Critical Issues in Global Health in Conflict Settings

CLASS SESSIONS Thursday, March 7- May 9, 2024, 10:00AM to 11:30AM (EST)

INSTRUCTORS Khuloud ALsaba, PhD Candidate UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY UNIT

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Introduction

This course will introduce the main concepts in global health politics and present a critical understanding and review of them in conflict settings. In addition, it will provide an in-depth examination of case studies of how the governance and structure of global politics shape and determine health policies, and outcomes in areas affected by conflict.

Course Overview: This seminar examines contemporary issues and challenges of global health in conflict and violence affected areas: their causes and determinants as shaped by social, cultural, economic, and political, issues. The focus will be the intersection of violence and its aftermath on population health and the different roles of local and international actors. The course will shed light on the intersection of the social and the political with health. It explores how the framing, and the arrangement of neocolonialism affects health interventions in conflict settings.

In the course we will discuss multiple case studies demonstrating policies and programs applied in conflict affected areas to better understand the intricacies of international political and economic regimes and their complex role in responding to conflict's impact on health.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Cultivate concepts, tools, and strategies to critically examine global health actors' practices and approaches to health in conflict settings.
- Interrogate the role of the different actors: state, non-state, local and international in conflict setting and how they impact health policies and responses.
- Understand the nature of conflicts and wars and their impact on health and how they shape and impact political and social determinants of health.
- Provide case studies of health policies and programs applied in conflict affected countries and explore the main challenges faced in the field.

Teaching Methods: This seminar employs a dynamic blend of presentations, and group-based discussions, along with pre-class required and optional readings.

ONLINE | 10 Week Seminar: Critical Issues in Global Health in Conflict Settings

Target Audience: This course is designed for graduate students seeking a critical introduction to the complexities inherent in addressing population health challenges in the Global South. It is particularly relevant for those interested in gaining insights into the field of global health politics, its different actors and global health governance.

Seminar structure

The class will meet over 10 seminars organized into three sections. Meeting each week (Thursdays). The classes have a flexible structure, starting with a short lecture, and followed by critical reflection and dialogue regarding particular issues or current debate.

Seminar date		Major key terms	
First	First section: Concepts, and actors		
1	7 th March	A Critical Conceptual Review of Global Health	
2	14 th March	Population health, War, and Conflict	
3	21 st March	The Humanitarian System, the UN cluster system, and the humanitarian	
5		development peace nexus.	
Seco	Second section: framing the impact of violence and conflicts on health		
4	28 th March	Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Health	
5	4 th April	Gender, Conflict, and Violence	
6	11 th April	Social Determinants of Health in Conflict affected settings.	
Thirc	Third section: in-depth Case studies		
7	18 th April	Emergency and trauma care systems	
8	25 th April	Addressing Chronic Conditions in the aftermath of conflicts	
9	2 nd May	Communicable diseases, Ebola, and global health security	
10	9 th May	Peacebuilding and Peace through health	

Dates for scheduled seminars are:

First section: Concepts, and actors.	
7 th March	Seminar 1: Introduction to global health

