**Translating Global Health Technologies in Uganda and Rwanda**

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**Research areas:** Uganda and Rwanda; Anthropology of Law, Organization, Science and Technology (LOST), Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals, Social Pharmacy, Global Health

**Project summary**

This project examines global health as an *epistemological transformation* of biomedicine in Africa. To make these transformations visible the project investigates how global health networks establish novel *therapeutic apparatuses*. The empirical research is conducted in three different East African settings – Uganda, post-conflict Northern Uganda, and Rwanda – where these transformations shave developed novel and intriguing institutional circuits of medical care and scientific research. Following Foucault, we term these arrangements therapeutic apparatuses of global health to designate a set of circulating material artifacts and technologies that modify therapeutic and knowledge practices of biomedicine in subtle ways. The project asks how these therapeutic apparatuses are established, how they operate and how they mediate the production of scientific and social orders and material infrastructures in Africa.

In particular the project focuses on “access to medicine” as an infrastructural, a normative and a biomedical problem, which is increasingly associated with ideas of global health. The researchers follow four types of medicines: antiretroviral drugs, treatment for non-communicable diseases, child medicines, and essential drugs. The case studies delineate the different therapeutic apparatuses of global health by investigating the technologies, logistics, data infrastructures and large-scale organizational arrangements, which mediate the production of knowledge and access to these medicines.

The main questions are: How is access to medicines and, moreover, a diversity of different forms of access configured? How are social categories and therapeutic rules constituted? What moral dilemmas emerge in these configurations of access to medicines, and how are they dealt with? How are novel problems and connections made visible through the global circulation of data and technologies? How are knowledge and certainty created in the scientific and technological circuits of global health?

**Individual research projects**

* Sung-Joon Park (MA): “The supply side of ART: Users, Drugs, Technologies in Organizing mass ART-programs in Uganda”.
* Norman Schräpel (MA): “Information and communication technologies, medical data production and the politics of global health in Rwanda”
* Dr Herbert Muyinda: “Uncertainty, (In)stability and the Supply of ART in Northern Uganda”
* Freddy Eric Kitutu (MSc): “Access to essential child medicines in rural Uganda: Pharmaceutical interventions, health systems, and communities in improving access to essential child medicines”