The Medical Anthropology Forum presents

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Engaging traditional healers for men’s sexual health promotion in Bangladesh

Men’s sexual health promotion remains a challenging enterprise in Bangladesh; it can be characterized as resource-constrained and morally hesitant. Both of these issues severely impact the extent and effectiveness of men’s sexual health promotion in Bangladesh. Within such a context, close-to-the-community responses are particularly important as they can offer the potential to harness existing community strengths in meaningful ways. I consider the potential role of majmawalas (street healers) to supplement current sexual health promotion approaches for men in Bangladesh. Based on a street ethnography, I will discuss the social world of the majmawalas, and their male audiences, and emphasized on the knowledge and processes the majmawalas utilized in their street work. I found that the majma acts as a culturally appropriate space for responding to men’s sexual health and helps us to understand the types of psychosocial sexual health concerns among men in Bangladesh. This talk recommends acknowledging the potentiality of the majmawalas and suggests engaging the majmawalas in sexual health promotion in Bangladesh.

All are cordially invited

Tuesday, October 15
17:15–18:45
CATS, Room 010.01.05