

English websites on Ebola and Anthropology

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Cultural Anthropology

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Ebola in Perspective

by Mary Moran and Daniel Hoffman

Since early 2014, the international coverage of Africa has been dominated by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Much of that coverage represents the region as helpless and hopeless, a tragic victim of illogical beliefs and dangerous cultural practices. The contributors to this Hot Spots series offer their personal and professional experience in this region as a critical counter-argument. The essays collected here explore the political landscapes that make the state itself both a vector for and victim of this disease (Abramowitz, Ammann, Batty, Ferme, Harman, Nguyen); they write of the social realities of funeral practices, both their limits and their potential for change (Richards); they write of the media coverage of the disease and the complex ways in which information flows in and around the region (McGovern); they write of the way Ebola discourse has entered popular culture (Benton, Tucker), occult narratives (Bolten), and the diasporic imaginary (Sayegh, Wesley); and they write of the complicated ways it links to the region's history of violence (Schroven, Soderstrom).

Posts in This Series

[Introduction: Ebola In Perspective](#)

by Mary Moran and Daniel Hoffman

[Ebola in Guinea: Revealing the State of the State](#)

by Anita Schroven

[Bushmeat and the Politics of Disgust](#)

by Mike McGovern

[Reinventing "Others" in a Time of Ebola](#)

by Fodei Batty

[Village Funerals and the Spread of Ebola Virus Disease](#)

by Paul Richards and Alfred Mokuwa

[Hospital Diaries: Experiences with Public Health in Sierra Leone](#)

by Mariane Ferme

[Beats, Rhymes and Ebola](#)

by Boima Tucker

[Articulating the Invisible: Ebola Beyond Witchcraft in Sierra Leone](#)

by Catherine E. Bolten

[Ebola in Liberia: A Threat to Human Security and Peace](#)

by Theresa Ammann

[Ebola and the Health Care Crisis in Liberia](#)

by Jackie Sayegh

[How the Liberian Health Sector Became a Vector for Ebola](#)

<http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/585-ebola-in-perspective>

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Ebola: How We Became Unprepared, and What Might Come Next

by Vinh-Kim Nguyen

This article is part of the series [Ebola in Perspective](#)


- Ebola happened despite, and indeed as a result of, over a decade of pandemic preparedness efforts costing billions.
 - All those efforts devoted to pandemic preparedness did not involve investing in health systems at the front line of epidemics: hospitals.
 - Having failed to bolster the region's hospitals, efforts to eradicate the epidemic should now be substantially shaped by the legacy of HIV.
 - use survivors not only as goodwill ambassadors for prevention and treatment efforts but also as front line personnel for ongoing diagnosis and treatment of EVD patients.
 - The contrast is the hegemonic "camp" model of dedicated treatment facilities initiated by *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) and Paul Farmer, Harvard and US Military
 - An alternative approach that stresses community mobilization and care will become increasingly important.
-
- <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/605-ebola-how-we-became-unprepared-and-what-might-come-next>

Ebola Response Anthropology Platform

Identifying and Diagnosing Cases Management of the Dead Caring for the Sick Clinical Trials/Research Preparedness


Identifying and Diagnosing Cases

Briefings and Guides
Background
Field Notes




Management of the Dead

Briefings and Guides
Background
Field Notes




Caring for the Sick

Briefings and Guides
Background
Field Notes




Clinical Trials/Research





Briefings and Guides
Background
Field Notes



Preparedness

Briefings and Guides
Background
Field Notes



<http://www.ebola-anthropology.net/>

Somatosphere: Ebola Fieldnotes

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Somatosphere's series: Ebola fieldnotes

October 20, 2014 | Filed under: [Countries](#), [English](#), [Peer reviewed](#), [Society & Culture](#) and tagged with: [Adia Benton](#), [Álmudena Mari Sáez](#), [Ann Kelly](#), [Crystal Biruk](#), [Ebola fieldnotes](#), [Emilio Dirlikov](#), [Guillaume Lachenaï](#), [Hannah Brown](#), [Janina Kehr](#), [Qiyu Jiang](#), [Raad Fadaak](#), [Sara M Bergtresser](#), [Sharon Abramowitz](#), [Somatosphere](#), [Uli Beisel](#)



Science,
Medicine,
and Anthropology

A collaborative website covering the intersections of medical anthropology, science and technology studies, cultural psychiatry, psychology and bioethics.

