

Wegwerth, Antje: *The discovery of chronic pain as a silent epidemic in the early 21st Century* (working title)

This thesis project examines, from the perspective of the sociology of knowledge, how chronic pain at the beginning of the 21st century was framed as a silent epidemic - underestimated, inadequately treated, and insufficiently documented and researched. As a result, for the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), a new taxonomy of chronic pain was developed under the diagnostic code MG30. The focus of this thesis project is now on this new taxonomy of chronic pain in ICD-11, which was developed by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) on behalf of the World Health Organisation (WHO) with the aim of enabling chronic pain to be diagnosed more reliably, treated more effectively, documented more thoroughly and researched more systematically in future. Following on the academic works on sociology of knowledge by Ian Hacking, Geoffrey Bowker and Susan Leigh Star, this research project shows how this taxonomy emerged through negotiations, compromises and standardization processes, which are methodologically researched and examined in this thesis using Reiner Keller's Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD).