

Friday Research Seminar in Africa Studies

Proud to be a Siphilile Woman!

with

Mats Målqvist

Professor of Global Health, Uppsala University

Friday 7 February 2020, 10.15-11.30 House 3, room 2028, Engelska Parken Thunsbergsvägen 3H, Uppsala



Every year, more than five million children die before their fifth birthday and almost 300,000 women perish in connection to pregnancy and childbirth. The reasons for these tragedies are not primarily medical, but a matter of priorities and values. Social and cultural structures maintain destructive power relations, leaving the most vulnerable at risk.

In 2012, Siphilile Maternal and Child Health was established in the Kingdom of Eswatini, recruiting and training 'Mentor Mothers' to be peer supporters in their own disadvantaged communities. Mats Målqvist highlights how by addressing culture and gender roles, the Mentor Mothers set an example of how maternal and child health can be improved through empowerment, realizing that power lies in the powerless, and that change starts at the margin

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