

# Human Sciences Encounters in Phnom-Penh: Past Presentations: Seeing and Believing: The Cultural Politics of Medical Imaging in Cambodia

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Grant Jenna

## **SEEING AND BELIEVING: THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF MEDICAL IMAGING IN CAMBODIA.**

In this talk I present my dissertation project on the use of ultrasound in contemporary medical practice in Cambodia. The recent proliferation of this imaging technology in Phnom Penh raises the question of how it is valued by different groups of people and how it functions within public and private medical care. I have been examining the production and use of ultrasound images at one large government hospital; conducting interviews with medical practitioners, patients, manufacturers, distributors, and health officials; and doing archival research on historical imaging practices at this hospital. I situate (very) preliminary findings, and particular challenges and questions I have encountered as I near the mid-point of research in Cambodia. I do so in relation to broader questions, such as the status of technological biomedicine in the present context of rapid socioeconomic change, and the growing desire for visual evidence of the ordinarily unseen.

Jenna is a PhD Candidate in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Iowa in the U.S. Her areas of emphasis are visual anthropology and anthropology of science, technology, and medicine. Previous projects on Cambodia include her Master's thesis on a controversial HIV prevention clinical trial (2006); an experimental documentary film, *Sakamapeap* (2005); and a technical consultancy as part of a WHO assessment of drug-related risk for HIV infection (2004).

[Jenna Grant's Profile.](#)