The maternity ward as mirror

*Maternal death, biobureaucracy, and institutional care in the Tanzanian health sector*

Strong, A.E.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

First and foremost, it is with the greatest love, respect, and admiration for those healthcare professionals with whom I worked for this research that I wrote this dissertation. While it will reveal many challenges and complicated problems, my hope is that it will also demonstrate the resilience, ingenuity, and dedication of all those people striving to provide care to women and their newborns in what are, undeniably, difficult and constraining circumstances. This is a work of love and devotion for all of them.

The research would not have been possible without the support of a number of people in Tanzania and in the Rukwa region. Thanks must go to Dr. Jasper Nduasinde who graciously received me out of the blue in 2012; to Ester, my second mother and home away from home; to Drs. Samwel Marwa and Francis Mashigala whose friendship undoubtedly influenced my decision to return to the Rukwa region after my first visit and who helped facilitate my access to the hospital and the information I needed. To Dr. John Gurisha for agreeing to allow me what amounted to nearly free range of the health facilities in the region and provided me with his perspectives on the challenges facing the region. To the nurses with whom I worked on the maternity ward, thank you for allowing me to be there with you, thank you for all that you taught me, and for the laughter and stories we shared. To Cyril Ngaponda and Karugira Rweyemamu for hours of insightful conversation and Qamar for taking me in like family—food, gossip, jokes, and sisterhood included. And, with all my love, thanks to Edward Mwakasege, Tumaini Mdapo, Vivian, Innocent, and Maya, for the support, the love, the food, and everything else with which you provided me while I was in Sumbawanga, asanteni kwa vote. And to Rebeca Matiku, my research assistant, for her labor and companionship- you certainly made the work infinitely more enjoyable and possible.
In my intellectual life, I first must thank Dr. Carolyn Sargent. She saw possibility and promise in my ideas from the time she had to punch at least 15 digits into the phone for my graduate school interview while I was in Tanzania in 2010, which I conducted entirely pants-less due to unfortunate timing (but, fortunately, it wasn’t a Skype interview, a fact for which I am forever grateful). Through hours of conversation she helped foster my questions and plans, while also providing friendship via mutual stories of white gift-chickens and near-death experiences on African roads. For everything, I am thankful. Thanks, of course, must also go to the members of my committee—Dr. Shanti Parikh, Dr. Priscilla Song, and Dr. Brad Stoner—who helped me navigate the seas of graduate school and fieldwork, providing direction and challenge in turn, when each was necessary. Though I am not always fond of a rootless lifestyle, the opportunities provided by the Department of Anthropology at Washington University have made me a truly globally mobile scholar, comfortable at home on, at least, three continents. I am also grateful to the faculty and Ph.D. Students at the University of Amsterdam for their interest, their input, friendship, and presence in the last days of this project. To Dr. John Bowen and Dr. Anita Hardon, many thanks for being my committee co-chairs and for your input, guidance, and support. Thanks to you both for being flexible and for facilitating the joint degree process through much bureaucracy and paperwork.

This project has been supported by a number of grants including an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (DGE-1143954), particularly for early preliminary research and the first eight months of my fieldwork in 2014; a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant (P022A140021-003) and NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (1459486) for the fieldwork in 2014-2015; and a P.E.O. Scholar Award, which helped support me in my last year of writing. I am also grateful for funds from the Washington University Graduate School of Arts.
and Sciences for a dissertation writing fellowship, conference travel support, and pilot study funds, and the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research for conference support and funds to support the printing of this document. I would also like to thank Mashuhuri Mwinyihamisi, from the Tanzanian Commission on Science and Technology, for his assistance over the years during the research clearance and permit process.

Even though I’m certain my family understands more about what I do now than they did when I worked in a research lab at Ohio State, it is impossible to always know what goes into a Ph.D. While the emotional demands of my research, because of its topic and content, the length and distant location of my field site, as well as the nature of writing a Ph.D., have caused some conflict and misunderstandings, my family has been there for me through it all, cheering me on at every step of the way. I thank my mom, first and foremost, for everything she has done to support me and facilitate this process even while going through a number of important life changes herself. Bringing Steve into the family has been one of the greatest gifts, particularly in these last stages as I try to navigate the world of the academe. Your visit to Tanzania in 2014 was not as smooth as we might have hoped but it means so much to me that you both were able to see me in the place and with the people that mean so much to me. I hope it helped you see more about why this research continues to inspire, motivate, and challenge me. To my dad, your visits always come at the right time and I certainly would have been unable to carry on with all the moves required without your spatial reasoning and muscles. Your enthusiasm and support for me and my work have been a wonderful part of graduate school. To my brother, your eye for rhetorical structure and English grammar certainly has made my work more legible. I always look forward to stimulating and challenging conversations with you and I know we will continue to make each other better in many ways. Thanks always for all the hours you were forced to sit
through events and ceremonies for me, and for your understanding when I was on the other side of the world during those same events in your life.

Last, but not least, thanks also must surely go to Hussein, for the hours together, which have always been too few, and for the logistical and emotional support. Without you, I may never have gotten ethical clearance or a car, and my many random questions would have frequently gone unanswered. I would surely have been lonelier and with less insight into the experiences of life in Tanzania. Our relationship has been a bridge builder, a conversation starter, and sometimes a challenge but, always enriching and I have grown so very much because of you.

Adrienne Elizabeth Strong

Washington University in St. Louis

Universiteit van Amsterdam

May 2017