

NEWS

This academic year has been marked by transitions, many of them profound. The COVID-19 response seems to have finally found its footing, supported by medical countermeasures with an increasingly global reach.

Of course, the pandemic is by no means over and here at GHSM we will continue to shed light on the compounding social, political and economic crises that have followed in its wake.

Freed from demands of an emergency, we can take stock and ask what the past two years have taught us, how healthy societies are sustained, and the limitations and possibilities of global health solidarity.

At GHSM, taking those questions to heart, we are expanding our future horizons of research, teaching and scholarship. Under the leadership of **Carlo Caduff**, we are reorganising our research groups around thematic clusters to amplify our core interdisciplinary capacities and foster novel collaborative agendas. Our doctoral lead **Lucy Van Der Wiel** has hit the ground running, taking this research agenda into our doctoral programme to revitalise training and community-building for our PGR students and GTAs. Our undergraduate programme leaders – **Courtney Davis**, **Sam Maclean**, **Kelly Rose-Clarke**, **Nancy Tamimi**, and **Amy Hinterberger** – have been working tirelessly to align our offerings with student interests, concerns and aspirations, harmonising core modules and developing new ones that link work across the School and Faculties. The UG revamp is supported by our EDI team, who under the leadership of **Hanna Kienzler** and **Anne Pollock** have been at the forefront of King's College London's efforts to close the BAME attainment gap. With assistance from **Shagufta Bhangu**, **Nancy Tamimi** has assembled an exceptional group of GHSM students, **Chanelle Scott**, **Shirley João Do Nascimento**, **Emediong Jumbo**, **Hannah Abdalla**, **Fadak Jaf** to map the geographies of expertise that structure and bias the content of our modules, and design and pilot an intensive

decolonising research methods course in collaboration with partner universities in the global south. Critical insights from that process will gain pedagogic traction in **Anne Pollock's** highly-anticipated new module, *Racism & Health*.

Our PGT programmes are also under development, profiting from **Mark Eccleston-Turner** taking up a Senior Lectureship in September. Bringing expertise in international law and global health governance, Mark is helping us live up to our newly named MSc in *Global Health, Public Policy & Social Justice*. In 2021 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts in recognition of his work with COVAX and the WHO on COVID-19 vaccines.

The arrival of our new Dean, **Linda Mckie** provides an exceptional opportunity for GHSM. As a world-leading researcher in gerontology and health care work force, one of Linda's chief concerns is fostering change through cross-sectional work with policy makers and diverse stakeholders, from patient groups to civil society. This public-facing and widening agenda is close to the heart of one of GHSM's fearless founders, **Bronwyn Parry**, who, in addition to a suite of service-learning initiatives, has secured visiting professorships for scholars from the Global South. As we come up to our tenth anniversary, we look forward to the inspiration that will come from these new constellations of expertise and practice. In the words of Paul Farmer, who we tragically lost just recently: 'With rare exceptions, all of your most important achievements on this planet will come from working with others – or, in a word, partnership.' ■

Professor Ann Kelly HOD
Dr David Reubi Deputy HOD

Contents

NEWS	2
FEATURE	5
INTERNSHIP REPORT	7
PUBLICATIONS	8
STAFF PROFILE	11
UPCOMING EVENTS	12



Chanelle Scott wins 'Nikolas Rose Prize for Most Outstanding Undergraduate Dissertation'

Chanelle's dissertation explored 'Social Representations for Reproductive Care for Women in the United Kingdom, focusing on Egg Freezing as a form of Fertility Preservation' ■

Congratulations to the 2020/2021 UG and PG prize-winners!



