Global health security (GHS) has recently become a popular concept in global health. In 2014, the global health security agenda (GHSA), a collaboration between 64 governments, international organizations and non-governmental stakeholders, was launched as a concept to address infectious disease outbreaks. The global health security agenda was aimed at enabling countries to “prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats, whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or accidental – [by creating] capacity that once established would mitigate the devastating effects of Ebola, MERS, other highly pathogenic infectious diseases, and bioterrorism events.” This global network was conceived to then lead to a reduction in the spread of infectious diseases, therefore minimizing the economic impact of outbreaks.

The success section of the GHSA’s webpage shows how the agenda led to outbreaks being reported earlier, and being dealt with at a local level. However, this doesn’t help large parts of the population in the partnering countries (or others) living in poverty and without health insurance when suffering from non-infectious diseases, accidents or consequences of natural disasters. The fear-based focus on the prevention of and protection from infectious diseases is not representative of the global burden of disease and in many cases prevents a debate about social, economic, and political determinants of health. Moreover, the concept is often used to justify immigration policies and practices that further restrict population movement across international borders by framing the migration of people as a risk. Rather than enhancing the local health system capacities, public policies in the name of GHS tend to focus on the protection of national borders in the global north against perceived health threats from countries in the global south. The concept is thereby embedded in neo-colonial narratives that reproduce dichotomous and xenophobic discourses about “the other”.

In light of the increasing importance of the GHSA, the changing architecture of global health governance in Europe due to Brexit, and the launch of Germany’s Global Health Hub, we want to open up the discussion on health security in our prevailing economic system. What are the links between health and security? How do the two interact? Why is the concept linked to neoliberalism? What does global health security mean to us? Are vaccines and outbreaks the most pressing issues that should be addressed? What other less visible health threats should be brought to the forefront?

The day’s format

We will start the day with a key note speech by Simon Rushton, senior lecturer at University of Sheffield, on “Security for whom and Security from what?”. The conference participants will then engage with the topic in detail in two workshop rounds, covering issues like climate justice, migration, nuclear weapons, big data, experiences from the Ebola crisis, and many more.

Finally, participants will be able to engage in a dialogue with representatives from academia, public health institutions, government and NGOs in a panel discussion. We will bring the insights and discussion of the day into the panel, give participants an opportunity to explore different ways forward, and motivate them to challenge the existing status quo.

Registration fee:

Students/Unemployed/Low Income: 15 Euro
Professionals: 30 Euro

Contact: globalhealth@ippnw.de

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www.health-and-globalisation.org
Global Health Security in Times of Neoliberalism
International Conference
Saturday, July 20th 2019, 9 am – 6 pm
Evangelische Schule Berlin-Zentrum, Wallstraße 32, 10179 Berlin

9.00–9.30 am MEET & GREET

9.30–9.50 am OPENING SPEECH
by SeaWatch activists Antonia Dagorova, Lea Drobbe, Peter Grabitz

9.50–10.30 am KEYNOTE
by Simon Rushton (University of Sheffield)

10.30–11.00 am COFFEE BREAK

WORKSHOP ROUND I

11.00–12.30 am

- UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE & GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY
  Andreas Wulf
  medico international

- NEOLIBERALISM & CLIMATE JUSTICE
  Stephanie Sebastiampillai
  AG Gesundes Klima - KritMeds

- NUCLEAR WEAPONS & GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY
  Aino Weyers/Franca Brüggen
  ICAN Germany

- HEALTH IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
  Maike Voss
  Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

- GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY & MIGRATION
  Alena Kamenshchikova
  Maastricht University

- THE ANTHROPOCENE: GLOBAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD
  Norbert Schwarz
  Bernard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin

- BIG DATA & GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY
  Tim Eckmanns
  Robert Koch-Institut

- SEARCH AND RESCUE: DIY
  Antonia Dagorova, Lea Drobbe, Peter Grabitz
  SeaWatch

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12:30 – 2.00 pm LUNCH BREAK

2.00 – 3.30 pm WORKSHOP II
Repetition of Workshop Round I

3.30 – 4.00 pm COFFEE BREAK

4.00 – 5.30 pm PANEL DISCUSSION
Our Health, our Security – Ways to move beyond a narrow understanding of Global Health Security
with Simon Rushton, Franziska Hommes (dpgg), Andrew Ullmann (MdB)
Moderation: Katja Goebbels (IPPNW)

5.30 pm FINAL REFLECTIONS & CLOSING OF THE DAY

6.00 pm LIVE MUSIC

Registration Fee
Students / Unemployed / Low income: 15 Euro
Professionals: 30 Euro

Child Care can be provided, please contact us in advance.

Please register until July 14th under:
www.health-and-globalisation.org/global-health-conference