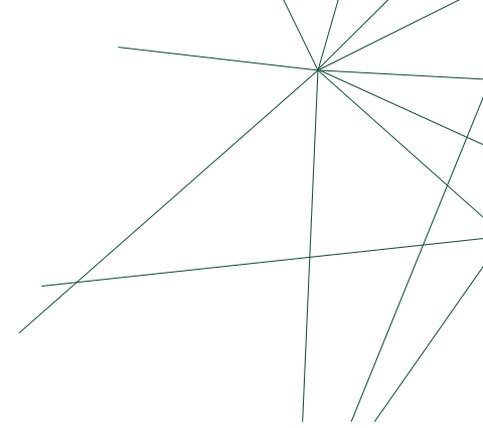


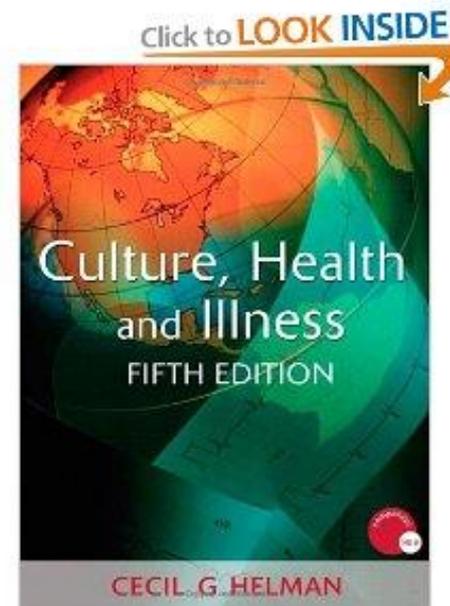
Centre for Culture and Health

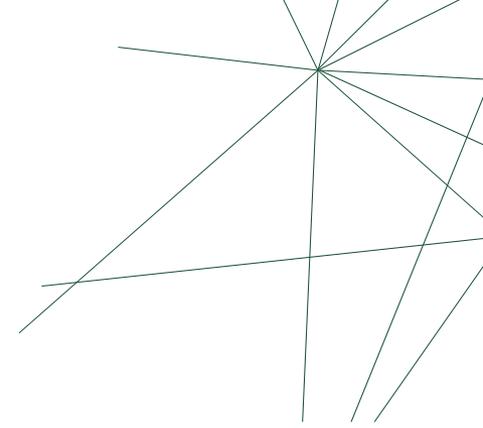
The Centre for Culture and Health works on a broad basis within the area of culture and health. We launch and support various forms of research, education and evaluation on the theme of culture and health. We also compile and provide interdisciplinary competence for specific tasks.



But what is "culture and health"?

If you do a search on Amazon.com or similar, what you get is Medical Anthropology, like:



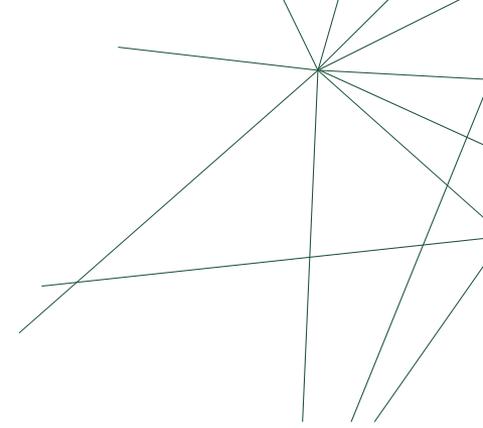


What is Culture and Health?

Napier, A. D. *et al.* (2014): “Culture and Health”. In: *The Lancet*, Vol. 384, November 1, 2014, 1607–1639.

“If the role of cultural systems of value in health is ignored, biological wellness can be focused on as the sole measure of wellbeing, and the potential for culture to become a key component in health maintenance and promotion can be eroded.”

– but in Swedish ‘culture’ means both ‘culture’ and ‘arts’!

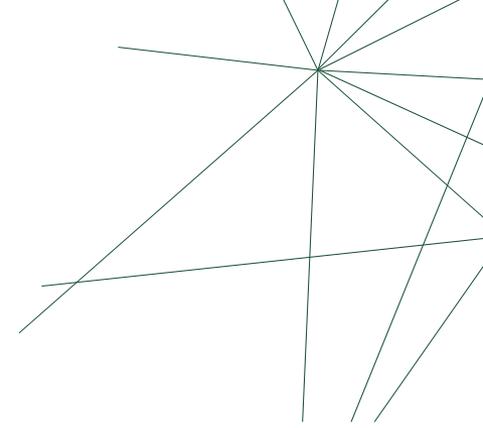


WHO:s definition of health from 1948

”Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Health is defined here both in terms of ”salutogenesis” and ”pathogenesis”, that is, both positive as a state of well-being and negative as the absence of disease.

