

TRAININGS ON *ARTEMISIA ANNUA* FOR MALARIA IN GHANA

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My research interests in anthropology are in trainings on *Artemisia annua* for malaria in Ghana and global malaria policies and power; namely the power of the Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization (WHO), and WHO policies on *Artemisia annua*.

In terms of my research surrounding global malaria policies and power, I am primarily interested in WHO policies on *Artemisia annua*, focusing on the position statements of the WHO Main Office, which are opposed to the use of *Artemisia annua* for malaria, how these statements were created and how and why the position of the WHO Regional Office for Africa differs from the Main Office in their position that *Artemisia annua* is a “tried and tested product” and their statement that “*Artemisia annua* has been found to be effective against resistant malaria.”

A review of the literature on *Artemisia annua*, power and development, WHO policies and positions on *Artemisia annua* and traditional medicine, as well as interviews with WHO main office’s Malaria Policy Advisory Committee members, government officials, non-governmental organizations, and academics have led to several findings. My research shows that the WHO main office’s cited reasons for their opposition of *Artemisia annua* have been largely addressed in peer-reviewed research, the WHO’s main office formulated their position statement on the effectiveness of *Artemisia annua* for malaria without any official discussion or review of evidence, the WHO has repeatedly been accused of corruption, ties to the pharmaceutical industry, failure to disclose conflicts of interest and biased recommendations, and financial and political motivations may be behind the WHO’s opposition to the use of *Artemisia annua*.

Another aspect of my research interests is the growing popularity of the use of *Artemisia annua* in Africa by governments, communities, and organizations, with

a focus on Ghana. *Artemisia annua* is currently being grown and used for malaria in 14 African countries and its use is expanding. I focus on Ghana because of my previous work on herbal medicine use and policy in the country, experience as a Peace Corps volunteer there, knowledge of the Akan language, and because of the governments’ support and desire to promote *Artemisia annua*. The Traditional Medicine Practice Council, under the Ministry of Health, has planned on promoting the wide-scale use and growing of *Artemisia annua* for malaria and is planning on conducting trainings with registered herbalists beginning in late 2019. In Ghana, organizations have been conducting trainings on *Artemisia annua* for malaria since 2007. While there has been a significant amount of research on growing, preparing, storing, using, and the safety and efficacy of *Artemisia annua*, little has been studied on the efficacy of trainings on *Artemisia annua* in terms of getting individuals to grow, spread and use this plant.

In order to further reduce the rates of malaria in Ghana action is needed to understand the feasibility of the introductions of *Artemisia annua* into rural communities and amongst herbalists. For my doctoral thesis, I propose to do a cohort study, following 3 different groups of participants who will all attended a training on *Artemisia annua*. Diffusion theory describes how innovations spread through a social system through formal and informal communication channels and processes. Pulling from diffusion theory, the proposed research will monitor the spread of *Artemisia annua* through participants personal social networks, as well as monitor and gain insight into the adoption rate of the plant by participants, issues participants have in growing, using and propagating the plant and the effectiveness of these trainings, in regard to getting people to grow, share and use this plant.

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