



Research Seminar organised by the IILP-UJI

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Towards a translational medical humanities

Wednesday 24 February at 16:00 CEST



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Respondent: Vicent Montalt, IILP-Universitat Jaume I

In this paper I present an outline for a translational medical humanities approach where the humanities are not only an auxiliary to medical science and practice, but also an interdisciplinary space where both medicine and the humanities mutually challenge and inform each other.

First, I explore how medicine's attempt to tackle the nature–culture divide is emblematically expressed in the concept and practice of knowledge translation (hereinafter KT). Second, I will challenge the view of translation inherent in KT by drawing on Derrida's notion of translation as inherent in all meaning making,

as a fundamentally textual process and as a process necessarily creating difference rather than semantic equivalence.

Finally, I analyse a case from clinical medicine showing how a more refined notion of translation can enlighten the interaction between biomedical and cultural factors. Such a translational medical humanities approach also requires a rethinking of the concept of evidence in medicine.

[Eivind Engebretsen](#) is a professor of global health and health humanities at the University of Oslo. He is also the Vice-Dean for Postgraduate Studies at the Faculty of Medicine and the Executive Chairman of a centre for excellence in sustainable healthcare education.

Engebretsen's distinctiveness as a researcher lies in the attempt to bridge the

the gap' between the medical and the human sciences and to engage with academic discourses in both fields.

His current research interests include the notion of 'knowledge translation' in medicine and public health, its different genealogies and how it might be expanded by drawing on theories of translation from linguistics, philosophy and anthropology.

This seminar will take place on February 24 at 16:00 CEST on Blackboard Collaborate.

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