Health is multi-dimensional: physical, mental, social but also spiritual and maybe even existential.



Culture is

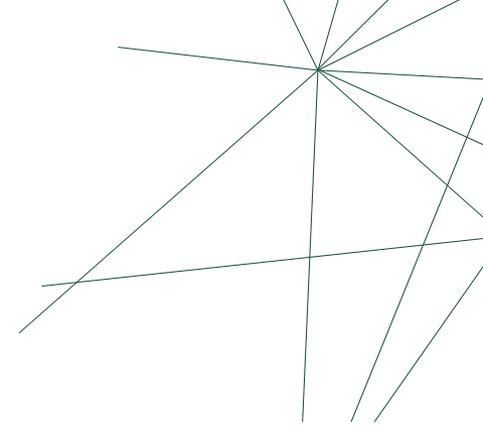
- cultivation; cf. the Latin word *cultura*.
- a product or a process with recognized value; a piece of music, a book or the activity of dancing or painting, for example. The Arts!
- those habits, apprehensions of morality, values, in short, the "sphere of life" and the meanings we share with others as members of a social community and that express what is meaningful.
- an entire civilisation, where not only cultural experiences and a certain atmosphere are included but also the institutions of society.



Das Breslauer Arzneibuch

A 13th Century reference work for pharmaceutical drug specifications, found in the library of Wrocław.

Here you can find out how to cure love-sickness.





What kind of illness is love-sickness ("minne")?

"Ein sichtum heizit minne. der ist des swerer denne ein ander sichtum. daz he ist an deme gedanken."

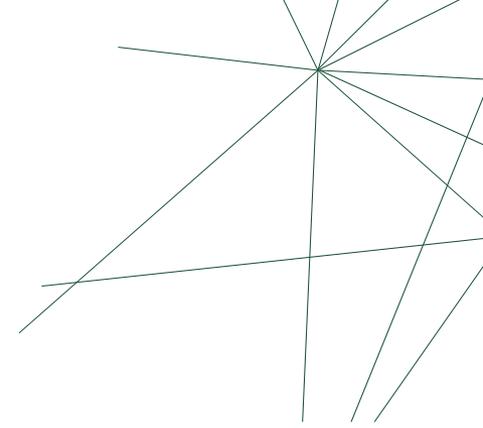
There is an illness called love, which is more severe than other illnesses, since it affects the mind. Who has this illness, his eyes will never see again. They are unsteady, since the thoughts are unsteady. Their eyelids are heavy. The colour of the face is pale. They often lie awake. If he occupies his thoughts, he will drive out the pain of both body and soul. For the body follows the soul in its action and the soul follows the body in its suffering.

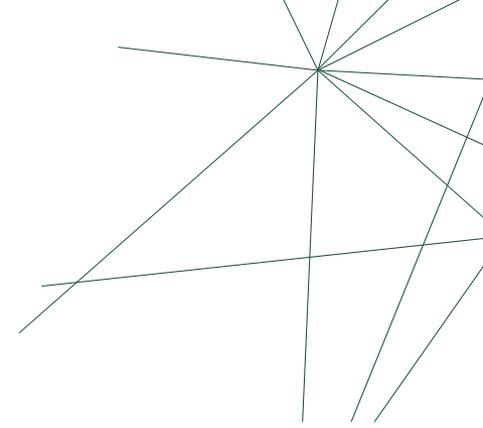


How to cure love-sickness

There are four known cures:

1. A lot of good wine
2. To listen to string music
3. Good company
4. To listen to good stories



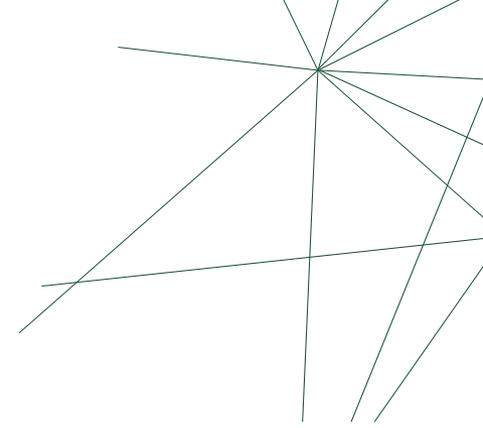


Is this culture and health?

