

Cultural Anthropology - V. GLOBALIZATION AND CHANGE

A. Culture-specific syndromes.

A culture-specific syndrome is a health problem with a set of symptoms associated with a particular culture. Social factors such as stress, fear, or shock often are the underlying causes of culture specific syndromes. Biophysical symptoms may be involved, and culture-specific syndromes can be fatal. Somatization, or embodiment, refers to the process through which the body absorbs social stress and manifests symptoms of suffering.

B. Health challenges

With globalization, health problems move around the world and into remote locations and cultures more rapidly than ever before. Perhaps no other aspect of Western culture, except for the capitalist market system and the English language, has so permeated the rest of the world as Western biomedicine. But the cultural flow is not one-way. Many people in North America and Europe are turning to forms of non-Western and non-biomedical healing, such as acupuncture and massage therapy. At the same time, Western culture, including biomedicine, is on the move.

- The HIV/AIDS epidemic is one tragic example.
- Other new epidemics include SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and avian (bird) flu.
- Covid-19 Challenge

This section considers new and emerging health challenges, changes in healing and examples of how applied medical anthropology has increasing relevance.

SUGGESTED READINGS

1. Monaghan, J., Just, P., *Social & Cultural Anthropology – A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2000
2. Erickson Th., Nielson, F., *A history of Anthropology*, 2001, Pluto Press
3. Havilland, W., *Cultural Anthropology*, University of Vermont, 2002
4. Gabriela-Mariana Luca (coord.), *Water and Body Fluids. Anthology of Essays*, Eurobit, 2016
5. Gabriela-Mariana Luca, *Corpul uman in-semne si coduri. Mic compendiu de antropologie culturala*, Solness/, Timișoara, 2011,

6. *Parents 'Bodies, Children's Bodies. From Conception to Education*, 2013, Editura „Victor Babeș”, Colecția ”Manifestări științifice”, ISBN 978-606-8456-17-1, e-book, 327 p., editori: Gabriela Mariana Luca & Jérôme Thomas

***What is Medical Anthropology? www.medanthro.net/about/about-medical-anthropology/ online, 2020