Objectives
 Introducing students to main concepts of global health, their history and development.
 Explore the different actors in the field of global health politics: states, multilateral and international agencies, philanthropists, private sector, and civil
society actors.
 Examine the concept of governance of global health field and how it demonstrates the intersections with the geopolitical, economic, and socio- cultural global fields.
Required readings
 Jeffery P, et al 2009. Towards a Common Definition of Global Health. The Lancet 373, 1993-1995.
 <u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673609603329</u> Bozorgmehr, K. Rethinking the 'global' in global health: a dialectic approach. <i>Global Health</i> 6, 19 (2010). <u>https://doi.org/10.1186/1744-8603-6-19</u>.
Optional readings
 Burgess, R.A., 2023. Rethinking Global Health: Frameworks of Power. Routledge, London. <u>https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315623788</u> [The introduction]
Historical development of global health
- Murphy, M. The economization of life. (Duke University Press, 2017). [The
introduction]
 Randall M. Packard, Ph D. A History of Global Health. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016, <u>https://doi.org/10.56021/9781421420325</u>. [Chapter 6: Narrowing vision, international health, technology, and cold war politics.]
Human rights-based approaches to health
 Beracochea, E., et al, 2011. Rights-based approaches to public health. Springer Publ. Co, New York. [chapter 13: Rights-Based Approaches in Conflict-Affected Sattinge]
 Settings] De Vos, P., et al. 2009. Health through People's Empowerment: A Rights-Based
Approach to Participation Critical Concepts. Health & Hum. Rts. 11, 23–36.
- Leslie London, 2013. What is a human-rights based approach to health and does it
matter? Health and Human Rights Journal. URL https://www.hhrjournal.org/2013/09/what-is-a-human-rights-based-approach-
to-health-and-does-it-matter/
 Decolonizing global health Santos, Boaventura de Sousa. Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against
Epistemicide. Routledge, 2015, https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315634876.
[chapters: Manifesto for Good Living/Buen Vivir - Manifesto for Intellectual-
Activists. P2-17]
- Abimbola, Seye. "The Uses of Knowledge in Global Health." BMJ Global Health,
vol. 6, no. 4, Apr. 2021, p. e005802. PubMed, <u>https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-</u> <u>2021-005802</u> .

	 Khan, Mishal, et al. "Decolonising Global Health in 2021: A Roadmap to Move from Rhetoric to Reform." BMJ Global Health, vol. 6, no. 3, Mar. 2021, p. e005604. gh.bmj.com, <u>https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005604</u>.
	Seminar 2: Violence, war, and conflict
	<u>Objectives</u>
	 Develop a clear understanding of the forms and trends of modern conflicts and war.
	- Explore the impact of modern conflicts and wars on public health.
	- Examine the consequences of wars and conflicts on public health.
	Required readings
	 A New Era of Conflict and Violence <u>https://www.un.org/en/un75/new-era-</u> conflict-and-violence
	- Krug et al, eds. 2002. World Report on Health and Violence. World Health
	Organization, 2002. P215-216 Chapter 8: Collective Health: Background
	- Krug et al, eds. 2002. World Report on Health and Violence. WHO. P222-246
	Optional readings
14 th March	 Rylko-Bauer, B., Whiteford, L., Farmer, P. (Eds.), 2009. Global Health in Times of Violence, First Edition. ed. School for Advanced Research Press, Santa Fe.
	- Smith, 2006. There's No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster. Items.
	https://items.ssrc.org/understanding-katrina/theres-no-such-thing-as-a-natural-
	<u>disaster/</u>
	- Berdal, Mats, 'The 'New Wars' Thesis Revisited', in Hew Strachan, and Sibyle
	Scheipers (eds), <i>The Changing Character of War</i> (Oxford, 2011; online edn, Oxford Academic, 19 Jan. 2015),
	https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:osobl/9780199596737.003.0007, accessed 16
	Feb. 2024.
	- Tarak Barkawi, Shane Brighton, Powers of War: Fighting, Knowledge, and Critique ,
	International Political Sociology, Volume 5, Issue 2, June 2011, Pages 126–143,
	https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-5687.2011.00125.x
	- Giacaman, Rabaia, and Nguyen-Gillham, 2010. Domestic and political violence:
	the Palestinian predicament. The Lancet. Volume 375. Issue 9711. P 259-260.
	https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)62005- 5/abstract
	<u>5/abstract</u>
21 st March	Seminar 3: global health and the humanitarian system

