

Healthy People: How the Medical Humanities and the Health Sciences Study the Complexity of Health

29 October – 1 November 2018 @ Snellius

The workshop 'Healthy People' brought together scholars from the medical humanities, the social sciences, the health sciences, and the non-academic sector to engage into an interdisciplinary and intersectoral dialogue on the complexity of health.

The short-term aim of the workshop was the creation of a common ground for an interdisciplinary discussion on health, the long-term aim was the formulation of a Manifesto where researchers identify an action plan for academic research and for public health.

The workshop was organized in a plenary session, a young researchers session, brainstorming/brainwriting sessions in subgroups, roundtables, and matchmaking sessions. The alternation of these activities successfully facilitated the discussion and helped participants from different backgrounds establish a shared vocabulary with key concepts. Furthermore, the high quality of the presentations, the lively discussions and the constructive atmosphere allowed participants to identify common research goals and this, consequently, helped them to focus on the tangible outcome of the workshop: the drafting of the Healthy People Manifesto.

The development of the Healthy People Manifesto, now in preparation for submission to *Social Science and Medicine*, can be understood in terms of a scientific breakthrough. The Manifesto offers a comprehensive approach to tackle conceptual, methodological and practical challenges associated with health, and offers examples of good practices both in academic research and in public health. Its publication will favour the collaboration with Cancer Prevention Europe, a novel European Initiative strongly aligned with the goals of the Healthy People group.

The most tangible result of matchmaking session has been the finalisation of a proposal for an MSCA-ITN grant, which has been submitted this week.

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