



Swiss Tropical Institute  
Institut Tropical Suisse  
Schweizerisches Tropeninstitut



Institute of Social Anthropology  
Ethnologisches Seminar

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## Medical Anthropology Courses

### BA and MA

On the BA and MA level, medical anthropology at the University of Basel is taught at the Institute of Social Anthropology, Philosophic-Historical Faculty.

- BA in Social Anthropology (3 years)
- MA in Social Anthropology (2 years)
- Lizentiat (MA) in Social Anthropology (5 years, now replaced by BA and MA)

### PhD

On the PhD level, research projects with a focus in medical anthropology are either based at the Institute of Anthropology or form part of the Interfaculty PhD program Epidemiology of the Philosophic Natural Sciences Faculty at the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel.

- PhD in Social Anthropology (4 years)
- PhD in Epidemiology (4 years, Interfaculty Program)

### Admission Requirements

Courses in medical anthropology are open to all students who fulfill the requirements for the BA Social Anthropology (Studienordnung BA Ethnologie), MA Social Anthropology (Studienordnung MA Ethnologie, PhD in Social Anthropology (Promotionsordnung Ethnologie) or the Interfaculty Program of the PhD in Epidemiology (Wegleitung für Fakultätsübergreifende Promotionsfächer) as regulated in the guidelines of the Philosophic-Historical Faculty resp. Natural Science Faculty of the University of Basel.

### Courses Offered

Medical anthropology courses include lectures, seminars and tutorials. On the BA level, an “Introduction into the Scope, History, Theory and Substantive Areas of Medical Anthropology” is offered (2 hours per week). On the advanced BA and the MA level, seminars focus for instance on urbanization and health, applied medical anthropology and international health (2 hours per week). For advanced MA and especially PhD students, the seminar “Current Issues in Medical Anthropology and Cultural Epidemiology” (2 hours per week) provides a platform for discussing ongoing research projects.

### Course requirements

The course requirements follow the guidelines (Wegleitung) of the BA Social Anthropology and the MA Social Anthropology. The introductory lecture requires regular attendance and active participation in the colloquium that forms an integral part of the sessions (3 CP). Seminar participants have to prove familiarity with the assigned readings either by writing a critical outline and presenting it in class (4 CP) and/or by writing a semester paper of not more than 25 pages /9000 words (8 CP). Students are encouraged to choose a medical anthropology topic for the 80 pages/24,000 word MA thesis. The PhD in Social Anthropology

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and the PhD Epidemiology are primarily research based; PhD students have to carry out intensive long-term fieldwork in Switzerland or abroad and to pass an oral exam.

### **MA theses**

- *At the University of Basel*

Anderegg Fadel, Nathalie. - Melancholie und Manie in der Unani-Medizin. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2000.

Bauer Katrin. Connaissances et perception de facteurs de risques pour le paludisme, dans trois quartiers de Nouakchott, Mauretanie. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2005 (Geographie).

Bauer Katrin. Connaissances et perception de facteurs de risques pour le paludisme, dans trois quartiers de Nouakchott, Mauretanie. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2005 (Geographie).

Begrich, Roger. Land is health, oppression is disease: Social suffering and indigenous peoples. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 1999.

Bischofberger, Iren. Die familiäre Arbeit der Angehörigen HIV-infizierter Menschen. MA thesis, Universität Basel, 2003 (Pflegerwissenschaften).

Bossart, Rita. Ayahuasca : ein Halluzinogen aus dem Amazonasgebiet. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 1998.

Cohn Miriam. Heilen als performance. Betrachtet am Beispiel von zar-Besessenheit im Sudan und patros- und trumba-Besessenheit auf Mayotte. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2003.

Czendlik Daria. Malaria in pregnancy – risks, insecticide treated nets and intermittent preventive treatment – a study in Rufiji District, Tanzania. MA thesis, Universität Basel, 2006 (African Studies).

Enz Dia, Susanne. Geburt bei den Hausa in Nordnigeria aus medizinethnologischer Sicht. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 1992.

Furler Sandra. Unterschiedliche Interpretationen der AIDS-Epidemie in der ethnologischen Forschung am Beispiel Südafrikas. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2007.

Glaubrecht, Susanne. Mädchenbeschneidung im östlichen Afrika. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 1995.

