

Wednesday Seminars

LECTURE SERIES IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

10.12.2025 | 5 p.m. | @ Übungsraum IKSA | NIG, 4th floor

Annemarie Samuels (Leiden University) *Rethinking the 'Global' in Global Palliative Care*



Annemarie Samuels is Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology at Leiden University. She is the author of *After the Tsunami: Disaster Narratives and the Remaking of Everyday Life in Aceh* (University of Hawai'i Press 2019) and co-editor of *The Research Handbook on End of Life Care and Society* (Edward Elgar 2025, with David Clark). She has published on rumor, disaster recovery, narratives and silences, HIV/AIDS, and end-of-life care. She is the principal investigator of the ERC project *Globalizing Palliative Care?*, the NWO-VIDI project *The Future of Dying*, and the KWF Cancer Fund project *When Patients Prefer Non-Disclosure*.

With socio-cultural roots in the United Kingdom and United States, palliative care – a professional form of care for patients with life-limiting illness and their families – has now become part of global health approaches. In light of current calls for decolonizing palliative care, this talk explores how palliative care is not only implemented and adapted, but also creatively developed in diverse socio-cultural settings around the world. Building on insights from the ERC *Globalizing Palliative Care?* project, I highlight ways in which 'global' palliative care develops through situated 'local' practices that are often a mix of grassroots initiatives, (inter)national training, and socio-culturally sensitive care. This situated, non-linear and rhizomatic development of palliative care offers pressing insights for rethinking the 'global' in global palliative care. More broadly, I suggest that palliative care's ambiguous position at the intersection of non-curative biomedical care and social medicine gives it a particular purchase for rethinking global health and criticizing the colonial tendencies of global health, even as many palliative care policies currently remain enmeshed within larger systems of global inequity.



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