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The maternity ward as mirror

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

Strong, A.E.

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Adrienne E. Strong

Curriculum Vitae

www.adrienne-strong.squarespace.com

Washington University | Department of Anthropology | McMillan Hall | One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130 USA
adrienne.strong@wustl.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medical anthropologist with over 3.5 years of fieldwork experience in Tanzania (2007-2016) conducting qualitative and mixed methods ethnographic research in health facilities in remote areas. My research interests coalesce around maternal death in healthcare facilities. This has come to include scholarly interests in respectful maternity care, gendered dynamics in the nursing profession and care provision in biomedical settings, health system financing in ethnographic perspective, stillbirth and accountability, as well as the contemporary role of bridewealth, and men's sexual and reproductive health in rural East Africa. Theoretical orientations include critical medical anthropological and feminist approaches to the study of bureaucracy, institutions, hospital ethnography, and concepts of risk, uncertainty, and care. My research interests sit at the nexus of anthropology, gender studies, science and technology studies, and history.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over \$250,000 in extramural funding for research and graduate school support since 2010, including Fulbright IIE, Fulbright-Hays, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, and P.E.O. Scholar Award
- Fieldwork experience and National Science Foundation sponsored training in designing and conducting systematic mixed methods and qualitative research projects in cultural anthropology
- History of interdisciplinary collaboration in publishing, fieldwork, and consulting

EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D. Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis (May 2017) (Joint degree)
Ph.D. Anthropology, Universiteit van Amsterdam (May 2017) (Joint degree)
Dissertation: The Maternity Ward as Mirror: Maternal Death, Biobureaucracy, and Institutional Care in the Tanzanian Health Sector, advised by John Bowen and Anita Hardon
- 2016 Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Washington University in St. Louis (May 2016)
- 2013 M.A. Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis (May 2013)
- 2010 B.S. with Research Distinction in Biomedical Science, Minor French Literature, *magna cum laude*, The Ohio State University (June 2010)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Strong, A. Working in Scarcity: Effects on social interactions on the maternity ward of a Tanzanian hospital (accepted, *Social Science & Medicine*)
- 2016 Strong, A. and D.A. Schwartz. Anthropological aspects of risk to pregnant women during the 2013-2015 multinational Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa. *Health Care for Women International* (in press)
- 2015 Strong, A. "The convergence of social and institutional dynamics resulting in maternal death in Rukwa, Tanzania" in *Maternal Mortality: Risk Factors, Anthropological Perspectives, Prevalence in Developing Countries and Preventative Strategies for Pregnancy-Related Death*. Ed. David Schwartz. Nova Science Publishers
- 2015 Marwa, S and A. Strong. "Three case studies and experiences of maternal death at a regional referral hospital in Rukwa, Tanzania" in *Maternal Mortality: Risk Factors, Anthropological Perspectives, Prevalence in Developing Countries and Preventative Strategies for Pregnancy-Related Death*. Ed. David Schwartz. Nova Science Publishers

Works in Progress

- 2016 Strong, A. The partograph as *mutable mobile*: How one piece of paper is clinical tool, bureaucratic document, and social facilitator on a Tanzanian maternity ward (in preparation)
- 2016 Strong, A. "We Swim in Blood:" Maternity care providers and perceptions of risk in the work place at a Tanzanian hospital (in preparation)
- 2016 Strong, A. "Jumping the Red Tape:" Administrative workarounds, improvisation, and the social world of rumors in a Tanzanian hospital (in preparation)
- 2017 Strong, A. Bridewealth, Gender Relations, and Maternity Care: Insights on a Shifting Institution from Rukwa, Tanzania

Public Anthropology and Other Publications

- 2016 Maternal Health: A Dangerous Birth, photoessay on SAPIENS.org (forthcoming)
- 2016 Washington People: Adrienne Strong <https://source.wustl.edu/2016/08/washington-people-adrienne-strong/>
- 2014 Hospitals and Maternal Death in Tanzania, GlobalHealthHub.org <http://www.globalhealthhub.org/2014/06/21/hospitals-maternal-death-tanzania-adrienne-strong/>
- 2014 Personal fieldwork blog mentioned in Around the Web Digest, SavageMinds.org, weeks of July 14th and August 10th <http://savageminds.org/2014/07/14/around-the-web-digest-week-of-july-6/>

SELECTED AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2017 Society for Applied Anthropology Peter K. New Award for Student Research, 3rd Place