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<u>Objec</u>	tives
-	Understand the present state of the humanitarian system and its historical
	development.
-	Understand the intersection between global health politics and humanitarian
	system.
-	Reflect critically on the role of humanitarian actors in conflict settings.
Requi	red readings
-	Barnett, Michael. "Introduction: The Crooked Timber of Humanitarianism, Cornell
	University Press, 2011, pp. 1–18. <u>www.degruyter.com</u> ,
	https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.7591/9780801460616-
	002/html?lang=en.
-	Harman, Sophie, and Clare Wenham. "Governing Ebola: Between Global Health
	and Medical Humanitarianism." Globalizations, vol. 15, no. 3, Apr. 2018, pp. 362-
	76., <u>https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2017.1414410</u> .
Optio	nal readings
-	Mills, K., 2005. Neo-Humanitarianism: The Role of International Humanitarian
	Norms and Organizations in Contemporary Conflict. Global Governance: A Review
	of Multilateralism and International Organizations 11, 161–183.
	https://doi.org/10.1163/19426720-01102004
-	Hilhorst, D., 2018. Classical humanitarianism and resilience humanitarianism:
	making sense of two brands of humanitarian action. Journal of International
	Humanitarian Action 3, 15. https://doi.org/10.1186/s41018-018-0043-6
	Humanan Actor 5, 15. <u>https://doi.org/10.1100/541010-010-0045-0</u>

Second section: Framing the Impact of Violence and Conflicts on Health	
	Seminar 4: Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Health [guest speaker: Prof. Danya Qato]
	Required readings
	- Qato, Danya. Introduction: Public Health and the Promise of Palestine. Journal of
	Palestine Studies 1 August 2020; 49 (4): 8–26. doi:
	https://doi.org/10.1525/jps.2020.49.4.8.
	- Abimbola S, Pai M: Will global health survive its decolonisation? Lancet. 2020
	Nov 21;396(10263):1627-1628. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32417-X. PMID:
28 st March	33220735. <u>https://www.cugh.org/wp-</u>
20	<u>content/uploads/sites/95/2021/07/Abimbola-Pai-Lancet-2020.pdf</u>
	- Hanbali L, Kwong EJL, Neilson A, et al. Israeli necropolitics and the pursuit of
	health justice in PalestineBMJ Global Health 2024;9:e014942.
	https://gh.bmj.com/content/bmjgh/9/2/e014942.full.pdf
	Suggested:
	- Abigail Echo-Hawk: Decolonizing Data: Restoring Culture and Rebuilding Beauty.
	University of Oklahoma. Jan 23, 2020. Her talk 5:40 - 1:17:10. Link here
	 Nick Estes, "The Empire of All Maladies," The Baffler no. 52, 6 July 2020,
	https://thebaffler.com/salvos/the-empire-of-all-maladies-estes.
4 th April	Seminar 5: Gender, health and conflict and violence

	Objectives
	- Define the feminist lens of war and conflict.
	- Explore how conflict and wars are gendered and Identify pathways of gendered
	violence.
	Required readings
	- SJOBERG, LAURA. "Gender Lenses Look at War(s)." In Gendering Global Conflict:
	Toward a Feminist Theory of War, 44–67. Columbia University Press, 2013.
	http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7312/sjob14860.6
	Optional readings
	- Jacqui True (2010) The Political Economy of Violence Against Women: A Feminist
	International Relations Perspective, Australian Feminist Law Journal, 32:1, 39-
	59, DOI:10.1080/13200968.2010.10854436
	- Khuloud Alsaba & Anuj Kapilashrami (2016) Understanding women's experience
	of violence and the political economy of gender in conflict: the case of Syria,
	Reproductive Health Matters, 24:47, 5-17, DOI: <u>10.1016/j.rhm.2016.05.002</u>
	- Mlaba, 2022. How Do Women and Girls Experience the Worst of War? Global
	Citizen:
	https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/women-and-girls-impacts-war-conflict/
	- Thapar-Bjorkert, Suruchi, et al. "Framing Gendered Identities: Local
	Conflicts/Global Violence." Women's Studies International Forum, vol. 29, no. 5,
	Sept. 2006, pp. 433–40. ScienceDirect,
	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2006.07.001.
	- Hadjipavlou, Maria, and Cynthia Cockburn. "Women in Projects of Co-Operation
	for Peace: Methodologies of External Intervention in Cyprus." Women's Studies
	International Forum, vol. 29, no. 5, Sept. 2006, pp. 521–33. ScienceDirect,
	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2006.07.009.
	- DeLargy, 2013. Chapter 3: Sexual Violence and Women's Health in War. In C.
	Cohn. Women and Wars. 2013; Polity Press: Cambridge. P54-79
11 th April	Seminar 6: Health Inequalities and Political and Social Determinants of Health

