

Summer 2025

NEWS

In these challenging times, we look to the future with cautious optimism. Despite a difficult environment, the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine has had an exceptional year, marked by significant achievements in education, research and impact, including multiple awards for our staff and students.

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions and continued commitment to the Department.

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Our university remains in a position of relative strength. We are grateful not to be among the 75% of UK higher education institutions currently expected to be in financial deficit. To maintain our financial stability, we need to find solutions to contain costs, think critically about our strategic priorities in education and research and make informed decisions.

Our work on the new Sociology degree is well underway. This programme will equip students with the essential skills needed to address the challenges of today's complex social and political landscape. It will adopt sociological approaches that decentre the global North and challenge conventional epistemologies, fostering new ways of understanding some of the most pressing social and political issues of our time. Drawing on a decolonised sociological canon, the degree will offer a strong foundation in contemporary sociology, with a focus on critical theory and interdisciplinary research methods.

Alongside our intense work on the Sociology degree, GHSM is contributing to SSPP's new undergraduate degree in Data Science and Society. This innovative programme invites students to grapple with the opportunities and challenges posed by artificial intelligence and its impact on knowledge production.

We are also excited to begin designing a new MSc in Health Economics and Policy, with development work set to start this autumn.

GHSM is on track for another outstanding year in terms of external research income. Colleagues have been very active in submitting grant applications, achieving notable successes over the past eight months. The research income for the current academic year exceeds £3 million. Several competitive applications have been shortlisted for interview, and we are optimistic that our income will continue to grow—reflecting both the quality of our research and the excellent grant development support provided by the Department and the Faculty.

Student recruitment efforts continue at pace. We have hosted events and engaged with

prospective students, while also refining our marketing materials and online presence. Undergraduate applications have increased by 26% compared to last year. For our postgraduate programme, we have seen growth in applications from all regions except China.

Over the past month, we have been busy with new appointments and faculty meetings. We received a high number of strong applications for the Health Inequalities and Medicine, Health and Society posts. The candidates bring impressive experience and potential to contribute to our new Sociology programme and to teaching across our other degrees. We look forward to welcoming our new colleagues to the Department in the autumn. With these reflections on our achievements and prudent optimism for the future, we wish you a very happy and productive summer.

Carlo Caduff
Interim Head of Department

Sarah Hodges
Deputy Head of Department

ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health receive funding for 3 further years

The ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health (CSMH), co-led by Prof Hanna Kienzler and Prof Craig Morgan, has received an additional three years of funding from the Economic and Social Research Council and King's College London, recognising its achievements since its 2020 launch.

This support enables CSMH to deepen its interdisciplinary research into social change, inequalities, and mental health, and to expand its impact. The Centre has earned international recognition for its high-quality, inclusive research practices and partnerships, and now leads policy-relevant work aimed at reducing the negative mental health effects of social and structural change.

In the next phase, CSMH will focus on better understanding and responding to the everyday impacts of structural inequity on mental health through evidence generation, collaboration with communities, and policy engagement.



It will support initiatives such as the Schools Health Innovation Network, comparative data analyses across the UK, new longitudinal qualitative research, and participatory evaluations of community mental health initiatives. These projects aim to better understand and respond to the everyday impacts of structural inequity on mental health.

The Centre remains committed to working alongside people with lived experience, supported by the Lived

Experience Advisory Board, which plays a vital role in shaping its research and influence. CSMH will also strengthen career development through a new Learning Forum, ensuring future leaders are equipped to continue this critical work. This renewed funding secures the Centre's role as a leading force in transforming mental health through inclusive, impactful research. ■

Black Joy as Scholarly Practice Research Network

Forthcoming in 2025, the Black Joy as Scholarly Practice Research Network will bring together researchers, charities, and community organisers to explore the uses of Black joy in health and racial justice research. By centring joy as both praxis and resistance, the network will support new interdisciplinary work on histories and futures of joy-led, holistic, and anti-racist approaches to health.

Led by Dr. Tanisha Spratt, the network will feature three key components: an international speaker series, community-focused workshops, and a reading group. The speaker series will showcase research and practice on joy-centred health work, while the workshops will offer creative, reflective, and movement-based activities that centre Black joy in community and collective practice. The reading group, bringing together up to 10 participants including academics, policymakers, health practitioners, and community activists, will

engage critically with literature on racial health justice, systemic racism, and joyful approaches to collective care.

