

## Editorial

In this issue, we continue our reflection on the Corona Diaries written at the beginning of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. In March 2020, we, the *Curare* editorial team, called for writing diaries in the “strict sense of the term” (Bronislaw Malinowski), in order to document the course of the evolving events in different locations on a daily basis. The aim was to create a basis for the anticipated controversial retrospective interpretation of what happened. The large number of submissions soon threw over the original plan to print the diaries in a special issue of *Curare*. Instead, we published all the diaries in full length on [boasblogs.org](http://boasblogs.org) (for a detailed description of the project, see issue 43(2020)1–4 and the introduction to this special issue below). However, we invited some authors to select excerpts from their diaries for printing in *Curare* and to look back on their experiences with hindsight, to identify a main theme and to reflect on it retrospectively, also by framing the content conceptually. For the last *Curare* issue, a group of graduate students from the New School in New York City followed this invitation and reported on their shared pandemic and writing experience. In this issue, eight authors from across the world share their interpretations of pandemic events and experiences, each from a different angle (you will find more details in the introduction to this special section below).

In the Forum section, we first present a compilation of fragments by Erhard Schüttpelz from March and May 2020, the beginnings of the pandemic, and a retrospective reflection from July 2021 on how to interpret the time before and after Corona. Second, Pip Hare chronicles the ups and downs of her inner life toward the end of 2020, when she struggled with the uncertainties of her identity changes in relation to death, illness, recovery, and citizenship. She also provides some great insights into the inadequacies of testing procedures and bureaucracy in the response to the pandemic. Following this, Ehler Voss com-

plements his ethnographic documentation of the protests against the German Corona policy from 2020, which he started in the last issue. While in his last piece he focused on a perspective from eastern Germany, in this issue he spotlights the big street protests in Berlin and smaller ones in southwestern Germany. We also publish a lecture by Erhard Schüttpelz, in which he formulates a theory of magic that finds its origin in ambiguity, with reference to Harold Garfinkel’s counseling experiment. He exemplifies his theory of the ordinariness of magic and the magic of the ordinary using the Oblique Strategies created by Brian Eno and Peter Schmidt. We are curious about the application of this perspective to the current pandemic situation, which is hinted at in the postscript and is pending. Our “Teaching Forum” Series that we started in 2019 continues also in this issue with a contribution by Silke Betscher and Christiane Falge, who co-authored a piece on collaborative online research with students and community researchers in times of Corona, and a contribution by Angelika Wolf who describes how she uses the medical anthropological classic “When the Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down” in her undergraduate classes.

We are saddened by the passing away of Wolfgang G. Jilek earlier this year. He had accompanied AGEM since its beginnings. Over the last 40 years, he contributed a number of articles to *Curare* from his rich body of research in the field of transcultural psychiatry in many countries. Most recently, he served on *Curare*’s Honorary Advisory Board. Ruth Kutalek dedicates an extensive obituary to him in this issue.

Last but not least, Marcos Freire de Andrade Neves and Giorgio Brocco close this issue with a detailed report on this year’s AGEM conference “Radical Health. Doing Medicine, Health Care, and Anthropology of the Good”, which was held online in June in cooperation with the Medical Anthropology Working Group (AGMA) of the German

Anthropological Association (DGSKA) and the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Freie Universität Berlin. We hope to be able to hold the upcoming 34<sup>th</sup> AGEM conference in presence from June 2-4, 2022 in Vienna. It is titled “Visual Expressions of Health, Illness and Healing” and will be a cooperation among the AGEM, the

Austrian Ethnomedical Society, and the Weltmuseum Wien. A call for papers can be found at the end of this issue as well as on our website. We look forward to receiving your submissions.

KATRIN AMELANG, JANINA KEHR, and EHLER VOSS for the editorial team