Master's Medical Anthropology and Sociology

- MAS & Structure of programme
  Dr. Danny de Vries

- Student and alumni perspective
  Lotte Koolen & Rosa van Velzen (students)
  Jessica Love (alumna)

- Practical information
  Iti Westra (study adviser)
What is medical anthropology and sociology?

Studying Health, Care and the Body:
• in social, cultural and political context
• in different knowledge traditions
• globally, transnationally, locally, comparatively
• theoretical and/or applied
• mainly qualitative, mixed methods possible
• ethnographic and/or interdisciplinary approach
This means...

... we don’t take Health, Care or the Body for granted but ask:

How are they produced, enacted, made evident?

- in practices (care, technologies)
- through cultural concepts (meaning, religion)
- political constellations (inequalities, power)
Why to choose this master?

*After 1 academic year you will have:*

- Drafted and conducted *your own* ethnographic project;
- Learned about medical anthropological and sociological theories and methods ... and *how to apply* these;
- Made new friendships and...
- Professionalized yourself as a social science scholar.
Previous student research topics:

- Open door policies in a care homes
- Self-care practices of homeless people
- Beauty practices of young adults in an asylum seekers home
- The role of PrEP and Bareback Sexual Behavior among the Men who have Sex with Men in Amsterdam
- Reproductive strategies of middle class women in Ghana
- Urban space and memories of the HIV crises in New York
- Healthy eating in a diverse neighborhood in Sweden
- Active ageing in New Zealand
What is different compared to other programs?

• Only master program of its kind in the Netherlands since 2003. Other programs offer modules, but not full program.

• Research master within one year. Strong in theory plus research.

• Drawing from three traditions:
  - Medical Anthropology
  - Sociology
  - Science & Technology Studies (STS)

• Strong STS component is unique

• Dedicated staff in an internationally recognized research group (HCB)
# MAS Curriculum

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<th>Sep – Oct</th>
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<td>Contemporary Topics (9 EC)</td>
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<td>Research Design MAS (9 EC)</td>
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<td>Fieldwork MAS (12 EC)</td>
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<td>MAS in Action (3 EC)</td>
<td>Winter School (3 EC)</td>
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<td>Theorising Practice, Practising Theory (9 EC)</td>
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MAS Electives: **Winterschools**

- Reproduction, Sex and Development
- Global Mental Health
- Materialities in Practice
Example: Weekly Schedule
The MAS Lecturers

Dr. Rene Gerrets
Contemporary Topics

Dr. Trudie Gerrits
MAS in Action & Examination Committee

Dr. Branwyn Poleykett
Theorizing Practice, Practicing Theory

Dr. Patrick Brown
Theorizing Practice, Practicing Theory

Prof. Dr. Eileen Moyer
Winter School: Reproduction, Sex and Development

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Winter School: Reproduction, Sex and Development

Prof. dr. Mark Jordans
Winter School: Global Mental Health

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Winter School: Global Mental Health

Dr. Bregje de Kok
Research Design, Program Committee

Dr. Branwyn Poleykett
Theorizing Practice, Practicing Theory

Dr. Patrick Brown
Theorizing Practice, Practicing Theory

Dr. Danny de Vries
Supervisor

Dr. Kristine Krause
Supervisor

Dr. Else Vogel
Research Design

Dr. Bregje de Kok
Research Design, Program Committee

Dr. Else Vogel
Research Design

Dr. Kristine Krause
Supervisor
When choosing this master...

...you will have to:

• Read a lot;
• Write a lot;
• Help each other a lot;
• Design and do research;
• Read more and write even more.
• And defend your thesis!

... you are choosing an intense program!
How to achieve...

• Getting your bearings
• Learning about theories
• Identifying a topic
• Developing research design
• Writing a proposal
• Conducting fieldwork
• Writing up

...in less than 1 calendar year?
Careers with MAS

- Qualitative project researcher
- Research assistant
- Program manager
- Policy adviser
- Monitoring and evaluation professional
- Health advocate
- PhD student
- Research assistant
- Continue work as physician, nurse, psychologist, etc.
- Etc.
Student Perspective

Lotte Koolen
✓ Bachelor’s in Medicine
✓ Premaster Medical Anthropology & Sociology

Rosa van Velzen
✓ Bachelor Cultural Anthropology & Development Sociology UvA
Our academic year so far: the courses

- **Contemporary Topics (CT)**
  Different guest lectures on a variety of topics/fields

- **Theorising Practice, Practising Theory**
  Theoretical frameworks about the body, health and illness etc. and how to use these in practice

- **Research Design**
  Working towards research proposal, using different building blocks to explain the important processes prior to fieldwork

- **MAS in Action**
  Making the connection between academic and non-academic world.
  What does MAS have to contribute?
  What are career opportunities outside the academic world?

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Our CT essay topics:
- ✓ Euthanasia and care
- ✓ The growing phenomenon of burnout
Our experience with the program in general

- Lecturers are very committed
- Multidisciplinary program
- Intensive program
- Small group
- Thesis: define your own topic or collaborate with an organization
A unique experience in the MAS program

Alumna Perspective

Jessica Love – 11.11.2021
Although my background is unique, there is no ‘typical’ MAS student!

- B.A. – Integrated Social Science, University of Washington
  - Professional Paraglider Pilot
  - Emergency Logistics Coordinator (WFP) in Nepal
  - Professional Hairstylist
Intern at The Netherlands Red Cross

• Worked with an external supervisor
• Worked with a team of interns
• Research was applied to the ‘real’ world
Research and Thesis

• Interested in Environmental/mental health
• Keeping Cool: How heatwaves affect mental health in Amsterdam
• Heatwaves are the most urgent consequence of climate change in Amsterdam
• Older people and youth are most at risk for adverse mental health outcomes
• Challenges – weather and recruitment
Reflections

Qualitative Research
I learned how to conduct qualitative research through practical experience.

MAS Students
I made several close friends and benefited the closeness of the group.
Life after MAS

- Employed! I am working at the UvA as a research and administrative assistant in Social Science and Global Health.
- I work closely with my former thesis supervisor and other MAS faculty.
- I organize events, conduct literature reviews, and attend meetings and workshops.
- Applying to PhD positions
Selective master: Entry requirements

• Bachelor in social science or medical science
• 18 EC social science knowledge & 12 EC social science methods training
• English language skills
• Grade average of 7 or higher (B / 3.0 / 2nd division honours)
• Academic writing skills
• Motivation & references
Preparatory Programme

- E-courses in Social Science Theory & Methods
- 30 ECTS preparatory program starts in February
- Preparatory programmes are often ‘tailor made’ and thus may differ one from the other
Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences

Apply? Go to: www.uva.nl/master

Deadlines:

✓ Apply for DigiD (Dutch students only): Wednesday 9 February 2022
✓ Register in Studielink: Wednesday 23 February 2022 17:00 hrs (CET)
✓ Submit your application in MyInfo: Tuesday 1 March 2022 17:00 hrs (CET)

Deadlines when needing a visa/scholarship/housing:

✓ Registration in Studielink: Friday 7 January 2022 17:00 hrs (CET)
✓ Application in MyInfo and for scholarship: Wednesday 12 January 2022 17:00 hrs (CET)
Questions?

Graduate School of Social Sciences:
gss@uva.nl | www.gss@uva.nl | 020 525 3777

Study advisor: Iti Westra
studyadvisor-mas@uva.nl