

Research Briefing

Narrating blood - the impact of hidden blood-related conditions

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CONTEXT

Exploring the impact of hidden blood-related conditions on social, economic and health welfare in the UK, Bangladesh, India and Ghana

Narrating Blood is an international network at the University of Sussex. Based in the Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health ([CORTH](#)), it is a joint collaboration with the Sussex Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth ([CIRCY](#))

anaemia and blood related health and psychosocial conditions require a transdisciplinary approach (bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives in new ways).

Accordingly, the objectives of the network are as follows:

- Pool expertise around the less-visible, non-communicable blood-related disorders especially anaemia and menstrual health focusing on young women, men, adolescent girls and boys
- Develop effective health communication methodologies for an engagement with behavioural change of close-to-community providers (i.e., midwives and informal health workers) that draw on anthropology, psychology, philosophy, education, social policy and social care perspectives
- Share knowledge and advise on culturally sensitive

Key themes

Narrating Blood examines the ways in which blood is narrated within policy discourse, as well as perceived in terms of weakness or stigma in everyday family, school and livelihood contexts for poor, rural, urban and migrating populations. Our network will explore the following topic areas:

- Blood related stigma
- Blood borne infections (HIV and Aids, Malaria, Zika, Ebola)
- Anaemia (nutritional; thalassaemia; sickle cell anaemia; malarial anaemia)
- Menstrual disorders
- Blood diagnostics and related technologies
- Blood transfusions
- Blood donations
- Blood, kinship, inheritance
- Blood and identity politics

CORTH and CIRCY research centres hosted the first meeting of the Narrating Blood International Network from 25-29 June 2018 at the University of Sussex. Global and UK partners gathered for a week to share knowledge on research topics and methods, brainstorming across their disciplines and engaging with cross-cultural issues. Blood was approached contextually from metaphorical, discursive, material and biomedical standpoints. At the end of the week, concrete plans emerged on how to expand the network sustainably through the next phase of the grant period, until 2020. In the coming year, members will also meet internationally in the 'BIG' countries (Bangladesh, India and Ghana) at host institutions to develop outputs. Input to the discussion and overall organisation was made by CORTH members Miranda Marks, Dr Ben Kasstan and Dr Bronwyn Gillespie. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

For further information about Narrating Blood please visit:
http://www.sussex.ac.uk/corth/research/narrating_blood

FUNDING