Funded by Wellcome, this network aims to cultivate collaboration and deepen engagement with joy as a vital mode of anti-racist scholarly and community practice. ■

New Wellcome-Funded Project to Rethink Sustainable Health Research

Dr Gabrielle (Gabby) Samuel, in collaboration with Associate Professor Federica Lucivero (University of Oxford), has been awarded over £1 million from Wellcome to lead the SHARE project (Environmentally Sustainable Health REsearch).

The project will apply a critical lens to the tools currently being developed in the UK to support environmentally sustainable health research. Through conceptual analysis, decolonial approaches, empirical research, and co-design methods, Gabby and Federica will

work with collaborators in India, Kenya, Ghana, and Brazil. Their aim is to ensure that sustainability tools are context-specific, reflexive, and grounded in epistemic, social, and cultural justice — challenging assumptions that universal tools can be applied without considering diverse local realities. ■

Now Available: Updated MHPSS Directory for Refugees and Migrants in London

The Refugee Mental Health and Place Network at the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health is pleased to announce the updated version of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Directory for Refugees and Migrants in London. This comprehensive resource now features over 120 organisations offering vital services across London and Greater London.

The Directory includes support in key areas such as:

- Social support: language classes, mentoring, housing, and training
- Legal advice: immigration, settlement, and citizenship
- Family support: parenting activities, counselling, and youth programmes
- Wellbeing services: mental and physical health support, emotional wellbeing, and healthcare access

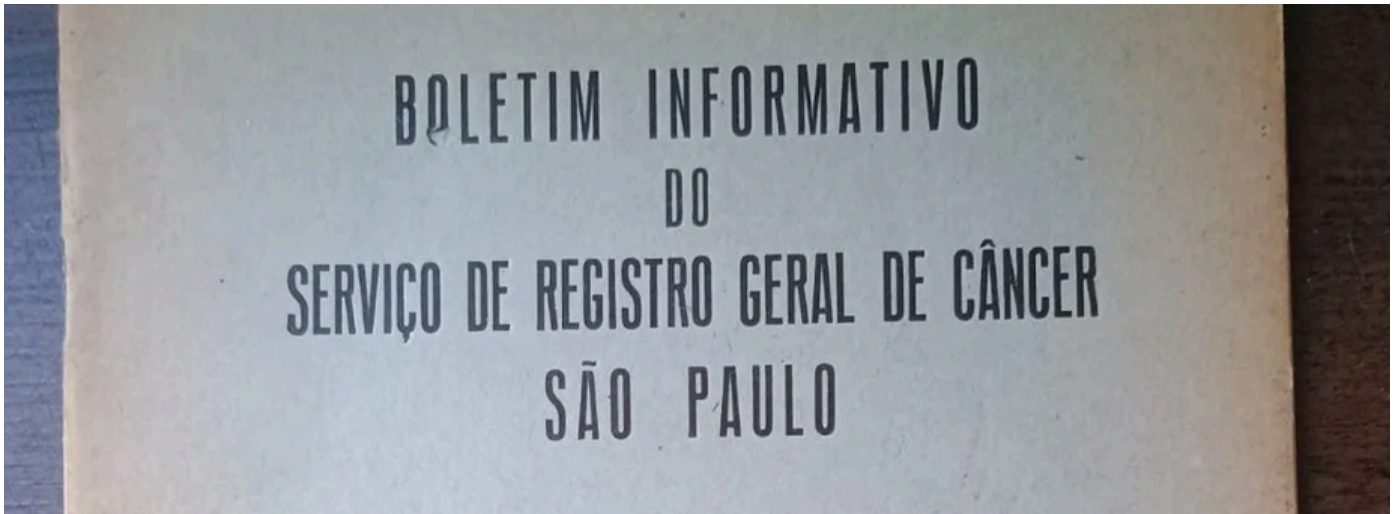
Designed for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants, the Directory is also a valuable tool for professionals—including healthcare workers, social services, and legal advisers—looking to refer individuals to appropriate support.

Download the Directory [here](#)

For questions, contact Professor Hanna Kienzler at hanna.kienzler@kcl.ac.uk ■



Political Stakes of Cancer Podcast Series



[Photo Credit: Luiz Alves Araújo Neto]

In October last year, the Cartographies of Cancer Team, in conjunction with the Grid Oncology project, launched a 12 episode podcast series on the Somatosphere website.

