

Title of PhD project / theme	Understanding the Differences in the Dynamics of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Refusal in Multiple Countries of Asia and Pacific
Supervisory team	<p><i>Nagasaki supervisors:</i> <i>Abdurrahman Gülbeyaz</i></p> <p><i>LSHTM supervisor:</i> <i>Heidi Larson</i></p> <p>Other member in the supervisory team</p> <p>Nagasaki University Koya Ariyoshi</p>
Brief description of project / theme	<p>This research will focus on the HPV-vaccine refusal in Japan and other Asian and Pacific countries, aiming, on the one hand, at understanding the actuating forces and determining factors triggering resp. underlying the refusal behaviour and its propagation mechanisms and channels, and, on the other hand, at yielding theoretically substantiated systematic insights into the nature of vaccine confidence in general. The research will adopt a necessarily multidisciplinary approach drawing on social, natural as well as formal sciences, and using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The main objective of the project is to design and propose more rational and effective measures to promote HPV vaccine acceptance.</p> <p>Strategies for lasting eradication of communicable diseases differ depending on the link of the causation-transmission-outbreak chain at which the control is directed. A conclusive destruction of the agent, the closure of the transmission routes, or a physical modification of the environment would presuppose a radical, life-affirming restructuring of resource allocation on a global scale with the object of establishing universal justice, which in turn would prerequisite a life-preserving and life-enhancing mode of interaction with nature. This, however, would be, if not simply a naive utopia, at least a course of action that would take a period of time that would have to be measured in light-years.</p> <p>Vaccination is, therefore, even if not the sole one, the most effective strategy in the fight against communicable diseases. It is feasible and affordable in that it is a control method which is exclusively directed at the potential host without having to rely on wide-ranging substantial reforms which would require time and money – things that are never there where and when they are really needed.</p>

	<p>The success of vaccination, however, depends ultimately on the consent of the people, i.e. on the public confidence in the vaccination policy, which in turn would presuppose public trust in health authorities and government institutions. A lack of confidence in this connection and the resulting hesitancy or refusal could have disastrous consequences on a global scale. That's why it is crucial to understand the governing dynamics of the formation and decay of public confidence in general and of vaccine confidence in particular.</p>
<p>The role of LSHTM and NU in this collaborative project</p>	<p>NU will provide the student with support in developing the conceptual instruments and methodological procedures necessary for gathering, analysing and interpreting the relevant data. Furthermore, the student will receive continuous counselling and support in practical implementation of the empirical work.</p> <p>LSHTM will provide support in terms of both theoretical and practical approaches to the issues of vaccine confidence and public trust on a general level, and guide the student to find the extant research findings and data which could server as comparison.</p>
<p>Particular <i>prior</i> educational requirements for a student undertaking this project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree in global health, public health, epidemiology or in any of the social sciences • Right level of Japanese communication skills to conduct research in Japanese-speaking environment
<p>Skills we expect a student to develop/acquire whilst pursuing this project</p>	<p>The student will develop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high-level skills of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, • interdisciplinary skills combining sociolinguistics, media studies, communication theory, discourse and conversation analysis and applying them to the issues of public and global health, • presentation and writing skills.