

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EASA MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY NETWORK 2017

The activities of the Medical Anthropology Network (MAN) in 2017 can be summarized into four main streams.

1. **Conferences:** As usual the network has organized an interim conference, which is held in the years when the EASA conference does not take place. It was the fourth interim conference (1. Rome 2011; 2. Tarragona 2013, co-organized with the Society for Medical Anthropology; 3. Brighton 2015, co-organized with the RAI Medical Anthropology Committee). **This year conference “Bodies in Transition. Power, Knowledge and Medical Anthropology” was held in Lisbon from 5th to 7th July, and co-organized with the Portuguese Anthropological Association (APA).** The conference held at the University of Lisbon was very successful with 243 participants, 37 panels, 177 paper presentations, and 43 sessions and has shown the broad variety and high-level quality of presented topics.

Here are the links to the website and to the Facebook page:

CONFERENCE WEBSITE: <http://medanthlisbon2017.apantropologia.org/>

FACEBOOK EVENT: <https://www.facebook.com/events/127101591129317/>

Most MAN members have **attended international conferences** in 2017 (for instance, AAA Annual Conferences, ECAS Conference and so on) where they have convened medical anthropology sessions and/or presented their findings, and have (co-)organised international or national medical anthropology-themed conferences, symposia, workshops, seminars, or masterclasses. This has actually strengthened the visibility of medical anthropology in general and implicitly also of the EASA Medical Anthropology Network. Margret Jaeger represented the network at the II Reunião de Antropologia e Saúde (RAS) in Brasilia in November 2017 and gave a speech at a roundtable. Her presentation encouraged Brazilian colleagues to build their own network which is entitled “Rede Antropologia e Saúde” (Network Anthropology and Health) and has a facebook group with the same name. The III. RAS meeting will take place in Natal in 2019.

2. **Annual meeting:** During the interim conference in Lisbon we had the **annual meeting** of the network chaired by Pino Schirripa and Piet van Eeuwijk. Around thirty people have attended this event. The main points discussed were: organization of the next interim conference (since the new board will be elected in the first half of 2018, the meeting agreed to postpone the choice; we will verify the availability of some national networks to co-organize the conference); following election and its procedure (in 2018) of the new MAN Board; dissemination and communication; teaching medical anthropology.
3. **Dissemination of information:** The network acts also as an important tool and platform of dissemination of information about conferences, workshops, fellowships, temporary positions, PhD posts and so on. Since its beginning we have a very active mailing list. This is a very important point for us, since through it medical anthropologists within the network can be immediately informed on what is going on. It also gives them a chance to strengthen the links or to find potential partners for projects, calls or workshops/seminars. The mailing list membership has increased from around 400 in 2012 to 723 in 2017.

Last year MAN has also launched a Facebook page, where information about conferences, fellowships and so on is disseminated. Currently more than 500 interested people are following this page.

4. **Workgroup “teaching medical anthropology to (future) health professionals”** – coordinators Margret Jaeger/Austria and Patricia Hudelson Pernegger/Switzerland.

The workgroup was created in 2015 and aims to encourage networking and exchange among anthropologists involved in teaching medical anthropology to professionals and students from a wide range of health professions. Currently 25 to 30 are members of the workgroup and engage actively in events and exchange. A panel session was held at the MAN meeting in Lisbon, Portugal in July 2017, where colleagues from Chile, U.S.A., Japan, UK, Switzerland and Austria discussed their challenges and approaches to teaching medical anthropology to health professionals. At the end of the session, potential future activities of the working group were discussed. It is planned to organize another panel for the EASA meeting in Stockholm 2018.

As teaching representant, Margret Jaeger will take over the duty to assist EASA with the process of the creation of a platform for teaching material until 2018, as mentioned in an

email in October 2017.