

Lotta Gammelín  
Phd. Candidate  
Centre for Theology and Religious Studies  
Lund University

## **Gendered narratives of health, illness and healing in the Gospel Miracle Church for All People**

Based on fieldwork at the Gospel Miracle Church for All People (GMCL) in Tanzania, the paper argues that local discourses on healing are often drastically different from what is propagated/understood as global Pentecostal-Charismatic healing paradigm. The GMCL is a rapidly growing prophetic-charismatic church community located in Mbeya. It offers healing prayers for wide range of problems, among the most important ones infertility, marital problems, and being possessed by various kinds of spirits. Most of these problems are visible only in the lives of women and, thus, women form the majority of this community. This paper draws from women's narratives of illness and healing. The argument on the local/global disconnections is made in particular in relation to the health seeking behavior of these women in a setting of medical pluralism and their understanding of healing, illness and well-being. How do they explain their experiences that are gendered, and often deal with sexuality? Prioritising locally founded concepts together with existing research on medical pluralism and gender and sexuality in Africa, this paper opens a window to a specific location and narratives that are told in a setting of a prophetic-charismatic church.