Postgraduate

Best dissertation and best overall performance, Bioethics & Society MSc
Caitlin Gardiner

Best dissertation and best overall performance, Gerontology MSc/MA
Miriam Warcup

Best dissertation and best overall performance, Global Health MSc & Social Justice
Tianne Hagger

Best dissertation and best overall performance, Medicine Health & Public Policy MSc
Alice Hilborn

Undergraduate

Best Overall Performance – First Year, Global Health & Social Medicine BSc/BA
Nikhita Mani

Best Overall Performance – Second Year, Global Health & Social Medicine
Anna Hawkins

Best Overall Performance – Final Year, Global Health & Social Medicine
Chanelle Monique Scott

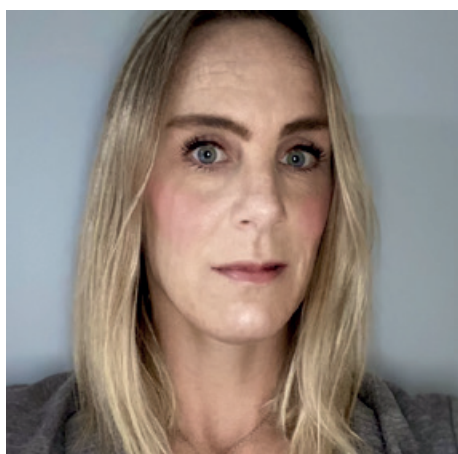


Caitlin Gardiner is awarded the Trajectories PhD studentship

Caitlin is a South African medical doctor who did her undergraduate degree at the University of Cape Town. In 2018 she moved to the UK where she has been working in A&E.

She has a special interest in sociological and health-related ethical issues and completed her Bioethics & Society MSc at GHSM in 2021, winning the prize for best dissertation and best overall performance. Having won the highly

competitive Trajectories PhD studentship, Caitlin will commence her PhD at GHSM in February 2022 with Drs Michelle Pentecost and Silvia Camporesi to examine the ethical implications of research and intervention in the preconception period ■



Victoria Charlton awarded second prize at UK Doctoral Researcher Awards

The Doctoral Researcher Awards (DRA) is a UK wide academic competition held annually since 2012. It is open to researchers who are pursuing (or have recently completed) a doctoral degree in any subject, with prizes awarded across three categories.

'Does NICE apply the rule of rescue in its approach to highly specialised technologies?' Based on her Wellcome Trust funded doctoral work which explores the influence of normative considerations on health technology assessment, the paper argues – somewhat provocatively – that NICE's recent record of approving hyper-expensive drugs indicated for very small patient populations is in accordance with a form of 'rescue morality' that is psychologically compelling but lacks ethical justification. Her presentation drew parallels between NICE's recent approval of

Brineura, an enzyme replacement therapy indicated to treat 30-50 children with Batten disease at an annual list price of £522,782 per patient, and high-profile international rescue efforts such as the one that saved trapped German caver Johann Westhauser in 2004 at a cost of several million Euros. The award ceremony took place on 11 September and the keynote speech was presented by 2016 Nobel Prize Laureate Professor Duncan Haldane FRS. Further information on the DRA is available at <http://drawards.org.uk/> ■

Finalists are selected based on the merit of the submitted work, with prizes awarded based on the presentation of this work to a mixed audience at an (online) awards ceremony. Victoria was awarded second prize in the social sciences category for her recently published paper

GHSM Anti-Racism Steering Group: Funding success and video showcase

The GHSM anti racism steering group has won the King's Race Equality and Inclusive Education Fund 2021–22 for the project 'Decolonising the Curriculum in Global Health & Social Medicine (GHSM)' (£10,000).



The GHSM Anti-Racism Steering Group has produced a series of videos highlighting the talent, leadership and achievements of a number of their BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) alumni as part of its commitment to antiracism. In the videos, the graduates reflect on their experiences studying at King's, as well as their most important career achievements, and the challenges that they encountered. They also speak about their career dreams and share messages of advice with current GHSM students. We would like to say a special thanks to Alysia Montrose and our alumni students Shirley Joao Do Nascimento and Patricia Jairos who were central to coordination and development of the videos. The videos are online and can be watched [here](#).

Awards and engagement



Dr Lucy van der Wiel received an Honorable Mention for the Society of Medical Anthropology's 2021 Eileen Basker Memorial Prize for her book [Freezing Fertility: Oocyte Cryopreservation and the Gender Politics of Aging](#).



Dr Michelle Pentecost delivered the keynote address at a conference on *The Novel Stakes of Social Medicine* at the University of Lausanne in December 2021. The keynote, titled *The Future of Social Medicine*, can be viewed [here](#).



Dr Filippa Lentzos delivered the civil society statement on biological weapons to the UN General Assembly First Committee in October 2021, available [here](#).

