

European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health 2017

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First of all, we would like to thank the Norwegian Research School of Global Health for the support and opportunity to attend the European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) in Antwerp, Belgium, October 16-20, 2017. ECTMIH is a renowned and well-established conference with distinguished speakers and participants from all over the world with expertise in both tropical medicine and global health. This year, the conference had over 1500 participants.

The four of us organized the panel *Abortion and Post Abortion Care: Politics, Religion, Public Health, Health Care and Legal System*, which was accepted as a part of the scientific program at the conference. We were lucky to have Berit Austveg, a Norwegian physician with extensive experience from international processes on abortion policy and SRHR, to chair the session together with Elisabeth Darj, a professor in Global Health at NTNU. During the session, we presented our respective research, and for some of us this was the first time having an oral presentation at an international conference. Even though some of us were nervous it was a very positive and rewarding experience. Unfortunately, Maren had to withdraw her presentation right before the panel due to pressure from one of the organisations she has studied. This illustrates how politicized the field has become and how difficult it can be to do research on abortion.

The session we organized was well attended (approximately 50-60 people), which was great given the other interesting parallel sessions happening at the same time. It was amazing to be able to present our research to such a highly qualified audience, and there was a lot of questions and discussions after the presentations.

To conclude, we felt that the session was successful for us organizing and presenting, and it seemed like the audience was content as well. It would not have been possible to organize this panel without the support from the Research School, and it gave us confidence to do similar things in the future. We will take this experience with us in our continuous work as researchers.

It was also great to see other participants from the Research School having posters and oral presentations at the conference. Additionally, we got new contacts and learned a lot from attending a great range of sessions concerning the area of tropical medicine and international health.

Thank you very much!

