

PERSONAL DETAILS

Anna Mann

Date of birth: 03/01/1983

Nationality: Austrian

https://www.suz.uzh.ch/de/institut/aboutus/mid_level/mann.html

ORCID: 0000-0001-6347-9520

- **Education and key qualifications**

- 02/06/2015 **PhD**
 Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
 Thesis title: “Tasting in Mundane Practices: Ethnographic Interventions in Social Science Theory”, Supervisors: Prof Annemarie Mol, Prof John Law
- 2007 **MA (Diplom) Sociology (cum laude)**
 Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany

- **Current position**

- 2022- *PI and PostDoc researcher* in the project “(Im-)Possibilities of Letting Life End. An Ethnography of Transformations in Medical Practice”
 Department of Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zurich, Switzerland (since 03/2024)
 Technology Studies Department, School for Humanities and Social Sciences, University of St. Gallen (07/2022-02/2024)

- **Previous positions**

- 2016-2021 *PostDoc researcher* in ERC Starting Grant project “The Vitality of Disease – Quality of Life in the Making” (ERC-2014-STG-639275, PI: Prof. Ayo Wahlberg)
 Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2015-2016 *External lecturer*
 Department of European Ethnology, Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany
- 2015 *Senior research assistant* of Prof. Annemarie Mol
 Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2010-2014 *PhD researcher* in the ERC Advanced Grant project “The Eating Body in Western Theory and Practice” (ERC AdG-09-249397, PI: Prof. Annemarie Mol)
 Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2007-2008 *Research and teaching assistant*
 Department for Science and Technology Studies, Vienna University, Austria

- **Teaching activities**

Since obtaining my MA degree, I have **independently taught** a range of courses at BA, MA and PhD level *Actor Network Theory and Material Semiotics* (6 ETCS, U Zurich, 2024), *Technologies in/of Healthcare* (3 ETCS, U St. Gallen, 2023), *Exploring ‘Care’ in Social Sciences: Approaches, Methods, Stakes* (3 ETCS, Conférence Universitaire de Suisse Occidentale, 2021), *Introduction into Science and Technology Studies* (3 ETCS, U Vienna, 2008), *The Body at the Intersection of Different Forms of Knowledges* (3 ETCS, U Vienna, 2008), *Medical Anthropology – Introductory Course* (6 ETCS, U Copenhagen, 2019 & 2020), *Anthropology of Food and Eating* (3 ETCS, U Berlin, 2016).

I have been **co-teaching** *Advanced Research Methods* (6 ECTS, U Copenhagen, 2016), *Beware of the Boundary – Modern Science and Alternative Ways of Knowing* (3 ETCS, U Vienna, 2007).

I have been an **invited lecturer** in the *Palliative Care* (MA degree, Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences, 2024), *Analysis and Writing in Ethnography* (PhD seminar, Conférence Universitaire de Suisse Occidentale, 2020), *PhD Workshop* (University Vienna, 2017).

- **Supervision of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows**

- PostDoc Sylvain Besençon (main supervisor, U Zurich, ongoing)
- PhD Luke Stalley (main supervisor, U Zurich, ongoing)
- Méloody Pralong (external examiner, U Lausanne, defended 2024)

- MA Ea Kobbelgaard Rasmussen (co-supervisor, U Copenhagen, submitted 2019), Anna Silare (co-supervisor, U Copenhagen, submitted 2019), Mathilde Norden Andersson (co-supervisor, U Copenhagen, submitted 2019), Benedicte Østerfeldt (co-supervisor, U Copenhagen, submitted 2019)
- BA Victor Nakhlé (main supervisor, U St. Gallen, submitted 2024)

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION

Research achievements

To date, my work has been cited 250 times and I have an h-index of 8. For my full track record see my [google scholar profile](#).

Mann, Anna. 2024. "Struggling, Enjoying, Falling: Chronopolitics in Living with Chronic Kidney Disease in Austria" in Nolwenn Bühler, Nils Graber, Vicky Boydell, Marcelo Do Santos, Cinzia Greco (eds): *Chronopolitics of Life. Rethinking Temporalities in Health and Biomedicine beyond Life Course*. UCL Press.

Starting from the case of an elderly lady living with chronic kidney disease in Vienna, Austria, the paper unfolds how patients in the end stage of renal disease not only struggle with limitations diseases create, and craft daily-life joys. It brings out how they also grapple with bodily deterioration over time. By conceptualizing patients' responses to increasing limitations, the paper moves beyond debates on the 'suffering subject' in medical anthropology and 'living well' in care-in-practice literature.

