

Parasitic Relations in/of Diabetes Practices and Their Transformative Qualities

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The parasite logic of Michel Serres brings the thirdness of every relation into focus. The parasite is the in-between-ness that intervenes, interferes and translates between two parties. Acknowledging the parasite as an inevitable part of every relation is thus a methodological tool for observing translations and transformations as they occur in the process of interaction. In the practice of managing diabetes on a day-to-day basis, the logic of the parasite is a pertinent conceptual tool for exploring how the condition is encountered, treated and managed. In this paper I wish to present some empirical examples of the parasites at large in diabetes treatment and furthermore I wish to reflect on the parasitic qualities of such examples in relation to how we might conceptualize the problem of chronic disease management.