

# In this number

SUSANNA NIIRANEN

## **Vernacularization of Christian Material in Medieval Medical Recipes**

Medieval medical recipes were not “vernacularized” only in terms of language transfer; the process also included a vast range of cultural transmissions. In Occitania, vernacular recipes transmitted medical knowledge and traditions to a broad audience as early as the 13th century onward. In addition, protective assistance was also sought through religious participation. This article examines how religious (mostly Christian) elements, such as various rituals and the use of textual amulets, were combined in this type of healing.

ELISA MIKKOLA

## **Angels Aid and Enchantment in Everyday Life: A Survey of Women Participants at Lorna Byrne’s Events in Finland**

This article discusses how Finns incorporate the traditional figure of angels and angel practices in their changing religious and spiritual practices. The data for this article were collected through questionnaires and participatory observation in events of the Irish mystic Lorna Byrne in Helsinki in 2011 and 2015. The participants were largely well educated, married, middle-aged women working in the welfare, health, or education sector. They characterize their relationships with angels as active and positive, describing how angels deliver information and messages, offer support when making difficult decisions, and help the women in daily situations. As a whole, angels and angel practices are found to provide support and enchantment to the women’s everyday life.

CAROLIN AHLVIK-HARJU

## **Parental Vaccine Attitudes as Existential Narratives: A Qualitative Worldview Study of the Measles Case in Luoto**

Based on a small-scale qualitative empirical study, this article explores how parental vaccine attitudes can be understood as existential narratives. My main argument is based on the idea that studying vaccine attitudes as existential narratives is necessary to better understand them as a whole and of meaning-making aspects of life, such as parenthood, in particular. This is a unique perspective on vaccine attitudes and vaccine behavior, as it also reveals the larger context surrounding questions related to vaccine choices.

RIKU HÄMÄLÄINEN

## **Healing in Native North American Religious Traditions**

In this article, I survey the healing traditions of Native North American religious traditions. Indigenous peoples of North America are a heterogeneous group, and the forms of healing, which are closely linked to the cultural and religious traditions of each nation, vary from one region to another. Even though there has been no one general tradition of healing, common to all Native North American healing is its affiliation to religious traditions. The healing process is always an interaction between humans and the supernatural world along with its powers. In this article, I examine the phenomenon of healing through selected cultural and religious traditions.