The series continues the work of the Political Stakes of Cancer Network, bringing together interviews with early career researchers and experts investigating cancer across a range of social, political, and geographical contexts. Their work is contributing to the development of the contemporary landscape of cancer research.

Across 12 episodes, the podcast explores the work of anthropologists, sociologists,

and historians conducting research in diverse global settings — from Mali to Brazil to China. Guests discuss their motivations for choosing their topics, reflect on their fieldwork experiences, share findings, and examine the stakes involved in studying cancer in their specific research environments.

By showcasing scholars from a variety of disciplinary and regional perspectives, the series highlights both the particular and global stakes, forms, and milieus in which cancer is experienced, studied, and represented. It also offers insight into the emotional and ethical complexities of research itself — what it is like to conduct fieldwork on a subject as sensitive and morally complex as cancer. Each episode illuminates the realities of archival and

ethnographic research and foregrounds the subjectivity of the researcher.

As cancer becomes an increasingly important topic within the social studies of science and medicine, the series offers introspective, engaged conversations with scholars navigating the personal and political dimensions of this field.

The series was produced by Thandeka Cochrane, Fabien Provost, and Shagufta Bhangu, convenors of the Political Stakes of Cancer Network, with sound editing by [Rory O'Connor](#). It was supported by funding from King's College London, including the Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy Research Fund, the GHSM Impact Fund, and the Culture, Medicine and Power Research Group.



Right to Research: “Research and ethical considerations in war and conflict”

Professor Hanna Kienzler delivered an online training to the Right to Research initiative in the occupied Palestinian territory on the importance of conducting health research in war and conflict, ethical considerations of such research, and a case study of participatory action research with people with severe mental illness in Palestine.

The training was attended by around 50 medical students from the Arab American University - Palestine (AAUP).

The Right to Research initiative is run by AAUP's Palestinian Medical Students' Association (PMSA-AAUP), a student-led organisation affiliated with the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA).

The initiative aims to equip Palestinian medical students with essential research skills tailored to the realities of conducting research in Palestine. It is structured around several key objectives including academic writing, literature reviews, avoiding bias, and academic integrity.

Mapping Strands: A Wellbeing Walkshop



On Wednesday October 23, 2024, Philip Jagessar and Jennifer Fraser, in collaboration with Stuart Dunn and Cristina Goldschmidt Kiminami from the Department of Digital Humanities, hosted an interactive mapping exercise and “walkshop” to explore how the pedestrianisation of Strand Aldwych influences student wellbeing.

This event, featuring a presentation from Justin Colson (*Layers of London*) and a conversation led by Tamsyn Dent, saw participants complete several mapping and visualisation exercises to illustrate the role that spatial and structural factors contribute to health and cultivate critical reflections on what the Strand area means to King’s student body.

“Meetings like these should engage diverse participants across layers of the global mental health ecosystem—from service users and frontline workers to administrators and policymakers,” he said.

The walkshop was supported by a SSHM-Wellcome Network Grant and a King’s Arts & Humanities grant.

Interrogating Carcinogenesis: GHSM at the HEAT Conference

Nick Surawy-Stepney, Shagufta Bhangu, Thandeka Cochrane, and Jennifer Fraser convened a panel at the Royal Anthropological Institute's Health, Environment, and Anthropology (HEAT) conference in Durham, UK on 23 April.

The panel, titled "Carcinogenesis, Toxicity, and the Epidemic of Cancer," explored the carcinogenic effects of contemporary forces such as industrialisation, capitalism, environmental and climate breakdown, empire, and global "development." It highlighted the underdevelopment of scientific inquiry into industrial environmental contamination as a driver of cancer, in contrast to research that foregrounds personal agency and individual choice. The panel drew on emerging anthropological work that reorients the research agenda toward questions of carcinogenic accountability — examining how risks of exposure are rendered visible or invisible, embraced or resisted, and selectively studied.

Papers ranged in focus from U.S. surveillance of radiation units in Ethiopian cancer centres, to the toxic legacies of nuclear testing in the southern United States, the exposure of Indigenous communities in Canada to radium mining and transport, and chemical plant toxicity in Italy.

