

## *INYI Featured Member: Dr. Georges Danhoundo*



**Georges Danhoundo** is the Melghen Wright Postdoctoral Fellow at the office of the Women’s Mental Health Research, supervised by Dr. Nazilla Khanlou. He will focus on the topic of global maternal-child health. Dr. Danhoundo is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Health at York University. He was Part-Time Professor in the department of sociology at the University of Ottawa and conducted policy analysis at World Vision Canada. He completed his Ph.D. at Laval University in Sociology, addressing widows’ and orphans’ conditions in Burkina Faso. Prior to that he studied at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva (Switzerland) where he completed his Master’s Degree in International Development. Georges’ expertise is in global health. His education, research, teaching and work span three continents (Africa, Europe and North America), which lends a truly global perspective to his insights. Originally a citizen of Benin, West Africa, his lived experience in Africa endows him with a deep understanding of global health issues. During his nine years research experience in Benin and Burkina Faso he worked on a series of issues including the social determinants of health, maternal and child health, human rights and health, global health governance, global health policy, global health research, sociology and anthropology of childhood and international development. He is passionate about the challenges faced by African marginalized and vulnerable groups in accessing health care or interacting with health care systems. He is devoted to research involving

observation and interviews) in sensitive areas and conditions. As Research Collaborator at the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis of Benin he conducted a number of field research studies in the poorest households in Benin. Supported by a York Incentive Grant, he conducted qualitative research on “Health policy challenges in implementing malaria preventive measures among pregnant women and children” in Benin’s lake areas where houses are built on the lake. He conducted in-depth interviews with government decision-makers, community health workers, midwives, pregnant women and their families. In Burkina Faso, he witnessed widows’ and orphans’ struggles in the poorest households of Ouagadougou, the capital city. He was the Training Project Manager of the Demographic and Statistical Monitoring Unit of the Francophone Zone (ODSEF) in Quebec, responsible for managing the capacity building program for African institutions and liaised with institutions in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Togo, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Georges formed partnerships with the Benin Ministry of Health and related health organizations. His current research provides specific information on the cross-cutting factors (economic, cultural, social, institutional and political) undermining the successful implementation approaches and strategies to prevent malaria among pregnant women and children in Africa. His work creates a strategic opportunity to elucidate the complex variables that affect program success, so as to generate evidence for the formulation of a rational malaria prevention policy in African countries.

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### Selected Publications

**Danhoundo, G.** & Khanlou, N. (2016). Family Ties and Mental Health of Orphans in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). Does the Gender of the Dead Parent Matter? *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, pp 1–13. DOI:10.1007/s11469-016-9717-8

**Danhoundo G.,** Wiktorowicz M.E., Yaya S. (2016). Governance of malaria prevention: How decision makers’ and pregnant women’s sensemaking contribute to unintended consequences. *Health Care for Women International*. 12:1-15. DOI:10.1080/07399332.2016.1234483

**Danhoundo, G.** (2014). Les orphelins et leur famille en Afrique. Une réflexion sur les logiques d’acteurs autour du soutien aux enfants orphelins chez les Mossi à Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). Thèse de doctorat en sociologie, Québec : Université Laval.