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MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

EYENZULULWAZI NGEZONYANGO NEMPILO

GENEESKUNDE EN GESONDHEIDSWETENSKAPPE

**The Division of Health Systems of Health Systems and Public invites to a talk by Dr Kafui Adjaye-Gbewonyo on 15 November 2022 at 13:00.**



Dr Kafui Adjaye-Gbewonyo is a Senior Lecturer in Public Health at the University of Greenwich, London. She was previously a Research Associate and Visiting Research Fellow at UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies. Kafui is a social epidemiologist with an interest in social and structural determinants of health and chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly in African and other low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Her research has primarily used quantitative and econometric methods to analyse large population surveys. She has also had some experience with qualitative research.

**Topic:** Social Capital, Inequality and Risk for Chronic Disease in South Africa

**Abstract:** It is believed that high levels of inequality in the community in which one lives may have adverse impacts on a variety of health outcomes. In addition, strong social capital and cohesion in communities have been hypothesised to improve health status. However, much of the empirical research testing these hypotheses has come from the 'Global North' with little evidence on the nature of these relationships within African countries.

As a result of its unique history and legacy of apartheid, South Africa is a middle-income nation that is home to some of the highest levels of income inequality recorded worldwide. Similarly, and perhaps consequently, research has also revealed low levels of measures of social capital, such as trust in others. Given that the burden of non-communicable diseases is growing in South Africa as elsewhere, understanding whether and how inequality and social capital may contribute to chronic disease risk is important. This presentation reports on research taking advantage of longitudinal data from the National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) to examine whether changes in inequality and social trust at the district-council level are associated with changes in several chronic disease risk factors and depressive symptoms among individuals living in South Africa. It also explores opportunities to expand this research using additional waves of the NIDS.