

Upcoming conference, save the date.

## Futures ahead: Translations and collaborations between medicine, social science and the humanities

**Date:** 11-13 November 2020

**Location:** Linköping University, Sweden

**Deadline for Abstracts:** June 1, 2020.

Authors of abstract will be notified of acceptance or rejection no later than June 18, 2020.

**Deadline for Registration:** September 15, 2020.

**Organized by:** the LiU Medical Humanities and Social Sciences network, which is part of the National Network for Medical Humanities and Social Sciences.

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, patients' suffering from complex diseases. It also meets increased 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, social science 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 presumption that sociocultural, ethical, and political aspects play into the development and use of specific medical technologies and medical knowledge production. And, that such knowledge production and technologies evoke sociocultural, ethical and political questions. Equally, it acknowledges that experiences of illness, suffering, and bodily and functional variations can evoke existential questions, which 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.

At this conference, we seek to explore the already existing collaborations between medicine, the humanities, and the social sciences. The conference focuses, for instance, on lived experiences of embodiment and illness, on ethical and in other ways normative aspects of medicine, on local and global health challenges. It focuses also on how sociocultural knowledge is translated into medical or health care practices, or the other way around, how discourses of society and culture are produced within medicine and health care. We also explore collaborations between researchers and clinicians, and seek to grasp new challenges and central collaborations for the future.

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 welcomes researchers within the fields of medicine, social sciences and the humanities that seek to further 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 will be arranged to facilitate collaborations also during the conference.

**Information about abstract submission and applications will soon be available** at the website: <https://liu.se/en/research/medicinsk-humaniora-och-samhallsvetenskap>

Most welcome to the conference!

The LiU conference planning committee