Mann, Anna. 2024. "'To Improve Quality of Life'. Diverging Enactments of a Value in Medical Practice." *Health. An Interdisciplinary Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13634593231200128>
Mobilising a valuation studies approach, the paper sheds light on the ways in which initiatives that clinicians set up locally enact patients' quality of life. While debates on the socio-material constructions of 'quality of life' have focused on either health policy, clinical or patients' daily life practices, the paper shows how 'quality of life' is negotiated in the intersection between these three sets of practices. The paper advances social sciences of medicine more broadly by proposing an understanding of clinicians as actors who enrol others to improve healthcare locally.

Mann, Anna and Luca Chiapperino. 2023. "Critiques from Within: A Modest Proposal for Reclaiming Critique in Responsible Innovation." *Journal for Responsible Innovation* 10 (1). Special Issue: "Critique in, of, and for Responsible Innovation."
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23299460.2023.2249751>

Due to Latour's claim that "critique has run out of steam", 'critique' has been left undertheorized in STS. The paper, to which my co-author and I equally contributed, provides an overview over common STS repertoires of critique of biomedicine. It proposes as an additional repertoire 'critiques from within': ways in which biomedical experts problematise the standard practices in their fields and set up alternatives.

Mann, Anna. 2021. "Abandoning Questionnaires: Improving Quality of Life in Daily Nephrology Practice." *Nordic Journal of Science and Technology Studies* 9 (1): 53-64. Special Issue: "Care in STS: Objects, Transformations and Politics." <https://doi.org/10.5324/njsts.v9i1.3545>

The paper provides an ethnography of how in daily care practices clinicians improve their patients' quality of life. It argues that daily care practices realise 'improving' and 'quality of life' differently than the prominent practice of measuring patients' quality of life with a questionnaire do. The paper not only uses the 'care-in-practice' approach, but also has enriched debates on 'care' in STS by showing what exactly is gained by using the approach. It suggests that the gain depends on the way an object has been researched so far.

Mann, Anna and Annemarie Mol. 2019. "Talking Pleasures, Writing Dialects: Outlining Research on *Schmecka*." *Ethnos* 84 (5): 772-788. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00141844.2018.1486334>

The paper, produced under my lead, provides an ethnography of daily food practices that people in the Austrian region Vorarlberg call 'schmecka'. It argues that this dialect term configures relations perceiving and appreciating food differently than similar English terms do. By focusing on the effects the Academic hegemonic language English has on theorizing pleasures, what is 'good', it has advanced debates in the anthropology of senses, food studies and STS. The paper has been reprinted in Annemarie Mol and others. 2024. *Eating is an English Word*.

Mann, Anna. 2018. "Ordering Tasting in a Restaurant: Experiencing, Socializing, and Processing Food." *Senses & Society* 13 (2): 135-146. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17458927.2017.1376434>
Anthropology of the senses tends to frame tasting as a multisensory experience. The paper argues based on an ethnography of a dinner in a restaurant that 'experiencing' is one mode of ordering sensual engagements with food and drinks next to which others exist. Each of them configuring in specific ways how food may 'taste good'. The paper has advanced anthropology of the sense through a practice-oriented approach to 'tasting'.

Mann, Anna. 2018. "Sensory Science Research on Taste: An Ethnography of Two Laboratory Experiments in Western Europe." *Food & Foodways* 26 (1): 23-39. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07409710.2017.1420352>

The paper makes the classic science and technology studies move and shows how 'taste in humans' is staged in sensory science laboratory experiments in highly diverging ways. It has advanced food studies not only, because it has provided the first in-depth ethnography of sensory science research practices, but also by showing how 'the physiological dimension' of taste can be turned in an object to study ethnographically.

Mann, Anna. 2015. "Which Context Matters? Tasting in Everyday Life Practices and Social Science Theories." *Food, Culture & Society* 18 (3): 399-417. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2015.1043105>

Based on an ethnography of eating practices in a hospital, the paper opens up one of the entities that in the social science literature on taste and tasting is usually taken for granted: 'the context'. It analyses healthcare professionals not only as clinicians who are administering a treatment to a patient, but also employees who may or may not have a moment in which their lunch 'tastes good', and informants who contextualise their daily work in their own way. far.

Mann, Anna, Annemarie Mol, Priya Saltakar, Nasima Selim, Malini Sur and Emily Yates-Doerr. 2011. "Mixing Methods, Tasting Fingers: Notes on an Ethnographic Experiment." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 1 (1): 211-243. <https://doi.org/10.14318/hau1.1.009>

The paper is based on a dinner during which three experts in eating food with fingers taught four novices how to do so. Highly innovative in terms of methods and writing style, the paper has advanced debates in STS and anthropology on methods, senses, bodies, and 'the Other'. The publication, which I initiated and for which I carried out the literature review and analysis, has been put on several teaching syllabi. It has been reprinted in Annemarie Mol and others. 2024. *Eating is an English Word*.

