic qualitative research as part of an interdisciplinary project on son preference leading to sex-selective abortion led by Sylvie Dubuc (PI and Quantitative Lead, University of Reading). The focus of the qualitative project is to explore generational changes in family-decision making, son preference and gender expectations among South Asian communities in the UK. Clarifying the role of gender preference and family values in abortion decision-making will inform appropriate and evidence-based strategies to improve gender equality in the UK.



Bloody Good Period Protest, December 2017.

ELLIOT JEBREEL



London Protest, May 2018.



University of Sussex students.



Former CORTH Research Associate Liiri Oja Supporting Repeal.



Dublin 2017 March for Choice.



Dublin 2017 March for Choice.

Knowledge Exchange and Policy Engagement

Conference marking the Abortion Act (1967): Sheelagh McGuinness (Bristol Law School) and Sally Sheldon (Kent Law School) hosted *Abortion Act 1967 Conference: A Promise fulfilled?* at the Royal College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

to mark the 50th anniversary of the passage of The Abortion Act through Parliament on 27 October 1967. The conference brought together and fostered discussion between health care professionals, academics, policy makers, politicians, campaigners and service providers from the UK and a small number of other jurisdictions influenced by the Abortion Act.

Buffer zones around abortion clinics: Arianne Shahvisi (Brighton & Sussex Medical School) published an op-ed on the moralities and ethics of anti-abortion activism outside clinics in *The Conversation*.

Ireland's 2018 Referendum to Repeal the Eighth Amendment: a coalition of CORTH members, below, have been involved in supporting attempts for women in the Republic of Ireland to have free, safe and legal access to abortion care in the run up to the 25 May public referendum:

Ruth Fletcher (Queen Mary University of London) was invited to submit a statement and present at the Joint Committee on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution debate at the House of the Oireachtas on 8 Nov 2017.

Sheelagh McGuinness (Bristol Law School) has used her legal expertise to inform advocacy, commentaries,

and activism around the movement to Repeal the 8th Amendment in Ireland and debates around abortion law reform in Northern Ireland. Sheelagh is a steering committee member of *Lawyer's for Choice*, an independent organisation campaigning to remove specific criminal penalties relating to abortion.

Bobbie Farsides (Brighton & Sussex Medical School) submitted evidence on 'the moral status of the human fetus' to the Citizen's Assembly.

Ben Kasstan (Sussex) wrote a series of communications to explain why voting 'Yes' in the Irish Referendum was important from a public health perspective, published in *Reproductive Health Matters*, *Independent*, *Huffington Post*, *Evening Standard*, and *Irish News*.

Sara Madsen (Sussex) has been active in promoting abortion rights in the UK and Ireland. She worked with the *Sussex Feminist Society* to arrange a workshop on Repealing the Eighth Amendment. Sara was also successful in securing a highly competitive 2018 internship with the *British Pregnancy Advisory Service*.

UK Abortion Law Reform: Sally Sheldon was credited in the 2017 *Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations Bill)* led by Diana Johnson MP as part of attempts to de-criminalise abortion in England and Wales. Whilst the Bill passed its first hearing, no further parliamentary approval he action was taken as Prime Minister Theresa May called the 2017 snap election.

International Abortion Law Reform: The UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health (APPG on PDRH) launched its 2018 Report *'WHO DECIDES? We trust women. Abortion in the developing world and the UK'*. The report offers key recommendations on abortion law reform, abortion service delivery and methods, the abortion workforce, women who are difficult to reach, obstacles to safe abortion care – ranging from lack of access to lack of information – the obstacles created by anti-abortion tactics, and the future of abortion (including moving towards self-use of medical abortion pills and maintaining quality of care). The report acknowledges the contributions of our CORTH members:

Marge Berer (International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion)

Maya Unnithan and Ben Kasstan (University of Sussex)
Sheelagh McGuinness (Bristol Law School)

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

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

Making Sense of Micronutrients – Mothers’ views from Guatemala and Peru

21 September 2017

This seminar from Bronwen Gillespie focused on work on Peru and Guatemala’s high rates of child malnutrition, and the response to supplementation programs in which lack of adherence is an on-going concern. It was argued that multi-micronutrient supplements (sprinkles) are not rejected on cultural grounds, as oft assumed by public health practitioners, but rather limited by conditions of poverty, mediated by women’s relationship with the state, and how these programs feed into their existing fears and desires for their families. Many women face a limited degree of decision-making space.

Indigenous Midwifery and Birth place: Exploring Authoritative Knowledge, Risk, and Technology in Northern Canada and Rural Uganda

5 October 2017

This presentation followed Rachel Olson’s research in rural and remote midwifery care in northern Canada and in rural, central Uganda. Issues of access to midwifery care, and location of birth place in relation to hospitals were explored. Understanding the shifting role of Indigenous midwifery in the Canadian context and traditional birth attendants in Uganda lent itself to a discussion of authoritative knowledge and the negotiation of risk in decision-making in childbearing practices. The introduction of health technologies in the Ugandan research context was discussed in relation to potential directions for future research.



