

January 2021

NEWS

A warm welcome to those who recently joined us as new students and to all our returning students. This has been a challenging year involving new ways of teaching and learning for all of us. I am proud of our achievements in rising to this challenge and that we have been able to continue interacting with each other virtually, and wherever possible, in-person.

I am also delighted to let you know that our department has once again been successful in this year's academic promotions round. Dr Hanna Kienzler was promoted to Reader this year. The promotion recognises Hanna's incredible achievements in research and teaching, her good citizenship and overall commitment to the department and to the wider academic community. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Hanna on this major achievement.

GHSM also continues with its grant successes. Major successes include Dr Michelle Pentecost's prestigious [UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship award](#) for her critical work on early life public health interventions, and Dr David Reubi's Wellcome Trust Investigator Award addressing the development of non-communicable disease surveillance in sub-Saharan Africa.

I would also like to announce the establishment of the department's Anti-Racism Steering Group, which focuses on embedding approaches to building a more inclusive learning environment and improving levels of student participation and engagement in learning. The group's key actions are to close the BME attainment gap and to decentralise the curriculum.

Also, to mark Black History Month, GHSM's Professor Anne Pollock and Dr Eka Ikpe, who lead work on the BAME Attainment Gap and Decolonising the Curriculum in our faculty, [shared their thoughts](#) on a range of issues including oppression and resistance in Black history, structural barriers and the impact of Black Lives Matter.

Finally, this is my last year as Head of Department. It has been an honour and privilege to lead such an exciting and vibrant department. It has also been a great pleasure to work with such outstanding colleagues and students. I am pleased to announce that Professor Mauricio Avendano takes over as Head of Department with Dr Ann Kelly as Deputy Head of Department from January 2021. Mauricio and Ann are both long-standing members of the department, each having made significant contributions to teaching, research and impact during their time at King's. I wish to congratulate them both and I have no doubt the department will go from strength to strength under their leadership.

Karen Glaser

Professor of Gerontology
and GHSM Department Head

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Thank you Professor Karen Glaser!

Professor Glaser has been an outstanding leader of GHSM and has steered us all through what has been a challenging time. Professor Glaser has led the department through a period of consolidation and major research success, including the establishment of the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health, a move to Bush House and the challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank Professor Glaser for her exceptional dedication to the students and staff of GHSM and wish her a wonderful year ahead.



WORLD: we got this podcast

A reminder that the School of Global Affairs podcast [WORLD: we got this](#) is in the middle of its second season, featuring interviews with academics from across the school as well as occasional special guests. The [last episode](#) of 2020 featured Dame Louise Casey, who spoke about rough sleeping, child poverty and the COVID-19 community campaign. Subscribe via [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Spotify](#).



Dr Michelle Pentecost has been awarded the prestigious UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship

Dr Pentecost will work with the South African team for the Healthy Early Life Trajectories Initiative (HeLTI trial) to investigate the social and ethical implications of research and intervention in the preconception period, and develop innovative qualitative methodologies to study the social factors that shape life trajectories.

Recent evidence shows that interventions in pregnancy for decreasing obesity risk are of limited efficacy, and scientists are turning to the period before conception as a window of opportunity to shape intergenerational health. Testing this theory requires clinical trials that start before pregnancy and measure outcomes in the next generation.

The 'preconception' focus could productively emphasise the wide range of social determinants of health, but also has the potential for a loss of gains in reproductive rights and gender equality, and diminished attention to the social drivers of health inequities. As evidence from preconception trials begins to shape global health policy on women's and children's health, it is crucial that we advance our knowledge of how our social environments get 'under the skin' to shape health outcomes.

Leading an interdisciplinary team of anthropologists, bioethicists and public health researchers, Dr Pentecost's project will conduct the first ethnography of a preconception trial and will initiate the first qualitative longitudinal study of a cohort of this kind. You can [read more about the collaboration between King's, the Graduate Institute Geneva, and the DPHRU at the University of the Witwatersrand](#) on the King's website ■



Dr David Reubi awarded Wellcome Trust Investigator Award

His project is titled *Maps of Malignancy: Epidemiologists and Cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa*.