- 2016-17 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis, \$22,000
- 2015 Society for Medical Anthropology Travel Award for travel to American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, \$500
- 2015-16 P.E.O. Scholar Award from International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, \$15,000
- 2015-16 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, \$15,125
- 2014-15 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant, \$23,718
- 2011-16 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, \$185,000
- 2010-11 Fulbright Institute for International Education, Student Research Grant to Tanzania, \$25,000
- 2006-10 Presidential Scholarship, The Ohio State University, \$100,000

INVITED TALKS

- 2016 P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter Meeting- St. Louis, MO (March 5)
- 2015 Fulbright Reflection Series- U.S. Embassy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (August 4): Bureaucracy, Life, and Death on the Maternity Ward of a Tanzanian Hospital
- 2014 Islamic Medical Association and the Federation of Islamic Medical Associations Annual Conference- Arusha, Tanzania (August 9-10): Improving a comprehensive understanding of maternal death
- 2011 Fulbright Reflection Series- U.S. Embassy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (July 21): Through the Voices of the Women: Birth culture and maternal healthcare in Singida, Tanzania

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting- Minneapolis, Minnesota (November 15-20) Vital Conjunctions and Breached Initiations: Constructing Adulthood Under Conditions of Precarity (Panel Co-Organizer and Co-Chair)
- 2016 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting- Minneapolis, Minnesota (November 15-20): We Swim in Blood: Risk, Healthcare Providers, and Social Interactions on a Tanzanian Maternity Ward
- 2015 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting- Denver, Colorado (November 18-22): Partograph as Mutable Mobile: The Social Life of a Document on a Tanzanian Maternity Ward (Co-Chair and Panel Co-Organizer- Health Systems in the Global South: New Ethnographic Approaches)
- 2015 European Association of Social Anthropologists Medical Anthropology Section MAGic 2015 Conference- Brighton, England (September 9-11): Ethnography as Mediator Between Community and Maternal Healthcare Providers in Rukwa, Tanzania
- 2013 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting- Chicago, Illinois (November 20-24): Home birth in St. Louis, MO: Tenuous Legalization
- 2013 The Fantastic and the Banal: Rethinking Bureaucratic Authority- University of Colorado, Boulder (September 27-29): Bureaucracy and Birth: Life and Death on the Maternity Ward of the Rukwa Regional Hospital
- 2013 Society for Medical Anthropology/European Association of Social Anthropologists Medical Anthropology Section Joint Meeting- Tarragona, Spain (June 12-14): Fierce

- Nurses and Bad Welcomes: Theorizing women's perceptions of patient-provider interactions and encounters in the biomedical care setting in Singida, Tanzania
- 2012 Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting- Baltimore, Maryland (March 27-31): Shut Up and Push!: Factors Influencing Health Care Seeking Behaviors During Pregnancy and Childbirth in Rural Tanzania (Session Chair)

RESEARCH AND FIELD EXPERIENCE

Washington University in St. Louis Department of Anthropology

- 2014-15 The Maternity Ward as Mirror: Maternal Death, Biobureaucracy, and Institutional Care in the Tanzanian Health Sector, advised by Dr. Carolyn Sargent (January 2014-August 2015)
 Doctoral dissertation research on the institutional, historical, and social contributors to maternal death within the biomedical healthcare setting in the Rukwa region of Tanzania, using systematic and mixed research methods
- Committee members: Dr. John Bowen, Anthropology; Dr. Brad Stoner, Anthropology; Dr. Shanti Parikh, Anthropology; Dr. Priscilla Song, Anthropology; Dr. Anita Hardon, University of Amsterdam, Anthropology.
- 2012-13 Breast Cancer in French Immigrants from the Senegal River Basin living in Paris, France, advised by Dr. Carolyn Sargent, (June 2012-March 2013)
 Interdisciplinary and international collaborative research with researchers from French institutions and Washington University in St. Louis Department of Anthropology and Brown School of Social Work and Public Health
 Conducted preliminary data collection from patient records at a Parisian hospital
 Contributed to planning meetings and recommended potential use of GIS to delimit geographic boundaries for data collection in neighborhoods in certain Parisian districts
- 2011-12 The Voice of the Mother: Homebirth in St. Louis, Missouri, advised by Dr. Priscilla Song, (September 2011-December 2012)
 Conducted participant observation and interviews with women in the homebirth community in St. Louis on legal challenges to accessing homebirth options, as well as individual motivations for pursuing midwifery care and out of hospital births

Fulbright Student Research Grant, affiliated with Outreach International, Singida Region, Tanzania