Ginnie Elgar, Verity Buckley and Katie Lewis were awarded an Inspirational Award in the King's Annual Research Support Awards for their work in the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health. **Verity Buckley** was also highly commended in the Impact and Engagement Category, as was **Ana Betianu**, of the School of Global Affairs.

Thandeka Cochrane, Shagufta Bhangu and Fabien Provost were awarded an SSPP Faculty Research Fund Network grant (£9,900) to run an early career workshop in June 2022 and build a network from this workshop. The workshop, entitled *The political stakes of cancer: new contexts, new subjectivities* will explore themes such as the politics of health, the social geographies of cancer and temporalities of cancer. It will be the first step in creating an early career researcher network on 'The political stakes of cancer' which aims to bring together researchers from across the world working on cancer from a social science perspective, with a particular focus on new contexts such as global south countries ■

ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health round up



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Directory for Refugees and Migrants in London

Hanna Kienzler together with our alumna Abigail Oyedele and PhD student Zara Asif have put together a MHPSS Directory listing key information related to 120 services for refugees and migrants looking for mental health and psychosocial support for themselves or others.

This resource can also support professionals, such as medical practitioners, social workers and legal advisers who need to refer refugees and migrants to relevant mental health and psychosocial support services in and around London. The [MHPSS Directory](#) was launched at the Migration Connections Festival in September ■

New Refugee Mental Health and Place Network

Hanna Kienzler, together with Peter Schofield (IoPPN), Guntars Ermansons (IoPPN) and Zara Asif (GHSM) have founded a new Refugee Mental Health and Place Network.

The network brings together researchers and community organisations exploring post-migration factors and refugee mental health. Members seek to strengthen interdisciplinary expertise and intersectoral capacity to inform health and social policy to help improve mental health outcomes for refugees and asylum seekers. This [blog](#) piece provides an overview of the network and its thematic focus ■

New Co-Lead for Research Programme on Work and Welfare Reform: Professor Karen Glaser

We are delighted to announce that Professor Karen Glaser has joined the Centre to co-lead Programme 3 on Work and Welfare Reform.

Karen was also Director of the globally-respected Institute of Gerontology, in GHSM, and her life course research with respect to later life health and wellbeing is really interesting work to bring into the Programme and means that the Centre is working across the life course ■

Selected publications

Explaining ethnic variations in adolescent mental health: a secondary analysis of the Millennium Cohort Study

Psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on 4378 UK healthcare workers and ancillary staff: initial baseline data from a cohort study collected during the first wave of the pandemic

Social isolation as a core feature of adolescent depression: a qualitative study in Porto Alegre, Brazil

A Systematic Review of Resilience Factors for Psychosocial Outcomes During the Transition to Adulthood Following Childhood Victimisation

Catch up on our webinars and podcasts

Rethinking chronicity: an ethnographic perspective on mental health service provision explores when and how a mental health condition is labeled 'chronic', and how this affects the provision of care and support. Hosted by Dr Milena Bister, we discuss how chronicity can be understood as an empirical artefact and how a social science perspective can bring impacts on service provision into view.

Our Sick Society Episode 9: Digital exclusions: mental health and digital life, led by Dr Dörte Bemme and River Újhadbor from GHSM. Find more Our Sick Society episodes [here](#).

For more on the Centre, see our [website](#) and twitter [@kcsamh](#)

2022 King's and Stellenbosch University PhD Student Exchange Programme

In the 2021–22 academic year, GHSM is very pleased to welcome six PhD exchange students from Stellenbosch University! Funded through an Erasmus+ Student Mobility Award, this exchange is organised by the King's Global Mobility Office and led by Drs David Reubi and Michelle Pentecost in the Department. The Exchange Programme enables students to experience and learn about a new, different academic system and culture, and GHSM has the great benefit of learning about the exciting work of colleagues working in different contexts. It is a pleasure to introduce the cohort of Stellenbosch exchange students who will be attending for three months of the academic year, for what is sure to be a set of highly productive and fruitful exchanges. Welcome Lydia, Ronita, Alex, Nosivuyile, Penny and Anusha to our department!



Penny Busetto

Penny was the first of the cohort to come to GHSM and spent three months in the department in late 2021.

