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Ultrasound travels : the politics of a medical technology in Ghana and Tanzania

Citation for published version (APA):

Müller-Rockstroh, B. (2007). *Ultrasound travels : the politics of a medical technology in Ghana and Tanzania*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University. https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20070613bm

Document status and date:
Published: 01/01/2007

DOI:
10.26481/dis.20070613bm

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

• A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
• The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
• The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

Link to publication

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Stellingen

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Ultrasound Travels
The politics of a medical technology in Ghana and Tanzania

van Babette Müller-Rockstroh

1. The idea that the study of ultrasound in Ghana and Tanzania can be done by only researching in Africa is flawed.

2. What ultrasound is and what ultrasound does, depends on where it is used and by whom it is used.

3. Technology transfer should be seen as a process of change in which both the technology and its new contexts of use mutually shape each other.

4. Technography is a heuristic device to identify, describe and assess the process of co-production of a technology and its contexts.

5. Space, time, resources and knowledge are key dimensions of societal organization, and thus guiding parameters of technography.

6. In order to describe a 'world of flows', it is necessary to go beyond the study of one place or one people. To address such questions of mobility, it is necessary to focus on multiple places and the connections between them.

7. Travel (of men and machines) bears all kinds of surprises.

8. As long as biomedicine attempts to render the body transparent, it is the task of social science to re-construct and enlighten its opaqueness.

9. Rather than counting the visible examples of failed technology (the so-called 'white elephants') in Africa, an enlightened gaze towards the 'dark continent' might focus on the incredible capacity of Africans to improvise.

10. A symmetrical approach to (medical) technology transfer needs to assess 'North-South' travels (for example ultrasound to Africa) with the same eyes as 'South-North' travels (for example acupuncture or bio-patents to Europe).

11. Wakati ni huu kubadilisha Afrika katika sayansi kwa sayansi katika Afrika. It is time to replace Africa in Science with Science in Africa.

Maastricht, June 2007