

# 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*

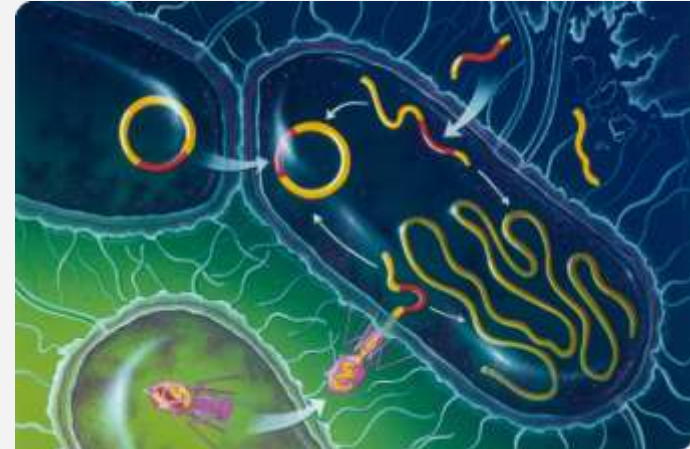
*Interdisciplinary liaison* including networking and proposal development workshops – first on 22<sup>nd</sup> April

*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!