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WORKING SESSION 3a  

Illness of a Person - Illness of a Place? Competing Scientific Hypotheses and Local Interpretations of Neurodegenerative Diseases in Guam  

Lytic and bodig are diseases of the Chamorro people of the Mariana islands with similarities to ALS, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. But despite 50 years of biomedical investigation, the cause of these diseases remains obscure. This paper looks at the impact of the competing scientific hypotheses on the Chamorro explanatory models for illness and the effects of such an intense biomedical research in a village community.