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Learning to be a dying person: Being inside/outside cancer treatment

This paper explores the author's dissertation where the question 'how does a person who is a cancer patient find their way to being a dying person?' Through the lens of modernism (Giddens) and discourse analysis (Foucault), the author examines how the institution of cancer control is constituted, and how the cancer patient is co-constructed by this system and people entering into it as people needing cancer treatment? From this perspective, the more solitary and less shaped experience of 'unbecoming a cancer patient' is explored for those cancer patients whose treatment has failed. The space between the expert systems of cancer control and palliative care is what is revealed and explored. Who is this liminal person and how might their needs in this space and at this time be met, perhaps without succumbing to the modernist temptation to create yet another expert system to manage this? This paper has implications for person centred system redesign.

Biography

C Ann Syme has completed her PhD in 2011 from the University of Victoria and went on to found the first Institute for Palliative End-of-Life Care in Canada, promoting research, education and policy development for this clinical area. She is the Associate Dean of Nursing, School of Health Sciences, BCIT a premier education organization in BC, Canada. He has published more than 20 papers in reputed journals, co-authored books, and co-wrote several policy paper focusing on capacity building in the field of end-of-life care. She also founded the second Canadian JBI Sythesis Centre, and is noted for her passion about evidence informed care.

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