

## Editorial

The contributions for issue 6 of HCS, demonstrate a contemporary symmetry in that they underline a fundamental importance of community, and cultural reality, to questions of public health, its organisation and governance. In turn, the essays serve to value test the effectiveness and applicability of programs and policy within respective regions and countries whilst indicating the growing necessity for culturally embedded and value laden governance models. In doing so, the collection of essays hallmarking the present issue of HCS, promote the idea of diversity within public health thinking.

Equity, transparency, participation, consensus, and ethics as key aspects to any governance framework, are thus critical consequences of the epistemologies herein presented, which are constructed around an address of actors and varying cultural contexts within which the health paradigm emerges. These essays thus raise important questions for governance, accountability and the effectiveness of current policies within respective geographical regions by critically bringing to light local contexts.

Today, we are witness to health system development which seeks to comprehend and integrate the cultural complexity and sociological dynamics of health systems. This can at once suggest a paradigm shift and/or a continual evolution of the public health paradigm, one which is increasingly signalling the need for models and frameworks in which community participation and community-specific strategies feature as key components in decision making processes.

Likewise, within the over-arching sphere of health policy are the realities of local peoples and voices, and although these have been assumed and even presumed in the past, today, possibly they are more active than before, owing to the socio-historical and socio-economic conditions shaping our millennial modernity. In this sense, the understanding of “global” health, particularly in the developing world, absolutely cannot be developed without the local contexts defining it.

This indicates the need for more qualitative analyses which can engage and evaluate such complexities as culture and community, local interactions and interrelationships, and the diversity and heterogeneity shaping globality. Most tellingly, the essays herein presented, invite us to consider how these interrelationships and local realities are effectively addressed by respective programs and national frameworks, thereby signalling the ongoing complexities shaping the goal of equity.

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