Social Science Research on Antimicrobial Resistance

ESRC Workshop

Clifton Zoo Gardens, Bristol
22 April 2016
Helen Lambert

- Social anthropology (D.Phil.)
- Ethnography, qualitative research
- Treatment-seeking & plural health systems
- Notions of evidence

India:
- Popular therapeutics, bonesetters
- Sexual health & STIs, HIV prevention, ART adherence

UK:
- Public understandings of medical science
- Suicide and social networks
- Collaborations: Health Protection Research Unit, Public Health England, Infection team, Vet school
  - CLAHRCwest Ethnography team lead
ESRC AMR Research Champion

Helen Lambert, Reader in Medical Anthropology, School of Social and Community Medicine

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Aims:

- to highlight the importance of social science to the growing challenge of AMR
- to engage social scientists from a broad range of disciplines in this issue
Science engagement

- Network for Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention (NAMRIP)
- BristolBridge EPSRC award
- British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC), Health Foundation
- Wellcome Trust Summit on science and policy for action on AMR
- European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases
- European Public Health Alliance

- Op eds: Translational Scientist, Chemistry and Industry, Research Fortnight
Social science and AMR

- Social Sciences (ESRC): Anthropology, sociology, social policy, economics, psychology, geography, media studies, law, education, development studies, business and management, international relations

- Social scientists need to recognise
  - relevance of own interests/expertise and AMR as potential research area
  - value of collaboration and interdisciplinarity
Research Champion Activities

Open forums at professional social science conferences
Database of interested social scientists
Website http://www.bristol.ac.uk/amr-champ
- Register of interest
- Links to collaborators, funders, blog, twitter feed
Research resources and briefings
Interdisciplinary liaison including networking and proposal development workshops – first on 22\textsuperscript{nd} April
Social science advocacy with AMR life scientists, biomedical and other researchers
What challenges does social science face in contributing to research and action relating to AMR?

1) Multiple research literatures and fuzzy science

2) Perceptions of the ‘problem’ as biological and the ‘solution’ as technological

3) Narrow view of relevant social science (focus on macroeconomics or individual behaviour)
Aims for the day

- to learn about current state of knowledge in different fields
- to network and build collaboration within & across disciplines

leading to

- A nascent ‘AMR community’ of social scientists & potential collaborators
- High-quality research proposals!