Global health and ethics
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Plan for this afternoon

1. Sketch broad strokes of ‘global health ethics’
2. Canvass (ethical) reasons for attending to global health
3. Use an ethics lens to examine a set of global health practices
Where do ethics and global health intersect?
Global health and ethics

Global health is “a collection of problems which turn on the quest for equity”

Global health places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.

Global health aims to promote ‘equitable access to health in all regions of the globe’

Global health and ethics

Global health aims to reduce “global health inequities”

Global health ... a way of looking at our world. It seeks to observe, document, monitor, interpret, and eliminate the harms that accrue from national and transnational forces inimical to health—political, commercial, military, financial, diplomatic, legal, intersectional, and cultural. Global health is about power and poverty, violence and exploitation, oppression and silence, and collusion and exclusion.

Richard Horton. Offline: Frantz Fanon and the origins of global health. The Lancet. 392(10149), P720, Sept 1, 2018
Facets of global health ethics

Ethics for global health
Ex: What do conceptions of justice reveal about funding of research on neglected diseases?

Ethics in global health
Ex: Should students on a short-term global health trip participate in activities they would not be allowed to do at home?

Ethics of global health
Ex: What ethical issues arise when humanitarian organizations integrate new innovations in their programs?
The context for discussing ethics of global health:

• Inequality

• Interconnection
HEALTH SPENDING / DISEASE BURDEN

An example: disability and rehabilitation
Poor because they are disabled

Disabled because they are poor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wealth quintile</th>
<th>Higher income countries (standard error)</th>
<th>Lower income countries (standard error)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1 (poorest)</td>
<td>17.6 (0.58)</td>
<td>22.4 (0.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>13.2 (0.46)</td>
<td>19.7 (0.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>11.6 (0.44)</td>
<td>18.3 (0.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>8.8 (0.36)</td>
<td>16.2 (0.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5 (richest)</td>
<td>6.5 (0.35)</td>
<td>13.3 (0.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11.8 (0.24)</td>
<td>18.0 (0.19)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who is the most vulnerable?
Interconnection
“In the 21st century, health is a shared responsibility, involving equitable access to essential care and collective defense against transnational threats.”

World Health Organization

http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/members_partners/member_list/who/en/
“… our privileges are located on the same map as their suffering, and may - in ways we might prefer not to imagine - be linked to their suffering…”

Sontag, 2003, p 103
Given what we’ve said so far, what values do you think are especially relevant to global health ethics?
Given what we’ve said so far, what values do you think are especially relevant to global health ethics?

- Solidarity
- Avoiding harm
- Respect for persons and communities
- Accountability
- Trustworthiness
- Fairness
- Social justice
Given what we’ve said so far, what values do you think are especially relevant to global health ethics?

An example:

Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research

Figure 1: Six CCGHR Principles to Guide Global Health Research
Ethics for global health
Why respond?

Self-interested / prudential reasons
- Narrow
- Enlightened
GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY
Stepping Outbreaks Globally to Protect Americans Locally

Tracking and Responding to Disease Threats 24/7

2,000+ OUTBREAKS and other public health emergencies responded to since 2006.

30-40 THREATS to public health monitored daily.

11 NEW PATHOGENS & STRAINS of dangerous diseases discovered since 2006.

Training Disease Detectives to Identify and Stop Outbreaks

10,000+ People trained in field disease detection and response since 1992.

3,300+ Outbreaks investigated by trainees since 2005.

65+ Countries with trained, on-the-ground outbreak responders.
Why respond?

Self-interested / prudential reasons
- Narrow
- Enlightened

Ethical reasons
Promoting global health: reasons why

1. Reduce the threat of infectious diseases
2. Promote developed countries economic interests
3. Promote global security
4. Promote greater good of humankind
5. Achieve enormous benefits for only small sacrifices
6. Amend historical injustices (that rich countries have contributed to)
7. Promote equality of opportunity
8. Improve the situation of the worst-off
9. Promote respect of HR to have basic needs met
10. Reduce undeserved inequality (inequities) in well-being

Self-interested reasons
Utilitarian reasons
Libertarian reasons
Egalitarian and Human Rights

Selgelid, 2007
Ethics of/in global health
DEVELOPMENT OF A TOOLKIT FOR ETHICAL HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION
Some examples...

- User-centered sanitation design
- Reusable menstrual products
- Powering humanitarian operations with reusables
- Better body bag
- Handwashing product for humanitarian contexts
- Map generation through drone imagery
- Household water filters
- 3-D printing of relief supplies
- Refugee-led early childhood education
- Wheelchairs for austere environments
What do you think would be distinctive about innovation in the context of war, disaster or epidemic?
OUR SPECIFIC TASK: DEVELOP A “TOOLKIT” THAT CAN SUPPORT PEOPLE ENGAGED IN HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION PROCESSES TO BE ATTENTIVE OF AND RESPONSIVE TO ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS.
The innovation is a new model of music therapy for survivors of sexual violence in a post-conflict setting in East Africa. Working with a psychologist and music therapist, participants write, record and professionally produce songs about their experiences. Women are not treated as patients but as artists who use music as therapy and as a form of public advocacy against sexual violence and the stigmatizing of survivors.
• What sorts of supports do you think would be helpful for humanitarian innovators?
Facets of global health ethics

Ethics for global health

Ethics in global health

Ethics of global health
1. Solidarity
2. Introspection
3. Humility
4. Social justice

Pinto and Upshur, 2009
Why?
Thank you
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