**Anti-Microbials in Society (AMIS): a Global Interdisciplinary Research Hub – Thailand, Study 1**

**Project Aims and Methodology**

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| Title | **Antimicrobials in Society (AMIS) Project Thailand: Understanding the role of antimicrobials in daily life in Thai Society** |
| Description | The AMIS Project Thailand is an anthropological research project aimed at better understanding the role of antimicrobials in daily life in Thai society in diverse contexts and with different actors, including health care providers, day wage urban workers, scientists and policymakers. The research focuses on the ways in which antimicrobials enable particular ways of life, livelihoods and institutional practices, and explores the context and wider motivations for antimicrobial use in Thailand. |
| Study design and topics | The AMIS Thailand project, (Study 1) consists of three sub-studies; each sub-study draws on different anthropological literature and has different entry points (antimicrobial/AMR activity and/or group), however they overlap. The research includes the following topics and study sites/informants:   1. *Antimicrobial distribution in community pharmacies in a peri-urban area*: Community pharmacies, households, provincial health office, district health office, pharmaceutical representatives, academics and policymakers 2. *Antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistant infection in marginalised communities*: Bedridden patients and their families in a peri-urban community, community health centre, public district hospital 3. *Rational drug use policies*: Private hospital, public district hospital, community health centre, academics and policymakers |
| Primary objective | To understand the role of antimicrobials in everyday life in Thailand. |
| Secondary objectives | * To understand the ways in which people rely on antimicrobials. * To understand the context for people's use of, and reliance on, antimicrobials. * To understand the differential distribution and transmission of antimicrobial resistant infections in the community. * To stimulate and observe action in response to data and research on AMR via participatory research. |
| Methodology | **Documentary analysis:** Relevant literature, policy documents and public health and lay public media content and materials were reviewed, to contextualise ethnographic findings. Including literature on the regulation of antibiotic distribution, national drug policies, awareness campaigns on AMR, and national and sub-national infection prevention and control policies.   1. **Ethnographic fieldwork:** Involved participant observation and semi-structured interviews, to understand how antibiotics are intertwined in people’s lives, with a focus on why, and how, people rely on them. Participant observation was conducted in two community pharmacies and with 27 patients and relatives in the community, health centre, and district hospital. In total, 89 semi-structured and informal interviews were conducted with 47 informants and key stakeholders, including healthcare staff, policy makers and academics, patients and relatives, and pharmaceutical representatives. In addition, three focus group discussions were conducted with elderly and working age residents, and community health volunteers. 2. **Household medicines survey:** A survey was conducted with 95 households in 3 communities to assess stocks, recognition, use, and origin of antibiotics in the community.   **Participatory research activities:** Conducted to provide preliminary feedback on research findings in order to elicit feedback and discussion among participants and local public health officials. In total, 263 individuals were involved in public engagement and feedback activities. |
| Project period | Approximately 4 years from 2018 to 2021 (Fieldwork was conducted between August 2018-November 2020) |