Seminar Description

Syllabus is accessible online by students who are enrolled in course

ANTHROPOLOGY 19, SECTION 3

ANTHROPOLOGY AND GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH

Professor: Linda Garro

Time: Monday, 11:00-11:50 am

Place: 314 Haines Hall

Office: 316A Haines Hall

Email: Lgarro@anthro.ucla.edu

Phone: 310-206-6249

Seminar Description:

Showcasing recent work at intersection of medical anthropology and global mental health, we will read and discuss narrative accounts and ethnographic case studies across diverse range of cultural settings to explore ways in which mental illness and mental health concerns are not just problems at individual level but must also be understood, and addressed, at social and cultural levels. The majority of readings are from a 2015 edited collection entitled Global Mental Health: Anthropological Perspectives. In the acknowledgments section of the book, the editors state:

We are grateful for the commitment of the contributors, who agreed to write slightly differently than they commonly do, in order to put people’s narratives at the fore. Their commitment to sharing people’s stories and describing their interlocutors’ experiences through these stories makes this book different from other texts about global mental health. We hope the readers agree that the authors have done an incredible job communicating their important work in engaging ways that provide context and personalization of deeply distressing experiences. We believe also that the contributors to this volume have demonstrated successfully that it is possible to survive trauma, cope with severe mental illness, and thrive amid adversity, and that there are many important approaches from global mental health that can make a big difference in people’s lives. (Kohrt and Mendenhall 2015:11-12).

Global Mental Health: Anthropological Perspectives is organized around three main themes: sociocultural determinants of mental health and illness; treatment approaches and access to care across cultural and economic settings; and innovations in treatment strategies, such as using nonspecialists to deliver mental health care in low-resource settings.