

Conference on Globalizing Mental Health, Heidelberg

11-14th June, 2014

Organiser: Professor William Sax

On 11-14 June 2014, a conference on “Globalizing Mental Health” was held at the Internationales Wissenschafts Forum in Heidelberg.

The conference was organized under the auspices of AROGYAM (Advances in Research on Globally Accessible Medicine) an academic network linking researchers from Heidelberg, Edinburgh University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (Delhi) and the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies in Trivandrum, Kerala (South India). The network is funded for three years by the DFG, ANR (France), ESRC (U.K.), ICSSR (India) and NW (Netherlands). Global Mental Health is of particular interest at present, because awareness in India of mental health issues has dramatically increased in recent years, and ambitious plans are afoot to build capacity in this area. Controversies are raging over the type and quantity of services that should be offered, and due to its interdisciplinary and international makeup, AROGYAM is especially well placed to discuss and comment on these issues.

There were a total of 20 participants from Edinburgh, Heidelberg, Delhi, Trivandrum, Munich and Potsdam. On the first day, disciplinary perspectives were discussed by Dr. Wolfgang Krahl (Psychiatry), Dr. Sumeet Jain (Public health), and Dr. Claudia Lang (Anthropology). There were further discussions on what kinds of courses could be developed in the next days, presentations of results and division into working groups. On Day 2, the working groups developed courses as agreed on Day 1. There was also a presentation by Dr. Stefan Ecks, Dr. Ritu Priya, Professor Raman Kutty, and Dr. Wolfgang Krahl on “*The use and abuse of psycho-pharmaceuticals in Global Mental Health.*” On day 3, the complete curricula were developed. Along with this, there was another presentation by Dr. Claudia Lang, Professor William Sax, and Dr. Ekkehard Schroeder on “*Non-medical interventions for global mental.*” On the final day, the final curricula were presented along with concluding discussions on future activities.

The goal of the conference was to produce new teaching materials for global health, and accordingly it produced three curricula:

1. A summer school course entitled “Plural Methods and Approaches in Mental Health Research.”
2. An upper-level course for social scientists, psychologists, clinicians, policy makers, social workers and others entitled “Mental Health Theory and Practice - the local and the global”
3. A two-week short course directed toward public health students, entitled “International Mental Health: public health perspectives”.

In addition to their scientific work, participants at the conference also took advantage of the lovely Heidelberg weather to see the castle, take a boat tour on the Neckar, and visit the Prinzhorn Collection.

Programme for Conference on Globalizing Mental Health

Day 1: Wednesday, 11 June

- 0930-1000 Welcome
- 1000-1100 Mutual Introductions (pair off; each person introduces another; limit of 2 minutes each)
- 1100-1130 Coffee
- 1130-1300 **Disciplinary perspectives: Dr. Wolfgang Krahl (psychiatry), Dr. Sumeet Jain (Public Health), Dr. Claudia Lang (Anthropology)**
- 1300-1400 Lunch (IWH)
- 1400-1530 “Course Parameters,” i.e. group discussion of what kinds of courses to be developed in the next days
- 1530-1600 Coffee
- 1600-1700 “Course Parameters,” (continued), presentation of results, division into working groups
- 1900 Dinner: Kulturbrauerei

DAY 2: Thursday, 12 June

- 0930-1100 “Coursework”: working groups develop courses agreed on Day 1
- 1100-1130 Coffee
- 1130-1300 “Coursework” (continued)
- 1300-1400 Lunch (IWH)
- 1400-1530 **“The use and abuse of psycho-pharmaceuticals in Global Mental Health”
(Dr. Stefan Ecks, Dr. RituPriya, Professor Raman Kutty, Dr. Wolfgang Krahl)**
- 1530-1630 “Coursework” (continued, but with rotation between groups)
- 1700-1830 Neckar Cruise
- 1930 Dinner

DAY 3: Friday, 13 June

0930-1110 **“Non-medical interventions for global mental health”
(Dr. Claudia Lang, Dr. Bo Sax, Dr. Ekkehard Schroeder)**

1100-1130 Coffee

1130-1300 Complete Curricula

1300-1400 Lunch (IWH)

1400-1700 Walk to Prinzhorn Collection

1930 Dinner: Goldener Anker

DAY 4: Saturday: 14 June

0930-1100 **Presentation of Final Curricula**

1100-1130 Coffee

1130-1200 Concluding discussion; future activities

1200-1300 Lunch (IWH)