

Gretel Pelto

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

My principal interests are in designing, developing, and testing interventions and strategies to improve maternal and child nutrition, particularly in developing countries. Drawing on my background in medical anthropology, I focus on the use of mixed methods to obtain and analyze information for formative research and program evaluation on delivery of services and household utilization of nutrition and health interventions, with an emphasis on methods that are feasible for implementation at a public health level. Currently my primary area of substantive interest is “complementary feeding,” which refers to feeding infants after the point at which breastmilk alone is inadequate to meet their nutritional needs. I focus especially on feeding behaviors, including the concept of “responsive feeding.” I am also conducting research on the role of premastication of foods for infants by their mothers, examined from an evolutionary, bio-cultural perspective.

Professional

Research

Extension

Education

Courses

Websites

Administration

Publications

Selected Publications

Pelto, G. H. (2008) Taking care of children: applying anthropology in maternal and child nutrition and health. Malinowski Award Lecture, 2007. *Human*

Organization, 67 (3): 237-243.

Loechl CU, Menon P, Arimond M, Ruel MT, Pelto G, Habicht JP, and Michaud L. (2009) Using program theory to assess the feasibility of delivering micronutrient Sprinkles through a food-assisted maternal and child health and nutrition program in rural Haiti. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*. (in press)

Pelto GH, Zhang Y, Habicht J-P. (2010) Premastication: the second arm of infant and young child feeding for health and survival. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*. 6 (1): 4-18.

Pelto GH, Armar-Klemesu M. (2011) Balancing Nurture, Cost and Time: Complementary Feeding in Accra, Ghana. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*. 7 (Issue supplement s3): 66-81.

Engle PL, Pelto GH (2011) Responsive Feeding: Implications for Policy and Program Implementation. Symposium: Responsive Feeding—Promote Healthy Growth and Development for Infants and Toddlers. *Journal of Nutrition*. 141(3):508-11.(Epub 2011 Jan 26)