An international collaborative working on religion within health and community systems
Seeking to strengthen evidence on the functioning of religiously-inspired health institutions and communities within their contextualized health systems, especially in development settings

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IRHAP-NEWS OCTOBER 2016

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GENERAL NEWS

There will be IRHAP-linked work presented at the Health Systems Global Symposium in Vancouver in November 2016. In particular an organised session panel: ‘Resilient health systems buffers? The everyday role of non-state (faith-based) African health providers’ on 17 Nov, 11:00-12:30, Room 19. Join us if you are there or follow via the website feeds: http://healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2016/

The IRHAP website continues to get an overhaul based on the requests and responses from the network. Our next project is to start putting the IRHAP database (now with over 4000 items on religion and public health) up on the website, after which we will start loading country profiles (briefings showing faith-based health provision by country).

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MEETING NEWS

ALREADY HAPPENED, LOOK AT THE REPORT:

In July 2015 there was a meeting in Washington DC called ‘Religion and Sustainable Development: Building Partnerships to End Extreme Poverty’. Look for the report at the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities website - http://jliflc.com/

In February 2016, there was a conference titled ‘Partners for Change’ in Berlin – at which the new International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) was launched. PaRD brings together bilateral donor countries, multilateral development agencies and civil society organisations such as religious organisations to harness the positive impact of religion in sustainable development and humanitarian assistance. Conference materials can be found at http://www.partner-religion-development.org/

WATCH THIS SPACE:

The 8th Biennial African Christian Health Associations Conference will be held from the 27th February to the 4th March 2017 in Maseru, Lesotho. The title of this Biennial is ‘Building Partnership for FBO Health Systems Strengthening towards Achieving the SDGs’. This will be a particularly eventful meeting as many CHAs in Africa are celebrating their 50 year anniversaries – see http://africachap.org

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RESEARCH NEWS

UNAIDS and PEPFAR have launched a two-year initiative to work with FBOs and strengthen their capacity to respond to HIV. IRHAP-partners are engaged in several of the implementation and research components of this work – for example Emory (IHP) are leading the academic consortium, and ACHAP is engaged in one of the health systems strengthening strategies. See http://www.pepfar.gov/press/247404.htm or http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2015/october/20150930_PEPFAR_FBO

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, out of the World Health Organisation, have funded three health systems research projects looking at faith-based providers and their contribution to Universal Health Coverage, in Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania. This research is running from 2015 to 2018, so we are now at the halfway mark. See www.irhap.uct.ac.za

The publishers of Development in Practice have agreed to a special double edition in July 2017 focused on Religion and Health in Development Contexts. Jill Olivier will be guest editing – watch this space for more information.

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PROFILED IRHAP-LINKED PUBLICATIONS

New Book - Stakeholder Health: Insights from New Systems of Health (Edited by Teresa Cutts and James Cochrane). The book was developed in 2016 with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is a review of best practices in the areas of community health improvement, as well as clinical and community partnerships, spanning eleven chapters. The chapters range from a review of the social determinants or drivers of health to leadership for new partnerships between health systems and communities, relational information technology, community health navigation, financial aspects of partnering with community in a new 'social return on investment' model, leadership, implementing resiliency models integrated across hospitals and the broader community. Some chapters can be downloaded free at https://stakeholderhealth.org/free-sh-book-chapters/


New Book - Keeping Body and Soul Together (edited by Bev Haddad): Bev Haddad completed her collation of Steve de Gruchy’s work in the field of Theology and Development. Keeping Body and Soul Together: Reflections by Steve de Gruchy on Theology and Development includes his most strategic work in the field and comprises of academic essays, conference presentations, and workshop presentations to church leadership. The volume is divided into five sections: ‘Pursuing the Dialogue’ introduces some key theological concerns; ‘Engaging Development Visions, Conceptualising Frameworks’ demonstrates an engagement with key development visions and the emergent frameworks; ‘Theologising Economics, Ecology, and Food Sovereignty’ addresses these development issues theologically; ‘Theologising Health’ takes up one of the key themes of his later work; and ‘Steve’s Final Word’ includes two essays dealing with issues of water which were some of his final published work. http://srpc.ukzn.ac.za/news/15-03-12/Keeping_Body_and_Soul_Together

New Book - Dignity, freedom and grace (Paterson, Gillian, and Callie Long, eds. 2016. Dignity, freedom and grace: Christian perspectives on HIV, AIDS, and human rights. Geneva: World Council of Churches Publications). Forty years after the advent of HIV and AIDS, many people around the world living with HIV still endure assaults on their dignity and basic human rights—from stigma and discrimination to denial of legal protection and even medical care. Bringing together people living with, working with, researching, or personally affected by HIV or AIDS, this volume developed by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) and its global partners draws directly from on-the-ground experiences elicited from frontline actors in the churches and agencies. Their insights and reflections are always lively, sometimes uncomfortable, and often deeply moving. Dignity, Freedom, and Grace broaches the truly tough questions faced by those with HIV and those who work directly or programmatically with them. It offers strong, substantive discussions of the meaning of human rights, its relation to the more religious language of church traditions, the contextual wisdom of key populations most at risk for HIV, and the best practices and theological reflection of Christian churches. https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/publications/dignity-freedom-and-grace

WHAT WE ARE READING

(A selection of things that have recently caught our eye – see the IRHAP website for more)


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