

2016 MAYS Annual Meeting - REPORT

The 7th Medical Anthropology Young Scholars (MAYS) Annual Meeting “Intergenerations, temporalities and medical anthropology” took place at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon (ICS-ULisboa) on the 23rd and 24th June of 2016. The conference was organized by Mari Lo Bosco (ICS-ULisboa) and Natashe Lemos Dekker (University of Amsterdam). During the two-days meeting, 20 participants from different countries presented their work in 3 parallel groups. This allowed them to exchange thoughts on each other’s work in a peer-review format.

As in the previous annual meetings, the program consisted of key note lectures, parallel sessions and workshops. The opening lecture *Temporalities and generations of treatment, containment and prevention: the case of sexually transmitted infections* was given by Prof Cristiana Bastos from the ICS-ULisboa and Prof Arthur Kleinman from Harvard University delivered the keynote lecture titled *Medical Anthropology and Medical Humanities at Harvard University. Its history, present and future of teaching and research*. We decided to open the lectures to a broader audience interested in Medical Anthropology. A broader public of students, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers in Medical Anthropology attended both lectures, which are also available online on the ICS’s YouTube channel for future consultation. See here www.youtube.com/watch?v=60y3A07tCOg and www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu_FfvyPM50.

Since the general topic of “Temporalities and Intergenerations” addressed both theoretical and methodological issues within the field of medical anthropology we organized two different kind of workshops. A more practical workshop called *Tips and Tricks for Academic Writing* was given by Elizabeth Challinor, research assistant from the University of Minho (Portugal) and a second workshop - *How to experience temporality, methodological questions* – focused on the theoretical approach was delivered by Simone Frangella, a post-doc researcher at ICS-ULisboa during the second day of the conference.

For several participants, the MAYS annual meeting provided a first opportunity to present their work to peers in a constructive and friendly atmosphere. Overall, it proved to be a good place and platform for young scholars to meet and share their own research interests and findings.

In August 2016 Natashe Lemos Dekker stepped down as coordinator. Elections were held upon which all members could vote by e-mail. Possible candidates could put themselves forward by sending a biography and statement how they envision MAYS and what they would do to bring MAYS forward. Lilian Kennedy (University of Edinburgh) was elected as a new coordinator and Mari Lo Bosco will stay as coordinator until 2017. The aim is to alternate each year between having one coordinator who has already organized a MAYS annual meeting and a new coordinator, so that former experiences can be passed on.

The MAYS 2017 meeting is currently being planned. It will be hosted by the EDcMA, the Edinburgh Centre for Medical Anthropology, in collaboration with SoMA (the Student group or Medical Anthropology), and will take place on 15-16 June 2017.