

Indigenous midwifery and birth place: exploring authoritative knowledge, risk, and technology in northern Canada and rural Uganda

RACHEL OLSON

Oct 5, Thursday, 4-6 pm, Arts C, Room C333

This presentation will follow 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 will be explored. Understanding the shifting role of Indigenous midwifery in the Canadian context and traditional birth attendants in Uganda will lend itself to a discussion of authoritative knowledge and the negotiation of risk in decision-making in childbearing practices. The introduction of mHealth technologies in the Ugandan research context will also be discussed in relation to potential future research directions.

Rachel Olson is a citizen of the Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation from the Yukon territory. She has been a researcher in First Nation communities since 1998, working on various projects, from oral history, traditional land use and natural resource management to First Nations health issues. She has a Master of Research in Social Anthropology from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. In May 2013, Rachel completed a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Sussex, looking at the politics of midwifery care and childbirth in Manitoba First Nations communities.