



LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



British Society for Population Studies

DAY MEETING ON MENOPAUSE, HEALTH AND CULTURE

With funding from the Biosocial Society

Organised by LSE and LSHTM

Thai theatre NAB Lincolns inn Fields, LSE London

Wednesday 24th May

SUMMARY

A key factor determining a woman's experience of menopause is the culture in which she finds herself before, during, and after menopause. In our youth-idolizing Western culture, menopause can seem like an ending. However, in many cultures, menopause is a time of new respect and freedom for women. Even though hormonal changes after menopause produce similar symptoms in many women, cultural differences can still shape how people experience this stage of life. These may arise from variation in a wide range of factors, including stigma (or lack of it) within cultures, access to health services and gender inequalities.

Considerable research shows significant variation across populations in the menopausal experience. Biological, psychological, social and cultural factors are associated with either positive or negative attitudes, perceptions or experiences of menopause in various cultures. Comparative international literature shows that neither biological nor social factors alone are sufficient to explain the variation in experiences of the menopausal transition.

The aim of this workshop is to gather current research on the menopause and its cultural and socio-economic aspects. The objectives are to get a multidisciplinary approach to the topic, including both qualitative and quantitative work. Ultimately we want to highlight a variety of issues surrounding this neglected topic which can have repercussions on health in later life.

The meeting is free and open to everyone however **registration is required**. Email Alexis Palfreyman (A.D.Palfreyman@lse.ac.uk) to reserve your place.

We welcome poster submissions, especially from early career researchers and students. Please email the title and a short abstract of the poster to Alexis Palfreyman (A.D.Palfreyman@lse.ac.uk): - deadline 10 May

For more information please email the organisers Tiziana Leone t.leone@lse.ac.uk and Rebecca Sear Rebecca.Sear@LSHTM.ac.uk

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

9.30-9.45

Introduction: Tiziana Leone, LSE

9.45-11:00

Lynnette Sievert, UMass Amherst *"Measurement of hot flashes: cross-cultural research highlights the challenges"*

Gillian Bentley, Durham University *"Developmental effects on the menopause among migrant Bangladeshi women in the UK"*

11:00-11.30 tea break

11:30-13:00

Isabel de Salis, Bristol University *"Experiencing menopause as transformative: re-thinking rites of passage"*

Mwenza Blell, Cambridge University *"What changes when you go through the change? An exploration of British Pakistani women's views and experiences"*

Emily Freeman, LSE *"Understandings of the menopause among older adults in Malawi"*

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00

Doaa Hammoudeh, Oxford University and Ernestina Coast, LSE *"Age of hope, power or despair? Palestinian women's menopause narratives"*

Taniya Sharmeen, Reading University *"'Allah'r hukum'-It's God's will, it's not an ending-it's the beginning"-Exploring meaning of menopause and menopausal symptom experiences among Bangladeshi women."*

15:00-16:00

Round table discussion with the presenters: Where next. Chair Rebecca Sear, LSHTM

16:00 Poster reception