She is a doctoral student in the Psychology Department at the University of Stellenbosch, where she is conducting interdisciplinary research into the 1930s archive of South African psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and amateur ethnologist, Dr BJF Laubscher. Penny is also a published author: her 2013 novel, *The Story of Anna P, as Told by Herself*, was the winner of the 2014 European Union Literary Award. Penny's time at GHSM has given her the opportunity to meet many colleagues and give papers to different audiences, as well as engage with publishers.



Anusha Lachman

Anusha is a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town.

She is the co-convenor of the MPhil degree in Infant Mental Health and is completing her PhD in Maternal & Infant Mental Health. Her special research and clinical interests include clinical service delivery in mental health for children in LMICs, maternal and infant mental health and teaching in diverse multicultural classrooms. She is a keen advocate for child and adolescent mental health in Africa and currently serves on the board of the African Association for Child & Adolescent Mental Health, the African Global Mental Health Institute and is the President-Elect of the South African Society of Psychiatrists.



Ronita Mahilall

Ronita has recently obtained her PhD from Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

Her three-tiered national, provincial, and local study focused on spiritual care training needs within culturally diverse palliative care settings in South Africa. Her background is in social work. Ronita is the Chief Executive Officer of St Luke's Combined Hospices in Cape Town, South Africa. She has published a number of articles in established international academic journals. Ronita has set up a host of meetings to learn from and share with health care institutions in the UK as well as to work closely with the KCL colleagues towards advancing her palliative care work. Ronita is also an enthusiastic foodie and a heights junkie!



Lydia Atuhaire

Lydia is a PhD student at the Division of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa.

She has a master's degree in Public Health, a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences as well as a post graduate diploma in Project Planning and Management. She is also PhD Fellow of Makerere University/UVRI Infection and Immunity Research Training Programme based in Entebbe Uganda, her home country.

Lydia has over 15 years' experience in public health programming and in recent years, she started building her career to be a researcher. Some of her research work has included mixed methods studies in community-based interventions for female sex workers, differentiated health service delivery models, violence prevention among adolescents and maternal vaccination. Her PhD project is on the HIV continuum of care among female sex workers in Uganda, and which she already has two published papers.

Lydia strongly believes in upholding the health-related rights of women and girls, through contextually sensitive approaches that address drivers at the individual, community, and system levels. Her areas of interest include strengthening health systems and policy for key and vulnerable populations and programming for adolescent girls and young women.



Alex Freeman

Alex is a South African counselling psychologist and researcher pursuing his PhD through Stellenbosch University.

He is currently working part-time at the Institute for Social and Health Sciences at the University of South Africa, where he engages in critical activism, research, and community work in conjunction with residents of the low-income community of Thembelihle, South-West Johannesburg.

Alex is interested in the intersection between social justice, mental health, illness, and policy. In his PhD he is investigating discourses of substituted and paternal care for people with serious mental illness. This is an issue that has become important in light of the UN Convention on People with Disabilities' controversial recommendation that substituted care be replaced in its entirety by support practices that give primacy to the views and decisions of the person living with the mental illness.



Nosivuyile Vanqa

Nosivuyile is a researcher at the Desmond Tutu TB Centre in South Africa.

She is a professional nurse and holds an MPhil in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies and an MPhil in HIV/AIDS Management (both Stellenbosch University).

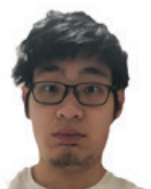
Her blended experience of providing clinical care and interacting with patients in a different context as a researcher has led her to explore and understand communication between health workers and patients and how this affects treatment outcomes amongst patients who have TB and HIV. Her PhD addresses the communication of Drug-resistant TB information. DR-TB patients and caregivers interact with a team of health workers where a lot of information is shared, from explaining the different diagnostic processes, treatment regimens, treatment duration, side effects etc.

Using the WHO's communications framework, she will conduct an exploratory study amongst health workers who provide DR TB services in health facilities with a high DR TB burden and assess how they communicate information to prepare patients for treatment initiation and support adherence ■



UNIVERSITEIT
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

Studying 'abroad' remotely during COVID-19



by **Jack Liu** (third year undergraduate)



Looking back at my online study abroad year at Johns Hopkins, I can't say it was the study abroad year I expected, but it was one of the best ways to get through the 2020 pandemic year. Given the same context, I would make the same choice every time. This reflection might not be what you are expecting to read: it is the story of my first year of Zoom University.

