Karina Kielmann is a medical anthropologist with a Masters in Anthropology from McGill University (1994), and a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2000). She worked for 10 years at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine before joining the Institute for International Health and Development at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2011.

Her area of expertise is the anthropological analysis of health systems issues in low- and middle income settings, with a focus on human resources for health, and tuberculosis and HIV care in India and Southern Africa.

She is co-editor of a volume entitled Troubling Natural Categories (McGill-Queens University Press 2013), honouring the scholarship of the eminent professor of medical anthropology, Margaret Lock, and has authored around 40 publications in public health and medical anthropology journals.

In this talk, Dr. Kielmann will highlight the importance of a dynamic, actor-oriented view of the health system that enables closer examination of the processes through which instrumental goals in delivering health services are attained (or thwarted).

By way of illustration, she will present a few case studies to draw attention to the critical role of health systems actors (programme managers, providers, and patients) in shaping the relative ‘success’ and sustainability of interventions intended to improve efficiency and quality of services for patients affected by TB, TB/HIV and MDR-TB in India and Southern Africa.