Thandeka Cochrane, from the Cartographies of Cancer project, presented a paper on "Carcinogenic Accountability and the Quest for Cancer Aetiologies in East Africa.

"She examined the politics of identifying who or what is responsible for cancer causation, especially in relation to prevailing frameworks that emphasise individual accountability and treatment, while sidelining corporate, industrial, and state responsibility.



Jennifer Fraser, also from the Cartographies of Cancer team, presented a co-authored paper with David Reubi titled "Elusive Environments: Shifting Notions of the Environment in Cancer Research in Late Colonial and Early Postcolonial Africa." Their work explored how environmental concepts were framed in international cancer research in Africa during the mid-to-late

20th century, particularly through the work of John Higginson, the first director of the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). They traced how different notions of "environment" shaped research agendas in Johannesburg, Nairobi, and Lyon. Held over two sessions and featuring six papers in total, the panel generated rich discussions about cancer, carcinogenesis, toxicity, and the politics of accountability. ■

Confronting Racism in Health: Camara Jones in Conversation



In January, GHSM's Dr. Tanisha Spratt chaired a dynamic event featuring our very own Visiting Professor Camara Jones in conversation with King's Senior Vice President for Health and Executive Director of King's Health Partners Professor Graham Lord on the vital topic of Racism and Health.

Supported by the department's Anti-Racism Steering Group, the event attracted a broad and interdisciplinary audience across the life sciences, social sciences, and beyond.

By situating contemporary health inequities within a broader lineage of racial injustice, the conversation challenged participants to recognise how deeply racism is woven into the fabric of health systems, research paradigms, and public health responses. The event took place just a week after the U.S. presidential inauguration, amidst that administration's high-profile attacks on initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, which weighed heavily and underscored the urgency of the conversation. While acknowledging the weight of history and international events, the occasion also served as a platform to

evaluate and reimagine present and future actions here. Central to the discussion was the recognition of initiatives already underway at King's to address systemic racism through institutional change, curriculum reform, research priorities, and inclusive leadership. It also offered an opportunity to reflect on the work we have left to do, and how to advance it.

A video of the conversation is available [here](#)

There is potential for a Martin Luther King Jr Day event to become an annual element of the agenda – the work continues. ■

Africanizing Cancer Research and Care – Voices from the Archives

David Reubi and Jennifer Fraser presented some of their archival work at the Annual Meeting of the African Cancer Registry Network in Cape Town in October 2024. Most of the early work on cancer in Africa, especially at the height of geographical pathology in the 1950s and 1960s, was

done by white colonial doctors in what was then British, French and Portuguese Africa. This is unsurprising in what was then a colonial and racialized world where Africans were usually not allowed to be doctors. In their presentation, David and Jennifer showcased the work of one of the first African doctors to have worked on

cancer: Comlan Alfred August Quenum. Specifically, they traced his life and work, from his growing up in French West Africa in the 1930s and 1940s to his work on Kaposi Sarcoma at the Institut Pasteur in colonial Dakar to his work at the WHO's Office for Africa in Brazzaville in the 1970s. ■

Towards Fair Knowledge Practices in Global Health Research: Workshop and Public Lecture by Dr Seye Abimbola



GHSM and the King's Global Health Institute hosted Towards Fair Knowledge Practices in Global Health Research, a dynamic full-day workshop that brought together 30 researchers from across King's and international institutions on May 6.

Funded by the King's–Australia Partnership Seed Fund, the workshop was co-organised by Dr Cristian Montenegro, Dr Nancy Tamimi, Prof Anne Pollock, Prof Melanie Abas and Stephanie Ray, with outstanding support from GHSM PhD students Nell Gray, Ayodele Akinlawo, and Chanelle Scott.

Through collaborative exercises and rich discussion, participants explored key challenges in global health research—from authorship and publishing inequalities to structural barriers in funding, mentorship, and curriculum. Anchored in framing talks from international guests Dr Seye Abimbola (University of Sydney), Dr Catherine Kyobutungi (APHRC), and Dr Samah Jabr (George Washington University), the day sparked honest, sometimes uncomfortable, but ultimately generative conversations about how to shift power and practice in global health knowledge production in a time of uncertainty and deep transformation.