To be honest, I was very disappointed when the news broke out in March 2020 that the first semester of my study abroad was set to be online-only. We were offered the choice to defer our study abroad year, but I went against the headwind and chose to do my study abroad online. I had already studied in the United States of America, and so while it was disappointing not to travel there, I proceeded with the online program at Johns Hopkins.

When the semester started I was living alone in Blackheath. Yes, I'm one of the stubborn ones who paid London-level rent during the pandemic. At the first lecture, I realised something I should have foreseen that was going to make my study 'abroad' unique and unforgettable. The UK is four

hours ahead of Baltimore most of the time, except for the week when we have changed the clock for the winter and the Americans have not, and vice versa in the spring. Not only did this four-hour lead save my life many times, when I only had to submit something by midnight, or to catch up on reading, it also allowed me to enjoy a whole year worth of free mornings. For the first time, I was motivated to get up early! Takeaways in London weren't allowed to open past 10pm back then, not to mention pubs. I now know it is worth it to trade your night out for a morning run, a fresh baguette, foraging chestnuts, or coincidentally bumping into the BBC weather crew at the Greenwich observatory.

I was allowed to choose from literally any class JHU offers, even the graduate ones. I picked some close in content to my courses at GHSM, as well as some others. For example, I took the course Medical Humanitarianism. Being a third-year module for the JHU students, I wouldn't say it was easy, but it was well within my grasp. What surprised me about the American system was that participation was expected: you would either be called on to speak in class, or you had to write and reply to online forums.

I also chose a fourth-year seminar called *The Origin of Capitalism*. This was far more challenging and almost gave me a Thursday-

night-being-called-up-to-speak-in-front-of-the-class-phobia. It was like going across the street to LSE for a guest seminar, except it happens every week. We read Keynes, Hayek, Schumpeter: to quote BBC host Jeremy Paxman, 'all the important stuff'. Who knew that by the end of the term, we would be reading Donna Haraway? This was the last week of class, and Haraway was the first familiar name I had heard. I still recommend challenging yourself a little, though. There were other fascinating classes as well, like one about the history of London. Yes, you heard it right, an American university class about London, happening on Zoom, while I'm in London. I don't have a British accent, but I was officially recognised as the second-best British accent in the class, second only to the professor who was born and raised in White Hart Lane. I also took classes in architectural history and urban anthropology. Learning for fun is fun, as it turns out.

That was my experience 'studying abroad'. Every minute of it was taught on Zoom, but it was a unique experience to live in London while studying at Johns Hopkins at the same time. I found a (remote) job as a game developer, and I was able to see London during the quiet hours. It was a blessing, and I don't have to say, 'in disguise' ■

Charlton V (2021). Justice, transparency and the guiding principles of the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Health Care Analysis*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10728-021-00444-y>

Sacco L, **Corna L**, Price D and **Glaser K** (2021). Pathways of participation in paid and unpaid work in mid to later life in the United Kingdom. *Ageing and Society*, 1-28. doi:10.1017/S0144686X21001537

Flordi G, Quashie NT, **Glaser K**, Brandt M (2021). Partner care arrangements and well-being in mid- and later life: The role of gender across care contexts. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, gbab209, doi: 10.1136/medethics-2020-106759 <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbab209>

Kienzler H (2021). SymptomSpeak: Women's struggle for history and health in Kosovo. *Culture, Medicine & Psychiatry*, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11013-021-09746-1>

Ross F and **Pentecost M** (2021). Still unknown and overlooked? Anthropologies of childhood and infancy in southern Africa, 1995–2020. *Ethnos*, doi:10.1080/00141844.2021.1994622.

