

Introduction

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What is global health? The term “suffers from imprecision”, it has been said.¹ In a thought-provoking paper published in *The Lancet* in 2010, Dr Linda Fried and colleagues made a bid to get a new understanding of what is exactly global health.² Global health, they deplore, is “still often perceived as international aid [...] flowing from the wealthier countries of the global north to the poorer countries of the global south”. They beg for a “more nuanced and contemporary perspective” that would emphasize interdependence and the common impact of many health problems conducive to solutions that would be multilateral or, at a minimum, bidirectional. Taking its cue from another paper, the Northwestern University’s Center for Global Health defines on its site global health as: first, a trans-disciplinary body of knowledge and expertise (more on this below); and, second, a form of public health that deals with issues transcending national boundaries.³

Trans-disciplinarity and cross-border approach are certainly promising avenues of research in global health.⁴ But, while global health supposedly concerns health outcomes that “are beyond the capacity of individual countries to address alone”,⁵ to construe global health pushing aside national boundaries from the picture would amount to misconstrue the notion for want of considering its genuine context. For, even though “economic globalization has been the driving force behind the overall process of globalization

1 Lee 2011, 9.

2 Fried 2010.

3 Kaplan 2009.

4 Wernli 2016.

5 Lee 2011, 9.

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