



## Annual Report 2020

### Medical Anthropology Young Scholars (MAYS)

A network of EASA – European Association of Social Anthropologists

Across Thursday afternoon in September 2020, MAYS held virtually its 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting: “Medical Anthropology and its Others: Disciplinarity and a Field in Motion.” The meeting was organized by the two co-coordinators, Anthony Rizk (Graduate Institute of Geneva) and Francesca Cancelliere (University of Lisbon), with support from Cristina Douglas (University of Aberdeen), Ibtesum Afrin (International University Bangladesh) and Purbasha Mazumdar (Graduate Institute of Geneva).

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was attended virtually by 18 participants from different Institutions around Europe and worldwide. Attendees were asked to engage in a peer-review presentation format—presenting the paper of a fellow participant rather than their own for 10 minutes followed by 10 minutes of response from the author and questions and answers from the working group members. Participants were divided across an opening plenary and three working groups: ‘Anthropology of Global/Public Health’, ‘Anthropology of Psychiatry/Mental Health’ and ‘Gendering and Queering Medical Anthropology’. Throughout, the conference tackled such issues as: going ‘beyond health’ in medical anthropology, multi-species ethnography and medical anthropology, identifying orthodoxies in medical anthropology, and engaging medical anthropology with crowd theory, phenomenology, philosophy, and gender studies, among other disciplinary intersections.

The meeting provided an opportunity for early career scholars at different stages in their academic career (MA and PhD students as well as postdocs) to present papers, discuss their work among peers in a constructive environment, and receive feedback. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the first MAYS annual meeting not to take place in-person, circumventing opportunities to discuss informally; however, some annual meeting participants continue to collaborate and organize with MAYS following the conference. Post-conference plans are still pending; preliminary plans include disseminating recordings of presentations on our Facebook group with the explicit consent of participants as well as publishing our conference proceedings.

After the annual meeting, a call for coordinator applications was sent out as Francesca Cancelliere’s term as MAYS co-coordinator ended in September 2020. Members of the network voted for one of two candidates. Magdalena Goralska from the University of Warsaw was elected as new MAYS co-coordinator for a two-year term. Magdalena is planning the next MAYS annual meeting to take place as a hybrid event based in Warsaw, Poland, and is working alongside Anthony Rizk on a peer-to-peer platform of MAYS members and a workshop series leading up to the next annual meeting.

During 2020, MAYS also sponsored a joint panel alongside the EASA Age and Generations Network convened by Cristina Douglas (University of Aberdeen) and Maria Vesperi (New College of Florida) and is sponsoring a panel entitled *Health, Body, Resistance: Medical Hegemonies Under Negotiation* at SIEF 2021 in the next year. MAYS is also collaborating with the Medical Anthropology Europe (MAE) Network on their upcoming MAE-MAT Early Career Paper Award in the coming year.