Pentecost M (2021). The new trial communities: challenges and opportunities in preconception cohorts. *Somatosphere*, July 22, 2021, <http://somatosphere.net/2021/birth-cohort-studies-new-communities-pentecost.html/>

Samuel G (2021). Can Investigative Genetic genealogy: can collective privacy and solidarity help? *Journal of Medical Ethics*, <https://jme.bmj.com/content/47/12/796>

Samuel G, Simms R (2021). The UK COVID-19 contact tracing app as both an emerging technology and public health intervention: the need to consider promissory discourses, *Health*, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34812092/>

Samuel G, Lucivero F, Johnson S and **Diedericks L** (2021). Ecologies of public trust: the NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11673-021-10127-x>

Tamimi N, Kienzler H, Hammoude W, Khawaja H, Regents M and Giacaman R (2021). Towards decolonising research methods training: the development of a locally responsive online learning course on research methods for mental health in war and conflict for researchers and practitioners in the Gaza Strip. *Global Mental Health*, 8: e42. doi: [10.1017/gmh.2021.40](https://doi.org/10.1017/gmh.2021.40).

Public outreach

Ahmad A, **Ermansons G, Kienzler H**, Katona C and Goodman S (2021). We must not abandon Western-funded Afghan researchers. *Times Higher Education* (21.10.2021), www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/we-must-not-abandon-western-funded-afghan-researchers

Lees-Manning E, **Kienzler H, Manning N, Rose N**, Royle C and Ujjadbor R. Crisis and mental life. Implications for Covid-19. *CSMH Report 001*. London: ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health, www.kcl.ac.uk/csmh/assets/kcl-csmh-crisis-and-mental-life-report-final.pdf

Morgan C and Kienzler H. The pandemic as a portal: Reimagining society and mental health in the context of Covid-19. Part of KCL's essay series *Build Back Better Together – A blueprint for a better world*, www.kcl.ac.uk/the-pandemic-as-a-portal-reimagining-society-and-mental-health-in-the-context-of-covid-19

Kienzler H, Asif Z, **Oyedele A** and Metro Charity. Mental health and the asylum process. Episode 7 of podcast *Our Sick Society*. <https://bit.ly/soundcloud055>



Photo by Hannah Busing on Unsplash



Special issue: Medical Testing, Diagnosis and Value

Guest-edited by Professor Alice Street (University of Edinburgh) and Professor Ann Kelly, this [Special Issue in Medicine Anthropology Theory \(MAT\)](#) is about the multivalent nature of medical testing.

A cross-cutting theme of the Special Issue concerns the pragmatics of testing. Contributions assess tests as instruments of epidemic surveillance; as an essential aspect of biomedical research; as tools that confer

citizenship; as key objects of clinical care; as commodities; and as fundamental elements in exercises of biopower. In sum, the Special Issue offers an introduction to an ethnography of testing that illuminates the work of tests, the

assumptions and expectations of testing, and the myriad actors that form the landscape of diagnostic testing today ■



Special issue: Race and Biomedicine Beyond the Lab

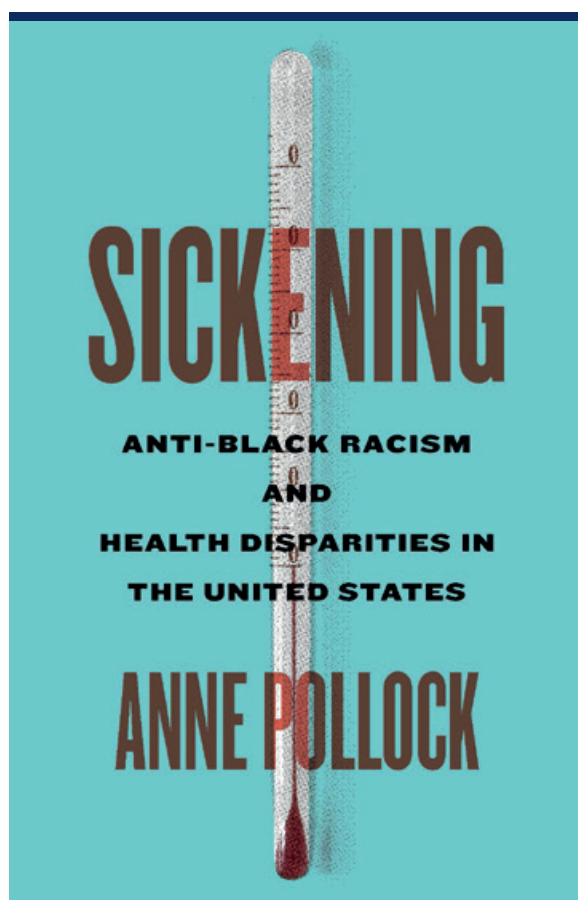
Together with co-editors Amade M'charek (University of Amsterdam), Nadine Ehlers (University of Sydney), Melissa Creary (University of Michigan), and Vivette García-Deister (National Autonomous University of Mexico), Professor Anne Pollock has published a [Special Issue](#) of the journal *BioSocieties* on the timely topic of *Race and Biomedicine Beyond the Lab: 21st Century Mobilisations of Genetics*.

