ZMG – Global Health: An Interdisciplinary Agenda
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

About ZMG – What do we do?
The Centre for Medicine and Society (ZMG) is working in the field of Global Health with a special focus on urban health aspects. The aim is to provide a comprehensive and multidimensional view of health and risk factors. Environmental Medicine, Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, Biological Anthropology, Palliative Care, Medical Sociology and Psychology in Freiburg/ Germany are embarking on an interdisciplinary approach to explore determinants and spatial disparities of health and disease. In cooperation with global organizations (such as WHO) and other international partners like University of Cape Town, South Africa and Pennsylvania State University, USA the focus is on disease-causing ecological-biological, social and psychological factors in urban settings and on options for improved access to health care. To reach our aims and mission (see boxes below) we are working in two main areas: Training and Research.

Our mission is to contribute to improve the health situation in resource poor and industrial countries through research and training.

Offering training and research on Global Health
Assessing health and social services in urban areas
Analyzing risks factors in urban settings (social behavioral, mental, economic, ecological)
Providing proposals to improve health of vulnerable populations

Training
The center is building on four years experience obtained in the interdisciplinary course on "Global Health" for students from all faculties, where health and health service problems, as well as social, psychological and environmental determinants of health are being explored. So far, around 100 students participated in this course.
ZMG is now embarking on a postgraduate master program "Global Urban Health", which is expected to start in 2016. The master course includes interdisciplinary approaches with inputs from several faculties of Freiburg University and external lecturers.

Research
In cooperation with Cape Town/ South Africa and Pennsylvania State University/ USA, the ZMG is currently working on the project "URBAN HEALTH - URBAN LIVING: An interdisciplinary research project". The aim is to design new strategies for improved health and better living conditions in urban areas.

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