

Prof. Eugenio Zito
Department of Social Sciences
University of Naples Federico II, Italy

e.zito@unina.it



Eugenio Zito, Ph.D. in Gender Studies and Cultural Anthropology, obtained the National Scientific Qualification as Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology in Italy in 2018.

He is Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology from 2022 at the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Naples Federico II in Italy where he teaches Ethnology and Methods of Anthropological Research in the degrees courses and Anthropology of Web and Medical Anthropology in the master degree courses (I and II level).

He is also Adjunct Professor at the School of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Naples Federico II where he teaches Medical Anthropology to nurse students.

He is Erasmus and Internationalization Delegate at the Department of Social Sciences of the University Federico II in Naples, member of the Erasmus Commission of the University Federico II and of the Scientific Board of the "Mediterranean University Network Agreement" (MUNA) at University Federico II.

He is Past Visiting Scholar at Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City, at Département de Sociologie, Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, and at Département de Sociologie, Université Hassan II, Morocco, at Department of Anthropology, ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, at Department of Sociology, An-Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine, at School of Medicine, University of Malmö in Sweden, at Department of Social Sciences and Medical Humanities, University of Rijeka in Croatia, at Department of Anthropology, University of Malta, at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University La Laguna in Tenerife, Spain and at the Department of Social Anthropology, Panteion University School of Social and Political Sciences in Athens, Greece.

He is full member of the "European Association of Social Anthropologists" (EASA), of the "Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology" (SIAC) and member of the Board of the "Italian Society of Medical Anthropology" (SIAM). He is member of the editorial board of the scientific journals "EtnoAntropologia", "AM-Antropologia Medica", "Narrare i Gruppi" and "La Camera blu. Journal of gender studies", in band A for the anthropological sciences sector in Italy.

He is interested in body, social vulnerability, medical practices and care processes in chronic/infectious diseases in clinical and traditional settings and gender issues in socio-cultural contexts in the perspective of cultural, social and medical anthropology.

On these subjects he has researched on the field in the South of Italy (Campania Region), in the North of Ethiopia (State of Tigray) and he is still working in Marrakech-Safi and Casablanca-Settat areas in Morocco, publishing essays and articles.

On the following links of the University of Naples Federico II and of Google Scholar a list of his principal publications:

<https://www.iris.unina.it/cris/rp/rp11421?start=0&sortBy=2&order=DESC&type=all#.YhNVPi2h1-U>

<https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=i4XUb0MAAAAJ&hl=it>

Erasmus+ Program (Call 2020-2021)
Content of the teaching programme
***"Anthropological perspectives on care processes
and ethnographic practice in health contexts"***

Lesson 1: "Medical Anthropology, body and illness narratives: notes from fieldwork on diabetes care in Italy" (two hours).

Abstract: In the last years chronic diseases have become a relevant social, political and healthcare issue in Western contemporary society. The lecture proposes, according to the critical perspective of contemporary medical anthropology, some reflections on the body, the processes of knowledge of a chronic autoimmune disease as diabetes and the possibility of processing and sharing the experience of illness by young diabetic patients and their families during everyday clinical practice. Starting from the ethnographic material collected on the field in the University Hospital of Naples in Southern Italy, the lecture critically deals with issues as illness/disease/sickness, subjectivity as socio-cultural product and existential ground, illness narratives, care processes and medical practices in chronicity and humanity in health contexts. The goal is also to underline the useful transformative potential of narrative process of chronic disease and the importance of a true logic of care, showing, in the anthropological perspective, the socio-cultural complexity of subjectivity that flows around the experience of being diabetic.

Lesson 2: "Cultural and social components of diabetes mellitus, its care processes and illness experience in Marrakech-Safi Region (Morocco)" (two hours).

Abstract: Starting from medical anthropology perspective this lesson proposes some cultural and social issues related to the experience of becoming diabetic in Morocco. A special focus is about the impact of religious beliefs and practices on the representation of this chronic disease and on its care processes. After a brief analysis about medical pluralism, and the socio-cultural, economic and politic health determinants in this Islamic country, the lecture reports a part of my ethnographic research experience in a ward for the care of diabetes in an hospital at Marrakech, focusing on the stories of some patients. These narratives about troubled therapeutic itineraries offer, together with the point of view of the diabetologists, several insights into the complex relationship among this disease and its representations, traditional medicine and biomedicine, culture and society in Morocco. These narratives are collected in the framework of a wider research project on the study of the social and cultural components of the chronic disease started in 2018 and recognized as "Italian Ethnological Mission in Morocco" by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in 2020 under my coordination. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the care processes about chronicity in Morocco and on my fieldwork will also be discussed.

Lesson 3: "The anthropological perspective on HIV/AIDS, between embodiment and gender vulnerability: notes from fieldwork in Tigray (North of Ethiopia)" (two hours).

Abstract: The lecture deals with, in the perspective of critical medical anthropology and with reference to the African continent, some relevant issues about HIV/AIDS infection, as a human experience of illness, understood in its broader social and cultural complexity and with regard to its care processes. A specific development model is then analysed on the ethnographic side, that of the Hansenians' Ethiopian Welfare Organization (H.E.W.O.), an NGO active in Ethiopia since 1969, with particular reference to the maternity ward at its hospital in Qwiha-Mekelle (Tigray). Conceived in collaboration with the local community this service has the aim to prevent the mother-child vertical transmission of HIV/AIDS during pregnancy, childbirth and

breastfeeding, but more generally to protect the experience of motherhood in a population of women coming from a context with significant material and health deficiencies. The lecture discusses about embodiment and gender vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in the rural area of Tigray region, but also about the way in which it is possible improving the *agency* of women in this context.

Lesson 4: "Body, emotions and culture in biomedical contexts: anthropological considerations on health professionals care practices and processes" (two hours).

Abstract: The lecture shows how much the contribution of medical anthropology can be useful for a real transformative process of the health professionals in terms of humanization. Starting from the ethnographic materials collected on the field during clinical practice performed by health professionals in training in a University Hospital in Naples (Italy) and using theories and concepts of medical anthropology, it is possible, critically analysing some aspects of the biomedical model, to underline the way by which to improve their human, relational and care abilities although some limitations. The lecture also discusses about the body dimension of health professionals in training and their emotions, implicit in the relationships with patients, to attempt the recomposition of the mind/body dualism of the biomedical model and recover the historical, social, political and cultural dimension of diseases and bodies. On the methodological side the lecture discusses the important role of participant observation for understanding healthcare contexts with their specific languages and their cultural and social frames and dynamics.