

Social Pharmaceutical Innovation for the Global South

Literature review

Department: Geosciences

Research group: Innovation Studies

Supervisor: Tineke Kleinhout-Vliek, PhD

Email address: t.h.kleinhout-vliek@uu.nl

Project description

Much medical need remains unmet throughout the world through various problems such as medicine shortages, high prices, and anti-microbial resistance. Such problems strongly challenge the sustainability of health care systems worldwide, but they are particularly forceful in the Global South.

Social Pharmaceutical Innovation (SPIN) seek to respond to these challenges. SPINs feature new ways of making high-quality medicines available or (more) affordable. They often do so through stakeholders working together in new ways to reach these higher societal goals.

We see much SPIN development locally in the Global South, but some significant innovation to benefit the Global South hails from the North. One example is the BioNespresso, a push-the-button medicine production unit currently under development for deployment in low-resource settings. Pharmaceutical track-and-trace systems are another (Kootstra and Kleinhout-Vliek, 2021). Not all SPINs are primarily technological in origin, though: citizen science is also an essential source of social innovation.

You will develop and execute a literature review on forms of Social Pharmaceutical Innovation developed in the Global North to benefit the Global South. You will bring together grey and peer-reviewed literature to understand what works, for whom, and under what circumstances. This research will build directly on and feed into our Transatlantic research project on SPINs in Brazil, Canada, France, and the Netherlands.

The deliverable is a Microsoft Excel file with an overview of all these SPINs published in peer-reviewed and grey literature. I am keen to develop this research project into a publication.

Job requirements

You are a good fit for this project if you have a heart for global justice and a detective-like eye for detail.