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Networks of Illness, Medicine and Healing

This session aims to bring together scholars who apply socio-cultural frameworks to the contemporary experiences of illness and disorder, health and healing. The term network is used broadly to emphasise the heterogeneous and dispersed nature of health and disease in a cultural landscape permeated with medical and therapeutic discourses. It signals a desire to move beyond arguments about medicalisation and the disciplining effects of medical power which have tended to dominate critical analyses of health and medicine. We hope to address themes such as illness in public and private, spaces of health and healing, the temporality of disease, embodied subjectivity and illness experiences, diseases as socio-cultural actors and medicine as culture.