

Call for Papers IUAES 2018

Open panel 162. Spirituality and Health: Epistemologies of Healing and the Ethnographic Encounter

18th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC), Florianópolis, Brazil, 16-20 July 2018



Convenors:

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Therapeutic itineraries often unfold across different approaches to wellbeing posing new challenges to patients, healers and medical professionals. This panel explores the entanglements of spirituality and biomedicine in people's experiences of healing, specifically asking: how do people make sense of and use different epistemologies of illness and healing in their therapeutic itinerary? How do they either draw, shift, or cross the boundaries between spiritual and medical approaches? How do they understand and apply notions of 'efficacy' and 'evidence' in their therapeutic experiences? How do they deal with the power relations between the different approaches? How do they consider the relationships of negotiation and processes of decision implicated?

Researching these experiences, contexts and itineraries, demands that also ethnographers address particular methodological challenges. How could ethnographic knowledge approach the tension between different epistemologies of healing coexisting in people's experiences? What kinds of methodological and ethical challenges arise in the ethnographic encounter with people in, or moving between, the fields of spirituality and biomedicine?

We invite papers discussing ethnographic research in groups practising spiritual healing, among patients following both biomedical and spiritual therapeutic itineraries, and health professionals using conventional and non-conventional therapeutic approaches to healing.

Keywords: spirituality; health; wellbeing; healing; therapeutic itineraries

Abstract submission: http://www.inscricoes.iaes2018.org/trabalho/view?ID_TRABALHO=68

Thematic axis: 19. Health and Medical Anthropology

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Languages accepted for paper presentations: English, Portuguese, Spanish

Deadline: 28 February 2018

Please, circulate this to those who might be interested.