



Dr. Claudia Hövener is a public health researcher with a focus on health inequalities and migrant health as well as on research with marginalized and hard-to-survey populations. A particular emphasis of her work lays on including participatory health research into epidemiological studies. She has been working at the Robert Koch Institute since 2010, first in the department of infectious disease epidemiology where she conducted a participatory survey on sexual health with migrants from sub-Saharan Africa living in Germany. She was also PI of the subproject “participatory epidemiology” of the research consortium

for healthy communities (PartKommPlus). In 2017 she switched to the department of epidemiology and health monitoring where she led different projects, e.g. on implementing strategies to improve the inclusion of migrants in health surveys. Since 2020 she is the head of the unit “social determinants of health” at the Robert Koch Institute. Previous to her research career she worked in health promotion and prevention with underserved populations and as a registered nurse in different hospital settings.

«Participatory approaches in epidemiological research: theoretical reflections and practical experience»

The concept of participatory epidemiology refers to the active involvement and preferably equal cooperation of researchers, practitioners and community representatives within the some or all steps of the research process. It comprises the following aspects: a joint definition of research objectives and research questions, the cooperative definition of the population groups under study and their health-relevant contexts, the selection or adaptation of appropriate survey instruments and joint forms of interpreting the results. Participatory epidemiology aims at creating knowledge with practical relevance for all stakeholders involved. Using an example, namely the study on sexual health with migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, challenges and potentials of participatory epidemiology are explored and discussed.

Join the lecture on Thursday, 21 April 2022 at 4:00 pm online on zoom!

Join the lecture on zoom:

<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/64597700285?pwd=dkdSZkl4U0tkLzMyengvNmlyK3pUUT09>

(Meeting ID: 645 9770 0285, Passcode: 599737)