

### 3. Situating medical anthropology: between the “ivory tower of science,” activist engagement, and ethical responsibility

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The situated knowledge of “science” has in the last 30 years taken center stage in anthropology, with ethnographic and anthropological ways of knowing and doing research having been described as being inseparably linked to sociopolitical forces and practices. This idea went hand in hand with the development of “perspectival science” – the awareness that there is no “view from nowhere” – but that research is conditioned by the particular “cultural baggage” of the researcher and his/her subjectivity. That knowledge and social life forms are interdependent is also a well-established fact in critical medical anthropology, which has long been concerned with the production of knowledge in settings infused by power and authority. Furthermore, as medical anthropology deals with existential questions of suffering, health and the human body, the field has a strong tradition of applied approaches and activism. Yet, despite these insights the opposition of academia toward activist-scholars persists and those anthropologists engaged in applied practice are often disregarded.

We welcome proposals for papers that address aspects of the relationship of activism, attempts to do “situated research,” and academic medical anthropology, including questions about the researcher’s subjectivity and the moral and ethical challenges that medical anthropologists face in positioning themselves within and beyond the field. Furthermore, we are interested in what the ethical and applied responsibilities of medical anthropologists are in shifting landscapes of health and suffering that have become increasingly marked by dynamics of exclusion/social stratification – as well as by new opportunities for the funding of “societally meaningful” research.