How would a shift in research practice impact on the capabilities of researchers in the future?

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mHealth, Health Systems and Development

• Examines mHealth in relation to Health Systems and Development
• Asks how mhealth fits into health systems in low and middle income countries
• Seeks to examine change and transition
6 Core Lectures

- mHealth – An Introduction
- Knowledge and Gender in mHealth
- Theories of Behavioural change and mHealth
- Health Systems as Knowledge Economies
- ICTS: Opportunities and Challenges
- The emergence of transformational mobile based payments and lessons for Health
- Pathways of change in the Health Knowledge Economy
Additional learning resources:

Essential readings, additional readings structured around topics, a range of exercises, model answers, possible essay questions, and experts’ views.

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Using this mHealth course for research capacity building

• Why have a course on mhealth now?
  - going beyond the technology
  - political economy of ICTs and health
  - how sociological theory informs mHealth

• Steep learning curve

• Testing the course in Feb-March 2016
ICTs and the changing health knowledge economy: how people find health information in Bangladesh

Aims:

• to generate evidence of how the poor are changing their health information seeking behaviour in the light of the changing information and communication technology (ICT) landscape

• To assess whether, and if so how, recent developments in ICT infrastructure and access are enabling poor people to adapt their health information seeking behaviour
• Mixed methods study: quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews and FGDs
• Inter-disciplinary (engineers, anthropologists, nutritionist, doctors, and development specialists)
• Very new, emergent area of research
• Lots of pilot projects and big ambitions
• Enormous opportunities and potential for change, with significant implications for poor people
• Yet gaps exist: in policy, in practice, in social science research
Applying holistic and analytical approaches, or mixed methodologies, in a digital age.

• Qualitative scoping studies
• Digital technology to undertake surveys
• Follow-up research with specific categories of people

Photo: Juhan Sonin, cc license
Applying holistic and analytical approaches, or mixed methodologies, in a digital age.

- Timeline challenges
- Challenges in terms of how questions are formulated
Digital Data vs Data about Digital Use

- People use their phones to creatively seek health information
- Gendered exclusions
- What might trust mean in a context of ICTs and health?
- Social media as a source of health information

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Thank you

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