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

Hansson, Kristofer

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LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117  
221 00 Lund  
+46 46-222 00 00



**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.