

TB/HIV: distinct histories, entangled futures. Towards an epistemology of co-infection.

Symposium

27th and 28th of February, Fondation Brocher, Geneva

Organized by:

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Institute and Museum of the History of Medicine, University of Zurich

Abstract

The treatment and control of coinfections is a key element in the field of global health. As multimorbidity becomes a growing focus in the care of long-time chronic disease in the North, coinfections receive increased attention mainly in the South, as new treatments become available and pathogens emerge. Not only does this pose a novel challenge to pharmaceutical development and public health intervention, but it also brings up pressing questions concerning medical care, health policy making and social and individual experiences with infectious and chronic disease. In sum, coinfections and multimorbidity will pose a challenge not only for practical treatment and care, but also for reflecting on the social and cultural conditions of diseases, their containment and the lives and care trajectories of patients. The Symposia has as its aim to raise a set of questions of how to appropriately address coinfections as biosocial phenomena from the perspective of the social sciences and humanities. As a matter of fact, research on coinfections - and on a more general level multimorbidity - remains a desiderate for social sciences and humanities, despite the fact that their methodology with its focus on patients, care trajectories and health systems could make a very valuable contribution to understanding and tackling this ever more pressing problem. To this end, we will bring together historians, anthropologists and sociologists that have been researching on either disease - tuberculosis or HIV/AIDS - with public health professionals that have addressed both diseases in their everyday praxis for the last ten years, that is ever since the TB/HIV strategy has been developed in the beginning of the new millennium. The Symposia thus will not only formulate new research questions and start to develop a methodology to understand coinfections and their control as entangled objects, but also take on the task of creating synergies in bringing together researchers from different disciplines, disease communities and working approaches. The event shall thus be a starting point for a long needed methodological and epistemological debate on how to write histories and ethnographies of coinfections and/or multimorbidity, in close dialogue with public health professionals to address practical problems in the field.

Program

February 27th 2014

9:00-10:00: Welcoming and Introduction

Lukas Engelmann / Janina Kehr – Beyond single diseases

Session 1: Between Separation and Integration

10:00-11:30:

Gerald Oppenheimer - AIDS as a Disease of Co-Infection: Its Meaning and Implications for
Epidemiology and TB Public Health Policy

Flurin Condrau – The End of Disease Biographies? Writing the History of Infectious Diseases under
the Challenge of Coinfection

11:30 - 11:45: Coffee break

11:45 - 13:00

Haileyesus Getahun (WHO) – 'Evolution of global public health response on the HIV-associated TB:
the bottlenecks and the enablers

Peter Godfrey-Faussett (UNADIS) - tba

13:00 - 14:30: Lunch Break

14:30 - 17:00

Hella von Unger / Dennis Odukoya - The different iconographies of HIV and TB

Amrita Daftary - The contrasting cultures of TB/HIV health care

Laurent Vidal - Struggle against AIDS and tuberculosis: Ideal and ideology of integration

17:00 - 17:30 Break

17:30 - 19:00

Salmaan Keshavee - Keynote (tba)

February 28th 2014 (Friday)

8:30 - 10:30

Session 2: Beyond Singularities

Fanny Chabrol - HIV and hepatitis C coinfection in Cameroon

Julie Livingston - Scaling the trifecta of HIV, TB, and Cancer in Botswana

Stefan Ecks / Ian Harper - Multimorbidity in a time of magic bullets. HIV, TB, and mental health in India and Nepal

10:30-10:45: Coffee break

10:45-12:45

Session 3: Towards Entanglements

Cindy Patton - Imperative or Cohortative? "Stop" in the Context of Complexity

Todd Meyers - The Poisonous Ingenuity of Time: Coincidence, Treatment-Seeking, and Return in a Study of Chronic Illness

Marsha Rosengarten - Multi-morbidity and its potentiality for novel collaboration'

12:45 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30

Roundtable with all participants: Towards an epistemology of coinfection

15.30-16:00:

Final remarks