Dr Reubi and postdoctoral fellow Dr Thandeka Cochrane will run the project together with the African Cancer Registry Network, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the cancer registries in both Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and Nairobi (Kenya). The objective is to carry out an archival and ethnographic study of epidemiological efforts to chart malignancy in Africa.

These efforts have a long history, going back to the last decades of the British and French colonial empires in Africa. At the time, British and European researchers saw Africa as a place where types and incidences of cancer were different, and believed that examining these differences would provide them with a better understanding of the aetiology of the disease and improve cancer treatments at home.

More recently there have been renewed efforts to map cancer on the continent, led by organisations like IARC and involving international networks of researchers in Africa, Europe and the USA. The focus of these more recent efforts is less on understanding the aetiology of the disease than mapping its burden in Africa to help policymakers decide how to organise healthcare systems and where to invest.

The project takes these different cancer maps as the object of study, examining their scientific, political and material conditions of possibility and analysing their influence on cancer imaginaries and healthcare policies in Africa. ■



Dr Gry Wester appointed to COVID-19 expert advisory committee

The committee at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health will work on the fair allocation of a COVID-19 vaccine in Norway.

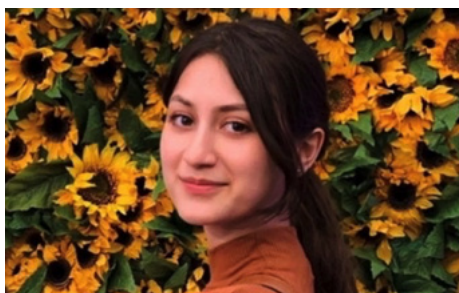
Dr Wester is one of a group of six experts who will establish objectives for the upcoming vaccination programme, define prioritisation criteria for access to the vaccine and evaluate different risk groups. ■



Professor Anthea Tinker becomes Grandmaster of ISG

Professor Tinker has been made a Grandmaster by the International Society of Gerontechnology.

The 30-year old international society promotes technological innovations on the basis of scientific knowledge, and Professor Tinker is only the 7th person to receive this honour. The criteria for becoming a Grandmaster includes important accomplishments in research and teaching. She has also been appointed by the National Research Council of Canada to advise on their Ageing in Place Challenge Programme ■



Zohha Sarim (2nd year) published in *The Express Tribune*

Zohha's work appears in the popular newspaper in Karachi, Pakistan.

Over this summer I put my first-year learning to the test and wrote an article titled *Understanding Health Systems*, which was published as a letter to the editor. I discussed how scientific and technological developments over the past century have been reflected in medical and health services, and the potential of future healthcare to become increasingly data based.' You can [read Zohha's letter on the The Express Tribune website](#) ■



Tosan Okpako wins best overall 3rd year undergraduate student in GHSM

Tosan (BSc) was the highest-ranking undergraduate for the 2020 graduation year and is now undertaking a Master's in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Whilst at King's, Tosan also held a King's Undergraduate Research Fellowship, supervised by Dr Clare Herrick and titled *Noncommunicable diseases: Category, Crisis, Advocacy*. The project's objective was to analyse and explore the networks of scholars, experts and advocates shaping the NCD field and their respective geographies, and Tosan's task was to perform electronic archival research to create a database containing key reports produced by WHO, the UN, the World Bank and The Lancet regarding NCDs. Congratulations Tosan! ■



GHSM alumna selected as future leader in Family Medicine

Louisa Howard, (Masters in Bioethics and Society '17), selected as one of only six 2020 Pisacano scholars.

Louisa, currently a medical student at GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington DC, was awarded this scholarship which provides educational programs, leadership training and funding for outstanding 4th-year medical students who have been identified as future leaders in the field of Family Medicine.

