



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

ETH zürich

Center for Medical Humanities
Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine
Institute of Romance Studies

Organiser:

Dr. Anna Magdalena Elsner
SNSF Marie Heim-Vögtlin Fellow

Administrative Assistance:

Tania Manríquez

Adresse: Villa Hatt
Freudenbergstrasse 112
8004 Zurich

Please register with:

Tania Manríquez
(tania.manriquez@ibme.uzh.ch)
as spaces are limited.

This workshop is held in collaboration with
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FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS
FONDO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Gestaltung: SIVIC

Bilder: JLCourtinat, Au chevet d'un malade
comateux, Maison médicale Jeanne
Garnier, Paris, 1996



Workshop

EUROPEAN CULTURES OF PALLIATIVE CARE

25 – 26 October 2019, Villa Hatt

Palliative care, recognised as a medical subspecialty and first defined by the World Health Organization in 1990 as a holistic approach specific to cancer pain relief, has since then become the paradigmatic end-of-life care modality for advanced terminal diseases in Western medicine. This workshop contextualizes the meaning of ‘palliative’ within European literature and culture since the 1970s, when reports about the work of Cicely Saunders – the founder of modern palliative care – gave the impetus to reform the ways in which national healthcare systems approached terminal disease in Europe and beyond.

Mortality in its many guises, either as the abstract horizon of our lives constituted by death, or as the actual experience of dying – both of others and ourselves – has always been at the heart of literary texts. In recent years, autobiographies about dying, written by terminal patients, their families and caregivers, have proliferated, and in these texts dying is without exception presented as a medicalized experience. They thereby offer intimate perspectives on the pressure that technological advances put on the care of the terminally ill and the ways in which medical progress has come to shape and streamline dying – even in palliative care settings. They also raise awareness for the local histories and contexts in which specific approaches to palliative care were developed.

This workshop focuses on narratives of illness and dying written since the 1970s, as well as photographic and documentary work torn between the idealization and devaluation of palliative care. It questions the aesthetic mediations of key concepts associated with palliative care, such as pain control, care instead of cure, the integration of the family, an individually defined quality of life and the spiritual and psychological accompaniment of the patient. By considering palliative care’s reception in European literature and culture, the workshop aims to provide a more nuanced understanding of some of the local challenges of modern palliative care and their philosophical and cultural assumptions about what constitutes a ‘good death’.

9:00	Welcome (Anna Elsner)	
9:15	Panel 1: Doctor and Patient Writers (Chair: Valerie Luyckx)	
	Caroline Welsh (Berlin)	Facets of Palliative Care in Contemporary German Literature
	Nina Streeck (Zurich)	Heroes in Dying: Representations of Dying Ideals in Advice Literature by Palliative Care Physicians
	Franziska Gyga (Basel)	Life Writing Palliative Praxis
10:45	Coffee	
11:15	Panel 2: Relationality at the End of Life in Text and Image (Chair: Lazare Benaroyo)	
	Steven Wilson (Belfast)	Digital Patients: Relationality in Marie-Dominique Arrighi’s <i>K, histoires de crabe</i>
	Jordan McCullough (Belfast)	Loss, Grief and the Absence of Belief: Supporting the Family through Terminal Illness in Philippe Forest’s <i>L’enfant éternel</i>
	Katja Herges (Ulm)	The Dying Bridge: Gender, Family and Palliative Care in a Photographic End-of-Life Memoir in Contemporary Germany
12:45	Lunch	
14:00	Panel 3: Pain, Culture, Ethics (Chair: Manuela Rossini)	
	Settimio Monteverde (Zurich)	Cultures, Values and the Role of Clinical Ethicists in End-of-Life Care
	Joe Wood (Glasgow)	Cicely Saunders and the Heritage of ‘Total Pain’
	Julia Pröll (Innsbruck)	Revealing the Holes and Cracks in the Protective Cloak: Literary Negotiations of Conflicting Feelings and Emotions in the Palliative Care Relationship in Mathieu Simonet’s <i>La maternité</i> and Eduardo Berti’s <i>Une présence idéale</i>
	Numa Vittoz (Zurich)	Palliative Care in the Graphic Novel
16:00	Coffee	
16:30	A Reading by Pascale Kramer followed by a conversation with Ursula Bähler and Anna Elsner	
19:30	Dinner (optional)	

9:00	Panel 4: Euthanasia (Chair: Tania Manríquez)	
	Yasmin Temelli (Bochum)	Murder or Mercy Killing? Marie Ledun’s Novel <i>Les visages écrasés</i> (2011)
	Marc Keller (Bern)	Euthanasia and Assisted Dying as ‘Liebestod’: The Ethical Dimensions of a Literary Motif
	Isabelle Wienand (Basel/Fribourg)	Right to Die and Euthanasia: Canguilhem’s Contribution
10:30	Closing remarks followed by tea/coffee	