

Human Rights and Health Systems - a Discussion

Session time and venue **Tuesday, 16:00-17:30 (Jura)**

Session organizer Sofia Gruskin, Associate Professor / Director of the Program on International Health and Human Rights, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health, United States

Overview Current debates on health systems' strengthening and health systems' frameworks, including WHO's Framework for Action and the Flagship Framework, have so far paid limited explicit attention to the inclusion of human rights concepts or methods.

This fishbowl discussion is intended to bring together researchers working on human rights approaches to health systems with academics and policymakers currently developing and implementing key frameworks of health systems and health systems strengthening.

The aim of this session is to begin a dialogue between those engaged in existing thinking and analysis of the role for human rights based approaches to health systems and academics and implementers of health systems and health systems strengthening. This session is ultimately intended to foster dialogue and linkages between the disciplines to enable learning and collaboration.

The convenor and selected discussants will define their terms and then present research critically evaluating the extent to which human rights concepts and methods are incorporated into current debates and frameworks for health systems' strengthening. Select health systems experts will each be asked for initial responses, before a wider discussion drawing in the audience to generate discussion about the potential role of human rights in health systems research and activities going forward.

Presenters As a discussion session drawing on the 'fishbowl' format the conveners of the meeting have requested participants not to prepare formulated statements or presentations, but rather to contribute briefly based on their overall professional experience in the field of health systems and/or human rights. Each presenter has been selected based on the perspective and knowledge they will be able to bring to the discussion. The following therefore just gives a brief overview of each participants background to highlight the perspectives they will be able to contribute.

Gunilla Backman / Lucy Gilson / Peter Berman / Michael Reich / Johanna Hanefeld