This Special Issue is a project of *Race and Biomedicine Beyond the Lab*, a group initially drawn together around a 2019 Wellcome Trust small grant and continuing as a loose international research network called *RaBBL* (affectionately pronounced 'rabble'). Genetics is just one thread of that work, but was selected as a focal point for this Special Issue because genetics is a key topic in scholarship in race and science – whether debunking genetic claims or

exploring the generativity of genetic thinking. The Special Issue draws together papers that analyse how are genetic ideas of race taken up, deployed, and potentially reworked outside the laboratory environment in wide-ranging contexts: human rights forensic genetics and Indigenous organising in Guatemala, Mexico, and Argentina; grassroots stem cell recruitment drives by and for ethnic minorities in the UK; articulations of suffering by sickle cell anaemia patient-activists

in Brazil; a US lawsuit claiming that a 'mixed-race' child born from a sperm donor mix-up was 'wrongfully born'; the complicated relationships with Chinese-ness in population genetics projects in Vietnam and Singapore; and the pursuit of an unknown Turkish suspect in the policing system in the Netherlands. Across these different sites and topics, the papers reveal enduring and emerging aspects of race, of genetics, and of their complicated relations ■

Book launch: **Sickening: Anti-Black Racism and Health Disparities in the United States**



Sickening: Anti-Black Racism and Health Disparities in the United States by Professor Anne Pollock was published by the University of Minnesota Press on 17 August 2021.

Pollock's third book analyses a series of cases from the 21st century – starting with the deaths of postal workers in the 2001 anthrax attacks, through to Serena Williams' life-threatening experience of childbirth, and with an introduction and conclusion framed in terms of COVID-19 and the resurgence of Black Lives Matter – to explore the multifaceted ways in which racism impacts health. The [initial book launch](#) was convened virtually at Atlanta's feminist bookstore Charis Books & More on 15 August 2021.

Pollock had previously served on the board of the non-profit programming arm of that bookstore, and it was a fitting venue for this accessibly-written academic book with an activist ethos. Structured as a conversation with renowned researcher of anti-racism and health Dr Camara Jones of Emory University and Morehouse School of Medicine, formerly leader of the Racism and Health Working Group at the CDC and past president of the American Public Health Association, the launch introduced the book to the world two days in advance of the official publication date.

The book has also been featured in podcasts, including [This is Hell, New Books in Medicine](#), and, in conversation with Professor Ruha Benjamin of Princeton University, the [University of Minnesota Press podcast series](#). In November 2021, Pollock visited the United States to participate in a pair of in-person events around *Sickening*. The first was a face-to-face book talk at her doctoral alma mater MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the department of Science, Technology and Society. The second was a hybrid event, held face-to-face and online, at her previous long-time academic home Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia, in conversation with her colleague and collaborator Professor Manu Platt Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory.

Even as still-disrupted times make it challenging to plan, Pollock looks forward to local events here in London once that becomes practicable. These are extraordinary times in which to launch a book about racism and health ■





Dr Mark Eccleston-Turner

Senior Lecturer in Global Health Law

What is your academic background?