Approximately 2,850 applicants, representing more than 140 medical schools competed for these six scholarships. At King's, Louisa received both the Santander Scholarship and Presidential Scholarship to cover tuition costs.

She focused her Masters work on reproductive ethics as well as the ethical issues surrounding incorporating integrative health modalities into patient care. As a practicing physician Louisa looks forward to using her bioethics degree to improve physician-patient interactions, and also to advocate for broader health policy reform. ■

Using arts for mental health advocacy in Ghana



Just prior to the pandemic Ursula Read received funding from the KCL ESRC Impact Acceleration Account International Impact Fund to build community engagement with findings from research in Ghana, for the Wellcome-funded Mental Health and Justice project (PI Hanna Kienzler, GHSM) and Together for Mental Health (funded by GCRF ESRC).

The project 'Using participatory arts and community conversations to promote social inclusion for persons with mental illness in Ghana' explores the potential of participatory arts, community conversations and consensus decision-making to build solidarity and promote social inclusion and justice for people with mental health conditions in Ghana. The project was developed together with mental health activists, artists, creative practitioners and researchers from Ghana and the UK including Dr Bernard Akoi-Jackson, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Dr Sarah Dorgbadzi and Dr Lily Kpobi, University of Ghana, Nana Abena Korkor, Psychosocial Africa and

Eve Loren, a UK-based artist and activist. The team has brought together a network of artists, advocates, people with lived experience of mental illness, caregivers and mental health workers to explore ways to employ participatory arts in mental health advocacy and activism in Ghana, drawing on their potential to nurture empathy and dialogue across status hierarchies, challenge perceptions and create counter narratives. The community conversations will use consensus decision-making to identify targeted actions to promote social inclusion for people with mental health conditions and reduce human rights abuses. It is an ideal time to develop this project in Ghana as more people are starting to talk openly about mental health and there is a vibrant arts scene, including several activists - some of whom are beginning to engage with the topic of mental health.

The project, which was due to commence in April, planned to hold community screenings of films produced through the GCRF ESRC Together for Mental Health project, followed by 'community conversations' using participatory arts

in selected rural and urban locations. However, because of the pandemic the team has faced challenges in adapting the participatory approach in a region where inequitable access to the internet and smart phone technology can reinforce exclusion and health inequalities. Indeed, one of the primary aims of the project had been to open up advocacy on mental health in Ghana to people who do not use social media, speak languages other than English and live outside the major urban centres. The initial plan for a centralised working group to co-develop the community conversations has been adapted to create smaller 'hubs' made up of mental health workers, people with lived experience of mental health conditions, family members and artists in four regions of Ghana. These four groups then connect using the internet. Although incidence of COVID-19 has been much lower in Ghana than in Europe, cases have recently increased and the research team and working groups are exploring how conversations and arts-based activities could take place using the telephone and possibly local radio ■



An update from the GHSM BAME Committee

by **Patricia Jairos** and **Shirley João Do Nascimento**

Since the last newsletter the GHSM BAME Committee has continued its work on improving inclusion and diversity within the department, and has centered its efforts on hosting bi-weekly zoom discussions to provide a safe space for both students and staff to unite and share life experiences and knowledge.

We kick-started the sessions with a conversation on the topic of Cancel Culture, and our second dialogue was on the topic of Victimisation and Accountability. We were excited to attract a large staff cohort for both talks held so far, and we hope to continue strengthening both staff and student presence during these discussions. We are also excited to have freshers from a wide variety of backgrounds joining the GHSM BAME group chat and we hope it acts as a platform to offer guidance in navigating their time at King's.

We also worked with the Anti-Racist Steering Group and other students and staff in a consulting process aimed at finding best practices to improve students' experience and the attainment gap, culminating in two

reports that are currently being disseminated across the department and faculty. These reports have shed light on areas where immediate change can occur to improve learning and social cohesion, including steps to decolonise the curriculum. While we recognize that it is a process, we underline the need to make this a priority in order to create a truly inclusive environment for BAME students.