The momentum carried into the following evening's public lecture, Rigour and Justice in Research for Health, where Dr Abimbola shared insights from his new book *The Foreign Gaze: Essays on Global Health*, followed by thought-provoking responses from Dr Kyobutungi and Dr Jabr. Over 120 people joined us for the event and reception, making it a memorable close to a powerful two days of connection and critical reflection.

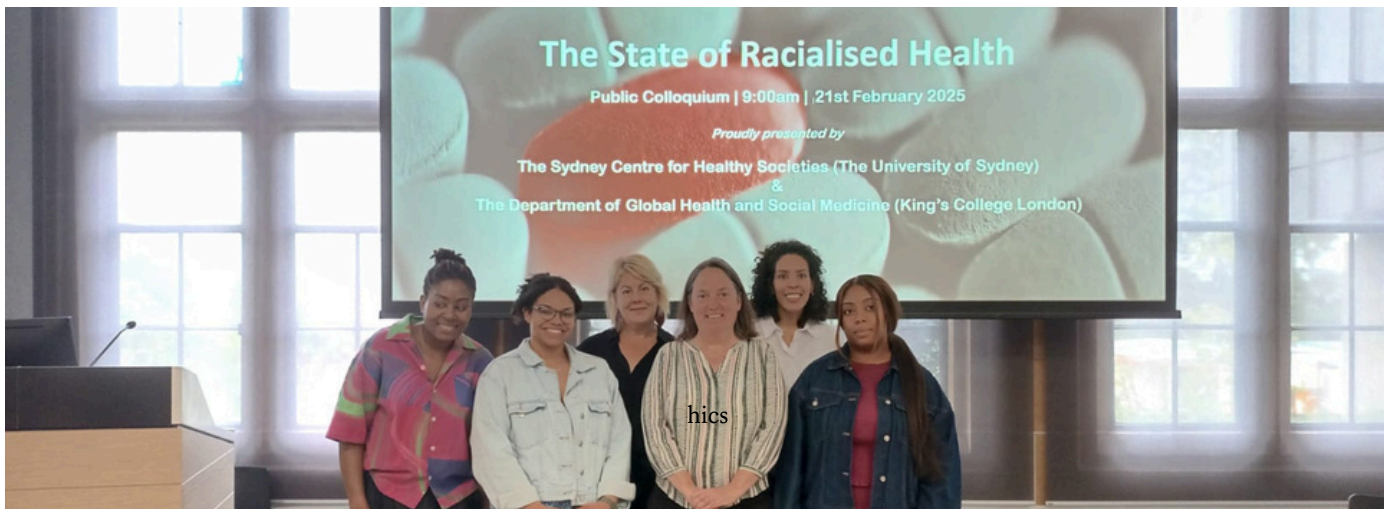
Stay tuned for a full write-up and next steps! ■



The State of Racialised Health: GHSM PhD Students & Academics x Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies



GHSM PhD students and academics collaborate with the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies to convene Workshop and Symposium on “The State of Racialised Health”



A team from the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine comprised of Professor Anne Pollock, Dr. Tanisha Spratt, and the department's three Harold Moody PhD students Dr Annabel Sowemimo, Emediong Jumbo, and Chanelle Scott travelled to the University of Sydney in February to convene a series of interrelated events at the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies on the vital thematic of “The State of Racialised Health”.

The travel was made possible by funding from the King's-Australia Partnership Seed Fund, bolstered with additional support from the King's Doctoral College and the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies. Close collaboration with Deputy Director of the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies Dr Nadine Ehlers facilitated further support, and made the events there possible.

The Workshop component took place over the course of two days, 19th and 20th February 2025, with about twenty participants, primarily early-career scholars from the University of Sydney across social science and public health who work on wide-ranging topics relevant to the theme.

It was expertly facilitated by PhD students Chanelle Scott and Emediong Jumbo, fostering highly engaged and interactive discussions that allowed participants to engage in depth with how their research connects with the state of racialised health across scales – the nation state, health care systems, and embodied experience. The conversations were lively, and they are anticipated to be ongoing.

