

# PhD defence Joule Madinga Ntwan

## Epidemiology of polyparasitism with schistosomes, *Taenia solium* and soil-transmitted helminths in co-endemic settings of the Democratic Republic of Congo

19 janv. 2018 17:00

Université Catholique de Louvain - Woluwe-Saint-Lambert (Bruxelles)

Aangeraden



Dit is de omschrijving

### Supervisors

- Prof. dr. Katja Polman (ITM)
- Prof. dr. Niko Speybroeck (UCL)
- Prof. dr. Pascal Lutumba (DR Congo)

### Summary

This thesis presents results of parasitological studies conducted in rural areas of DRC. Our findings indicate that single and co-infections with soil-transmitted helminths, schistosomes and taeniasis/cysticercosis are common and are heterogeneously distributed in space and within host populations. Co-endemicity of these helminth infections, similarities in age profiles and existence of shared risk factors between single and co-infections are suggestive of an integrated control approach. However, the use of praziquantel in an area potentially endemic for neurocysticercosis calls for caution given the risk of severe neurological side effects. This thesis also shows that mixed *Schistosoma* infections can alter the efficacy of praziquantel treatment, though this effect disappears after cumulative treatments. The findings of this thesis may contribute to the improvement of prevention and control of polyparasitism in DRC and elsewhere.

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