Granado Stefanie. Der Umgang mit Krankheit der Akan im Bereich der Côte d'Ivoire. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2003.

Gross Karin AIDS und der Wandel sozialer Beziehungen im östlichen Afrika, Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2005.

Jungo Dominik. Wenn Hexen mit Parasiten spielen. Vorstellungen von Krankheitsursachen und ihre Erforschung am Beispiel der Malaria im Kilomberodistrikt (Tansania). Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2002.

Kälin Nicole. Geschlecht als analytische Kategorie in der Gesundheitsforschung : das Beispiel Haiti. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2000.

Meury Sibylle. Autoritatives Wissen und Geburt. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2006.

Roth Evelyne. Die Interpretation des menschlichen Körpers bei den Bakongo. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 1994.

Schwärzler Patricia. Körpervorstellungen und Konzepte des Gesund- und Krankseins bei den Moose. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 1996.

Stiehle Gertrude. Witwen in Bafu im Grasland von Kamerun heute. Überlebensstrateginnen in einer Zeit des kulturellen und sozioökonomischen Umbruchs. Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2006.

Trevisan Amina. Soziale Ausgrenzung aufgrund von Krankheiten in Westafrika, dargestellt an ausgewählten Fallbeispielen, Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Basel, 2006.

- *At other universities*

Mayumana Iddy. Livelihood and malaria in the Kilombero Valley, Tanzania, MA thesis, University of Dar es Salaam, 2007.

Besch, Florian. Medizinischer Pluralismus in Indien. Magisterarbeit, Universität Göttingen, 2000.

## PhD theses

- *at the University of Basel (ongoing)*

Gross Karin. Improving access of poor women: Institutions as social determinants of women's access to and use of malaria treatment and prevention services in the Kilombero Valley, Tanzania (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology)

Büchi Silvia. Gesund sein in der Migration. Gesundheitskonzepte und Gesundheitshandeln im Alltag migrierter Afrikanerinnen und Afrikaner in der Schweiz. (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology)

Dongus Stefan. Malaria risk resulting from urban agriculture: Persisting misconception or urgent need for mitigation? Combining physical and human geographic approaches in an operational setting in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology)

Schwärzler Patricia. Zwischen biomedizinischen Präventionsprogrammen und lokalem Handeln und Denken: Geschlechtsspezifischer Umgang mit HIV/AIDS im Umfeld der Moose in Ouagadougou/Burkina Faso. (Social Anthropology)

Steuer Noemi. Erfahrungen mit antiretroviralen Therapien in Mali. (Social Anthropology)

- *at the University of Basel (completed)*

- Bischofberger Iren. 2006. "When people get open about HIV, it's easier to save others". Herausforderungen und Lösungswege in der HIV-Primärprävention und Aids Versorgung bei Subsahara Migrationsgemeinschaften in der Schweiz. (Challenges and problem solving in HIV-prevention and Aids care among Sub-Saharan migrant communities in Switzerland). (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology)
- Bossart Rita. 2003. En ville, chacun est dans son chacun – une étude anthropologique sur l'importance des relations sociales en cas de maladie à Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). (Social Anthropology)
- Granado Stefanie. 2007. Local experience, meaning and practice of "palu" (malaria) in Abidjan. (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology)
- Mayombana Charles. 2005. Local understandings and practices related to IMCI interventions in Southern Tanzania. (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology)
- Minja Happiness. 2001. Introducing Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets in the Kilombero Valley (Tanzania). (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology)
- Merten Sonja. 2006. "Strategic traditions". Changing livelihoods, access to food and child malnutrition in the Zambian Kafue Flats. (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology)

- *at other universities (ongoing)*

- Adam Yvonne und Stülb Magdalena. Eine ethnologische Perspektive auf subjektive Gesundheitskonzepte von Migrantinnen in der reproduktiven Lebensphase. (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg i. Br.).

