

Summer Semester 2024

IHS 14 Study Project

Global Mental Health: Perspectives and Methods in Global Mental Health Research

Lecturer: Dr. Innocent Mwaka

Perspectives in understanding and treating mental illnesses have, in the last decades, gone beyond the bio-medical to embrace social and cultural approaches. This stems from the understanding that mental health conditions are both diverse and complex and their diagnosis, treatment and prognosis should be embedded in understanding experiences surrounding illness and the cultural context of mental illness.

The study allows students to understand both the bio-medical and social-cultural perspectives of mental illness as well as methods of researching global mental health.

The course is practice-based and requires students to apply methods in global mental health to demonstrate complexities of mental health issues and treatment. Participants in the course will develop research plans and do research projects which fall under one of the three thematic research areas below:

1. Social and structural origins of mental illness in a global context
2. Treatment approaches and access to care in low-and-high resource settings
3. Task sharing and alternative care models.

Course participants will receive guidance in developing their research plans and completing the research projects which they will present at the end of the semester to earn a grade. The final presentation should demonstrate the participants' comprehension of the complexities of understanding and treating mental health.

Scientific methods to be applied.

1. Literature review
2. Case study analysis or interviews (a combination of both would be prioritized)