

Negotiating the boundaries of ‘legitimate healthcare’: regulation, normativities and the social ordering of alternative and traditional healing

Kent Law School, University of Kent, Canterbury

Organisers

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In this workshop, we seek to interrogate the complex ways in which therapies that rest on assumptions other than those of biomedicine fit in healthcare practices, and public health systems. Even as biomedicine has come to establish its dominance as system of knowledge and practice in healthcare, patients around the world continue to rely on a multiplicity of therapies and techniques to address their everyday healthcare needs, illnesses and ailments. The cultural, epistemological and therapeutic make-up of these practices vary greatly, as does the socio-political positioning that they occupy in broader state understandings of care: for example, patients may rely on traditional therapies long-established in local practices, on healing practices borrowed from other cultural systems (and often transformed and adjusted to their new context), on newly emerged alternative therapies, or on hybrid systems of care that seek to provide newly imagined versions of long-standing practices. The relationship of each of these systems of care with biomedicine and the state will vary from a position of complementarity to one of opposition and/or exclusion, causing varied degrees of friction, or indeed of intended as well as unexpected collaborations.

Over the past few decades, the question of how to frame, organise and accommodate alternative and traditional practices in healthcare systems has become more salient. States around the world, and international institutions, have sought to reimagine how such systems of care could be regulated to facilitate the benefits that they may offer to patients, while limiting the potential risks that alternative and traditional healers (and their products) could pose. While at one level such effort is often presented as a matter of filtering between ‘genuine’ and ‘fake’, or ‘legitimate’ and ‘illegitimate’ therapies, these strategies are also loaded with socio-political implications, and rooted in deep historical and cultural contexts. They are complicated further by the epistemological challenge that systems of care that differ from the logics of biomedicine can pose for states and regulatory systems that have often come to rely on science to arbitrate matters of legitimate in healthcare. Finally, they remain entangled in the complex institutional history of biomedicine, and its (post)colonial implications.

The workshop aims to bring together scholars engaged in critical reflections on the stakes, mechanisms and meanings that animate such processes of social ordering of ‘other’ therapies. Some of the questions we seek to address are: What is the role of recognition in the regulation of traditional and alternative medicines? What are the unexpected effects in practice from different regulation models? How do these regulatory models take into account for historical exclusionary practices entangled in social ordering systems like gender, race, nationality, and (post) colonialism?



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This workshop is part of the Wellcome Project
[Law, Knowledges, and the Making of Modern](#)
[Healthcare: regulating alternative and traditional](#)
[medicines in contemporary contexts](#)

Programme for Thursday, 8th of November

9.00 *Coffee and Registration*

9.45-10.15

Welcome to Kent Law School and introduction to the workshop

10.15-12.00

Displacements and translation in CAM regulation

Laurent Pordié, Pharmaceutical regulation in practice. Ayurvedic drugs and social order(ing) in Cambodia

Fanny Parent, Social, professional and managerial regulations of the Chinese medicine segmented market in France

V. Sujatha, The global politics of alternative and mainstream medicine Ayurveda in Europe

Coffee Break

12.15-13.30

Knowledges and the ambiguities of modernities

Suzanne Newcombe, The status of indigenous medicine in India from the colonial period to the present

Stacey Langwick, Troubling Rights in a Toxic World

Lunch Break

14.15-16.00

Regulatory change, (g)localities and practices

Joana Almeida, Pâmela Siegel and Nelson Filice De Barros, Towards the glocalisation of complementary and alternative medicine: Homeopathy, acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine practice and regulation in Brazil and Portugal

Jean McHale, The EU, Brexit and traditional herbal medicines: Freedom to practice or the end of "legitimacy"

John Harrington, Sovereignty, community and development. The normative politics of intellectual property and traditional knowledge in Kenya

Coffee Break

16.15-18.00

Science and CAM (I): Trespassing science

Phoebe Friesen, Evidence based medicine, complementary and alternative medicines, and placebo responses: Are we missing out?

Pia Vuolanto, Power dynamics and strategies of legitimation in the academisation of complementary and alternative medicine

Rachel Douglas-Jones, Audit at a double remove: Knowing TCM to know ethical review

Drinks and Dinner

To register, please visit this [link](#)

Programme for Friday, 9th of November

9.30-11.15

Science and CAM (II): Reimagining the margins of science?

Marie-Andrée Jacob, The watching of Sarah Jacob: fasting, imposture, and proof

Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, "Don't use herbs!": Historical Perspectives on Traditional Birth Attendants, Healing Plants, and Medical Ethics in Ghana

Sarah Cant, Traditional and alternative healing as practices of social resistance to institutional and/or industrial medicine: CAM and resistance to gendered marginalities

Coffee Break

11.30-13.15

Unstable professions

Robert Dingwall and Nate Sawadogo, Rethinking 'Traditional Medicine'

Mike Saks, Sympathy for the devil: Complementary and alternative medicine, orthodox medicine and professionalisation in Britain

Emilie Cloatre and Francesco Salvini Ramas, Alternative medicines as ecology of care: fragmentation and regulation in acupuncture.

Lunch Break

14.00-15.45

Institutions (I): Public healthcare and CAM

Kathy Dodworth & Ellen Stewart, Saving the CIC: Legitimacy, care and epistemic labour

Stefan Ecks, Medical pluralism for multimorbidity: Herbalism in the Scottish NHS

Gupteswar Patel, Ann Taylor, Caragh Brosnan, Integration of TCAM into public health systems: Opportunities and anxieties *Coffee Break*

16.00-17.45

Institutions (II): Medical knowledges and sites of legitimacy

Nayeli Urquiza Haas and Emilie Cloatre, Modernities, hybridities and the challenge of regulating medicinal plants

Ayo Wahlberg, Fertility itineraries: Negotiating diagnoses and treatments in urban China

Natewinde Sawadogo, From legal to clinical inclusion: The evolution of the clinical position of traditional healing in healthcare in Burkina Faso

Advisory board meeting and dinner

For further info, please contact:

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To register, please visit this [link](#)