The Colloquium component took place on 21st February 2025, and drew a wide audience from across the University of Sydney and beyond. It featured a series of book talks. First, King's PhD student Dr Annabel Sowemimo presented on her acclaimed book *Divided: Race, Medicine, and Why We Need to Decolonise Health Care*,

with invited responses by Professor Warwick Anderson (University of Sydney) and Professor Emma Kowal (Deakin University) followed by questions from the audience. Next, King's Senior Lecturer of Racism and Health Dr. Tanisha Spratt presented on her book manuscript currently under review, *Ungrievable Lives: Racism, Risk, and Responsibility in Neoliberal Societies*, followed by discussion with Professor Sonja van Wichelen (University of Sydney) and audience questions. Third, King's Professor Anne Pollock and her co-author University of Sydney Associate Professor Nadine Ehlers presented their book which is currently in production, *The Racial Cage*, with responses by Jaya Keaney (University of Melbourne) and Thao Phan (Australian National University).





The day culminated with a closing roundtable in which all of the speakers came into conversation with the audience reflecting on the ideas generated and how they might be moved forward in our respective institutions and in ongoing conversation and collaboration.



Along the way, the visitors from London also had the chance to explore Sydney, including sites that are directly relevant to the theme of the State of Racialised Health, notably a history tour of the Quarantine Station, where passengers on boats arriving in Sydney in the 19th and early 20th century were held in quarters segregated by class and race.



Reflecting on the experience, PhD student Emediong Jumbo comments: “This was an exciting trip which enabled me to personally learn about Indigenous health perspectives. The exposure to academics and researchers from different disciplines, even ‘undisciplined’ scholars and ‘reluctant academics’ was a valuable experience as a PhD student. Being around my fellow GHSM Harold Moody scholars and my supervisors also made the trip worthwhile, strengthening both personal and professional relationships.”

Similar sentiments were shared by the whole GHSM team: the trip was an extraordinary catalyst for community-building amongst the Harold Moody PhD students and academics from GHSM, and across this department at King’s and the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies. ■



Collaborative Learning for Ethical and Theoretical Ethnography



Dr Rosie Mayston and Dr Ursula Read co-delivered training on Ethical and Theoretically Informed Ethnography for 30 learners in March — a mix of people with lived experience of mental health problems and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) from six African countries. This work was funded by an NIHR Cohort Academic Development Award (CADA), linked to the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Homelessness and Mental Health in Africa ([HOPE Project](#)). The training was co-produced and co-delivered by social science academics from two NIHR groups (HOPE and [TRANSFORM](#)) and members of the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) linked to HOPE.

The idea for this CADA came from the recognition of two key knowledge gaps. Many ECRs and experts by lived experience involved in health research in Africa are primarily trained in public health and/or quantitative research methods and lack exposure to core social theories. This gap is exclusionary — it limits the ability of ECRs and experts by lived experience to lead on analysis and write-up of ethnographic data, and constrains the extent to which their work contributes to global discourse and debate.

Within HOPE, LEAG colleagues raised concerns about the ethics of ethnographic research and challenged the team to refocus on what it feels like to be the subject of observation.

The CADA was designed with two aims: to address knowledge gaps around social theory and its application to ethnography, and to deepen understanding of the ethical and safeguarding issues in ethnographic research. Co-production was central to the CADA — aligned with the principle of incrementally addressing epistemic injustice and aiming to offer attendees the best possible learning experience. The approach supported experiential learning and prioritised knowledge and skills that could help drive social change.

Over four months, the co-production working group met online six times to co-design the content and delivery of the training. A key innovation was the group's agreement on five core values to guide the process — shaping both how the work was done and how the training would be delivered. Members kept reflective diaries to document decision-making, new learning, and dynamics around power, trust, and inclusion. These reflections will be analysed as part of the project's evaluation.

The team delivered three online seminars and four days of in-person training in Accra. Activities included interactive lectures, role play, and guided reflection. Topics covered included decolonial research methods, epistemology and ontology, involvement of experts by experience in mental health research, social constructionism, structuralism, praxis, fictive kinship, and how to apply theory to data. The team also explored ethics in participant observation and discussed future opportunities for collaboration and mutual support.

Although the evaluation data is still being analysed, initial feedback suggests that the training delivered a learning experience strongly aligned with its co-developed values and has prompted meaningful shifts in understanding. While co-production is frequently cited in global health research, there is limited evidence about how it works in practice. The team plans to publish an article based on their experience to share insights with the broader global health community. ■

GHSM researchers score a hat trick for their impact and engagement work

Huge congratulations to Samia Akhter-Khan and Rosie Mayston, and to Hanna Kienzler and the ESRC Centre for Mental Health and Society's Lived Experience Advisory Board for their runaway success in the 2025 Kings Engaged Research Awards competition, and the SSPP Impact Prize Awards.