On the one hand, yes: music therapy and bibliotherapy were recognized treatments, not only for love-sickness but also for other diseases and alongside other treatments.

On the other hand, no: "art" was not conceived as a separate sphere alongside "science" or "medicine" or "religion".

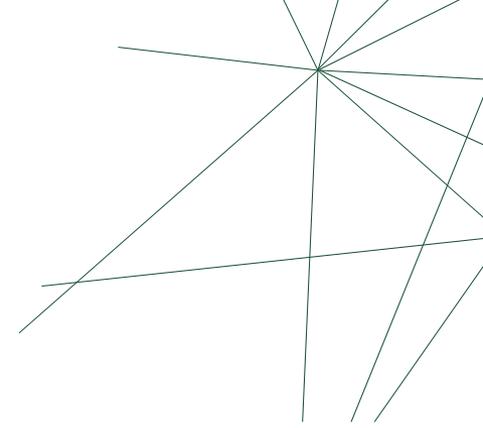
"Culture and health" presupposes a modern differentiation, where "culture" (here in the sense of art) supposedly is independent of all uses.



The Middle Ages

Health: the physician did not only strive for health as the "absence of disease".

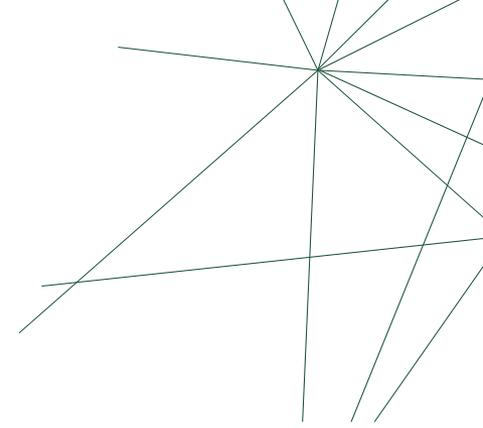
Culture: art was applied.



Modernity

Health: the physician is a highly skilled specialist

Culture: fine art gives rise to "disinterested pleasure" in the beholder.



Culture and health

What once was joined has through modernity been put asunder:
culture and health.

”Culture and health” is a part of a movement of relating these
different spheres again.

Not a return to a medieval understanding of medicine and health

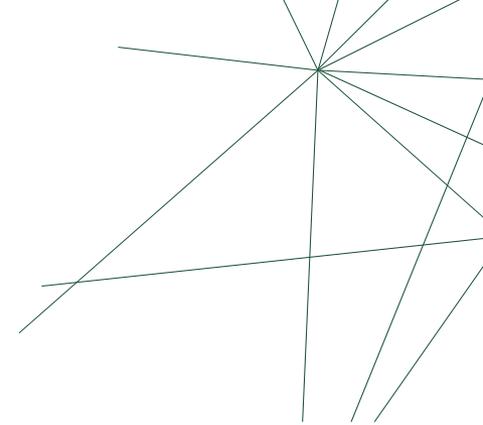
but rather a recognition of the multi-dimensionality of disease,
illness as well as health.

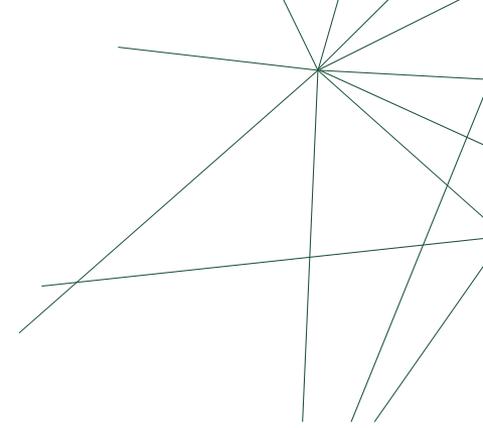


The Centre for Culture and Health

Three focus areas:

- Arts and Health
- Medical Humanities
- Global Health



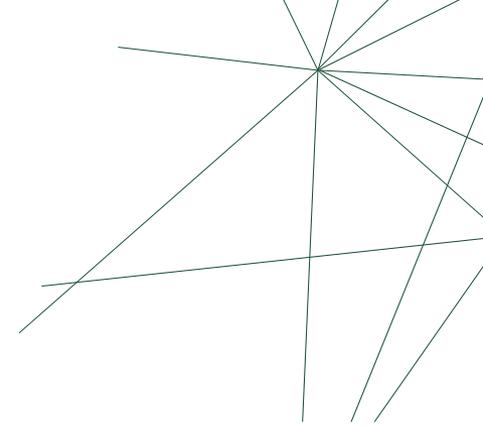


Arts and Health

Can cultural experiences, such as music, dance or art stimulate the rehabilitation of the patient?

