

OWL colloquium: Athena's platform for deliberating science-society interactions

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Athena's monthly colloquium



We are happy to announce that our next OWL colloquium speaker is

dr. Prisca Zwanikken

In academic debate with

Prof. dr. Marjolein Zweekhorst

Date & time: **16 February 2017, 16:00-17:00**

Venue: Room **WN-C648** in VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1085.

Abstract: Can we measure outcome and impact of public health and international health Master's programmes for low- and middle-income countries?

Given the shortage of public health professionals in 57 low- and middle-income countries (LMIC, the relevance of the Master of Public Health (MPH) and the Master in International Health (MIH) geared towards LMIC was questioned. What is the influence of the MIH and MPH programmes on the graduates, their work and on society? A consortium of 6 schools defined competencies, outcome and impact variables for the MPH. An alumni survey revealed that graduates acquired new responsibilities and changed in technical position. A substantial number attributed this to their MPH degree. MPH Graduates themselves, their peers as well as supervisors reported positive changes at the workplace level, especially in terms of management, leadership, innovation, teaching and training, advocacy, community engagement and research involvement. Effects mentioned beyond their immediate workplace involved an inter-sectoral approach, national reach through policy advisory roles to Ministries of Health, policy development and capacity building. Surveys among MIH graduates indicated that many of them had moved to a new position in their organisation

or in the health system. They tend to work more often at national or international level. The studies showed that outcome and impact can to a certain extent be measured, however questions on attribution remain and study methods need to be more extensively developed.

About our speaker: Prisca Zwanikken, MD, MSc.CH, PhD., is a specialist in public health, human resource for health, training and HIV/AIDS. Currently Prisca Zwanikken is the program director of the Master's in Public Health (International Course on Health and Development) and the Master in International Health, is involved in capacity building and training programs in Africa and Asia and the project leader of a multi-country research project on outcome and impact of MPH programs. Her research focuses on public health education, quality assurance of education and approaches in education.

About the Athena Institute

The Athena Institute at VU University Amsterdam is part of the science faculty. From its early days in the 1990s onwards, it has developed tools and methodologies to successfully deal with science-society interactions at all stages of research and innovation.

About the OWL colloquium

With its monthly OWL colloquium the Athena Institute aspires to stimulate an inter-, multi-, cross and trans-disciplinary process of deliberation about topics relating to the interface between science and society. Speakers from all corners both within and without academia (CSOs, policy, business and industry...) are invited to present on empirical, theoretical and methodological developments topical to bridging the variety of gaps that complicate science and society interactions.

For more information, please contact us at OWLcolloquium.falw@vu.nl.