If you are interested in what we have in store make sure to attend our future events. We are very pleased to see many more staff and students taking part in building our GHSM community. In addition, if you are interested in making a change and participating in race and inclusion conversations surrounding health you can email us about joining the committee. We are always looking for fresh ideas and attitudes to create a community we all want to be a part of. Lastly, we would like to give an honourable shout-out to Diane Tuan, Hannah Abdalla, Lezhi Huang, Llona Kavege, Sarah Kowalski and Emma Dhir, whose work has greatly contributed to the changes new students will be able to see and experience this year ■



Dr Ann Kelly wins British Academy grant

The award will fund her research: *Diseased landscapes: exploring the entanglements between leishmaniasis and coca cultivation in (post) conflict rural Colombia.*

Working with Dr Javier Lezaun (University of Oxford, UK) and Professor Diana Ojeda, (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia), Dr Kelly's project brings together interdisciplinary expertise from the UK and Colombia to explore how the nexus of agricultural extractivism and political conflict affect environmental and human health. Specifically, it addresses the relationship between illegal coca cultivation and the unsteady state of post(conflict) in Colombia through an examination of the political geographies of cutaneous leishmaniasis – a skin disease transmitted

by sandflies that thrive in areas of coca production.

By investigating how coca growers, harvesters and eradicators experience leishmaniasis, this seeks to do two things. First, it explores the material, sociopolitical and biological conditions of disease in areas characterised by (post)conflict, illicit economies, irregular mobility and extreme inequality. Second, it uses leishmaniasis as an entry point to develop community-specific policy recommendations to address environmental and human health as conditions for a sustainable transition from war to peace.



Silvia Camporesi appointed to the World Anti-Doping Agency's Ethics Expert Advisory Group

A round of applause is due to Dr Silvia Camporesi, who was recently appointed to provide expert ethical opinion to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).



The advisory group comprises seven experts from around the world and reviews urgent or contentious ethical issues that may arise in the fight against doping in sport, while also developing and/or recommending ethically sound policy or suggestions to WADA's Management.

Silvia's interdisciplinary background in biotechnology and bioethics and on other issues

related to performance enhancing drugs in sport means she can be expected to provide input to the group on gene doping.

Her appointment is a testament to her research in the field of ethics, law and sport over the past ten years and recognises her international reputation in the field. Congratulations Silvia!

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Read UM (2020). "Clearing the streets": Enacting human rights in mental health care in Ghana" in Gaudillière JP, Beaudevin C, Gradmann C, Lovell AM, and Pordié L (eds). *Global Health and the New World Order: Historical and Anthropological Approaches to a Changing Regime of Governance*. Manchester University Press.

Read UM, Sakyi L, Abbey W (2020). Exploring the Potential of a Rights-Based Approach to Work and Social Inclusion for People with Lived Experience of Mental Illness in Ghana. *Health and Human Rights Journal* 22(1), 91-104.

Reubi, D (2021). Pathologies of Modernization: Epidemiological Imaginaries and the Smoking Epidemic in Post-Colonial Africa in Vaughan M, Mika M, Adjaye-Gbewonyo K (eds). *Epidemiological Change and Chronic Disease in Africa: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives*. London: UCL Press.

Wester G, Leah Rand, Christine Lu and Mark Sheehan (2020). The ethics of grandfather clauses in healthcare resource allocation. *Bioethics*, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bioe.12815>

Special issue: The 'Mental Health and Justice' Project International Journal of Law and Psychiatry

The 'Mental Health and Justice' Project is a five-year multi-disciplinary research project which began in 2017 and is funded by the Wellcome Trust.

It is based at the IoPPN, King's College London, but with other national and international collaborators, and addresses a cluster of public policy challenges arising at the complex interface where mental health and healthcare interact with principles of human rights. The Project's principal aim is to develop clinical, legal, and public policy strategies for jointly satisfying two fundamental imperatives: the imperative to protect people in contexts where they can be vulnerable, and the imperative to respect their agency and autonomy.

