

Most welcome to the conference:

Futures ahead - Translations and collaborations between medicine, the social sciences, and the humanities

Please note *the change of dates* due to the Corona pandemic

New Date: June 16-18, 2021.

Location: Linköping University, Sweden

New Deadline for Abstracts: Dec 21, 2020. Please submit your abstract to:

futuresahead2021@lists.liu.se

Authors of abstracts will be notified of acceptance or rejection no later than Jan 29, 2021.

Registration opens: February 1, 2021.

Deadline for Registration: April 1, 2021.

Organized by: the Centre for Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Linköping University.

Keynotes:

- Professor **Jane Macnaughton**, Institute for Medical Humanities, Durham University;
- Professor **Jonathan Metzl**, Center for Medicine, Health, and Society, Vanderbilt University;
- Professor **Kari Nyheim Solbrække**, Institute of Health and Society, Oslo University;
- Professor **Kristin Zeiler**, Department of Thematic Studies: Technology and Social Change, Linköping University.

Facing the rapid speed of new innovations and biotechnologies, medicine and health care are currently being transformed in numerous ways. The goal of personalized medicine, tailored to fit the individual patient's need, and the strive towards equality in health meet restructuring welfare states, health consumerism, and patients suffering from complex diseases. Medicine and health care also face increasing possibilities to screen and identify unrecognized disease in healthy, asymptomatic populations. Globally, the World Health Organization has identified multiple health challenges including outbreaks of communicable diseases as well as humanitarian crises caused by environmental pollution and climate change. The call for collaborations between medicine, the social sciences and the humanities has perhaps never been stronger.

The research field of medical humanities, understood broadly, encompasses the humanities and the interpretative social science in and of medicine, as well as inquiries at the very intersection of medicine, the humanities, and the social sciences. It sets out from the presumptions that sociocultural, ethical, and political aspects play into the development and use of specific medical technologies and medical knowledge production, *and* that such technologies and knowledge production also evoke sociocultural, ethical and political questions. This research field also examines experiences of illness, suffering, and bodily and functional variations, and acknowledges that these experiences can evoke existential questions that are central to the humanities and the interpretative social sciences. Further, the medical humanities aptly offer tools to engage with questions of meanings, subjectivity, agency, ethics, and power.

We welcome papers that seek to engage in the conversation on critical intersections of the humanities, social sciences, and medicine. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Subjectivity, intersubjectivity and lived experiences of embodiment, illness, pain, pregnancy, birth, and dying;
- Affectivity and agency;
- Norms, values and sociocultural assumptions about bodies, body-parts, sex, race/ethnicity, gender, and specific diseases;
- Ethical analysis of/within medicine;
- Equality in health care;
- Structural discrimination within health care services;
- The co-production of society, medicine, science, and policy-making;
- Cultural diversity and concepts of health, disease, and illness;
- Knowledge production in medicine and the medical humanities;
- Local and global health challenges;
- Translations between medical research and clinical practice;
- Challenges and potentials in collaborations across research disciplines and professions.

The conference invites researchers within the fields of medicine, the social sciences and the humanities that seek to discuss the potential of collaboration, common goals and possible challenges. We also welcome other stakeholders such as patients, health practitioners, and policy makers. Special sessions can be arranged to facilitate collaborations also during the conference, if there is an interest for this.

Information about the conference is available at the website:

<https://liu.se/en/research/futures-ahead>

Most welcome to the conference!

The LiU conference planning committee