‘Dirty, misbehaving and dangerous’ Women: Human Rights-Based Responses to Reproductive Violence

25 October 2017

Through analysing case-law from transnational human rights forums regarding forced gynaecological examinations and childbirth, Liiri Oja showed how transnational human rights fora often miss the opportunities to name, describe and reject stereotypes, and to produce transformative jurisprudence that would fight effectively against reproductive violence. Generalised views such as “real women choose vaginal births” and demeaning stereotypes about women and their bodies set women up for reproductive violence by allowing women to be talked down to, second-guessed, disregarded, shamed, mistreated, and punished for expressing autonomous choices.



A Conversation on Rights, Justice and Reproduction

7 November 2017 (Sussex Rights and Justice Research Centre Workshop)

In short presentations Liiri Oja and Maya Unnithan drew on their research on abortion legislation (in Estonia, India and the UK) respectively to explore the spaces ‘in-between’ the constructed binary of rights and justice. More broadly, they asked how to make the most of the human rights system, but simultaneously questioned, under what circumstances is regulation (the law) empowering or oppressive? How can we have trans-disciplinary projects and incorporate research that engages with the lived experiences of human beings? Following on this, Andrea Cornwall spoke on the Politics of Rights: Dilemmas for Feminist Praxis.

Biometric Governance and Food Security in India

14 November 2017 (Anthropology Department /CORTH seminar)

In this seminar Ursula Rao (Professor of Anthropology, University of Leipzig) focused on the social struggles accompanying shifts in management system from paper-based record keeping to biometrically enabled e-governance and the impact of different media for the manufacture of identity and transparency. Using the public distribution system in India as a case study, this talk explored the consequence of adopting biometric technology for food security and people’s perception of self in systems of governance.



Transitional Justice, Gender and Reproduction Narratives: Bosnia Herzegovina, Colombia, Estonia, Timor-Leste

Workshop at the University of Sussex, 8 December 2017

This workshop focused on the concern-where are reproductive rights issues such as forced pregnancy, abortion, access to contraception, and reproductive violence in transitional justice conversations? It brought together the transitional justice experiences of Bosnia Herzegovina, Colombia, Estonia and Timor-Leste, and analysed how specific constructions of “truth”, “violence”, “silencing” and “victimhood” have contributed to shaping the reproduction and health narratives currently present in these four societies. The workshop made observations about the existence and strength of feminist movements in these countries, and investigated how cultures and religions have shaped women’s experiences during and after the conflict-, or occupation-related violence. It explored gaps and



disconnects between legislation, implementation of laws, and women's lived experiences and larger societal narratives.

Sonia Ariza Navarrete (European University Institute), Ebru Demir (University of Sussex), Noemí Pérez Vásquez (SOAS), Liiri Oja (European University Institute), Maya Unnithan (University of Sussex),



Children's Right to Health

11 December 2017 (Conference co-hosted by CORTH and School of Law, Politics & Society)

This one-day workshop explored key issues in the discourses and practices of children's right to health from an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Particular attention was given to the analysis of contextual, legal and procedural reasons for the limited implementation and enforcement of children's right to health, including adolescent sexual and reproductive health. The workshop sought to encourage dialogue across disciplines, in the analysis of whether, to what extent and in what ways children and adolescents' right to health are characterized and implemented across legal cultures.

Maria Moscati (University of Sussex), Maya Unnithan (University of Sussex), Jody Harris (IDS), Isla Callander (Aberdeen University), Ruth Stirton (University of Sussex), Arianne Shahvisi (Brighton & Sussex Medical School), Sarah Barker (Mermaids), Tanja Staehler (University of Sussex), Jo Moran-Ellis (University of Sussex), Peter Dunne (Bristol University), Po-Han Lee (University of Sussex), Gayathri Naik (SOAS), Ben Kasstan (University of Sussex), Katarzyna Wazynskafinck (European University Institute).

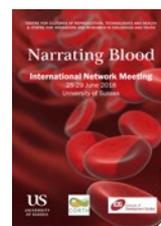


Culture, Rights and Mobilities: Contested Views on Sex-Selective Abortion in the UK

25 April 2018

Son preference leading to prenatal sex-selective abortion (SSA) is an increasingly global issue with local-level implications for sex ratios, gender inequalities, and reproductive rights. Presentations by Maya Unnithan and Ben Kasstan discussed the contested views surrounding SSA in the UK context, and demonstrated how the interaction of 'culture,' mobilities, technologies and abortion activism has resulted in a particular social politics of reproduction. To what extent do gender preferences (re)produce a pressure to have a certain kind of family and how is that pressure acted upon, changing or being resisted? How do families of Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani origin actually feel about SSA and gender preference? These questions were discussed through preliminary findings from the ESRC-funded ethnographic research project exploring generational shifts in gender preferences and family dynamics among

families of Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani origin in the UK. Following on from this a stakeholder consultation was held on the project on June the 5th, 2018.



