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Previously, he was editor-in-chief of 'Intervention, Journal for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Conflict Affected Areas' (War Trauma Foundation) and worked with HealthNet TPO in Afghanistan, Burundi and the headoffice in the Netherlands. In 2016, he defended his doctoral dissertation 'Borderlands of mental health: Explorations in medical anthropology, psychiatric epidemiology and health systems research in Afghanistan and Burundi'. He regularly did consultancies for the World Health Organization and the UNHCR in Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan and Syria. He has been involved in several academic short courses including the annual course Mental Health in Complex Emergencies (Fordham University, New York) and the Summer Institute in Global Mental Health (Columbia University, New York).