



## Elena Jirovsky-Platter, PhD

Medical Anthropologist – University Assistant (Postdoc),  
Center for Public Health, Medical University of Vienna

Email: [elena.jirovsky-platter@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:elena.jirovsky-platter@meduniwien.ac.at)

Phone: +43 (0)1 40160-34616

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8304-2518>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elena-jirovsky/>

### PROFILE:

Medical anthropologist with over 15 years of experience in public and global health, focusing on equity in health care, migrant health, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), primary care and infectious threats. I have led and co-led mixed-methods research projects funded by EU programmes and national authorities, combining qualitative research, surveys and policy analysis. My track record includes publications in BMJ Open, Reproductive Health, European Journal of Public Health and other international journals, as well as extensive teaching and supervision at universities.

### CURRENT POSITION

02/2016 - present

#### University Assistant (Postdoc), Center for Public Health, Medical University of Vienna

- Conduct mixed-methods research on FGM/C, migrant health, vaccination, sexual health and infectious disease threats.
- Lead and co-lead third-party funded projects (Austrian Federal Chancellery BKA; EIGE/ICF; EU health and Horizon research programmes).
- Teach medical anthropology, global health and qualitative methods at undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- Supervise MD theses in public health and medical anthropology.

2007-2016

#### Research and consultancies:

- World Health Organisation, Ebola Response, Liberia (socio-cultural aspects; Ebola survivors; health worker in the epidemic; capacity building Liberian researchers)
- Doctors without borders, MSF Austria (research publication coaching; Rapid Rural Appraisal on RTUF, Chad)
- Medical University of Vienna (Human Resources for Primary Health Care in Africa - HURAPRIM (EU FP7-Africa-2010))
- University of Vienna (DOC-team grant; Pre-Doc Assistant)

### EDUCATION

- **PhD (Dr. phil.) in Social and Cultural Anthropology**, University of Vienna, Austria – with distinction  
Thesis: Contemporary Meanings of Female Circumcision/Female Genital Mutilation (FC/FGM) in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso – Local Aspects of a Global Assemblage.
- **Mag. phil. in Social and Cultural Anthropology**, University of Vienna, Austria

## SELECTED GRANTS AND PROJECTS:

- 2023–2025: FGM/C in Austria: Prevalence, health services and legal frameworks (PI; funded by Austrian Federal Chancellery; mixed method study).
- 2020–2022: Girls at Risk of FGM in Austria (Co-PI; commissioned by EIGE/ICF).
- 2018–2021: SONAR-Global: Social Sciences Network for Infectious Threats and AMR (Lead Researcher; H2020).
- 2016–2017: EUR-HUMAN European Refugees Human Movement and Advisory Network - EUR-HUMAN (Senior Researcher; EU 3<sup>rd</sup> Health Program)
- Further projects available on request.

## SELECTED PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

- **Jirovsky-Platter E**, Wakolbinger M, Kühn T, Hoffmann K, Rieder A, Haider S. Experiences of Vegans with General Practitioners in the Austrian Health Care System: A Qualitative Study. *Nutrients*. 2024 Jan 29;16(3):392. doi: 10.3390/nu16030392.
- Wojczewski S, Leitner KM, Hoffmann K, Kutalek R, **Jirovsky-Platter E**. Vaccine hesitancy among physicians: a qualitative study with general practitioners and paediatricians in Austria and Germany. *BMJ Open* 2024;14:e077411. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-077411
- **Jirovsky-Platter E**, Grohma P, Naher N, Rodyna R, Nabirye C, Dückers M, Ahmed SM, Osborne J, Kaawa-Mafigiri D, Giles-Vernick T, Kutalek R. Community engagement to tackle infectious threats: A viewpoint based on a social science mapping process in Bangladesh, Uganda, and Ukraine. *J Glob Health*. 2023 Jun 23;13:03025. doi: 10.7189/jogh.13.03025.
- Jeleff M, Lehner L, **Jirovsky-Platter E**, Dückers M, Napier D, Giles-Vernick T, and Kutalek R (2022). Vulnerability and One Health assessment approaches for infectious threats from a social science perspective: A systematic scoping review. *The Lancet Planetary Health*. Accepted. Forthcoming.
- Jeleff M, Traugott M, **Jirovsky-Platter E**, Jordakieva G, and Kutalek R (2022) Occupational challenges of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative study. *BMJ Open* 12(3):e054516. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-054516
- **Jirovsky, Elena**. Views of women and men in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, on three forms of female genital modification. 2010. *Reproductive Health Matters* 18(35): pp. 84-93.

