

Editor's note

This is the last issue of *Medische Antropologie* that appears under that name. Next year its name will be *Medical Anthropology Forum*. Twenty-three years ago we started as a journal that was entirely Dutch and focused on a Belgian and Dutch public. It was a deliberate attempt to provide a forum for medical anthropology in our own language, easily accessible for both writers and readers nearby. The journal has fulfilled that function, but now, so many years later, there are good reasons to focus more on an international public. We do so with confidence but also with regret and nostalgia: giving up the language in which we have grown up and have learned to think and read and write.

English is now the language in which most of us feel comfortable when dealing with medical anthropology. Moreover, it is also the only medium that connects us to colleagues beyond our borders. Those colleagues have increasingly filled the pages of the journal over the past years. But the Dutch name of our journal caused confusion to many, so the step to English seems logical.

The internationalization will also lead to a gradual extension of the editorial team to include colleagues from abroad. The 'seat' of the core editorial team will however remain the University of Amsterdam – at least in the foreseeable future. It is also likely that developments in Belgium and The Netherlands will continue to get special attention in the coming years, but interest in international medical anthropology, especially in Europe, will undoubtedly grow in the pages of the journal. We hope and trust that this change will be welcomed by our mainly Dutch and Belgian subscribers who have supported us during the more than two decades of our existence.

This issue contains six articles on what we once called 'pharmaceutical anthropology'. They describe, discuss and analyse the various 'life stages' of pharmaceuticals. The introduction to this half special issue provides more insight in the background of this theme and the specific arguments of the six contributions.

Four other articles follow. Klaver and Baart discuss ethical and methodological aspects of their research into attentiveness in hospital care. The paper continues the theme of the previous special issue on 'Ethics, health care & anthropology'. Nijhof's article will be remembered as the last Dutch contribution in this journal. The author uses the fixed facial expression of people with Parkinson's disease to analyse the concepts and experiences of 'common' and 'uncommon'. Ana Maria Ochoa writes about eating habits and body practices of young women in Medellín, Colombia. The author concludes that these young women conform to American and European beauty

norms. The last contribution, by Heule and Oomen, describes 'granting a wish' events for terminally ill children and invites us to look at these events as rites of passage (and resistance), celebrations of life in the face of death.

News, book reviews and a list of recent PhD theses complete this issue.

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