

Katja Galimberti

Viale Lombardia,12

I-20131 Milano

Ph: + 39.333.9130767

katjagalimberti@filosofare.eu



IX International Conference on Philosophical Practice

(16th - 19th July 2008)

Abstract:

Philosophy in oncology

Introduction

Presentation of my six months experience - still in progress - of philosophical counseling in a public hospital (oncology department). The philosophical counselor in oncology was meant to support the nurses in their emotional involvement and their interaction with the patients. The project was based on the idea that the education of the nurses doesn't prepare them to emotionally handle the daily contact with illness, physical and emotional pain, suffering and death. It is infect very common the *burn out syndrome* for the nurses of the oncology.

Development

- The work developed in weekly meetings open to all the group of nurses and individual meetings for who would requested it. In six months time all the nurses made a self-work in the group meetings and I have seen the half of them in individual sessions.
- The main topics we worked on are:
 1. The need of someone's listening.
 2. "Know your-self" to face limit situation and avoid to fall. The work developed case by case.
 3. If I fall how do I stand up again, if standing up can still make sense to me. The work developed in connection with the concept of "motivation".

4. The daily exposure to all this suffering in the working context related to the private life. (Interference/Separation/Confusion/All part of the same life)
5. My work have changed the way I look at the world, I am not the same I was before. The topic developed in their becoming aware of this change, accepting it and becoming responsible in front of their life.

Conclusion

Before beginning to work with the nurses I have spent some time in the hospital just observing. I have followed the doctors in their visits to see how the communication took place. I have followed the nurses in their work and spoke with some patients.

The nurses have shown a lot of enthusiasm for our work. The project is open for a future work on the doctors and patients. My idea is to prepare or support the doctors to communicate with the patients instead of speaking directly to the patients, who just wants to listen to their doctors.