## SELECTED BOOK CHAPTERS

- **Jirovsky, Elena**. 2018. "If you can afford it, you can do it"- Deliberations of people in Burkina Faso on clitoral reconstruction after female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). In: Griffin, Gabriele; Jordal, Malin (eds.): *Body, Migration, Re/constructive Surgeries: Making the Gendered Body in a Globalized World*. Routledge: London/ New York: pp. 140-55.
- Schaffler, Yvonne; Ramirez Castillo, Nora; **Jirovsky, Elena**. 2017. „Das Warten bringt uns wirklich um“: Gesundheitliche und psychologische Aspekte von Flucht und Leben im Exil. In: Susanne Binder & Gebhard Fartacek (Hg.): *Facetten von Flucht aus dem Nahen und Mittleren Osten*. Facultas, Wien: pp. 227-250.
- **Jirovsky, Elena**. 2014. Contemporary meanings of female circumcision/ female genital mutilation (FC/FGM) in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso - local aspects of a global assemblage. Doctoral thesis, Department of Social- and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna.
- Dorneles de Andrade, Daniela; **Elena Jirovsky**; Sara Paloni. 2011. Normalized bodies? Interdisciplinary perspectives on the current social and cultural significance of female genital mutilation/circumcision in Burkina Faso and cosmetic surgery in Brazil. In: del Pozo, Alba; Alba Serrano (eds.). *La piel en la palestra: estudios corporales II*. EdiUOC , Barcelona: pp. 415-427.

- Dorneles de Andrade, Daniela; **Elena Jirovsky**; Sara Paloni. 2010. Kosmetische Eingriffe und weibliche Genitalverstümmelung - Betrachtungen zu körpermanipulativen Praktiken aus interdisziplinärer Perspektive. In: Borkenhagen, Ada; Elmar Brähler (eds.). Intimmodifikationen. Psychosozial Verlag, Gießen: pp. 167-181.

#### **TEACHING AND SUPERVISION (SELECTED)**

- Courses in medical anthropology, global health, FGM/C and qualitative methods at Medical University of Vienna, Karl Landsteiner University and Webster University (since 2016).
- Course lead/co-lead for: Global Health and Humanitarian Work, Medical Practice and Culture – Introduction to Medical Anthropology, Violence Prevention in Medicine, FGM/C-focused lectures in the MD curriculum.
- Supervision of multiple MD theses on FGM/C, vaccination, refugee health and sexual and reproductive health; several completed, others ongoing.
- Detailed course list available on request

#### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- DOC-team fellowship, Austrian Academy of Sciences (2007–2010).
- Veronika Fialka-Moser Diversity Award, Medical University of Vienna – category “Thesis”(2020) and “Teaching” (2017).

#### **EXTENDED STAYS ABROAD**

- Liberia, Consultant for WHO, Ebola Response, 06/2015-10/2015.
- Burkina Faso, Field work: 04/2008-03/2009; 11/ 2011-01/2012, 03-04/2015.
- Canada: University of Toronto, visiting doctoral student, 09/2009-03/2010; University of Alberta, visiting researcher, 09/2013-02/2015.
- Chad: Research for MSF, 04-05/2011.

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).
- Austrian Ethnomedical Society (ÖEG); AGEM –Working Group Ethnomedicine.
- Women Scientists Network Medicine (WNW-MED).