

GLOBAL HEALTH HISTORIES SEMINARS

Emerging issues of global public health importance:

Haemorrhagic fevers: The deepest fears



Professor Melissa Leach

Haemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola, Marburg and Lassa have triggered the deepest popular fears about highly contagious and often gruesome illnesses that emerge from the forests of Africa. In recent years they have prompted rapid and sometimes draconian international policy responses and control measures. But are these necessarily the best ways to deal with such outbreaks? **Professor Melissa Leach** of Sussex University, England, discusses them and alternative approaches that focus on local cultural practices and insights from ecology and social science, and suggests how they might be integrated. The WHO expert view is provided by **Ms Asiya Odugleh**, from the Global Alert and Response department.

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