

Human Sciences Encounters in Phnom-Penh Past Presentations

When anthropology meets clinical research: the medically non-recommended pregnancies in the CAMELIA ANRS 1295-CIPRA KH001 IN CAMBODIA

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The CAMELIA clinical trial aimed to determine the best timing for ART introduction in naïve severely immuno-compromised HIV-infected adults newly diagnosed for tuberculosis. Inclusion criteria included negative pregnancy test and signature of the consent form confirming commitment to double contraceptive use as patients were given drugs contraindicated in case of pregnancy. Despite various precautions and the requirement stated in the informed consent form, 19 (8%) of the 236 women enrolled in the trial became pregnant during the trial (23 pregnancies). This raised many questions among the CAMELIA coordinating team: Why do these women did not follow the recommendations of the medical team? Under what circumstances and with what explanation the consent form had been signed? Why these women did inform the doctor in charge of their treatment about their pregnancy?

An anthropological research was used to document issues related to these medically non-recommended pregnancies. We interviewed Camelia's stakeholders, caregivers, counselors and patients. This research brings various relevant insights from various scientific disciplines. Firstly, it provides insights on prevention and management of contraindicated pregnancies in any clinical trial. It raises various and new theoretical insights for the anthropology of human reproduction. It also demonstrates how research on pragmatic issues can give rise to new insights for the social sciences.