

Report from the course INTHE4118-Reproductive and Sexual Health and Human Rights (5 ECTS), 26.02-02.03.18, at the University of Oslo

At the end of February 2018, I attended the course Reproductive and Sexual Health and Human Rights at the University of Oslo. It was a four-day course that focuses on the complex issues of sexual health and reproductive rights concerning topics such as sexual orientation, abortion, sexual education and infectious diseases in a global perspective. The course addressed the legal, religious and cultural aspects of these topics in a very interesting way. The first part of the course was joined with nursing/midwife students at Oslo Metropolitan University. Here we had very interesting lectures from International Human Rights Lawyer Eszter Kismödi. She focused particularly on sexual orientation and transgender challenges in different cultures while discussing sexual rights. I found this part very interesting and enlightening even though it's not directly relevant to my research.

The rest of the course we were in a smaller group of about 20 master and PhD-students from different countries and affiliated to different universities in Norway. This proved a very good environment to discuss other topics regarding sexual health and reproductive rights such as abortion, sexual education, ethics regarding drug use and childbearing, and sexual violence among other things. We mostly had lectures in the morning and the rest of the day was allocated for group work and discussion.

For me the course proved to be a great place to learn about other issues regarding sexual health and reproductive rights than my own research on abortion. At the same time, it was a great way for me to discuss my own research among peers from different cultures and backgrounds. I acquired new skills and knowledge that will be very useful for me when writing my dissertation. At the same time, I got to know fellow PhD-students in Global Health, and the course contributed to strengthen the collaboration for researchers working within the area of global health and reproductive health in Norway.

I particularly liked the way the course encouraged active discussions among the participants, and that there was a lot of time allocated for group work. There was no social activity planned which is the only negative thing I have to say about the course. Still, it was only a four-day course and I understand that it was hard to fit in social activities in a very busy schedule.

The exam was to write an essay on a chosen topic within the area while discussing sexual and reproductive rights in a global perspective.

I highly recommend this course to anyone who is working with global health and interested in reproductive health and sexual rights.

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