

# MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY BEYOND ACADEMIC BORDERS



**8th Medical Anthropology Young Scholars (MAYS) Annual Meeting:  
15 -16 June 2016, University of Edinburgh**

A joint conference with Students of Medical Anthropology (SoMA) of the University of Edinburgh

The MAYS 2017 conference will explore the ways in which medical anthropology can be practically and socially applied outside of academia in the public sphere, and how medical anthropologists can collaborate with other professionals.

Recent years have seen a shift in the role of academia within public spheres. This is recognition of the need for collaboration between academia and the wider healthcare community in health research. Additionally, the direction of social science research funding has turned toward prioritizations of definable impact and interdisciplinary project teams. These shifts in the landscape of social science research highlight the limitedness of purely academic posts within the disciplines of Anthropology and Medical Anthropology. As such, current PhD anthropology researchers are often encouraged to look beyond the academic discipline for professional careers after graduation. Considering these factors, active examinations and contemplations of the ways in which anthropological training and research can be applied to and pursued within other professional vocations are required.

This conference is intended to instigate conversations that acknowledge, but sidestep debates about whether or not medical anthropology should or should not be applied beyond the discipline. Rather, this conference is aimed at questions of *how*. Our goal with this conference is to create dialogue about practical ways and directions medical anthropological work can be used and made available outside academia, spark collaboration with other professionals, and provide the foundation for a professional career.

The MAYS 2017 conference invites anthropologists to consider a broad spectrum of topics that explore what a medical anthropology across borders means, in practice.

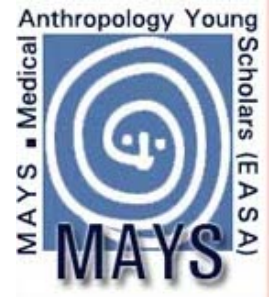
Examples of focuses include:

- Ways one's research could be applied beyond the scope of Anthropology that fit real-world contexts and/or efforts they have made to 'put findings to use'
- Ethnographic experiences researching in interdisciplinary environments and teams
- Fieldwork in or about activism and/or engagement with activist projects in the field
- Ethnographic experiences of public engagement in health politics
- Engagement with and outreach to policy makers
- Post-doctoral projects that aim to account for changing funding interests that prize impact

We invite you to submit an abstract of max 300 words. After the notification of acceptance you will be requested to submit your complete paper, max 5,000 words (excluding references).

***Abstract submission*** to [mays.easa@gmail.com](mailto:mays.easa@gmail.com)  
***Abstract Deadline:*** 6 February 2017, 5pm GMT

*Notification of acceptance:* 24 February 2017  
*Deadline for paper submission:* 7 May 2017



### *Format of the meeting*

The conference will have a peer-review structure. This structure provides the opportunity for all conference attendees to receive feedback and engage with one another's work, making the encounters both productive and convivial.

Accepted applicants will be organized into parallel group sessions. These sessions will include a 10-minute paper presentations followed by 20-minute discussions. We will also assign 'presenter tandems' – another attendee will present your paper and comment on it, and you will be asked to present and comment on your tandem partner's paper in return.

Participants will be asked to submit their papers five weeks in advance of the conference so that attendees can prepare a presentation of their tandem partner's paper and become familiar with other attendees' work. This has proven to be a productive format that guarantees each presenter receives well-founded feedback that initiates constructive discussion.

Further information about workshops and a keynote lecture will follow in due time.

### *Registration fee*

There will be a small registration fee of £10 per person to be paid upon arrival.

MAYS and SoMA will provide coffee breaks and buffet lunches on both days of the conference.

We are currently exploring other funding possibilities, but unfortunately MAYS will not be able to refund speakers' travel costs and strongly encourage you to search for funding options in your own institutions.

We look forward to welcoming you to Edinburgh!

#### *MAYS Coordinators:*

Maria Concetta (Mari) Lo Bosco - Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon  
Lilian Kennedy – Department of Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh

#### *SoMA Representative:*

Bridget Bradley – Department of Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh