Some chronic illnesses may not be visible to the gaze of others. Invisibility may result from mistaking a sick person for a healthy one whose appearance conforms to socially accepted ideas about the healthy body. Invisibility hides the experience of suffering, obscuring the situation of disability or dependency associated with many chronic illnesses, and the bodily constraints and consequent needs of sick persons.

Social and self-identity is grounded in social interaction, in the (re)presentation of the self through bodily performance. Drawing from ethnographic material from my dissertation research on the experience and management of chronicity in Catalonia (Spain), this communication will address the question of the social treatment of the body exploring the explanatory models of these ambiguous ‘healthy-sick’ bodies in order to shed light on how invisibly ill persons learn to cope with the paradoxical situations in which they find themselves.

Lina Masana

**Living with an invisible chronic illness: body, conflicts and resistances**

*Mittwoch 29.03.2017, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock*