

Bold Ideas Colloquium Speaker Series

Friday, April 10, 2026, 12:00 – 1 PM via Zoom:

Zoom Link:

<https://umanitoba.zoom.us/j/65285005612?pwd=9xgatRkJSQBNKlZg1yEujBle4b8L8e.1>

“Cancer is Everywhere:” Interrogating Cancer Treatment and Prevention Systems among Sex Workers in Post-Colonial Kenya



Samantha Moore, PhD candidate, CCGH

Abstract: Populations in Kenya currently endure high burdens of both viral- and non-viral-related cancers. This suffering is exacerbated by limited access to oncologists, inadequate access to cancer screenings, costly privatized chemotherapy, and stigma against those who develop the disease. Sex workers who live and work within the informal settlements of Nairobi experience oncogenic illness as a perpetual and ongoing ambient threat. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, this presentation examines cancer illness experiences among sex workers who reside on the periphery of the Dandora Landfill. Specifically, this presentation will concentrate on how sex workers within such spaces experience and interpret bodily symptoms of cancer before a formal cancer diagnosis is rendered and understood by authoritative health professionals or the broader community.

Talk Learning Objectives: 1: To advance discussions on barriers to cancer prevention systems within global public health contexts; and 2: To encourage attendees to engage with issues of health equity through the lens of critical social theory.

Biography: Samantha Moore (she/her) is a PhD candidate in the College of Community and Global Health at the University of Manitoba. Her primary research investigates the social and cultural determinants of viral associated cancers, gendered and racialized health disparities, and the use of health technologies and programming in colonized spaces. Samantha received her BA in Anthropology from Trent University in 2017 and her MA in Medical Anthropology from the University of Saskatchewan in 2019. Throughout her doctoral studies, Samantha has held numerous research, teaching and writing assistantships and fellowships at the University of Manitoba’s Institute for Global Public Health, the University of Manitoba Department of Social Work, as well as through the Brocher Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland.