Helle Johannessen, PhD, mag.scient. – † September 10, 2018

Helle Johannessen, professor of social studies of medicine and head of research of the research unit of User Perspectives at the Department of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, has passed away on September 10, 2018.

To me, hearing of Helle's sudden death, at the age of 61, has been a very sad moment. I had the pleasure to work with her within the framework of the European CAMbrella project, and I feel a need to remember her. Since I am not familiar with the details of her professional career, I would like to quote from the university's official announcement:

'Helle Johannessen completed a Master of Arts (MA) degree in anthropology in 1984 at University of Copenhagen, where she also completed her PhD in 1994. She has been employed by University of Copenhagen, University College Absalon in Slagelse, and School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and then joined the University of Southern Denmark in 2001. In the period 2001–2004 she was associate professor at the Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, and in 2005 she moved to the Department of Public Health where she became professor in 2007' (https://www.sdu.dk/en/om_sdu/fakulteterne/sundhedsvidenskab/nyt_sund/mindeord_for_helle_johannessen).

The field of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) benefitted from Helle in many ways. As an anthropologist, she was an advocate of the perspective of citizens and patients – one of the tenets of complementary medicine. Consequently, she was leading the respective CAMbrella working group on needs and attitudes of EU citizens towards CAM from 2010 to 2012. As an international collaborator, she was responsible for a database of research activities within the European Research Action COST B4, which started in 1993. Very early on, she became a strong proponent of qualitative health research enhancing the research methodology for complementary medicine. Helle has been a member of the editorial board of COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE RESEARCH since 2011.

It has been a pleasure to work with Helle, and I experienced her as a person emphatically discussing and defending her standpoint. She did not need many words to say a lot. I liked her rather unconventional nature. Her family said good-bye to her playing the song 'Wish you were here' by Pink Floyd. I cannot but agree.

Wolfgang Weidenhammer, Dorfen