

Panel proposition: EuroSEAS 2021

REINVENTING THE RASH? MEASLES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Dr. Laurence MONNAIS, Historian, Centre d'études asiatiques (CETASE)

Université de Montréal

Dr. Pascale HANCART PETITET, Anthropologist, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) TransVIHMI (IRD, INSERM, Université de Montpellier).

Email : pascale.hancart-petit@ird.fr

After more than half a century of measles vaccination, there is regular news of still numerous outbreaks across the globe. The disease kills around 100 000 individuals a year worldwide. Still, time and again, this highly prevalent and extremely contagious viral diseases 'comes back.'. Measles vaccination and its disruptions present as indicators of both expansion and contraction in the ambitions of state welfare, international development, and global humanitarianism and securitization. Yet, this history of measles in the vaccine era remains puzzlingly unexplored. The panel seeks to explore some of the following issues: What are the historical (political, economic, sociocultural) determinants and consequences of measles vaccinations policies and practices? How health disparities are addressed and perhaps exacerbated by biomedical knowledge, technology, and policies over time. Who or what – from faulty fridges to misguided mothers, poorly trained nurses and risky refugees – has been blamed for breaking vaccination chains? Conversely, what key connections are credited with interruptions of transmission? The panel will offer an opportunity to analyze from various perspectives and scientific discipline the appropriation of policies and concepts imposed from above and of contact and interaction between multiple, local and global levels of actors and decision-makers. Also, a special attention will be given to the recent observations in the field on how the emergence of COVID 19 epidemic shapes, or undermines Measles programs and redefines new public health priorities. Thus, we wish to open the debates about the transferability of policies and goals, notably of eradication, between diseases as well as communities and offers a nuanced way of thinking about health as a value that is produced through an appropriation by different interests.

Single session