

# The relationship between health, sickness, and the concept of modernity

Since the time of ancient Greece, the relationship between health and sickness, understood both in collective and individual terms, has surpassed even the concepts of healing and treatment and has been incorporated into other disciplines such as philosophy, politics, and literature.

In modern times, and based on biopolitical observations, a healthy body becomes a metaphorical symbol for concepts such as social development, wellbeing, and progress. Through this idea, the relationships between corporality, sexuality, and productivity are exacerbated.

It is in this context that Dr. Andrea Kottow, Director for the Undergraduate Program in Literature of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Universidad Andrés Bello, is analyzing the rise of medical terminology in literature, with a focus given to the notion of the "sick body."

The principal objective of the research carried out by Dr. Kottow is to highlight the importance of concepts like health and sickness beyond biomedical definitions, recognizing metaphorical and symbolic meanings as well.

Dr. Kottow argues that the central position given to these notions in modern speech and modernizing processes closely links these concepts to contemporary development. "It is for this reason that this study proposes critically reviewing the ways, which are many times anachronistic and abnormal, of assuming modernity in Chile, which can be understood as a collection of images and discourses that were elaborated elsewhere in space and time. Due to this, attention needs to be given to those particular ways in which health and sickness are interwoven with central ideas of what is modern," states Dr. Kottow.

During the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the independence movements in Latin America ignited the foundation of republics and were accompanied by a desire of new nations to adapt modern premises to guarantee future prosperity.

"Chile is not exempt from these historic processes or the images that came with them. In this regard, our research aims to observe the discursive function of terms for health and sickness in literature, highlighting interrelationships between literary, political, scientific, and philosophical rhetorics," concludes Dr. Andrea Kottow.



*of the shoulder.*



*of Elbow-joint.*



*Dislocation of jaw.*



*Dislocated shoulder.*

salud, enfermedad  
e modernidad