- *at other universities (completed)*

- Kablan N'Da Cléopâtre M.S Exclusion, vulnérabilité, pauvreté et SIDA. Le rôle des organisations de base dans l'amélioration du bien-être des femmes atteintes du VIH/SIDA en milieu urbain défavorisé. Université de Cocody, Ethno-Sociologie.
- Strahl Hilde. 2006. Kulturelle Konstruktion von 'BP (Blutdruck) im städtischen Kontext von Dar es Salaam, Tansania (The cultural construction of BP (blood pressure) in the urban context of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania). (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg i. Br. Social Anthropology)
- Dilger, Hansjörg. 2005. The Power of AIDS. Verwandtschaft, Zugehörigkeit und moralische Praxis im Spannungsfeld von Land-Stadt-Migration in Tansania. (Freie Universität Berlin, Social Anthropology)

## Special doctoral programs

### *Peer Mentoring Group „Between Medicine and Culture“ (1.1.2005-31.12.2007)*

PhD students in Social Anthropology and the Interfaculty Program Epidemiology at the universities of Basel and Freiburg i. Br. successfully competed for a Peer Mentoring Project grant sponsored by the Federal Program for Equal Opportunities of Women and Men at Universities (Bundesprogramm zur Chancengleichheit von Frauen und Männern an Universitäten). The Peer Mentoring Project aims at fostering women's academic careers. It is run jointly by the universities of Zürich, Basel and St. Gallen.

The main goal of the Peer Mentoring Group “Between Medicine and Culture” is to strengthen scientific skills and professional competences in the field of medical anthropology through networking with national and international experts and problem-oriented coaching.

The group organizes monthly meetings to discuss the progress of individual PhD projects, publications and research activities. It also conducts workshops, e.g. on qualitative research methods (Prof. Véronique Mottier, Dr. Léa Sgier, Prof. L. Manderson), careers of successful women academics (Prof. Immenschuh, Prof. Helfferich, PD Dr. E. Zemp, Dr. J. Keiser) and individual career development (Dr. L. Hurni, D. Veenhuys). It further plans thematic workshops and panels in national and international conferences, a summer workshop and the preparation of joint publications.

**Scientific Advisory Committee:** PD Brigit Obrist, University of Basel; Prof. Dr. Judith Schlehe, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg i. Br. (until June 2006); Prof. Lenore Manderson, Monash University, Melbourne (since 1 July 2006), Prof. Dr. C. Helfferich, University of Applied Sciences, Freiburg i. Br. (since July 2006).

**PhD students:** Iren Bischofberger, Silvia Büchi, Stefanie Granado, Karin Gross, Sonja Merten, Claudia Sauerborn (Interfaculty Program Epidemiology), Patricia Schwärzler, Noemi Steuer (Social Anthropology), Marlene Stuelb, Yvonne Adam (Social Anthropology, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Universität Freiburg i. Br.), Sibylle Obrecht (Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, University of Basel).

### *Urban Health in Developing Countries. An Inter-faculty PhD Program (1999-2002)*

Since the 1990s, the Swiss Tropical Institute and the Institute of Social Anthropology at the University of Basel have intensified their collaboration in research, teaching and applied projects, especially within the framework of the Dar es Salaam Urban Health Project sponsored by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (1990-2001).

Based on these and other experiences, the two disciplines epidemiology (Faculty of Natural Sciences) and anthropology (Faculty of Humanities) at the University of Basel (Switzerland) set up a joint, inter-faculty doctoral program in 1999. The University of Basel and the Swiss National Science Foundation provide the funds. This doctoral program, based in Basel, builds on existing relationships with research partners in African and Asian cities. Its main objective is to provide support to junior researchers at a PhD and post-doctorate level in the disciplines of epidemiology and anthropology. It is open to students of the North and the South who are registered at, or officially affiliated with, the University of Basel.

During the first year, the program offered mentoring in small groups. Each participant was coached to develop a basic understanding of approaches in the other discipline, to identify an individual research project, to conduct a literature review, to write a research proposal and to obtain grants for field research. The second year was devoted to field research in an African or Asian city. In the third year, the participants received mentoring in data management, data analysis and scientific writing. The final goal of each participant is to produce a PhD dissertation and/or publications in peer reviewed journals. Each year, courses in modular form were organized to bring in the additional expertise of international teaching staff. These modules focus on *Research Priorities and Approaches*, *Data Management, Analysis and Writing up*, and *Research Results and Future Perspectives*. The international teaching staff included sociologists, geographers, psychiatrists, historians and specialists in urban health and development from other Swiss universities, as well as from universities in the United Kingdom, Ghana, France, and India.

<http://www.mrc.ac.za/urbanbulletin/sep&dec2002.pdf>

Foto gallery



Brigit Obrist (l.) and Hildegard Strahl (r.)  
celebrating Hilde's PhD defence