Samia Akhter-Khan, a doctoral student in GHSM and her supervisor Rosie were winners in the 'Participatory Research (Global)' category of the Kings Engaged Research Awards, for Samia's project on 'Photovoice as a Potential Intervention for Loneliness Among Older Migrants from Myanmar'. The project used the Photovoice method to address loneliness among older Myanmar migrants in Thailand. Participants engaged in a six-week photography workshop, co-facilitated by an older Myanmar participant. Using photography, they expressed how they care for others and their environment, and curated exhibitions locally and globally. These events provided a platform for older migrants to share their experiences and gain visibility and respect in their communities. The evaluation suggests that Photovoice may be a promising intervention for alleviating loneliness.



The Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) at the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health won two prizes!, a King's Engaged Research Award for Transforming Research Culture and an SSPP Impact Prize. LEAB is a diverse group of individuals with direct and/or indirect experience of mental distress, neurodivergence, trauma, care roles, and (ref)using mental health services. They were recognised for challenging traditional power structures and redefining how knowledge is produced and shared. LEAB shifted the Centre's approach from consultation to meaningful co-production, shaping its ethos, strategy, and research.

Key contributions include co-developing the Centre's Code of Conduct (embedding principles of equity, respect, and shared power), submitting evidence to the Draft Mental Health Bill and co-producing the widely used Research Methods Toolkit. LEAB have clearly positioned themselves as leaders, not advisors, in shaping the Centre's values, direction, and national impact.

Congratulations also to Lucy van de Wiel and the Reproduction Research Group, who were nominated for a Kings Engaged Research Award in the 'Transforming Research Culture' category. ■

Contributing to Global Mental Health Reform

Dr Cristian Montenegro contributed as an external reviewer and advisor to the WHO Guidance on mental health policy and strategic action plans, launched in March 2025. This landmark resource provides a comprehensive framework to support countries in reforming their mental health policies and updating strategic action plans.

WHO Guidance on mental health policy and strategic action plans, launched in March 2025. This landmark resource provides a comprehensive framework to support countries in reforming their mental health policies and updating strategic action plans.

Cristian's contribution reflects GHSM's continued engagement in shaping inclusive and justice-oriented global health policy. ■



Joy Rage Hope: LGBTQ+ Art Workshops



[Photo Credit: [Christa Holka](#)]

Previous Impact Prize winners Laia Bécades and Zeena Feldman from Queer@King's, put their prize money to good work, organising a day of art-making centred on LGBTQ+ experiences of wellbeing and inequality.

The event, hosted at [Queercircle](#) on 28 March, was a wholesome, healing arts-based event exploring and expressing queer wellbeing and joy, and the complex motivations of rage and hope. Artists [Rachael House](#) and [Ben Walters](#) opened with reflections on their creative practices.

Attendees then joined either a zine-making workshop, led by Rachael, or a Badge Café, led by Ben.

In the zine workshop, participants made mini-zines on queer rage, joy, and hope — claiming joy in difficult times and expressing how rage informs this. The results were personal, political, funny, and deeply queer.

The Badge Café became a space of self-care, creativity, and community. Participants made one-of-a-kind badges from recycled materials — playful, expressive, and full of heart.

In the afternoon, Rachael led a Queer Voices workshop, where participants created large comic-book-style speech bubbles to express their responses to anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiment and affirm queer joy and connection.

The event was beautifully photographed by [Christa Holka](#) and funded by an SSPP Impact Award to Laia Bécades and an Arts and Humanities Impact Fund award to Zeena Feldman. ■

Improving regulated medicines information in Europe

With support from the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA), Courtney Davis from King's GHSM and colleagues from the LSE, Bristol University, Harvard University, Sydney University and Dartmouth Medical College have been pushing regulators and policy-makers to improve how evidence on the risks, benefits and uncertainties of prescription drugs is communicated to patients and the public.

Research and analysis by Dr. Courtney and colleagues has shown that the regulated patient leaflet — which accompanies every prescription medicine in Europe — consistently fails to meet the information needs of patients and the public. After presenting her findings at a European Medicines Agency (EMA) meeting with patient and consumer organisations, Courtney was invited to join an EMA working group developing proposals to revise the patient leaflet.