I am a lawyer by training: I did my undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD training in law. In between the academic training I worked for a short time as a lawyer representing people detained in psychiatric facilities. On the academic side of things, I specialise in international law and infectious diseases; specifically, the role of law in preventing and responding to future pandemic events. I did my PhD at the University of Manchester on equitable access to vaccines in a future influenza pandemic. I have always studied and taught in Law schools, and before coming to GHSM I was a Lecturer in Law at Keele University; so the shift from being in a law school to an interdisciplinary global health school is a really interesting one, I certainly feel like I have found my people, and my academic home. My work tends to be quite interdisciplinary, and I work a lot on the interface between international law and international relations, as I do not think the law can be separated from politics. I have recently published a co-authored monograph *Declaring a Public Health Emergency of International Concern: Between International Law and Politics* which deals with this interface between international law and politics.

What are you working on at the moment?

I have a few projects I am working on currently: I, along with two colleagues, have been commissioned by the German Federal Government to write an analysis of the proposals for a future Pandemic Treaty. I work quite a lot on pathogen sharing and access and benefit sharing arrangements, and regularly write articles and chapters on this topic with my regular co-author Dr Michelle Rourke of Griffith University. I have just started to write my next monograph, *Pandemic Influenza and International Law* which is due to be published by OUP in 2023.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

Being in an interdisciplinary department is one of the main things which attracted me to this job; I really enjoy collaborating with colleagues from other disciplines, or just hearing their alternative perspectives on topics I work on.

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

Outside of family time, I spend too much time daydreaming about the fact that I am certain I would have scored the penalty that Paul Bodin missed in 1994 to prevent Wales from reaching the football World Cup. Other than that, I am a huge music fan (mainly indie and Northern Soul), so really enjoy going to gigs, or adding to my record collection. I cook and bake to unwind a lot. But most of all, I am looking forward to spending six blissful hours watching a niche documentary about two-weeks in the career of the Beatles ■



Book launch: in conversation with Nancy Krieger

Join us for the launch of [Ecosocial Theory, Embodied Truths, and the People's Health](#) with author [Nancy Krieger](#) (Harvard University) on March 22 from 18:00–21:00 GMT.

This book employs the ecosocial theory of disease distribution to combine critical political and economic analysis with a deep engagement with biology, in societal, ecological, and historical context. It illuminates what embodying (in)justice entails and the embodied truths revealed by population patterns of health.

Chapter 1 explains ecosocial theory and its focus on multilevel spatiotemporal processes of embodying (in)justice, across the lifecourse and historical generations, as shaped by the political economy and political ecology of the societies in which people live. The counter is to dominant narratives that attribute primary causal agency to people's allegedly innate biology and their allegedly individual (and decontextualised) health behaviours.

Chapter 2 discusses application of ecosocial theory to analyse: the health impacts of Jim Crow and its legal abolition; racialised and economic breast cancer inequities; the joint health impacts of physical and social hazards at work (including racism, sexism, and heterosexism) and relationship hazards (involving unsafe sex and violence); and measures of structural injustice.

Chapter 3 explores embodied truths and health justice, in relation to: police violence; climate change; fossil fuel extraction and sexually transmitted infectious disease; health benefits of organic food – for whom?; public monuments, symbols, and the people's health; and light, vision, and the health of people and other species. The objective is to inform critical and practical research, actions, and alliances to advance health equity – and to strengthen the people's health – in a deeply troubled world on a threatened planet.

The book will be discussed by panellists:

- [Mauricio Avendano Pabon](#);
- Linda Rae Murray (University of Illinois Chicago);
- Mahasin Mujahid (University of California, Berkeley);
- Desi Rodrigues-Lonebear (University of California, Los Angeles).

This is a hybrid event. This talk will be online (one hour), with the opportunity to see it in-person at the Anatomy Theatre (King's Building K6.29), followed by a drinks reception at the Anatomy Museum (one hour).

This event is part of the [Age of Health](#) series, hosted by the Department of Global Health & Social Medicine.

Register [here](#).

Mark the dates in your calendar for our GHSM 2022 departmental seminar series!

Links and abstracts will be circulated prior to each event.

09 February 2022, 13.00

Dr Mark Eccleston-Turner

16 March 2022, 12.00

Professor Mauricio Avendano

27 April 2022, 12.00

Dr Fabien Provost

25 May 2022, 12.00

Dr Dörte Bemme

22 June 2022, 12.00

Dr Ludovico Carrino



School of Global Affairs

Bush House (NE) 4.01
King's College London
40 Aldwych
London WC2B 4BG