

**Call for Papers**  
**Medical Anthropology at Home Conference VII**  
**22 - 24 June 2012, The Netherlands**

The 7th biennial conference of the *Medical Anthropology at Home* (MAAH) network, which seeks to bring together medical anthropologists working in their own societies, is hosted by the University of Amsterdam and will take place 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012 in Driebergen (40 km from Amsterdam, near Utrecht). The conference theme is:

**“New Socialities and Subjectivities in Health Care in the 21st Century”**

Health care, conceived broadly as institutionalized as well as non-institutionalized forms of tending to sickness and health, is undergoing transformations at a high speed and with unprecedented outcomes. Accelerated global flows of medical goods and services, ongoing economization of health in the context of cutbacks of health related public expenditures, demographic changes and the ‘greying’ of societies, as well as new and re-emergent pandemics affect the health care landscapes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition, new actors in health care policy-making emerge, and we are confronted with a professionalization of ‘traditional’ healing services. Moreover, the ready availability of vast health information via internet and social networks and other currents contribute to and are part of the rapidly changing health care constellations. This conference seeks to bring together medical anthropologists to discuss such transformations with a focus on the new socialities and subjectivities that emerge.

In medical anthropology socialities, i.e. people relating to each other and forming social connections in particular ways, have long been a key focus. The new socialities, however, no longer only involve doctors/healers and patients, but also scientists, health goods suppliers, NGOs, policy-makers, media, and others. Moreover, the new socialities go beyond relating people to each other; they also relate people to non-human objects. The ways in which people relate to each other in health care have been framed as biosociality, and as biological, genetic and therapeutic citizenship. Do these concepts help elucidate the processes at stake? Are they applicable in diverse contexts? What other concepts can we use when examining the processes at stake?

Health-related socialities are intimately connected to the ways of how individuals position and experience themselves in relation to each other, to their bodies, to medical technologies, to health and disease and to health care. How do changing health care constellations and emerging socialities affect patient subjectivities and moralities? Which new subject positions become available and how

do they do so? In what ways can we examine and explore these changing subjectivities? Which social science theories and concepts provide useful points of departure? What kinds of new theoretical understanding emerge from current work in these fields?

We hope that the conference will provide us with empirical case-studies that we can contrast and compare, and that the papers will lead to new theoretical insights and inspirations.

### **Deadline for Abstracts:**

We invite prospective participants to send us a **250 word abstract** before the **9<sup>th</sup> of January 2012**.

Please send the abstract to Bernhard Hadolt (bernhard.hadolt@univie.ac.at) and Anita Hardon (ahardon@xs4all.nl).

### **Format of the Conference:**

The number of papers presented is limited to 30. Each paper is allocated 30 minutes: 10 minutes for the author to highlight main points, 10 minutes for a discussant, and 10 minutes discussion with the audience. The papers will be organized into panels, which each also have an overall discussion session. Each participant is expected to read all papers in advance. We intend to invite two distinguished guests from other fields of anthropology to give us food for thought during the discussions.

### **Date and Place:**

Starting Friday 4pm, 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2012, with a key-note lecture and drinks

Ending Sunday 2pm, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012, in time for you to catch flights/travel back.

The Conference will take place at a lovely dutch 'landgoed', the **Horst in Driebergen**. Driebergen can be reached from Amsterdam airport Schiphol by direct train via Utrecht to Driebergen in around 50 minutes or by international train to Utrecht and then local train to Driebergen. The landgoed services organic health food, with ample choice for vegetarians. Nearby woods invite for a walk or cycling.

Participants can choose between 'hotel' rooms with a double bed, and standard rooms which are smaller, but nicely and creatively equipped. We will have a private dining room in the 'landhuis', and a practical large conference room in a building that will be used exclusively by us during the weekend.

### **Conference Fees:**

The fees include accommodation for 2 nights and all meals.

475 EUR for a hotel room

425 EUR for a standard room

The conference will be held in honour of Els van Dongen, who started MAAH with a conference in the Netherlands in 1998 and passed away in 2009.

On behalf of the MAAH Scientific Committee,

Bernhard Hadolt and Anita Hardon

Conference organizers