Narrating Blood International Network Meeting

Led by Maya Unnithan, Janet Boddy (CIRCY), and Hayley MacGregor (IDS). June 25th-June 29th, 2018

CORTH and CIRCY hosted the first meeting of the Narrating Blood International Network from June 25th to June 29th, 2018 on the University of Sussex campus. Participants joined us from the Medical and Geography Departments at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, the Gender and Education Unit at the Institute of Development Studies in India, BRAC University of Public Health in Bangladesh, the Social Work Department at the Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalam (Women's University) in India, and Prayas, a civil society organization working on health with the Indian government. At Sussex the network brought together the two research centres CORTH (School of Global Studies) and CIRCY (School of Education and Social Work), as well as faculty from the Brighton and Sussex School of Medicine and the Institute of Development Studies. Participants gathered for a week to share knowledge on research topics and methods, brainstorming across their disciplines and engaging cross culturally. Blood was approached contextually from metaphorical, discursive, material and biomedical standpoints. Sussex faculty members joined throughout the meeting, adding their research experiences and contributing to the conversations. Participants also worked in small groups on activities focused on building a collaborative grant proposal. At the end of the week, concrete plans emerged on how to grow the network and make it sustainable through the next phase of the grant period, until 2020. In the coming year, members will also meet internationally in the BIG countries (Bangladesh, India and Ghana) host institutions to develop the outputs further. The international visitors also spent time enjoying the local Sussex area through evening activities in Brighton, fish & chips in Seaford, and a visit around Lewes town center.



CORTH Publication Highlights

Here we provide a selection of recent publications from CORTH members

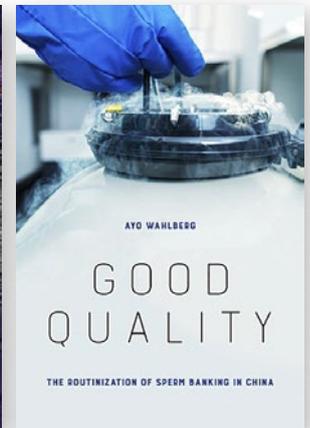
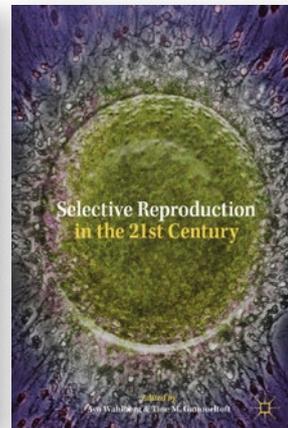
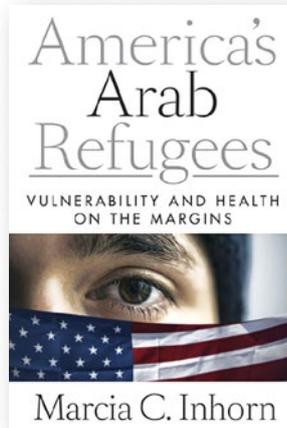
Hasan, MK., **Aggleton P.**, Persson, A., (2018) 'The makings of a man: social generational masculinities in Bangladesh', *Journal of Gender Studies*, 27:347–361

Mane, P., **Aggleton, P.** (2017) 'Enabling positive change: Progress and setbacks in HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights', *Global Public Health*, pp. 1–16.

Balestra, G L., **Dasgupta, J.**, Sandhya, Y K., and Mannell, J. (2018) 'Developing political capabilities with Community-Based Monitoring for health accountability: The case of the Mahila Swasthya Adhikar Manch' *Global Public Health*. pp. 1–12

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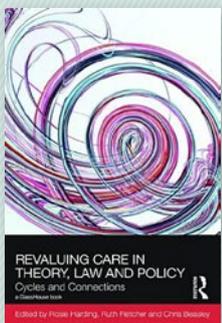
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Articles written by CORTH members featured in this special issue include:

De Zordo, S. 'From women's 'irresponsibility' to foetal 'patienthood': Obstetricians-gynaecologists' perspectives on abortion and its stigmatisation in Italy and Cataluña'

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Purewal, N., and Eklund, L. 'Gendercide', abortion policy, and the disciplining of prenatal sex-selection in neoliberal Europe

Unnithan, M., and Dubuc, S. Re-visioning evidence: Reflections on the recent controversy around gender selective abortion in the UK

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Guinea pig blood being collected.

PHOTO: BRONWEN GILLESPIE, ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

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CORTH is located in the School of Global Studies. Picture of faculty and staff of the School, June 2018.

We regularly update our website with our latest events, research and members' activities. Please visit: www.sussex.ac.uk/corth

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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.

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