



GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, October 26th, 2017, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Department of Psychiatry, Irving Ludmer Building, Room #1
1033 Ave Pine Ave West, Montreal, QC, H3A 1A1

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Once upon a shrine: Traditional healing of the mind and soul in contemporary Ghana

This talk is a reflection on observations and insights gleaned from fieldwork conducted in the summer of 2017 at shrines of traditional healers in rural Ghana. It explores:

- (i) the role of the traditional healer as a health and mental health care provider in contemporary rural Ghana
- (ii) the explanatory model from which Ghanaian traditional healers operate
- (iii) the evolution of the roles of traditional healers vis-à-vis the spread of charismatic Christianity in Ghana
- (iv) continuities and discontinuities between western style therapeutic practices and Ghanaian traditional healing strategies
- (v) the potential interface between traditional healers and WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) initiatives (aimed at scaling up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders for countries especially with low- and middle-income)