

Scientific Workshop in Berlin

Mind the gap

Engaging Europe's East in global health debates

29 - 30 October 2026



RUTA



29/10/2026, 13:30 - 30/10/2026, 16:30

Location: Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, CCO – Auditorium

<https://www.globalhealth.de/news/view/mind-the-gap-engaging-europes-east-in-global-health-debates/>

FREE PARTICIPATION (in person and online), REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 9

Day 1	29 October 2026
13:30-14:00	Welcome and introductions – Joanna Karolina Malinowska and Tereza Hendl
14:00-14:30	Tereza Hendl (Institute for Ethics and History of Health in Society IEHHS, University of Augsburg, Germany; Board Member at the RUTA Association, Ukraine) – Where is Eastern Europe in global health debates? On invisibility and epistemic injustice in research
14:30-15:00	Joanna Karolina Malinowska (Department of Philosophy, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland) – White by default: conceptual and methodological limits of binary white logic in global health equity research
15:00-15:15	Coffee break
15:15-15:45	Valentyna Mazhbits (Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany) – Strengthening long-term medical and psychosocial infrastructure in Ukraine through joint research: insights from the Solomiya project
15:45-16:15	Daniel James (Department of Philosophy, Free University in Berlin, Germany) and Tereza Hendl (University of Augsburg, Germany) – Mind the gap: the invisibility of Eastern Europeans In health and migration data
16:15-16:45	Botakoz Kassymbekova (Chair of Eastern European History, University of Zurich, Switzerland) – "We brought them health" On the legacy of medical colonialism and imperial innocence
16:45-17:00	Coffee break
17:00-18:00	Brainstorming session 1: What needs to change? • What structural and epistemic factors contribute to persistent East–West health inequities? • What makes health concerns and scholarship from Europe's East less visible in global and European health debates? • Which steps are needed for health-related disciplines to engage Eastern Europe as a site of knowledge production, and in an epistemically just manner? • What changes are needed in research, funding, publishing, data infrastructures, and health policy?
Evening	Dinner for conference speakers

Day 2 30 October 2026	
09:30-10:00	Lois Orton (University of Sheffield) and Olga Fuseini (University of Sheffield), Constructing (post)-race in English health and social policy: the case of Roma people
10:00-10:30	Joanna Talewicz (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Warsaw; President of the Foundation Towards Dialogue, member of the Polish delegation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, Poland) – Who Is Left Behind? Forced Migration, Invisible Minorities and Health Equity in Central and Eastern Europe
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-11:15	Bogdan Cristian Iacob (The "Nicolae Iorga" Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Romania) – Infectious Diseases in Southeastern and Central Europe: Vehicles for Global (Dis)Connect in the (post) Cold War World
11:15-11:45	Dora Vargha (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany, University of Exeter, UK) – Social or socialist? Ideas of health and medicine between East and West
11:45-12:15	Judit Sándor (Department of Political Science, Department of Legal Studies and the Department of Gender Studies of the Central European University, Hungary/Austria) – At the Margins of European Bioethics
12:15-13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:00	Brainstorming session 2: Rethinking East–West histories of health in global context How can we discuss state-socialist health systems without reproducing Cold War stereotypes or overlooking their oppressive dimensions? • How should histories of socialism in Eastern Europe be analysed alongside Soviet imperialism and colonialism in discussions on health inequities? • What changes when Eastern European and Central Asian perspectives are treated as sources of theory rather than simply regional case studies? • Which concepts and intellectual traditions from these regions could help us understand contemporary health inequities?
14:00-14:15	Coffee break
14:15-14:45	Dominika Pszczółkowska (Centre of Migration Research at the University of Warsaw, Poland) – Poland's migration transition in the healthcare sector
14:45-15:15	Petra Ezzeddine (Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Charles University, Czech Republic) – Care Bonds in Pandemic Times: Embodied Health, Care and Moral Economies in the European Union
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:15	Brainstorming session 3: Where do we go from here • Which shared priorities have emerged from the workshop? • Which gaps and structural hierarchies in research, data, policy or institutional practice should be addressed first? • Which forms of collaboration could help address them? • Which concrete recommendations should we take forward in the joint publication and future initiatives?
16:15-16:30	Commitments & Closing