



Title: The role of academia and researchers in addressing “engagement” as a missing public health function of the 21st century

Date: Friday 22nd September, 2017

Time: 10:30 – 12 noon

Venue: University Square Stratford, 1 Salway Road

Speaker: *Asiya Oduqleh-Kolev* - Community and Social Interventions, Quality Systems and Resilience Unit, Department of Service Delivery and Safety, World Health Organization, Geneva

Asiya currently leads the Service Delivery and Safety Department’s work on community engagement for quality, people-centred and resilient health services where she is coordinating health system innovations to mainstream community engagement as a core function of health services and programmes. Previously, she was team leader, behavioural and social interventions for epidemic readiness and response. In this role she trained and counselled multidisciplinary rapid response teams as well as being deployed to provide specialist support to countries dealing with infectious disease outbreaks. During her time at WHO she has worked alongside WHO Member States and partners in over 24 countries developing and implementing communication strategies and building capacities at community, district and national levels across a range of health programmes.

Asiya was born in Somalia and grew up in Sheffield, UK from the age of two. She started her community development work in the 1980’s as a youth volunteer. In 1992, she was employed by Sheffield Family & Community Services as a Community Development Worker to support the integration of Somali refugees fleeing civil war in their home country. Prior to joining WHO in 2001, she worked as a national officer in programme communication and social mobilization for UNICEF Somalia.

Asiya qualified as a Registered General Nurse from the Sheffield School of Nursing; she has a BA (Hons) in Third World Studies with Anthropology from the University of East London; a Postgraduate Diploma in Print Journalism from the University of Westminster, London; and a Master’s in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.