

Preface

Since the beginning of 2020, humanity has been determined by the global crisis of SARS-CoV-2. The pandemic is not only a challenge for medical research and medical care, but also for societies affected by the pandemic situation. Preventing the disease by isolating infected people, severely restricting mobility, closing places of public life, or relocating workplaces to home office, pose significant social problems in addition to overcoming individual and collective consequences of the disease.

metaphorik.de has taken the pandemic as an occasion to compile a thematic volume on the metaphorical framing of illness and health. Is there anything like collectively shared concepts of this drastic situation that can be revealed by analysing the use of metaphors? Are questions of illness and health negotiated in a globally uniform way or are there intercultural differences to be identified? How are different forms of illness framed metaphorically? Is a distinction being made in the common conceptualisation between physical and mental health?

Several of the contributions included in this volume refer to current or past pandemics and their public consideration. Based on an expansive corpus of conversations, Oumari Boukari looks at ideas about Covid-19 in Ivory Coast and shows a wide range of perspectives, from metaphors of war to collectively anchored perceptions of disease as moral punishment. Dario Del Fante relates two different pandemics to each other. In a diachronic comparative study, he analyses the chosen conceptual metaphors of the US press coverage of the Spanish flu a good 100 years ago with contemporary press articles on Covid-19. In her study of Corona media coverage in Tunisia, Sondes Hamdi shows that numerous conceptions of the pandemic are shared across languages and cultural spaces. Helga Mannsåker, in her contribution, looks at developments in the metaphorical and metonymic conceptualisations of what is now referred to as 'schizophrenia'. Her corpus consists of teaching texts and scientific studies from Scandinavia published between the late 19th century and the 2010s. The diachronic perspective is also taken by Allesandra Zurolo. She examines disease and health metaphors in textbooks, with her perspective ranging from the 16th century to the present.

In another article not related to the main topic, Nina Drews and Karolina Küsters show strategies for the construction and deconstruction of potentially persuasive conceptual metaphors based on the German and Italian discussion

on migration between 2015 and 2018. For the research on metaphors, this observation offers valuable information beyond its empirical evidence, on the one hand on the dynamics of metaphorical concepts, and on the other hand on the conscious public negotiation of individual metaphors.

This thematic volume illustrates: The relevance of crises is not missed by the interests of metaphor research. The next thematic volume (*metaphorik.de* 33) will also deal with questions of metaphor and health, and focus on Covid-19. We would like to thank all contributors for their great commitment, which enables us to maintain an important forum for metaphor research 20 years after the publication of the first issue of *metaphorik.de* in December 2001. We would like to dedicate this issue to the memory of Harald Weinrich (1927-2022), who anticipated large parts of cognitive metaphor theory with his valuable and instructive reflections on metaphor. In our issue 25 (2014), Harald Weinrich honoured us by answering 15 questions on metaphor research. May his memory be kept alive and inspire future research on metaphor!

We would like to express our extraordinary gratitude to Kerstin Sterkel (Saarbrücken) for her outstanding work in setting up the layout and print templates, and to the Werhahn Verlag for publishing the print edition.

Times are not easy at the moment. While the pandemic has not yet ended, Ukraine is the victim of a war of aggression, which means colleagues from universities there also have to flee the country. What sounds cliché in other eras is now becoming extremely serious and relevant: We wish all our readers health and peace!

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