

# RESEARCH PROJECT

**Project name:** International Workshop on the Politics of Non-Communicable Diseases in the Global South

**Description:** Over the last ten years, there has been mounting alarm about the growing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) epidemic in the global South and the health and economic burden it represents. While there is a growing public health body of literature on NCDs in the global South, the interventions by more critical social science researchers have, with some notable exceptions, been sparse.

This workshop is a first step towards addressing this gap. Bringing together political scientists, anthropologists, historians, sociologists, geographers as well as public health experts and advocates, it will offer a great opportunity to question, examine and make sense of current initiatives to problematise and govern the chronic disease epidemic in emerging economies.

Amongst others, the workshop will explore the making of chronic disease as a problem of development in international forums and across countries of the global South. It will, in particular, examine the narratives through which the problem is framed and analyse the techniques like epidemiological models and maps that make it possible to view chronic diseases as a development issue.

The workshop will also consider the influence of the tobacco, alcohol and food companies in globalising risk factors associated with NCDs as well as the role of the pharmaceutical industry and philanthropic foundations in creating drug markets for chronic diseases in the global South.

Last but not least, the workshop will also investigate the way health advocates and patient groups in the global South translate, resist and re-appropriate the international public health strategies that aim to mitigate against the epidemic in the global South.

**Principle investigators:** David Reubi, Stefan Elbe

**Aims:** to question, examine and make sense of current initiatives to problematise and govern the chronic disease epidemic in emerging economies.

**Research funding:** Wellcome Trust Society and Ethics Fellowship and ESRC Seminar Series Award on Global Health Security (2013-2016)

**Publications:**

- David Reubi, Clare Herrick and Tim Brown, 2015, The Politics of Non-Communicable Diseases in the Global South. *Health & Place*, doi: 10.1016/j.healthplace.2015.09.001.
- David Reubi, 2015, Modernisation, Smoking and Chronic Disease: Of Temporality and Spatiality in Global Health. *Health & Place*, doi: 10.1016/j.healthplace.2015.04.004
- David Reubi and Virginia Berridge, The Internationalisation of Tobacco Control, 1950-2010, forthcoming 2016, *Medical History*.

**More details:** <https://criticalglobalhealth.org/international-workshop-on-the-politics-of-non-communicable-diseases-in-the-global-south/>