Object - - -	Introduce the concepts of health inequalities and social determinants of health. What are the political and social determinants of health. Explore pathways of how violence and conflict impact the different social determinants of health.
<u>Requir</u> -	ed readings Friel, et al, 2008. Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. World Health Organization Publication. Chapters 1,2, and 3.
	 khalid Fahoum & Izzeldin Abuelaish (2019) Occupation, settlement, and the social determinants of health for West Bank Palestinians, Medicine, Conflict and Survival, 35:3, 265-283, DOI: 10.1080/13623699.2019.1666520 Friel, et al, 2008. Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. WHO Publication. Part 4: Tackle the Inequitable Distribution of Power, Money, and Resources. Shiffman, Jeremy, and Yusra Ribhi Shawar. "Framing and the Formation of Global Health Priorities." The Lancet, vol. 399, no. 10339, May 2022, pp. 1977–90. DOI.org, https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)00584-0. Benatar, Solomon. "Politics, Power, Poverty and Global Health: Systems and Frames." International Journal of Health Policy and Management, vol. 5, no. 10, Aug. 2016, pp. 599–604. PubMed Central, https://doi.org/10.15171/ijhpm.2016.101. Pedersen, Duncan. "Political Violence, Ethnic Conflict, and Contemporary Wars: Broad Implications for Health and Social Well-Being." Social Science & Medicine, July 2002, https://doi.org/10.1016/S0277-9536(01)00261-1. Bornemisza, Olga, et al. "Promoting Health Equity in Conflict-Affected Fragile States." Social Science & Medicine, Jan. 2010, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.09.032. Cindy A Sousa, Susan P Kemp, Mona El-Zuhairi, Place as a Social Determinant of Health: Narratives of Trauma and Homeland among Palestinian Women, <i>The British Journal of Social Work</i>, Volume 49, Issue 4, June 2019, Pages 963–982, https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcz049 Rebekah J., Joni Strom and Leonard E. 2016. Influence of Race, Ethnicity and Contemporal for the page for the social for the page for the social for the page for the social for the page for the
	Social Determinants of Health on Diabetes Outcomes. The American Journal of the Medical Sciences. Vol 351, Issue 4. p366-373 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjms.2016.01.008

Third section: in-depth Case studies	
18 th April	Seminar 7: Emergency and Trauma Care systems in Conflict Settings. [guest speaker: Dr.
то Арпі	Humam Dawood]

	Objectives
	Objectives
	- TBD
	Required readings
	- TBD
	Optional readings
	- TBD
	Seminar 8: Addressing Chronic Conditions in the aftermath of conflicts [guest speaker: Dr. Alejandra Paniagua-Avila]
	<u>Objectives [to be revised]</u>
	- Explore how the syndemic approach could explain the intersection between
	violence and chronic diseases.
	- Understand the burden of chronic and non-communicable diseases in conflict
	and post-conflict settings and its difference from the burden of infectious
	diseases.
25 th April	- Identify key challenges facing addressing chronic diseases including political
	and economic factors shaping the health response.
	Required readings
	- TBD
	Optional readings
	- TBD
	Seminar 9: Infectious diseases and violence: The case of 2016 Ebola epidemic in western
	Africa.
	Objectives
	- Define and examine the impact of war and conflict on non-communicable
	diseases.
	 Explore the unfolding of the pandemic and the international response.
	 Explore the political and economic factors shaping the response to the 2016
	western Africa Ebola epidemic.
and	- Discuss the intersection between the pandemic and global and local politics.
2 nd May	
	Required readings
	- Sparrow, Annie. "Ebola in Africa: What We're Getting Wrong." The New York
	Review of Books, vol. 66, no. 16, 24 Oct. 2019. www.nybooks.com,
	https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2019/10/24/ebola-in-africa-getting-wrong/.
	- Wilkinson, A., and M. Leach. "Briefing: Ebola-Myths, Realities, and Structural
	Violence." African Affairs, vol. 114, no. 454, Jan. 2015, pp. 136–48.
	https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/adu080.
	Optional readings