This project is taking place at a time of active reform in the area of mental health

and mental capacity legislation across the UK and internationally. It supports the reform agenda by undertaking research pertaining to central concepts such as support in decision-making, decision-making ability, and living and participating in the community. The collaboration involves clinical experts, lawyers, philosophers, neuro-scientists, social scientists and service-users and delivers practical guidelines at the same time as advancing interdisciplinary working and innovation in service-user involvement in research and public engagement.

This **Special Issue** contains 11 articles showcasing the project's work so far and demonstrating the integral relationship of

interdisciplinarity, conceptual investigation and practical outcomes. Some papers have a more conceptual basis, examining areas such as standards of objectivity within mental health law, the relationship of social justice to the law, how neuroscience engages with law and human rights. Others engage more directly with specific elements of the law, such as particular Articles of the UNCRPD, UK Mental Capacity law and the new Indian Mental Healthcare Act. The Special Issue features an **an article by GHSM PhD student Emma Wynne Bannister**, co-authored with Dr Sridhar Venkatapuram, and titled *Grounding the right to live in the community (CRPD article 19) in the capabilities approach to social justice* ■

Building trust in dual use biological research:

Dr Filippa Lentzos addresses the United Nations General Assembly



Dr Filippa Lentzos remotely addressing the General Assembly

In October 2020 the United Nations turned 75. Few have memories of a world without the institution and its multilateral diplomacy to prevent conflict and address global challenges. Yet, the leap it took at the time to imagine – in the ashes of World War II – a different type of world where all nations could come together with one equal vote, was colossal. US President Harry S Truman described it as ‘a victory against war itself... A solid structure upon which we can build a better world’.

Now, more than ever, we need that better world. COVID-19 has crystallised the deep and wide impacts of biological threats. The pandemic has also demonstrated the importance of preparedness and response-coordination across the international community, regardless of whether a biological event is natural, accidental or deliberate in origin.

In October Dr Filippa Lentzos **delivered a statement** to the UN General Assembly, the main policy-making body of the 193 states comprising the United Nations. She urged the international community to evolve its structures and mechanisms for responding to biological threats, and stressed that establishing an international body to monitor and regulate high-risk biological research activities should be a priority.

As Dr Lentzos’ research has emphasised, there are now well over 50 biosafety level (BSL)-4 laboratories globally, either in operation or under construction, spread throughout Asia, Africa, Europe, Russia and the US. These high-containment labs carry out some of the most dangerous manipulations of pathogens with pandemic potential. While they are built to protect researchers, the public and the environment from harm, lab design cannot overcome human error or poor training. With each experiment comes opportunities for accidental exposure and inadvertent infections or releases.

Moreover, advances in science and technology, particularly in genomic technologies and bioinformatics, are enabling unprecedented abilities to subjugate bodies and control populations. Writing in the 75th Anniversary issue of

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, alongside republications of foundational Bulletin articles by Einstein, Oppenheimer and others, Lentzos says:

‘As genomic technologies develop and converge with AI, machine learning, automation, affective computing and robotics, an ever more refined record of our biometrics, emotions, and behaviours will be captured and analysed. Governments and, increasingly, private companies will be able to sort, categorize, trade, and use biological data far more precisely than ever before, creating unprecedented possibilities for social and biological control.’

These developments are also spurring increased concern about potential harms and potential future biological weapons, even ones that could target specific groups of people or individuals.

In her statement to the United Nations, delivered to the General Assembly’s Disarmament and International Security Committee, Lentzos highlighted that



General Assembly meetings during lockdown

delegations must seriously consider how to make the broader biological disarmament architecture more fit for purpose in today’s world. Key among her proposals is strengthening international capacities to oversee high-risk biological activities and to investigate suspected outbreaks of international concern as soon as initial reports emerge, regardless of any indications of the outbreaks being natural, accidental or deliberate in origin.

