

A summary of what we discussed at the first CORTH Doctoral Forum, which took place at the University of Sussex on 16th October 2014...

Doctoral research presentations

We got a fascinating insight into the wide range of 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...

Sajida Ally (Global Studies):	Health and the contradictions of moral selfhood: Sri Lankan migrant women and their narratives of hope
Rebecca Ashley (Global Studies):	The politics of 'birth work': an ethnography of risk technology and Icelandic midwifery
Ciara O'Connell (LPS):	Effective implementation of reproductive health rights in the inter-American system of human rights
Natalie Edelman (BSMS):	Developing a psychosocial index of women's sexual health risk for use in community settings
Bronwen Gillespie (Global Studies):	Messages and meanings: exploring malnutrition in the Peruvian Highlands
Padmini Iyer (ESW):	Young people's experiences of gender, sexuality and schooling in New Delhi, India
Gillian Love (LPS):	Contextualising abortion: a life narrative study of abortion and social class
MaryFrances Lukera (LPS):	Promoting sexual and reproductive health of sex workers in Kenya: a human rights approach
Wezi Mwangulube (IDS/ESW):	Understanding HIV education in a developing country context: A case study of life skills-based HIV curriculum in one Malawian junior secondary school
Lucila Newell (Global Studies):	Issues related to breastfeeding
Catriona Shepard (Global Studies):	A UK-based ethnographic study of perceptions of menopause in professional women working in the arts and media

CORTH Events

The Abortion Workshop & official CORTH launch event

This is taking place on November 13th - if you can attend, please email Hannah Leigh (H.Leigh@sussex.ac.uk) and Cat Shepard (C.Shepard@sussex.ac.uk) as soon as possible, as they need to know numbers.

Doctoral Forum workshops

Based on our discussions, we decided that our next Doctoral Forum in the Spring Term will focus on Methods, and the Doctoral Forum in the Summer Term will focus on Impact - I'm happy to organise these, and will email you about the Spring forum later this term!

CORTH Graduate Seminar

It was also suggested that we could have a day-long graduate seminar every year (perhaps in the Summer term?), which would involve us presenting on our research as CORTH doctoral students, and also guest speakers talking about their work (either from the wider CORTH network within Sussex & Brighton, or further afield). This would be a joint event between us (the Doctoral Forum) and the faculty members of CORTH across the university - do let me know if you'd be interested in helping to organise this.

CORTH research workshops

These would be one-off events led by us, and an opportunity to organise workshops around our research findings. For example, Rebecca mentioned the possibility of inviting some activist midwives to participate in a workshop, or I could invite organisations involved in promoting sexual health in schools - if you can think of a similar workshop that you could run based on your findings, let us know!

CORTH Conversations

These would be one-off events as well, and led by CORTH. They would involve guest speakers, particularly to encourage conversations between academics and non-academics - so speakers could include activists, policymakers, politicians, people from NGOs... Even though these events would be led by CORTH, as Doctoral Forum students we should also definitely suggest speakers who could participate.

Things we can do through / with / for CORTH

Drawing on our networks

As well as inviting people in our extended networks to speak at CORTH events, we also discussed inviting our contacts outside Sussex to get involved with CORTH more generally. Thanks to MaryFrances who has already put us in touch with a professor at the University of Pretoria who specializes in SRH rights!

Promoting CORTH

Thanks to Gill, CORTH is on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#) - feel free to like, post, follow and tweet to help promote the Centre and your research. We also talked about blogging for the CORTH website - this can be something you've already written and posted elsewhere online, or a new short piece that you want to share about your research. Also, feel free to mention CORTH to colleagues at conferences so we can get even more people involved.