

Department of International Health

The Department of International Health is committed to helping the world's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people improve their health and well-being, wherever they live.

Our work on global health policy seeks to analyze the processes and actors involved in policy development both at the global level and within low- and middle-income countries. Through the application of theories and frameworks from political science, public administration and political economy we seek to understand how power, in its many different forms, influences agenda setting, policy formulation and implementation – with the ultimate goal of ensuring that the interests of the poor and marginalized are represented in critical policy dialogues.

Meet Some of Our Global Health Policy Faculty

Jeremy Shiffman, PhD Bloomberg Distinguished Professor

A professor in the Bloomberg School's Department of International Health and Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies, Jeremy Shiffman's work lies at the intersection of political science and global health. In a field that traditionally focuses on technical analyses of the merits of individual health policies, Shiffman examines how the political interests of governments, advocates and organizations affect which issues receive attention, which policies get adopted, and how these policies are implemented.

Select Publications

Jeremy Shiffman, Michael Kunnuji, Yusra Shawar and Rachel Sullivan Robinson. 2018. *International Norms and the Politics of Sexuality Education in Nigeria*, *Globalization and Health* 14. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-018-0377-2>.

Jeremy Shiffman, Kathryn Quissell, Hans Peter Schmitz et al. 2016. *A Framework on the Emergence and Effectiveness of Global Health Networks*, *Health Policy and Planning* 31 (Suppl 1): i3-i16.



Sara Bennett, PhD Professor Director, Health Systems Program

Dr. Bennett has a background in politics and economics and a broad interest in health systems. Bennett has played a significant role in the development of the field of health policy and systems research and is the former chair and current board member of Health Systems Global and CEO of Future Health Systems. She is currently focused on understanding and addressing some of the institutional challenges in promoting stronger governance for health.

Select Publications

Bennett S, Frenk J. and Mills A. (2018) *The evolution of the field of Health Policy and Systems Research and outstanding challenges*, *Health Research Policy and Systems* 16:43: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-018-0317-x>

Scott K, Jessani N, Qiu M and Bennett S (2018) *Developing more participatory and accountable institutions for health: Identifying health system research priorities for the Sustainable Development Goal-era*, *Health Policy and Planning* <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czy079>



Connie Hoe, PhD Assistant Scientist

Dr. Hoe is a mixed methods researcher with training in global health and macro social work. Hoe's research interests lie in the area of health policy; specifically, utilizing social science theories and methods to

understand corporate policy influence and policy advocacy in resource-limited settings.

Select Publications

Hoe, C. & Hyder, A.A. (2017). *Alcohol Industry and Public Health: Friends or Foe?* *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 78(4), 635-636.

Hoe, C., Rodriguez, D., Uzumcuoglu, Y. & Hyder, A.A. (2016). "Quitting like a Turk:" *How political priority developed for tobacco control in Turkey.* *Social Science & Medicine*, 165: 36-45.

Yusra Shawar, MPH PhD
Assistant Scientist

Dr. Shawar's research concerns the global governance of health and the politics of health policy processes in low- and middle-income countries.

Shawar has conducted research on the political prioritization of issues such as surgery, urban health, early childhood development, and rheumatic heart disease in the global health agenda, and learning in the global education agenda. She also investigates the politics surrounding the adoption and implementation of controversial and innovative health policies targeting vulnerable populations in low-income countries.

Select Publications

Shawar YR, Shiffman J. (2017). Generation of global political priority for early childhood development: the challenges of framing and governance. *Lancet*, 389(10064), 119-124. DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)31574-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)31574-4)

Shawar YR, Crane L. (2017). The generation of global political priority for urban health: the role of the urban health epistemic community. *Health Policy and Planning*, 32(8), 1161-1173. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx065>



Daniela Rodriguez, DrPH
Associate Scientist

Dr. Rodriguez's focus is on exploring the intersection of politics and public health and how political factors affect the development and implementation of policies, especially for vulnerable populations. Specific areas of interest lie in evidence-informed decision-making, understanding the factors that influence policy development over time and across settings, and understanding the process of donor transition and its implications.

Select Publications

Rodríguez, D. C., Whiteside, A., & Bennett, S. (2017). Political commitment for vulnerable populations during donor transition. *Bull World Health Organ*, 95(2), 121-7.

Rodríguez, D. C., Shearer, J., Mariano, A. R., Juma, P. A., Dalglish, S. L., & Bennett, S. (2015). Evidence-informed policymaking in practice: country-level examples of use of evidence for iCCM policy. *Health policy and planning*, 30(suppl_2), ii36-ii45.



Adam Koon, PhD
Assistant Scientist

Dr. Koon's work focuses on understanding the forces that structure human behavior in the health policy process. His research approaches policy as a contest of ideas, shaped by language and deeper value conflicts. He applies these concepts to work on health financing, health workforce development, and the regulation of harmful consumer products.

Select Publications

Koon, A. D., Conrad, A., Naimoli, J. F., Saxena, S., Connor, C., & Rodriguez, D. C. (2019). Implementing health system strengthening projects at USAID: Findings from five cases using an integrated framework. *Global public health*, 1-18.

Koon, A. D., Hawkins, B., & Mayhew, S. H. (2016). Framing and the health policy process: a scoping review. *Health policy and planning*, 31(6), 801-816.

Examples of Current Projects

The Global Health Advocacy and Policy Project

Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Support Project

Supporting Operational AIDS Research (SOAR): Assessing the Geographic Pivot

Course Highlights

Health Policy Analysis in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Policy Advocacy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Application for Real World Challenges

Learn more about our master's and doctoral degree program

<https://tinyurl.com/IH-Hopkins-degrees>

www.jhsph.edu/International-Health/

InternationalHealth@jhu.edu