

Research ambition: Comparative Social Science

AMR Global Challenges and Social Science Workshop

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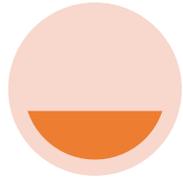
The University of Melbourne

Using explanation to benefit application

What theoretical insights can we 'translate' to action against AMR?

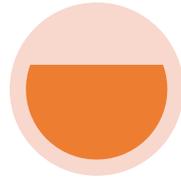
1. What are the key 'frustrations' or 'quandaries' that practitioners face in the fight against AMR?
2. Looking upstream from these:

Example



Practical concern

Why is buying antibiotics so easy in many LMICs?



Back-trace upstream links

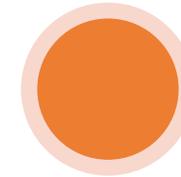
State and policy capacities,
International standards,
Scientific knowledge



Current policies, monitoring
and enforcement efficacy



AB market regulation in
critical LMICs



Social science research

Explanatory analyses of key
parameters



Deduce likely options for
action



Field test options.

Which specific questions?

The governance problems seem particularly important...

1. Regulating the markets for antibiotics – in human medicine and agriculture
2. Shifting behaviors down the chain, from governments to end-users
3. Boosting research and development of new antimicrobial treatments

...suggesting that social science at multiple levels of analysis can contribute

Levels of AMR governance analysis

Level of Comparison	Case Examples	Case selection
Inter-Crisis	AMR v. Climate Change	Control through most-similar cases and process-tracing
Global inter-organizational or inter-regional	WHO v. FAO v. OIE EU v. ASEAN	Focus on the key actors and process-tracing
International	Australia v. Canada EU Member States WHO Member States	Control through most-similar (small n) and process-tracing, or Statistical control (large n)
Inter-state, inter-city	Victoria v. New South Wales US States, Dutch health regions	Control through most-similar (small n), or Statistical control (large n)
Inter-carer	GPs in a jurisdiction, Hospitals in a jurisdiction.	Ethnographies, Focus groups, Statistical control, or Experimental control
Inter-citizen	Pneumonia patients, Diagnostic codes	Focus groups, Statistical control, or Experimental control

State of literature?

Significant room for describing and explaining how the levels of governance are responding to the AMR threat.

- Social science exists on motivations and behaviors among carers and patients
- AMR policy processes and their outcomes remain to be explained

Global programs – how are they made? What difference do they make to AMR?

AMR is a creeping transboundary crisis.

During the past decade, global and national ‘One Health’ strategies against AMR have emerged.

- Yet what are these strategies, and what do they leave out? And why?
- In turn, do they actually target ‘triggers’ for national, local, or individual action in the most critical contexts?