

GMHRG Meeting, 29 September 2017, CIH, UiB

- Minutes -

Present: Svein Gudmund Hinderaker; David Sam; Melf-Jakob Kühl; Christine Ødegaard; Ingrid Kvesatad. Digital participation: Esperance Kashala; Vilde Skylstad

I Education:

1. Collaboration with Psychology during students' gap year

The Psychology Faculty provides the Psychology clinical training and will from 2018 split the classes in two and include a new gap semester. The students are free to select any elective course in that gap term or not study at all. However, many students are interested in filling the term with scientific content and taking credits making them eligible for the student loan. Sven Gudmund Hinderaker (CIH) coordinates the Global health course, which is elective for students in medicine, offered in their gap semester. Sven informed us about that he had been contacted by representatives from the Faculty of Psychology for a teaching collaboration. Different options were discussed from offering a similar course on international health (global mental health?) to the Psychology students, to creating a separate track for them in mental health, to simply just admitting psychology students to the existing course.

GMHRG members and their network (especially with mental health institutions in India, Cambodia, and Ghana) could be involved in developing a concept for theory and practical work (on site) in mental health for Psychology students in this gap year.

However, a lot remains uncertain, especially the level of interest and commitment from the Psychology Department, and how resources, accreditation, administration would work across departments. This needs to be discussed further involving the CIH Director and representatives from the Psychology Department.

2. GMH-related Masters projects (Master International Health, CIH)

Some of the Proposed Master projects for CIH students are directly related to the GMHRG's focus, and to be supervised by our members Esperance and David:

David Sam supervises 3 projects:

Title	Resilience among refugees
Field of research	Psychology
Research group	Global mental health
Main project aim	To explore the coping strategies refugees use in their new society of settlement

Title	Mental health of Western expatriates in Low-income countries
Field of research	Psychology
Research group	Global mental health
Main project aim	The main aim of this project is to explore the mental health outcome of Western aid workers in low-income countries.

Title	UNDERSTANDING MIGRATION MOBILITY PATTERNS
Field of research	PSYCHOLOGY/ SOCIAL SCIENCES
Research group	MENTAL HEALTH
Main project aim	To gain a better understanding of the push factors underlying human migration.

Esperance offers supervision for a thesis as part of the *Enfance Africaine*-project:

Title	Nutrition, growth status and sickle cell anemia in the democratic republic of Congo
Field of research	Child health
Research group	Global mental health
Main project aim	Early child development of children with sickle cell anemia

The GMH research group appreciate the referencing to our research group as a host and will in collaboration with the supervisors create opportunities for the students to present and discuss their work.

3. BSRS

Ingunn thanked all contributors for the successful and demanding course offered during the Bergen Summer Research School: "Mental health and child development in societies of change."

It got good student and colleague evaluation – however, some students complained about the work amount.

It is now considered for a permanent course offered every 3 years as PhD course during the summer school.

5 essays were submitted as part of the Summer School by students who selected the option to write an additional essay. The supervision and co-supervision was distributed among the RG members based on essay topics.

II Scientific (postponed)

Ingunn's informing about Save The Children collaboration was postponed to the next meeting.

III Administrative

1. Use of RG funds 2017

We discussed how to decide and allocate the RG funding within 2017.

Three general areas of support were agreed:

- Dissemination (conference participation or publication fees)
- Application writing-related costs
- Training and Capacity building
- Network building

The decision on fund use is taken by the GMHRG chair, the PhD-candidate Melf Jacob Kühl and two other members representing another institution that UiB (Ingrid Kvestad) and another member representing the clinical domain (May-Britt Posserud). The group will do most decisions via e-mail/skype. For any disagreement, decisions have to be made in a larger GMHRG meeting of minimum 6 participants.

2. funding opportunities ahead

- a Globvac call for 2018 may be expected.
- October 30: NRC, Bergen Resource Center and CIH present upcoming calls for global health researchers, focusing on global health in H2020. More [here](https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Event/Global_health_research_opportunities_in_H2020/1254029639909?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk).
(https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Event/Global_health_research_opportunities_in_H2020/1254029639909?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk)
- October 31: Information on Horizon2020 will be presented in a topic-specific information session. A key area for future calls for proposal includes:
 - o *Proposals should focus on implementation research for improving maternal and child health during the first '1000 days' from pregnancy until two years of age. This*

research can take place in high income countries or low and middle income countries or a combination thereof. More [here](#).

This holds great potential to realize collaborative, interdisciplinary ideas within the GMHRG.

3. Updating on web-page

The webpage and general online presence of the RG is too weak and out of date. We need to update publications, claim more of our members' work for the research group, and become more visible.

Please remember to share your news with Ingunn for visibility on our web-page:

<http://www.uib.no/en/rg/gmh>

Next meeting is: 25 October 2017