One key proposal is a 'Key Information Section', to help users quickly understand the most critical information about a medicine.

Courtney has since received ESRC IAA funding to co-design and test different versions of this new section, in collaboration with the EMA. The goal is to provide robust evidence to inform policy and improve how medicines information is written and delivered across Europe. ■

Training in Participatory Action Research in Community at Birzeit University, Palestine

Prof Hanna Kienzler, in collaboration with colleagues from the Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) and Birzeit University delivered a three-day training on “Introduction to Participatory Action Research (PAR) with Communities”. The training brought together a dynamic group of participants from different sectors – academic, NGO, and government –who engaged in rich, interactive sessions on the foundations and principles of PAR.

Gabby contributed a critical perspective, focusing on how to ensure sustainability tools do not inadvertently individualise responsibility, promote neoliberal framings of sustainability, or reproduce colonial, unethical, or inequitable practices. Over the course of the training, attendees explored a range of participatory data collection methods and learned from real-world examples of PAR studies conducted by ICPH. A key highlight was the opportunity for participants to apply their learning by developing their own PAR project ideas and presenting them to the group —fostering a collaborative and practical learning environment. This training marks another step in strengthening community-engaged research and promoting inclusive approaches to public health and social change. ■



Rethinking Sustainable Research Practices



Dr Gabrielle (Gabby) Samuel participated in the panel event *Sustainable Research But Make It Strategic* hosted at the London Institute for Healthcare Engineering in March. The session brought together experts from academia, healthcare, and industry to explore practical tools researchers can use to reduce the environmental harms associated with their work.

Gabby contributed a critical perspective, focusing on how to ensure sustainability tools do not inadvertently individualise responsibility, promote neoliberal framings of sustainability, or reproduce colonial, unethical, or inequitable practices. ■

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The research relationship: participant perspectives on consent in biobanking

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Celebrating the Career of Professor Anthea Tinker

We will be celebrating Professor Anthea Tinker's long and distinguished career, and her many contributions to social gerontology, on 21 May 2025.

Anthea's research spans elder abuse, long-term care, housing and technology, and research ethics. She is the author of 32 books and over 300 articles, and has held 85 major research grants from Research Councils, Government Departments, Local and Health Authorities, Charities, and other organisations.

She has served as Professor of Social Gerontology at King's College London since 1988 and was the first Director of the Institute of Gerontology, which she helped to found as a multidisciplinary space dedicated to improving the well-being of older people. Anthea also chaired the College's Research Ethics Committee for over a decade, and in 1998 became a Fellow of King's College London — an honour granted to individuals who have made a transformative contribution to the College.

Her national and international standing in the field of gerontology is reflected in numerous accolades: she was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2000 for services to housing for older people; was elected a Founding Member of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences in 1999; and received the Alan Walker Prize from the British Society of Gerontology in 2010 for her significant and lasting contributions to the field.

Anthea's research has shaped both academic thinking and policy. She led the research team for the UK's Royal Commission on Long Term Care in 1999 and made the case for public support for nursing and personal care — a subject still highly relevant today.

She also led the 4* impact case study in the Department's first submission to the Sociology unit of assessment in REF2014. Her work has challenged traditional models of institutional care and promoted the use of technology to support independence in later life, influencing policies across the UK and internationally — including in Europe,



Professor Anthea Tinker

Canada, the USA, Australia, and the Far East. In recognition of her global impact, she was awarded the title of Grandmaster by the International Society of Gerontechnology in 2022.

In addition to her academic and policy contributions, Anthea has mentored and supported numerous PhD students, postdocs, and colleagues over the years. We are delighted and grateful that she will continue to contribute as Professor Emeritus from September 2025. ■

Meet Our New Staff: Amy Tomkins



Amy Tomkins

Amy Tomkins recently joined the School of Global Affairs, working in the Undergraduate

Programmes team supporting both International Development and Global Health and Social Medicine.

Before joining King's, Amy worked at St George's, University of London, where she coordinated exams for medical students and managed examiner recruitment — a role quite different from her current one, but

she's enjoying the change and the opportunity to take on something new.

Outside of work, Amy enjoys reading, going for walks, and hopes to resume the Italian lessons she began last year. ■



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