	- Biehl, João. "Theorizing Global Health." Medicine Anthropology Theory, vol. 3, no.
	2, Sept. 2016. www.medanthrotheory.org, https://doi.org/10.17157/mat.3.2.434.
	- Kapiriri, Lydia, and Alison Ross. "The Politics of Disease Epidemics: A Comparative
	Analysis of the SARS, Zika, and Ebola Outbreaks." Global Social Welfare, vol. 7, no.
	1, Mar. 2020, pp. 33–45. <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/s40609-018-0123-y</u>
	- Goodchild Van Hilten, 2022. The Microbiologist. <u>https://www.the-</u>
	microbiologist.com/features/how-war-sets-the-stage-for-epidemics/317.article
	- Quinn V JM, Dhabalia TJ, Roslycky LL, et al. COVID-19 at War: The Joint Forces
	Operation in Ukraine . Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.
	2022;16(5):1753-1760. doi:10.1017/dmp.2021.88
	- United Nations, 2022. UN News. Northern Ethiopia facing devastating spike in
	preventable disease: WHO. https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129957
	- Hussein et al, 2024. Infectious diseases threat amidst the war in Gaza. Journal of
	Medicine, Surgery, and Public Health. Vol2. P100067.
	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.glmedi.2024.100067
	- Sauter, Melanie. "Politicized Health Emergencies and Violent Resistance against
	Healthcare Responders." Journal of Peace Research, May 2023,
	https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433231158144.
	Seminar 10: health and peacebuilding: health system reconstruction and primary
	healthcare in Kosovo
	Objectives
	- Discuss contemporary population health and health system challenges in
	Kosovo and analyzing the involvement of both international actors and local
	political elites.
	- Review the limits of liberal peacebuilding and top-down approaches to health
	systems reform in post-conflict settings.
	- Examine the theoretical framework of employing health interventions as a
	mechanism for peacebuilding.
	Required readings
9 th May	- Bloom, J.D., et al 2007. Ethnic segregation in Kosovo's post-war health care
,	system. European Journal of Public Health 17, 430–436.
	https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckl270
	- Franks, J., Richmond, O.P., 2008. Coopting Liberal Peacebuilding: Untying the
	Gordian Knot in Kosovo. Cooperation and Conflict 43, 81–103.
	https://doi.org/10.1177/0010836707086738
	Ontional readings
	<u>Optional readings</u> Health system in Kosovo
	- UNICEF, 2020. Kosovo 2019-2020 MICS Child Mortality Snapshot.
	- Percival, V., Sondorp, E., 2010. A case study of health sector reform in Kosovo.
	Conflict and Health 14. <u>https://doi.org/10.1186/1752-1505-4-7</u>
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	Peacebuilding and health

 J Galtung, 1976. Three Approaches to Peace: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking and Peacebuilding, in: In Peace, War and Defense: Essays in Peace Research II.
- Randazzo, E., 2017. Beyond liberal peacebuilding: a critical exploration of the
local turn, Routledge studies in intervention and statebuilding. Routledge -
Taylor & Francis Group, London; New York, NY.
- Arya, N., 2004. Peace through health I: development and use of a working
model. Med Confl Surviv 20, 242–257.
https://doi.org/10.1080/1362369042000248839
- Percival, V., 2017. A Bridge to Peace? A Framework for Health Engagement
During Conflict. International Studies Review 19, 70–91.
https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/vix003
- AlGhatrif, M., et al. 2022. Power dynamics and health initiative design as
determinants of peacebuilding: a case study of the Syrian conflict. BMJ Global
Health 7, e007745. <u>https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-007745</u>