The address to the United Nations comes out of Lentzos’ larger body of work on advancing transparency and building trust in dual use biological research. Lentzos acts as the NGO coordinator for the Biological Weapons Convention, and works with the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom to make the work of the UN General Assembly more accessible to a general audience. She is also working with states and international organisations to develop transparency initiatives for biodefence and civilian biopreparedness programmes, and to strengthen international mechanisms to investigate allegations of bioweapons use ■

An internship in Melbourne

Amy Ringrose (final year BA) studied at the University of Melbourne from July 2019 to August 2020 as part of the GHSM Study Abroad programme. Here, she tells us about her experience.



*Main image: Queen's College, University of Melbourne
Above: Amy (left) and her Australian friend Jess, dressed for the football
Bottom: A hidden gem of a beach Amy found on her Great Ocean Road trip.*



Even before I had embarked on my journey I expected the year to be full of challenges; this was the first time I wouldn't be living at home in London with my parents – instead I would be living at a college 10,000 miles away, making new friends and studying new subjects. Studying abroad was a massive privilege and one that I was excited about, despite the challenges. A challenge I hadn't anticipated, however, was the outbreak of a pandemic.

Shortly before my second semester began news of how fast COVID-19 was spreading reached Melbourne, inspiring considerable vigilance from the Australian authorities for any sign of the virus. Unfortunately, despite this vigilance, on 25 January 2020 the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Oceania was recorded in Melbourne, and the concern for personal safety amongst the Australian population increased dramatically. That said, life continued as normal – memes were created to inject humour into the increasingly tense atmosphere, with the situation seen mostly as an inconvenience ('Why couldn't this have happened when I was 15 and wanted to play COD all day?', one friend joked). But, as the number of infections soared, so did public anxiety. Nationwide shut-downs of local businesses spread until, on 20 March, Australian

borders were closed to all non-residents.

This was a blow, to say the least. Studying abroad was an opportunity I had waited for since my first year at King's, and one that was quickly overturned. If I left now there was a possibility I wouldn't come back, but if I risked departing too late, I would be stranded in Melbourne with an expiring VISA and no means to return home. Students began disappearing to be with their families, leaving the College devoid of the usual hum of its 300-strong cohort, until under 100 of us remained; mostly International students from China, Singapore (which had already closed its borders) and Malaysia, as well as France, Germany and of course, the UK.

Without in-person classes studying was very much overlooked in favour of spending time together. A close friend moved to the countryside due to his being immunocompromised – as such a socially active person, this and the persistent stress of being cautious greatly affected his mental health. The same was true of many of the students and unhealthy coping mechanisms began to surface. There was a glimmer of hope after businesses began opening up again, however this was soon extinguished – another outbreak in Melbourne led Victoria into a second, more severe lockdown. Now,



Dr Dörte Bemme

Welcome Dörte! Can you start by telling us about your new role at GHSM?

I am a Lecturer in Society & Mental Health at the new ESRC Centre for Society & Mental Health. My role involves the development of innovative concepts and methods to better understand mental health through a social rather than an individualised lens. For example, I am working with Nikolas Rose and Nick Manning towards an 'ecosocial' perspective on mental health that considers the lived experience, causation of, and care for, mental health problems as contextual and situated. I am particularly interested in expanding this framework to a so-called 'global' context, building on my longstanding ethnographic and collaborative work with Global Mental Health actors in South Africa and Nepal and in international academic and policy institutions.

What's drawn you to this role? What is your academic background?

I have a literature background but moved quickly to Social Studies of Medicine. I am now quite an interdisciplinary animal, trained in the study of psychiatry/Global Mental Health, but also in medical anthropology, transcultural psychiatry and social medicine, more broadly. The potentialities and tensions between different epistemic practices fascinate me. Interdisciplinarity is therefore often at the heart of both my research practice and empirical work. As the managing editor of *Transcultural Psychiatry*, I also curate interdisciplinary conversations with clinicians, anthropologists and historians of science. This orientation drew me to the Centre for Society &

Mental Health and its decidedly interdisciplinary ambition to reframe the conversations around mental health in 'social' terms.