Is this process possible to observe, measure, and also practice in health care?

University of Gothenburg: "The Culture and Brain Health Initiative"

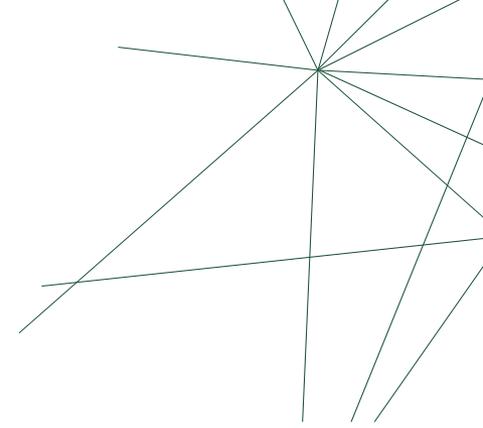


Medical Humanities

“Medical humanities’ denotes humanities looking at medicine, looking at patients, and – crucially – *looking at medicine looking at patients*. The way medicine conceives and represents patients shows up in the way that it treats patients.”

Centre for Medical Humanities – Durham University

University of Gothenburg: “Religion, Culture, and Health”;
Studies of Medicine, Expertise and Controversy (SMEC)

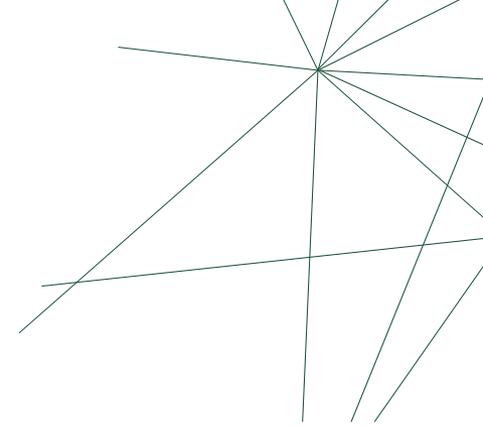


Global Health

What is the impact of factors such as gender, ethnicity, religion, class or geographical location on health issues?

Is health distributed in a fair way, globally or locally? Has everybody the same access to health care, and if not, how can this be achieved?

University of Gothenburg: A new centre coming up.



A multi-disciplinary area

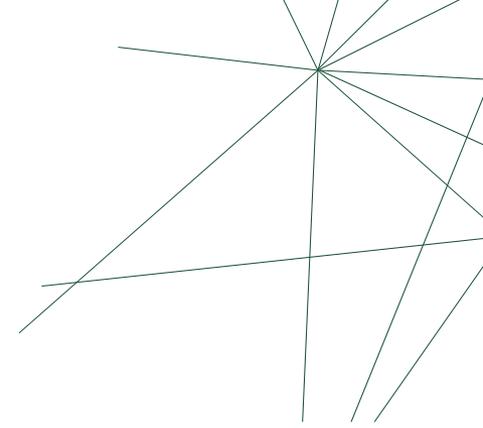
Let us suppose music is good for your health, that it even can have some therapeutic effects, such as stress management.

How come?

Is it because our brains are wired this way?

Or do our susceptibility for music need to be cultivated through education?

Thesis: nature needs to be cultivated through society.



A multi-disciplinary area

To be able to deal with questions of culture and health in a critical, self critical and constructive way, we need multi-disciplinary approaches.

Culture and health is no quick fix.



The aim of the Centre for Culture and Health is:

- In the short run: to establish new, multi-disciplinary research projects.
- In the long run: a multidisciplinary MA or MSc in Culture and Health
- to establish the University of Gothenburg as a major centre for research in the area, in collaboration with other centres in Sweden as well as internationally.



