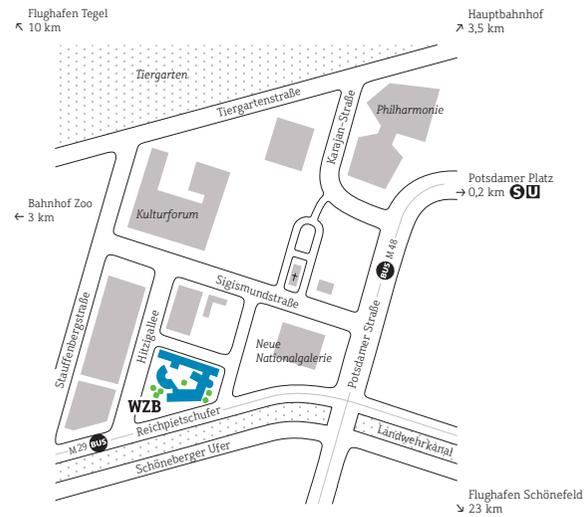


Organized by:
Irmgard Coninx Stiftung and
Humboldt University of Berlin

Venue:
WZB
Room A 300

Registration:
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WZB

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
für Sozialforschung



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Health Politics in an Interconnected World

December 1 and 3, 2010

For the 13th Berlin Roundtables on Transnationality, the WZB, Humboldt-University Berlin, and the Irmgard Coninx Foundation cordially invite you to a series of lectures on:

Health Politics in an Interconnected World

Health and access to health care is one of the major challenges of the 21st century. In the last decades in many parts of the world, overall health has improved. However, health levels have now stagnated and are even declining due to new forms of poverty, environmental problems, and political instability. This does not only affect populations in the Global South, but also marginalized groups in the industrialized world. The 13th Berlin Roundtables on Transnationality want to investigate fault lines, critical developments, and new chances for today's global health system. The evening lectures will focus on the role of the pharmaceutical industries and new options for democratic access to necessary medication for the world's poor.

Lectures will be followed by discussion and a reception.

All lectures are held in English.

Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 6 p.m.

Helen Epstein Global Health after the Cold War

The industrialized world spent some \$21 billion on global health programs in 2007, twice as much as in 2000, and four times as much as in 1990. This is good news for the billions of people whose lives are threatened by AIDS, malaria and other scourges of the developing world. However, it's worth asking whether pharmaceutical, medical supply and other industries aren't beginning to exert undue influence over how some of this money is spent. Helen Epstein, author and consultant, will describe conflicts of interest in international health and speculate about whether the recent spate of such cases may be at least partly traceable to shifting international development priorities since the end of the Cold War.

Helen Epstein is an independent consultant and writer specializing in public health in developing countries. Her articles have appeared in the New York Review of Books, Granta Magazine and other publications. Her research interests include the right to health care in developing countries and the relationship between poverty and health in industrialized countries. In 1993 Epstein moved to Uganda in search of an AIDS vaccine. In her acclaimed book *The Invisible Cure: Africa, the West, and the Fight Against AIDS* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007) she discusses 15 years of observing both the epidemic and the reactions to it of Western scientists, humanitarian agencies, and the communities most affected by AIDS deaths.

Friday, December 3, 2010, 6 p.m.

Thomas Pogge The Health Impact Fund – A Solution towards Global Health?

Thomas Pogge will delineate the proposal of the Health Impact Fund (HIF) as a new international agency for stimulating research and development of life-saving pharmaceuticals that make substantial reductions in the global burden of disease. The HIF aims at providing pharmaceutical companies with the option of either selling a new medicine in the usual manner at patent-protected high prices or to register their new medicine with the HIF and sell it globally at the cost of production.

Thomas Pogge is the Director of the Global Justice Program and Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs at Yale University. Among his most recent publications are *Politics as Usual: What Lies behind the Pro-Poor Rhetoric* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2010) and *The Health Impact Fund: Making New Medicines Accessible for All* (authored with Aidan Hollis; <http://www.healthimpactfund.org>, 2008).

Frank Gotthardt Fighting Schistosomiasis – The Praziquantel Donation Project

Schistosomiasis, which is triggered by worms and primarily affects children, is the second-most common tropical disease in Africa. It causes anaemia, stunted growth and leads to learning disabilities. 90 percent of those affected live in sub-Saharan Africa. Every year, around 200,000 people die of the disease. In 2007, Merck entered into a partnership with the WHO to combat the disease primarily in African school-age children. Until 2017, Merck will donate 200 million tablets containing the active ingredient praziquantel that will permit the treatment of 27 million children.

Frank Gotthardt is the head of Public Affairs of the global pharmaceutical company Merck. He is in charge of the Corporate Responsibility Activities, including the Merck-Praziquantel Donation Program. Before joining Merck in 2009, Gotthardt was a Member of Parliament in Hessen, where he also served as State Secretary in the Ministry for Environment (2001-2003).
