The medicine as a fetish. Or the meaning of magic feelings in trust relationships and self trust.

Hansson, Kristofer

2004

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:
- Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.
- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain.
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

Read more about Creative commons licenses: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
The medicine as a fetish or the meaning of magic feelings in trusts relationships and self trust. Kristofer Hansson*. PhD Student The Vårdal Institute, Department of European Ethnology, Lund University. Kristofer.Hansson@etn.lu.se

Objectives: The aim of this ongoing study is to understand, from a cultural perspective, how trust relationships and self trust is constructed, performed and transformed as the individual being with asthma and/or allergic moves from being a youth to becoming an adult.

Methods: Interviews with youth in the age 15-30 years and participant observations in two asthma and allergic hospital departments (child and adult). The interviews focus upon the informant’s experience of asthma and/or allergic. The material from the participant observations is field notes and recordings of the dialogue between the patient and the doctor/nurse. The analysis is based upon culture ethnology analysis.

Results: In the interviews many of the youth tells about how they always carry some medicine with them for acute or gentle asthma and/or allergic reactions. They carry the medicine of habit and as a form of security. Many of the informants cannot think of leaving home without their medicine. The hospital staff also emphasize in the meeting with the patient the importance of always having this medicine around. The nurses educate in how the medicine shall be used and the doctors inform the patient about the medicine.

Conclusion: The youths transform the medicine to become something more. I want to emphasise that this transformation gives the medicine an almost magic feeling for the patient. The feeling is based upon both lived experience and the biomedicine as a cultural system. In this meaning the medicine becomes a fetish. The medicine is not only medicine but also something more, a metonymic for security. It is in this feeling that individuals can create relationships to the biomedicine system and create self-trust according to the long-term sickness.