



## Guest Editorial

# JGPOH – a new kid on the block

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### **GUEST-EDITORIAL**

Quite a few people will wonder why another journal in the broad field of health is needed. Since the end of 2023, the Journal of Global, Public and One Health (JGPOH) released by the German-based publisher Hans Jacobs has been expanding the wide range of publications dedicated to the topic of health. In view of the increasing fragmentation and siloing, the JGPOH attempts a balancing act between three different areas of discussion that have emerged in the theory and practice of health. There is now an almost unmanageable number of health domains, such as public, international, global, urban, public global, global urban, planetary as well as One Health and most recently brain health. All of these sub- and specialty areas of health focus on a specific health-related issue and strive for independence and demarcation, which has often led to some siloing (Machalaba et al. 2015).

But basically, all of these sub- and super-specialisations are always about the same thing, namely to get health out of the disease corner and to anchor it as a (whole) societal challenge (Ortenzi et al. 2022). Against the background of this fundamental commonality, the name of the Journal of Global, Public and One Health reflects the thematic focus of these three currently most important approaches to health and health policy. The title also indicates that the editors wish to emphasise the common ground and help overcome the separation of these interrelated disciplines, especially as the latter is more the result of professional, financial or partial interests than of content-related reasons (Brady 2023). The focus, the specific orientation and the questions posed may vary, but they are always concerned with the health of humans, animals and the environment, and their dependence on social, economic, political, commercial and ecological conditions, which in turn are closely interrelated (Freudenberg 2023). This is clearly reflected in the currently prevailing form of global economic activity, which, with its immense impact on social life, economic and trade relations, politics, wildlife and the environment, has enormous implications for the health of people around the world (de Lacy-Vawdon et al. 2022).

In addition to the large overlaps that already exist, the three orientations mentioned in the name of the journal have something else in common: on the one hand, they are characterised by an unmistakable tendency towards a biomedical and technological narrowing (Holst 2020; Meisner et al. 2024; Geanta



et al. 2021) and at the same time subject to a certain "securitisation", i.e. the prioritisation of health threats, for example from epidemics and pandemics, from an economic, political and military perspective (Wenham 2019; Holst & van de Pas 2023; van de Pas 2023, McCoy et al. 2023). By taking an overarching, ideally holistic approach to global, public and one health, the JGPOH has the potential to counteract the narrowing and demarcation as well as the siloing seen in all three sub-areas.

Although the JGPOH is another product of the Global North, it provides an appropriate platform to make an important contribution to the decolonisation not only of public, global and environmental health, but also of other sectors of society at national and international levels. With its interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and inter-professional approach, the JGPOH deliberately sets itself apart from mainstream decolonisation efforts (Krugman 2023) by extending the current primarily Anglo-Saxon, primarily identitarian debate (Olivier 2019) to other historical and regional circumstances and placing it in a broader socio-political context (Castells 2010). This multipolar approach suggests that the social determinants of public, global and one health will be adequately considered and analysed in the JGPOH (Benach & Muntaner 2023).

In order to meet this requirement and to stand out from the vast number of purely anglophone journals, the JGPOH publishes articles not only in English, but also in several other languages. As practical and helpful as the global use of English is as the lowest common denominator of international communication and not least in global health, it also creates a kind of linguistic neo-colonialism (Zeng et al. 2023) and contributes to the consolidation of existing global asymmetries (Altbach 2004). In the academic literature, there is a pronounced dominance of Anglo-Saxon considerations, often unfounded in terms of content, while findings and ideas from other language areas are marginalised and their international relevance is often underestimated (Moraña et al. 2008: 461f, Adebisi et al. 2023). By publishing articles in different languages, the JGPOH aims to provide a low-threshold publication platform to non-native English speakers and to make content more accessible to target groups in other language regions.

Even if the JGPOH is initially just another journal among many thousands of others, it promises an innovative approach that focuses on multidisciplinary and genuine globalism and thus also makes a commitment to multilateralism. With its multidisciplinary and multilingual orientation, it can help to challenge the prevailing biomedical reductionism and at the same time counter the Anglophone hegemony in the health and social sciences. This claim is likely to make it difficult for the JGPOH to establish itself in the scientific community and the publishing scene, which is driven to a not inconsiderable extent by financial interests, and to gain the necessary reputation. However, with high-quality contributions from committed authors and the necessary resources for multilingual publication of relevant topics in various languages, the JGPOH should succeed in securing a place in the public, global and one health community.

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