



The Ethnographic Study of Infectious Disease Epidemics

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Message from the Guest Editors

Epidemics are biosocial events that produce both biological and social crisis, yet as seen in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, policy and practical focus tend to concentrate on the biology of disease and its treatment or prevention despite the fact that social factors have shaped all aspects of the pandemic, from who gets sick to who dies, to who gets vaccinated, to what people learn about COVID-19. In a globalized world, ethnography has evolved to study multi-site phenomena and cross-national social hierarchies. Ethnography provides an on-the-ground (and increasingly, on the internet) method for the direct study of the complex social side of epidemics and biosocial processes. As a result, ethnographic studies of epidemics shed light on five critical issues: popular understandings and responses; the social construction of risk; interspecies entanglements and disease transmission; social injustice and vulnerability to infection; and social factors and fractures in counter-epidemic intervention. The proposed Special Issue will include a curated set of epidemic ethnographies from across the globe.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics. *Pathogens* is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

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