Power Dynamics in International Research Partnerships: An Ethnographic Study

What can we learn from researching the researchers?

Anthropologist Johanna Crane spent over a year studying a US-Uganda HIV research partnership as an ethnographer. In this talk, she’ll describe how international power dynamics can be embedded in mundane, taken-for-granted aspects of research like data management, grants administration, and indirect cost reimbursement. Using ethnographic examples from her study, she’ll highlight the ways in which host institutions in the global South experience international research partnerships as both beneficial and burdensome, and will suggest how institutional policies might better support equity in partnerships.

Following Dr. Crane’s talk, there will be a panel discussion featuring Eric Nelson, Stephen Perz, Ana Maria Porras, and Kendi Muthomi. Moderator: Sarah McKune.

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Helicopter research (also referred to as ‘parachute science’) is when researchers from higher-income or more privileged settings carry out research in resource-poor settings with limited to no involvement of local communities or researchers.