- 2010-11 Birth culture of the Singida Region of Tanzania and barriers to the use of healthcare services during pregnancy and childbirth (September 2010- July 2011)
 Conducted independent research for eleven months in Singida, Tanzania including semi-structured interviews, surveys, and participant observation in villages, village dispensaries, and the Singida Regional Hospital

The Ohio State University Department of Anthropology and Singida Region Government Hospital

- 2008-10 Barriers to the uptake of healthcare services during pregnancy in rural Tanzania, advised by Dr. Barbara Piperata, (October 2008-June 2010)
1st place in Social and Behavioral Science category at Ohio State's Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

- 2017 Instructor of Record: Global Gender Issues, Spring 2017, University College
2016 Instructor of Record: Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Spring 2016
2012 Teaching Assistant: Gender, Culture and Madness in Fall 2012, taught by Dr. Rebecca Lester
2016 Invited Respondent for Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship 2nd Annual Research Forum, Spring 2016- commented on student research theses
2016 Guest Lecture on maternal mortality for Transnational Reproductive Health, Spring 2016
2016 Guest Lecture on birth and maternal mortality for Introduction to Medical Anthropology, Spring 2016
2015 Guest Lecture on methods for systematic qualitative text analysis for Research Methods in Anthropology Seminar, Fall 2015
2015 Guest Lecture on research methods in anthropology for Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Fall 2015
2015 Guest Lecture on maternal and reproductive health for Introduction to Medical Anthropology, Fall 2015

CONSULTING

- 2015 Plan International, Jhpiego, and Africare Tanzania, (June-July 2015)
Advised program officers as they were writing a proposal for a new 5-year, multi-million-dollar project to operate in the Rukwa and Geita regions of Tanzania, funded by the partner organizations and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Contributed primary, ethnographic research data during planning meetings to determine goals and design of new project in order to fulfill the objectives of lowering maternal and infant mortality in Tanzania
Produced briefing documents based on primary ethnographic research on topics related to the regional hospital's Health Management Team, community concerns and self-identified needs, and suggestions for improving the maternal death audit procedures being followed in the Rukwa region

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2014-present White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, Tanzania
2012-present Council on Anthropology of Reproduction
2009-present Society for Medical Anthropology

- 2009-present American Anthropological Association
2010-present Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society, Associate Member
2011-present Fulbright Alumni Association

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

- 2016-17 Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Amsterdam – Health, Care, and the Body, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR) (August 2016- January 2017)
2012-13 Washington University in St. Louis, University of Amsterdam, and L’Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris France: Three-part exchange program focused on the anthropology of institutions (September 2012- June 2013)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- English- native
Swahili- fluent
French- highly proficient
Spanish- proficient reading comprehension
German- university instruction, limited proficiency

OTHER TRAINING

- 2013 National Science Foundation Summer Institute for Research Design, Duke Marine Lab, North Carolina, USA (July 14-August 3, 2013): Three weeks of intensive instruction on anthropological research design and methods, including training in qualitative and mixed methods data analysis software packages including SYSTAT, UCINET, ANTHROPAC, and MAXQDA.
2013 Doula (birth attendant) training through DONA International (September 2013): Participated in three days of intensive training on the duties of a doula as a labor support person.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Council for Anthropology on Reproduction (CAR), a Special Interest Group of the Society for Medical Anthropology- International Newsletter Co-editor (2016-18)

Committee of 3 Cultural Anthropology Graduate Student Representative, Washington University in St. Louis Department of Anthropology (2015-16)

Liaised with faculty counterparts to voice graduate students’ concerns and advocate for their needs with the Department’s faculty, Graduate Coordinator, and Department Chair

Designed and disseminated student satisfaction survey in Fall 2015 to elicit needs for improvement within the department

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2012-14 University United Methodist Church- Rukwa Partnership for Health fundraising project, St. Louis, MO and Sumbawanga, Tanzania (October 2012-December 2013)
- Planned and led fundraising campaign to purchase boat to serve as emergency transport to healthcare services for five villages on Lake Rukwa, Tanzania
 - Coordinated fundraising projects to raise a total of more than \$11,000 for the purchase of a boat, motor, and life jackets, as well as coordinating transportation of the boat to its location of use
 - Worked with Rukwa Regional Medical Office and Sumbawanga Urban District Offices to coordinate sustained support for the boat
 - In March 2014 presented the boat to the local community and Tanzania's Minister of Health and Social Welfare as part of the White Ribbon Day celebrations to commemorate maternal deaths and advocate for improved maternal health care services