

News / Berichten

Invitation and call for papers

Symposium 'Ethics, Health Care and Anthropology' 10 December 2010, University of Amsterdam

The annual symposium of the journal *Medische Antropologie* (10 December 2010) will have as its theme 'Ethics, Health Care and Anthropology'. The editors invite you to contribute a paper on this theme. An invitational article by Dick Willems and Jeanette Pols, *Goodness! The empirical turn in health care ethics*, can be found in this issue of the journal. At the end of this call you will find a brief sketch of the theme.

The symposium will take place at the University of Amsterdam. Venue is Het Spinhuis, Oudezijds Achterwal 185, Amsterdam. The symposium will consist of thematic discussions based on submitted papers of the participants. During the symposium there will be no formal presentation of papers, but only a short introduction to be followed by a discussion.

A selection of the symposium papers will be published in the summer 2011 issue of *Medische Antropologie*. Registration for the symposium is possible until 15th November 2010 via the website of Medical Anthropology & Sociology Unit www.medical-anthropology.nl under Agenda: 'Symposium Ethics, Health Care and Anthropology'; click: Register, fill the form and submit. Participation is limited to 35 people, and registration will be processed in order of arrival. The symposium fee is € 25 to be paid at the symposium. Participants will be given access to all papers no later than a week in advance of the symposium. They are expected to read all the papers in preparation of the symposium.

Those who are interested in submitting a paper should provide a title plus brief abstract together with their registration, before 15th October 2010. The complete paper should be sent as an attachment per e-mail to: Janus Oomen, oomen@xs4all.nl before 15th November. Papers should be in English. Drafts and work in progress are welcome.

The organizers of the symposium do not arrange accommodation and other facilities for participants from abroad, but suggestions for hotel accommodation can be acquired from Trudy Kanis: G.J.M.Kanis-Scholts@uva.nl.

The field of empirical ethics is vast; there are interesting relationships to be explored with empirical studies of law and with studies in technology ethics. What follows is a non-exhaustive list of questions that authors are invited to consider. Please do not take it too strictly; often, the most interesting papers are quite outside the scope of the conveners of this type of symposia!

- How are normative concerns embedded in health care practices? How in public health? And how in practices to do with (medical and/or pharmaceutical) research?
- How to best attend to the relation between ethical and other relevant ‘goods’?
- To what extent can care practices be seen as ‘ethical laboratories’?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of ethics research accompanying technological innovation?
- What about ethics and money – their clashes, their interdependence?
- How can empirical health care ethics learn from other fields, such as technology studies and medical anthropology?
- What is the relationship (if any) of ethics and aesthetics in health care?
- What happens to normativity when it gets institutionalized, for instance in ethics committees?
- Is there a place for ‘mixed methods’ research in empirical ethics?
- How does health care ethics influence and transform policymaking in the health field?
- What type of ethics studies is needed in the field of public health, for example in public health focusing on migrant and refugee populations?
- What is the ethical relevance of empirical studies of intercultural ethics and how should these be conducted?
- How might we best study the ‘traveling’ of health care ethics?
- What about the interferences between the ethics that travels along with health care practices and clinical epidemiology research and existing ethical traditions in various places in the world?
- And what about the good in/of our own research: do we want to articulate that in ethical terms? In other terms?

We are particular interested in the application of the questions listed to intercultural health care practices, intercultural ethics or normativity, health care practitioners representing different health care traditions and practices around the world, and public health policies for migrant and refugee populations.

Sixth Medical Anthropology At Home Conference

The Sixth MAAH (Medical Anthropology At Home) Conference took place at Abbaye de Royaumont, France, from May 7-9, 2010. For two and a half days 32 participants from all over Europe, Canada and Brazil met at the picturesque abbey near Paris, which dates back to the 13th century, in order to present and discuss their work on medical anthropology at home. 29 papers were discussed. Organized by the MAAH network and the local organizers Sylvie Fainzang and Claudie Haxaire the conference followed the proven and tested format of an intense one-stream workshop requiring participants to read all contributions beforehand.

Introducing the general conference topic 'Transformations of the body and social uses of symptoms between local and global', Catherine Rémy in her keynote lecture explored the 'frontiers of humanity' as becoming visible in the case of organ transplantation. The conference was organized around five subthemes. The 'transformations of the body' were investigated in papers on body upgrades by mechanical hearts, deep brain stimulation, pro-self-injury, insanity, food consumption, and sexuality. The meanings of and practices around 'symptoms' were looked at in papers on medically unexplained symptoms, self-diagnosis/ self-medication, and thromboembolism. As 'new illnesses' were explored allergies, 'dual diagnoses', fibromyalgia, chronic body pain, cancer rehabilitation, haemodialysis, and chronic illness in general. Under 'ethics and bio-ethics' papers discussed anthropological contributions to bioethics in hospital and public health, genetic testing and end-of-life care. Finally, the sessions on 'therapies' brought together papers on cancer and palliative care, cholesterol-lowering drugs, antiretroviral treatment, clairvoyance, and aphrodisiacs. The detailed program can be found at the conference homepage: <http://www.vjf.cnrs.fr/maah-france/spip.php?rubrique2>

Bernhard Hadolt
Medical anthropologist, Vienna

Overleden Pietje Verbeek-Heida

Op 20 juli jl. is de medisch sociologe Pietje Verbeek-Heida op 70-jarige leeftijd overleden. Tot haar pensionering was zij verbonden aan de afdeling Sociologie/Antropologie aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam. Haar onderzoek en publicaties hadden vooral betrekking op sociaal-culturele aspecten van geneesmiddelengebruik vanuit een lekenperspectief. Haar dissertatie, getiteld 'De eigen wijsheid van de patiënt' (1992), was een pleidooi voor het serieus nemen van de opvattingen van degenen die medicijnen gebruiken. Twee maal publiceerde zij een artikel in *Medische Antropologie*. In het volgend nummer van dit tijdschrift zal een uitgebreid In Memoriam over haar verschijnen.