Peer recognition

• Fellowships and awards

2022- Ambizione grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), 4 years, total budget: 807.340,- CHF, title: "(Im-)Possibilities of Letting Life End. An Ethnography of Transformations in Medical Practice"

• Membership in boards, panels, scientific societies, etc.

2024- Member of the board of STSch (Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology and Society)

2024- Advisory board member of "Medicine without Doctors: Reimagining Care and Voice Through Play", under review for Wellcome Trust Discovery Ward, total budget £11.5 million

2024- Member of the board of STSch (Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology and Society)

2016- Advisory board member of "Essen – Ein offenes Labor" (Eating – an open laboratory), Prof. Jan-Peter Voß, TU Berlin, Germany

2009- Member of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), Swiss Sociological Association (SSA), Swiss Medical Anthropology Association (MAS)

• Invited presentations

2024 *Medical Science and Technology Studies Seminar*, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

2022 *Maintenance Seminar Series*, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

2013 *Subject Matters – Subjects, Artefacts, Bodies*, Conference, University of Oldenburg, Germany

- **Reviewing activities**

Grant Reviewer for *Austrian Academy of Science* (2023)

Journal Reviewer for *Curare. Journal of Medical Anthropology* (2022), *Austrian Journal of Sociology* (2020), *Austrian Journal of Historical Studies* (2019), *Medicine, Anthropology, Theory* (2019), *Senses & Society* (2017), *Health. An Interdisciplinary Journal* (2016), *Science & Technology Studies* (2016), *Social Science & Medicine* (2012)

- **Organisation of scientific meetings and panels**

- 2024 Co-convener panel “Theorizing through the Mundane. Storying Transformations in Healthcare”, 4S/EASST conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, number of participants: 50
- 2023 Co-convener panel “Critique-in-Action in Medicine and Health”, STSch conference, Basel, Switzerland, number of participants: 30
- 2021 Co-convener conference “Chronic Living – An international, inter-disciplinary conference on vitality, quality and health in the 21st century”, Copenhagen, Denmark & online, number of participants: 310
- 2021 Co-convener panel “Time in Place. Insights into Chronic Living through the Lens of Chronic Kidney Disease”, Chronic Living conference, Copenhagen, Denmark & online, number of participants: 15
- 2019 Co-convener conference “Arts of Caring, Arts of Knowing – Workshop on Dementia and Knowledge Practices”, Copenhagen, Denmark, number of participants: 40
- 2019 Co-convener conference “The Digitally Engaged Patient”, Copenhagen, Denmark, number of participants: 65
- 2017 Co-convener panel “Care in Transformation. Articulating Alternatives from Within”, 3rd Nordic STS conference, Gothenburg, Sweden, number of participants: 8

- **Institutional responsibilities**

I am currently a member of the Department of Sociology at the University of Zurich. I have secured funding to support two staff members (one PhD student, one PostDoc researcher) in the ‘Medicine, Technology, and Society’ research cluster, which I also direct. In my previous positions, I was part of a task force developing an MA in Science and Technology Studies. I was tasked with the management of research group activities and student assistants.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Career breaks

- 2017-2018 Maternity and parental leave: Jakob Josef Redl, born 10/11/2017
- 2020-2021 Maternity and parental leave: Tobias Noah Mann, born 28/01/2020

Pandemic restrictions

When the Covid19 pandemic broke out in March 2020, I was teaching in Copenhagen (Denmark) and organising the conference “Chronic Living” planned for 23rd - 25th April 2020. Switching to online teaching, cancelling the conference and organising the conference again online one year later created a delay in the publication of my papers.

Other contributions to the research community

- 2010-2015** Co-convener of the *Walking seminar*, <http://walkingseminar.blogspot.com/2010/05/> University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2019** **Founder** of the *Copenhagen Walking Seminar*, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2016** Invention of the **STS clown** *Wanna Wonder*, Performance at *4S/EASST Conference*, Barcelona, Spain & publication of “Letters from Wanna Wonder and the Electric Nemesis” *EASST Review* 35 (4): 67-74.

Through my additional contributions, I seek to offer students and colleagues alternative ways of ‘knowing’ and ‘doing research’ than the practices that are prevalent in academia (walking in addition to sitting, laughing on top of thinking).