



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

www.ethics2010.org



Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at ethics@providence.org with any questions.

Name: Marie Gaille (1), Nicolas Foureur (2)

Title/Degree: (1) Ph.D. in philosophy, (2) MD

Institution:

(1, 2) Clinical ethics centre, Cochin Hospital, Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris

(1) CNRS - Paris Descartes University

Country: FRANCE

Email: ethique.clinique@cch.aphp.fr

Phone including country code (<http://www.countrycallingcodes.com>): 0033 1 58 41 22 33

Proposed title of paper: Do caring and curing involve violence? The meaning and the scope of a common place about the physician/patient relationship.

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Physicians are often charged with being inhuman with their own patients. This paper aims at understanding the meaning of such a criticism and to highlight the reason for its frequency and its vigour. More specifically, it will focus on one of the understanding of the word “humanhood”: not the idea of belonging to the human kind, but that of displaying the supposed qualities and characteristics of a human being (culture, education, politeness, compassion for others, etc.). Our method is based on a trans-disciplinary approach (since our paper is the result of a collaboration between a physician and a philosopher) and is grounded on clinical ethics cases’ analysis (made in a French clinical ethics center, in Cochin Hospital, Paris). We first propose a critical examination of all the reasons put forward to give an account of the “inhumanity” of the physicians. Both social sciences and humanities literature and personal accounts proposed by patients are used in this moment. Secondly, we turn to develop our own hypothesis: what clearly shows clinical ethics is that a) there is actually violence in the physician/patient relationship, b) that this violence may be better explained because of a discrepancy between the wish of the patient and the therapeutic project proposed by the medical team or because of the impossibility to find out a satisfying solution to the situation raised by the disease. Finally, we argue that it is essential for ethical thinking to recognize this violence rather than hiding it and to reconsider the patient/physician relationship in the light of it.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

M. Gaille, ‘L’expérience du déni de reconnaissance dans la relation médecin/patient : nouvel exemple ou

motif d'élargissement pour la théorie de la reconnaissance ?', Le temps philosophique, 13, La reconnaissance : perspectives critiques, dir. M. Garrau et A. Le Goff, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, mai 2009, pp. 89-113.

M. Gaille, 'De la relégation du corps par les techniques médicales à la relégation du corps par la maladie : un corps en quête de reconnaissance et d'« ajustement »', Cahiers du Centre Georges Canguilhem, dir. A-Ch. Masquelet, Le corps relégué, I, 2007, PUF, pp. 151-165

N. Foureur and M. Gaille, 'Médecine « inhumaine » ou violence irréductible de la situation de soin ? Enjeux conceptuels et interprétatifs d'un lieu commun sur la relation médecin-patient, to be published in the Proceedings of the International Conference Philosophie de soin held in 2009 (PUF)

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes No