

+++ Please let me know if you'll attend the GLOBVAC Conference or related events next month in Trondheim – Depending on the turnout, we consider a GMHRG-meeting in Trondheim during this time+++

Dear GMHRG-members,

Last week we met for our first meeting in 2017. These are the minutes, with links to most things we discussed.

First, we were fortunate to have Ayan Bashir summarize her Master thesis: a literature review of the perceptions of mental health among Somali migrants in Norway. Her analysis is based on a model comparing Somali concepts of mental health with Western categories. Her work can be found [here](#).

Second, Ingunn presented the latest schedule for the [BSRS-course “Mental Health and Child Development in Societies of Change”](#). This course is strongly supported by GMHRG-members, and we are confident to have designed an interdisciplinary course that covers main themes in mental health and migration research with a strong focus on methods. We hope the course will become a regular BSRS course.

Please share information about this Summer School-course in your networks – especially outside Bergen and, in fact, outside Norway. [Here's](#) info on BSRS, [here](#) on the course, and [this link](#) takes you to the online application form. Application deadline is 1 March 2017 for those needing visa from Norway.

Next, Christine Ødegaard presented the research plan for her recently started PhD project “Medication free treatment in psychosis: The meaning of choice for people with lived experiences of psychosis – A qualitative exploration”. At Kronstadt DPS, she will accompany patients receiving treatments like cognitive -, family therapy, or music therapy exploring the role of recovery and choice in their development.

Vilde Skylstad and I briefly presented the schedules of the GLOBVAC Conference and the attached Student Conference that will address the gap between published scientific evidence, and what is actually done and practiced in society. The students conference will focus on Mental health, methods, and equality to examine this gap. In total, there is a sequence of three conferences in one week:

- The [GLOBVAC Student Conference](#), at NTNU, 13 March, free and open to all
- The [10th GLOBVAC Conference](#) 2017 in Trondheim 14-15 March 2017
- The [Norwegian Research School on Global Health](#) (NRS GH) holds the first annual conference for PhD students working on global health in Stiklestad, 15-17 March

Lastly, we discussed how to strengthen the collaboration and relevance of this Research Group - beyond research centres and disciplines. Global Mental Health requires interdisciplinary work and to promote work in this field we need to combine our strengths and develop research proposals and prepare publications together. This increases our chances of obtaining funding and contributing relevant research in today's international research environment.

Please do share with me information on your publications and dissemination of your work related to GMH.

Best Wishes!
Melf