



Universität
Basel

Research Project

Dissertation Liggins: Leading a 'good life' in Uganda – Matters of well-being in times of chronic diseases

Project funded by own resources

Project title Dissertation Liggins: Leading a 'good life' in Uganda – Matters of well-being in times of chronic diseases

Principal Investigator(s) [Obrist van Eeuwijk, Brigit](#) ;

Project Members [Liggins, Arlena](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften / Medizinethnologie (Obrist)

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) / Medical Anthropology (Obrist)

Project start 01.08.2014

Probable end 31.07.2015

Status Completed

Taking the example of diabetes in Uganda as a point of departure, the main research question of this project is to illuminate chronic diseases in connection to the broader concept of well-being. It is the study of chronic diseases that introduces a field of examination of illness experience against the backdrop of illnesses that cannot be cured. Especially in non-western societies where acute diseases played a prominent role within medical anthropological studies, "chronicity" (Manderson and Smith-Morris 2010) opens a new field of examination bringing new questions to the fore of which lifestyles and perceptions of a 'good life' actually lead to chronic diseases and on how these illnesses are perceived, experienced and constructed. The research will be an attempt to remedy the contradiction from an individuals understanding of well-being, taking into account the dichotomy of the perception of what well-being is, what the outcomes of this understanding are and how a chronic condition might rupture an individuals trajectories confronting her or him with uncertainty. This G3S funded PhD project research explores questions such as: How is health conceptualized and which social conditions constitute health, respectively ill-health? How do individuals in a pre-state of diabetes understand well-being, and does this have implications on their behavior? But also the question of how patients diagnosed with diabetes will reflect on well-being as they are experiencing the negative outcomes of their 'unhealthy' lifestyle. Notions of health and well-being will not merely reflect the physiological state but are seen to reveal broader cultural and political realities.

Financed by

University funds

Other funds

Add publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners