

Report from conference attendance, July 2017:

I attended the EASA Medical Anthropology Network's biannual conference meeting entitled "*Bodies in Transition – Power, Knowledge and Medical Anthropology*" in Lisbon from 5-7 July 2017.

The theme of the conference was the body, qualified in its transitional, mobile, itinerant and dynamic character. Different understandings of transition were addressed, such as historical processes, migrations, social mobility, environmental variances and the multiple dynamics of embodiment. Overarching questions were: How do different powers (state, institutions, movements, individuals) and at different levels (inter and trans-national, national, local) act, interact and/or counteract in the construction of the bodies? And how may knowledge play a role in these dynamics?

This was my first experience attending a conference within medical anthropology, and I expected it to be somehow tough to follow the theoretical discussions. Most of the presentations of papers were however much more applied and clinical than I expected, which made it easier to follow the theoretical perspectives presented. I found the sessions that I attended throughout the conference very interesting, and many were also relevant to my own qualitative PhD research project on women suffering from pelvic floor disorders in Ethiopia and for my future career plans. I gained new and updated knowledge in the field of medical anthropology, through introduction of relevant concepts and perspectives related to the body, and also in my specific current field of interest related to my third paper; health seeking behaviour, where I am trying to discuss and theoretically position within medical anthropological perspectives.

I am very glad that I participated in this conference, as it gave me great opportunities for learning, network building within the field and for moving forward with my own current writing. My sincere appreciation to NRSGH that gave me the opportunity to attend this great conference!

Janne Lillelid Gjerde

PhD candidate, Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care, University of Bergen



Together with my colleague and PhD candidate at UiB, Marte Haaland.



Conference located in beautiful Lisbon, Portugal.