

European Network of Psychological Anthropology (ENPA) 2021

First Biennial Conference

"Mind Embedded and Embodied – Futures of Psychological Anthropology"

(Conference Report)

The long-awaited **first biennial ENPA conference, titled “Mind Embedded and Embodied – Futures of Psychological Anthropology”** took place virtually, between June 1st – 3rd, 2021 (<https://enpanthro.net/enpa2021-conference/>), and was organized in partnership with the University of Helsinki and the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).

The first edition of the Biennial ENPA Conference invited scholars from around the globe and not only addressed a variety of topics, but exceeded expectations regarding the number of participants. The conference organizing team had worked for over two years to make this objective come true, which some years ago still sounded like an overly idealistic imaginary. This conference can in hindsight be considered a landmark event for the entire community interested in the field of Psychological Anthropology.

The conference agenda included 2 keynotes, 17 panels in which 71 papers were presented, along with a round table on the current issues arising in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and their implications for the practitioners and their field research. The conference also featured a presentation session by the editor-in-chief of *Ethos* Journal, Greg Downey, in which he shared 7 fascinating pieces of advice on academic publishing for prospective authors, a documentary film screening, a Junior Scholars mixer, student panel, and the showcasing of junior scholars’ visual works.

Tyenne Claudia Pollmann opened the conference with an intriguing keynote on ‘Madeness’ in which she shared insights from the *visions4people* project and emphasized that science is not the only source of knowledge production and that artistic research can help explore psychiatric environments. The next day, Charles Stafford, the second keynote speaker, delivered a thought-provoking presentation on ‘The politics of cognition – or, why we need a more radical economic psychology’.

The conference allowed interactions not only within the panels, round tables and presentations, but also during breaks, in virtual spaces specially assigned for networking (such as social rooms and the Junior Scholars mixer). The conference has also benefited from audiovisual highlights: a movie screening (‘The Healer and the Psychiatrist’) followed by a Q&A session with the director Mike Poltorak, a series of short films curated by Judith Albrecht and a well-deserved farewell party where the participants were entertained by a specially created ENPA set by the Berlin-based producer, composer & DJ, Tobias Freund. The set can be found on our website, along with the recorded keynotes, *Ethos* publishing session and the Q&A with Mike Poltorak.

ENPA 2021 Conference in numbers:

- 140 participants
- 2 keynote speakers
- 17 panels
- 1 student panel
- 71 papers presented
- 1 round table
- 1 session on academic publishing

- 1 documentary screening and Q&A Session with the director
- 4 short films available on the conference platform
- 1 party
- 8 enthusiastic conference organizers
- 7 committed conference volunteers

List of panels (titles):

1. Home: Well-Being and Becoming
2. Learning and Developmental Processes in Contexts of Diversity and Inequality
3. Technology, Body & Senses
4. Feeding and the Formation of Social Relationships in Childhood
5. The Production of Social Norms: Discipline Strategies, Agency and Asymmetries in Children's Education
6. Mental Health & Therapeutic Encounters
7. Sensing and Knowing: Relational Modes of Engagement
8. Cognition, Mind & Body
9. Covid-19 Roundtable
10. Creating Safer Spaces: Navigating the Impacts of Sexualized Violence in Academic Settings
11. Anthropological Insights into Searches for Meaning across the Life Course
12. Theoretical and Methodological Investigations of the Interplay Between Culture and Cognition
13. Marginalized Perspectives on Mental Health and Suffering
14. Coherence and Anthropological Knowledge
15. Predatory Psychologies East and West
16. Development of Children's Understanding of Social Roles and Norms in Comparative Perspective
17. Neoliberalism and Mental Health

Conference Organizers

1. Anni Kajanus (Helsinki, Finland)
2. Lavinia Țănculescu-Popa (Bucharest, Romania)
3. Maija-Eliina Sequeira (Helsinki, Finland)
4. Mona Behnke (Berlin, Germany)
5. Siiri Sintonen (Helsinki, Finland)
6. Suzana Jovičić (Vienna, Austria)
7. Thomas Stodulka (Berlin, Germany)
8. Andrew Hodges (Edinburgh, UK)

Conference Volunteers

1. Darja Husu
2. Henrietta Kinnula
3. Marilene Jokinen
4. Sami Huttunen
5. Sannamaria Turunen
6. Sanni Hämäläinen
7. Xiaolin Li