How would you describe your research interests more broadly?

I am interested in the globalisation and digitalisation of psychiatric knowledge in Global Mental Health, and, more broadly, in how problems of mental health and distress are framed, validated, and acted upon in policy, science, and by those who experience and care for them.

When you're not working, what do you like to do with your time?

I enjoy fixing and riding bicycles and I usually become part of a community-based skill-share co-op wherever I move. Tinkering with bikes is a lovely balance to cognitive work. Theatre, art, and literature are also dear to me.

What's your favourite part of working in London?

Well, moving to London and starting a new job during a pandemic is quite an experience. I am most grateful for the wonderful friends I have in the city already, for the support new colleagues have shown me (through Zoom!), and for the incredible kindness and help I received from the Centre's staff throughout my transition. I enjoyed discovering different neighbourhoods by bike as I went apartment hunting and I look forward to indulging in what the city has to offer when more becomes possible ■

being outside unnecessarily could result in a fine of \$1200, and even being caught without a mask could land you a bill for \$200. Other measures included being unable to mix households, being constrained to within 5km of your home address and a curfew between 8pm and 5am.

I managed to catch my pre-booked flight home but I know many others haven't been as lucky, which is why I emphasize the privileged position I was in, being at a great institution with an amazing support network of friends around me. Without first-hand experience of being in the UK during the pandemic, on my return the contrast in attitudes of Londoners and Melbournians shocked me, just as much as the difference in how each country had handled the pandemic.

Nevertheless, there is hope on the horizon. The news of a vaccination with an effectiveness of 90 per cent could not have come at a better time, and I hope that I will soon be able to visit my new friends back in Australia to do all the things we had originally planned. I can't say my year abroad went exactly how I imagined it would, but what I can say is that it was an eye-opening experience that I will never forget ■



Mental Health and Society Reading Group

The Mental Health and Society reading group has moved online and meets monthly during term time. Convened by Ursula Read (GHSM) and Gargie Ahmad (IoPPN) together with GHSM affiliate Rasmus Birk (Aalborg University, Denmark) the group brings together scholars across disciplines with an interest in the critical social theory of mental health. We engage with a variety of readings to stimulate conversation across different fields and widen our theoretical perspectives. On occasion we invite the authors of the papers to join the discussion. Readings are circulated two weeks prior to the group meeting. Suggestions of topics and readings are welcome.

If you are interested in attending please email Ursula Read ursula.read@kcl.ac.uk

Departmental Seminar

The Departmental Seminar is held every month during term time and provides an opportunity for speakers from the department and affiliates to share their research with colleagues. The seminar is convened by Ursula Read and Thandeka Cochrane. The speakers for this year are as follows; please look out for the Zoom links to these events in your inboxes!

13 January	Ann Kelly
10 February	Michelle Pentecost
10 March	Annie Irvine
7 April	TBC
19 May	Illana Lowy
16 June	Guntars Ermansons

Pandemics & Inequality: The Ethical, Legal and Policy Challenges of Tackling COVID-19 in an Unequal World Seminar Series 2020–21

Department of Global Health & Social Medicine
King's Global Health Institute
The Transnational Law Institute

15 January **Ethnicity, race and COVID-19**
[Event details](#)

19 February **The human right to health and the law**
[More details](#)

19 March **International health regulations**
Details to be confirmed

16 April **The use of mathematical modelling in shaping outbreak response**
[More details](#)

21 May **Ageing and health: Lessons from COVID-19**
[Event details](#)

18 June **Fair access to vaccination and medicines**
[Event details](#)

Monthly Microsoft Teams webinars on **Fridays 15.00–16.30**
[For further information and registration please visit the website](#)



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