



THE DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, BIostatISTICS AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, - SEMINAR SERIES IS A SELF-APPROVED GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITY (SECTION 1) AS DEFINED BY THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA

**SPECIAL SEMINAR**

**ALISSA KOSKI, PhD MPH**

Postdoctoral Scholar, University of California, Los Angeles



***Female Genital Cutting: Recent Trends in Prevalence, Attitudes and Policy Approaches***

**WEDNESDAY, 28 MARCH 2018 / 09:00am – 10:00am**  
**Purvis Hall**

1020 Pine Avenue West—Room 25

ALL ARE WELCOME

**ABSTRACT**

Female genital cutting is widely considered a violation of human rights that threatens the health and wellbeing of millions of girls worldwide. It is widely practiced in many African societies and may continue among their diasporas despite decades of local and international efforts to eliminate it. Progress toward reducing the incidence of cutting has been slow, and reported support for its continuation remains high in some countries. In light of its persistence, harm reduction approaches that aim to mitigate some of the health risks associated with cutting have been proposed and have generated controversy. In this talk, I will present

recent trends in the prevalence, severity, and attitudes toward female genital cutting in several African countries and discuss arguments for and against harm reduction approaches to the practice.

**OBJECTIVES**

Seminar will address the following:

1. What is female genital cutting and how common is it?
2. What are people's attitudes toward genital cutting in countries where it is widely practiced?
3. What are arguments for and against "medicalizing" female genital cutting as a harm reduction strategy?

**BIO**

**Dr. Koski** is a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is interested in the socio-cultural determinants of health and the value judgements inherent in global health and development frameworks. Her current research on child marriage and female genital cutting critically assesses how those frameworks are applied across countries and investigates policy approaches to addressing those issues. She received her PhD in epidemiology from McGill University in 2016 and her MPH in global health from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.