Global Health Politics: Access to Medicines
Thursday, bi-weekly 4-hours course, 12:00–16:00 h
Course Dates: 16.4., 30.4., 28.5., 11.6., 3.7., 9.7.

1) Aims
In most countries of the Global North access to medicines is taken for granted. More or less functioning health systems usually guarantee that sick people will get the medication they need. But in large parts of the Global South access to medicines is still an unsolved problem with grave social consequences. The causes for this problem are manifold and include poverty, limited governance capabilities, lack of infrastructure, and global trade rules that create additional obstacles to the availability of affordable medication. The course will examine this problem of access to medicines in countries of the Global South. It will introduce the international organizations and institutions responsible for health governance on a global scale, as well as the most important economic and civil society actors. A special focus lies on the contentious mobilization about access to essential medicines to fight the AIDS epidemic in sub-saharan Africa and southeast Asia. In this context the course will look especially at the role intellectual property rights play in this conflict.

2) Course Requirements
The course will be taught as a bi-weekly four-hour course. Students are expected to read the required literature, as it builds the basis for collective discussion in the course. All participants have to give at least one presentation which require additional reading independent thematic research.

To receive the credits students are required to
• read the texts
• regularly participate in the course
• give at least one presentation
• prepare a poster presentation
• write a term paper until 15 September 2015.

3) Course Schedule
1 16.4.15 Introduction
12:15–13:45 Intro to the course, expectations, presentations
2 30.4.15 Global Health Politics
   Concepts
   • Lee, Kelley (2009): Understandings of Global Health Governance: The Con-
tested Landscape, in: Adrian Kay and Owain David Williams (eds.), Global health governance: crisis, institutions, and political economy, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 27–41.


Institutions


3 UNHCR-Forum

• www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/SForum/Pages/StatementSForum2015.aspx

• Positions and claims of stakeholders

4 28.5.15 Intellectual Property Rights


5 11.6.15 Access to Medicines


6 3.7.15 Regional Case Studies (Friday, 10–14 h!)


7 9.7.15 Prospects and Alternatives