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LINKS
[CDC](#)
[Cultural Anthropology](#)

- **Notes from Case Zero: Anthropology in the time of Ebola**
(<http://somatosphere.net/2014/09/notes-from-case-zero-anthropology-in-the-time-of-ebola.html>)
- **Ebola 2014. Chronicle of a well-prepared disaster**
(<http://somatosphere.net/2014/10/chronicle-of-a-well-prepared-disaster.html>)

<http://www.ebolaweb.org/>

Somatosphere: Ebola Fieldnotes

Things that Anthropologists Can Do to Fight the West African Ebola Epidemic

1. Teach epidemiologists how to count the dead in West Africa.
2. Systematically observe, report on, interpret, and explain local perspectives on the Ebola epidemic response.
3. Detect emerging health risks in the “noise” around Ebola.
4. Identify local health capabilities and latent social structural capacities for emergent Ebola responses.
5. Convene university-based multi-disciplinary study groups that include undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty to track the epidemic in real time, focusing on the sociological, economic, political, and cultural aspects of the outbreak.
6. Provide training, coordination, and qualitative data analysis to support to local Liberian, Sierra Leonean, and Guinean teams who try to use local information to design effective interventions.
7. Take the lead in generating innovative solutions to the global health community’s mass health communication challenges.

<http://somatosphere.net/2014/09/ten-things-that-anthropologists-can-do-to-fight-the-west-african-ebola-epidemic.html>

AAA: Anthropology & Ebola Webinar

The escalating Ebola crisis affects us all, and has shown a need for greater cooperation in developing public health communication and strategies. On October 2, 2014 (important to note this is a Webinar THURSDAY) 1 PM EST, the **American Anthropological Association** will be hosting a **virtual event panel** discussing the role anthropologists play in not only research, but infrastructure and policy, in light of the escalating Ebola outbreak in western Africa. The panel will include Adia Benton, Robert Hahn, Jacklyn Lacey, and Michael McGovern; with Julie Livingston as the acting moderator. We will also be trying a new format for this webinar: tapping into **Google Hangout On the Air**. We will be streaming the event **live on YouTube**, where you will be able to interact with the panelists directly through comment submission. Come be a part of this important conversation and technological experiment.



The panel included Adia Benton, Robert Hahn, Jacklyn Lacey, and Michael McGovern;

- <http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/conferences.cfm>



[YouTube Link to Webinar](#)

MedBox: Ebola Toolbox



HAEMORRHAGIC FEVERS IN AFRICA: NARRATIVES, POLITICS AND PATHWAYS OF DISEASE AND RESPONSE

Leach Melissa, Eds.: STEPScentre, (2008)

 Preview  18 x downloaded  Favourite

★★★★★  13

This paper contrasts global outbreak narratives with three others which consider haemorrhagic fevers as deadly local disease events, in terms of culture and context, and in terms of long-term social and environmental dynamics. It considers the pathways of disease response associated with each, and how they might be better integrated to deal with haemorrhagic fevers in more effective, Sustainable and socially just ways.

<http://steps-centre.org/wp-content/uploads/Ebola.p...>



MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY STUDY OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK IN LIBERIA/WEST AFRICA

World Health Organization, (2014)

 Preview  392 x downloaded  Favourite

★★★★★ (1)  181

This study was carried out to better understand the local beliefs and practices likely to enhance or hinder efforts to respond to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Liberia.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/res...>

<http://www.medbox.org/ebola-toolbox/>

NPR: Experts Ebola Response Needs



- In Sierra Leone, a burial team from the government carries the coffin of an Ebola doctor who succumbed to the virus. Funerals and other expressions of mourning are key moments for anthropologists to translate between native cultures and foreign aid efforts, anthropologist Ann Kelly says.
- Any situations of infectious contagion are highly social. It's an incredibly intimate process, and anthropology is a science of intimacy, of intimate connections. With Ebola, the points of transmission are through touch. An anthropologist does a lot of work with how people interact with each other in an everyday way.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/goatsandsoda/2014/09/28/351845664/the-experts-missing-from-the-ebola-response-anthropologists>

Paul Farmer on Ebola



Focus on strengthening entire health systems, from supporting community health workers who accompany patients and conduct active case-finding to bolstering the capacity of Ministries of Health so that they are well-staffed and well-supplied to respond when such outbreaks occur.

An Ebola diagnosis need not be a death sentence. Here's my assertion as an infectious disease specialist: if patients are promptly diagnosed and receive aggressive supportive care—including fluid resuscitation, electrolyte replacement and blood products—the great majority, as many as 90 percent, should survive.

<http://www.pih.org/blog/dr.-paul-farmer-discusses-ebola-outbreak-with-pris-the-world>

<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n20/paul-farmer/diary>

WHO - Medical Anthropology Study



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10 OCT 2014

WHO – Medical Anthropology Study of the Ebola Outbreak in Liberia/West Africa

This study was carried out to better understand the local beliefs and practices likely to enhance or hinder efforts to respond to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Liberia.

Medical Anthropology Study of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Outbreak in Liberia/West Africa



<http://ebolacommunicationnetwork.org/ebolacomresource/who-medical-anthropology-study-of-the-ebola-outbreak-in-liberiawest-africa/>

Weekly overview - blogs:

- [Anthropologyworks.com](http://anthropologyworks.com) (without 'www')
- [Savageminds.org](http://savageminds.org) (without 'www')

Other articles:

- <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/10/12/1334416/-Sane-approaches-to-health-epidemics>
- <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/cross-check/2014/09/03/ebola-fear-mongering-critiqued-by-medical-anthropologist/>