But we also want to spread the word:

A report on Medical humanities from the faculty of arts (with an executive summary in English):

<http://hdl.handle.net/2077/35509>

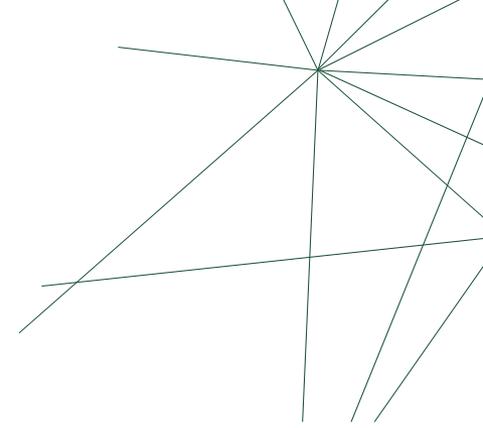


Medicinsk humaniora
vid Humanistiska
fakulteten, Göteborgs
universitet

En rapport

Wilhelm Kardemark
och Ola Sigurdson





Culture and Health: A Wider Horizon

A book on culture and health (both in Swedish and English) for scholars and decision-makers. This book includes:

- Preface by vice-chancellor Pam Fredman
- Historic and conceptual introduction
by Ola Sigurdson
- Arts and Health by Gunilla Priebe and Morten Sager
- Medical Humanities by Katarina Bernhardsson
- Interviews with 17 researches and scholars from
all areas



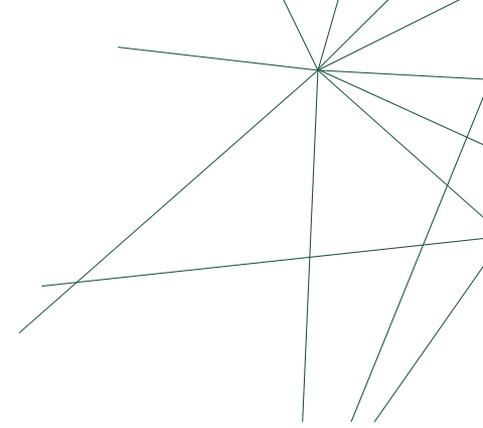


Culture and Health in Practice

Our forthcoming book *Kultur och hälsa I praktiken* (only in Swedish to begin with) will be published this summer in digital and printed edition.

Contains 14 chapters on culture and health from a 'clinical' point of view; scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines give their view on what culture and health means in Practice.





Maybe more books?

Maybe also a book on culture and health from an artistic perspective?

Art is not just the *object* of research or practice, but also, and foremost, the *subject* or *agent* of health.



Please take a look at our webpage:

www.ckh.gu.se/english

University startpage

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND HEALTH

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Research Our area About the centre Cooperation Profiles Contact A-Z | Search info, staff etc. >>

University of Gothenburg > Centre for Culture and Health Sitemap

Centre for Culture and Health

The Centre for Culture and Health works on a broad basis within the area of culture and health. We launch and support various forms of research, education and evaluation on the theme of culture and health. We also compile and provide interdisciplinary competence for specific tasks, both within and outside academia.

The purpose of the Centre is to:

- stimulate efforts within both research and education in order to shed light on the relationship between culture and health.
- particularly stimulate cooperation between various researchers and disciplines, as well as between academia and society.
- support the work with seeking financiers of research within the field of culture and health in close cooperation with the university's research advisors.
- support the dissemination of knowledge of the development of the research field through various activities.

With our website we wish to spread information, knowledge and experience within the area – aimed towards those of you who are researching or working with health issues or are simply part of the interested public. Here you can read about **The Centre For Culture and Health**, projects and profiles of researchers at the University of Gothenburg. Moreover, the web site provides a broad overview of the research field and current news, both from a global and from a national perspective.

News

Conference on culture supported rehabilitation
[20 Sep 2013]

Suicide Day: Human meetings as prevention
[19 Sep 2013]

Water film festival in Sweden
[21 Aug 2013]

[More news](#)

Calendar

Culture and sustainable public health
26 Mar at 9:30 AM [Open to the public]

Breakfast meetings at the Science Festival in Gothenburg
8 May at 7:30 AM [Open to the public]

Culture and health in Airedalen 2014
1 Jul at 3:00 PM [Open to the public]

[More events in the calendar](#)

Newsfeed

Delta "superveni" för Katarina Barling, Claes Malmrood, Anna Odell och Ole Sigurdson...

Memory care facility uses art as therapy
March 14, 2014 | Chankasson Villager Loraine and Janet, residents at Sunnyside of Chankasson, are looking at a sheet of color...

Internetavvärdning hos äldre studeras
March 13, 2014 | Blåkage Tälövika Flögskola Fridagen den 14 mars förvarar Jessica Berner, BTH, sin avhandling i ämnet tillgängligt...

Mindfulness – ett verktyg för att skapa mening och hållbara sociala relationer
March 13, 2014 | I akademiskt idag har mindfulness blivit ett populärt begrepp...

[More from the newsfeed](#)