

JAVNO PREDAVANJE

İlhan İlkiliç //  
Ethical Issues of  
Interculturality in  
Healthcare

Etička pitanja  
interkulturalnosti u  
zdravstvenoj zaštiti

SVEUČILIŠTE U RIJECI,  
MEDICINSKI FAKULTET  
Katedra za društvene i  
humanističke znanosti u medicini



Rijeka  
Sveučilište u Rijeci,  
**Medicinski fakultet**  
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## BIOGRAPHY



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İlhan İlkiliç completed his MD in 1990 from the University of Istanbul. He studied Philosophy, Islamic Sciences and Oriental Philology at the Ruhr-University Bochum and the Tübingen University, Germany. He did his philosophical doctoral thesis at the Ruhr University Bochum and the Tübingen University. He was guest scholar at the Georgetown University (Kennedy Institute of Ethics) (1999) and at the Duke University, Institute for Genome Science and Policy, Durham (USA 2008). He was also a guest professor at Frankfurt University, summer semesters of 2013 and 2014.

He was lecturer at the Institute for History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz Medical Center (2005-2012). He wrote his habilitation-thesis at the same University about the topic “Ethical Aspects of Medical Decision at the End of Life in a Value Pluralistic Society”. His areas of research span genetics and ethics, intercultural medical ethics, Islamic medical ethics and ethical issues at the beginning and end of life.

He is the first Turkish member of German Ethics Council since 2008. He is a member on many groups and committees including the Central Ethics Committee at the German Medical Association since 2016; the Advisory Group on Cultural Contexts of Health and Well-being, WHO since 2016; the Bioethics Commission of the Federal State Rhineland-Palatinate (2009-2011); the Clinical Ethics Committee of the Medical Faculty of University of Mainz (2005-2012).

He was director of Health Sciences of the Istanbul University (2016-2019) and he is currently professor and chair of the Department of History of Medicine and Ethics at the Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine.

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## SUMMARY

### Ethical Issues of Interculturality in Healthcare

In multicultural societies, encounters between doctors and patients from different cultural backgrounds are an everyday occurrence. Consequently, their concepts of “health” and “illness” may be defined differently, depending on their respective cultural understanding. Thus, there may be divergent assessments of the disease value of a given condition, the degree of suffering, and therapeutic goals. Intercultural doctor-patient conflicts arising out of different value systems to which the actors subscribe cover a broad spectrum involving various problems and complexities, depending on the specific issues at stake. Communication barriers, cultural practices and moral diversity in intercultural patient-physician relationship are not only a challenge for health care professionals in their daily practice, but also they content complex ethical issues and meta-ethical questions.

Universal validity of patient autonomy, truth-telling in the intercultural setting of a value pluralistic society, decision-making process concerning therapeutic goals at the end of life are just some conflict fields.

My presentation will expound communication barriers, cultural practices and moral diversity in intercultural setting with regard to their ethical implications. Then I will reflect on intercultural physician-patient relationship and analyse some ethical concepts, which might help us to legitimate our medical ethical decisions in a value pluralistic society.

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