

CONTENT

The participation of youth in community action and governance has gained growing support by practitioners and policy makers over the past decades. The interest in their active involvement is being stimulated by a greater recognition of young people's experiences and rights to expression. In the public health sector participatory approaches involving adolescents have been used as a strategy to improve the quality of health services. The approaches and their underlying concepts, frameworks and methods have varied greatly in past and present.

Today, the feasibility and impact of participatory approaches targeting adolescents often remain uncertain. Participatory approaches in general have increasingly been criticized. In the name of participation, responsibilities might be shifted from state actors to individuals (e.g. former health system tasks that become unpaid work for community members).

Anthropologists like Maia Green regard the discourse of participation as the "new orthodoxy in development circles". However, clear and commonly shared definitions of participatory development are missing. Discourses around participation are mainly not shaped by those affected but by "experts" who drive the development agenda. The same can be observed in youth projects where young people are often mere recipients but not active agents. This neglects their creative capacities and reduces them to "risk takers" (e.g. those that smoke or take drugs) or "victims" (e.g. girls that get pregnant).

Participation or non-participation in interventions or movements are linked to power and agency and are shaped by societal institutions and structures and may not be inclusive.

Registration

Please register by email until 18.11.2016:
colloquium2016@medicalanthropology.ch

Fees

Regular fee CHF 35.–, SEG members CHF 25.–,
students CHF 20.–

Note: Please pay at the venue

Venue

Englisches Seminar der Universität Basel
Grosser Hörsaal, Nadelberg 6, 4051 Basel
www.engsem.unibas.ch

Organization

Sonja Merten and Constanze Pfeiffer

Language

English

MAS – MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY SWITZERLAND

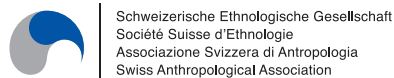
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Commissione Interdisciplinare d'Antropologia Medica



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Associazione Svizzera di Antropologia
Swiss Anthropological Association



MAS Colloquium

25th November 2016 in Basel

Adolescents' Participation in Health:
Critical Reflections at the Intersection of
Anthropology and Public Health

It is thus key to learn more about “who has access” and “who not” and respective implications resulting from this imbalance. Young people may further not represent a homogeneous group, but have various social and cultural backgrounds with different ideas about health and health related risks. In addition, participatory processes are very dynamic and their implications on the participants, their environment as well as the experts are very context specific and often not foreseeable.

SPEAKERS

Maia Green, University of Manchester, has worked extensively in East Africa on various aspects of social transformation. Among other topics her research addresses international development as a social practice, including participatory methods and concepts of agency and the person.

Rita Muyambo is head of program of the World Young Women’s Christian Association (World YWCA), a global network of women leading social and economic change in 125 countries. She is responsible for managing complex social and economic development programs with young people.

Susanne Amsler is a global health specialist at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. She has extensive experience with health projects and policies in Africa, and in the field of sexual and reproductive health, including programs that involve young people.

Sonja Merten is a senior public health researcher at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute with rich work experience in Southern and Central Africa. She is currently coordinating operations research of adolescent sexual and reproductive health programs.

PROGRAM Friday, 25th November 2016

08:00 – 09:00 **REGISTRATION**

09:00 – 09:30 **OPENING**

Karin Gross (Medical Anthropology Switzerland)

Constanze Pfeiffer & Sonja Merten (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute)

09:30 – 10:15 **PERSPECTIVES ON PARTICIPATION**

Maia Green (University of Manchester)

10:15 – 11:00 **EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS TO BE AGENTS OF CHANGE**

Rita Muyambo (World Young Women’s Christian Association)

11:00 – 11:15 *Break*

11:15 – 12:00 **PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLICY DIALOGUE**

Susanne Amsler (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)

12:00 – 12:30 **EXPERIENCES FROM THE FIELD: CRITICAL REFLECTIONS**

Sonja Merten (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute)

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 16:00 **WORLD CAFÉ**

Facilitator: Kate Molesworth (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute)

16:00 – 16:15 *Break*

16:15 – 16:45 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

Sonja Merten and Constanze Pfeiffer

16:45 – 17:00 **OUTLOOK**

Brigit Obrist and Piet van Eeuwijk (University of Basel and Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute)