

 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

TRANSCENDING RESPONSIBILITY
DEVELOPING A NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAM

UIREKA conference 2018 Frankfurt

Susanne van den Hooff MSc LLM PhD
Faculty of Applied Social Sciences and
Social Welfare
E: s.l.van.den.hooff@hva.nl



 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

□ AGENDA

- Definitions
- Starting point: PhD Research
- Conflict between professionals
- Transcending Responsibility
- Creating a interdisciplinary educational program to increase the knowledge of future professionals working at the intersection of health, wellbeing and law in the urban environment of Amsterdam

 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

Definitions:

- **Multidisciplinarity** draws on knowledge from different disciplines but stays within the boundaries of those fields (NSERC, 2004).
Multidisciplinarity is like a salad bowl, such as a vegetable platter or mixed salad, in which the ingredients remain intact and **clearly distinguishable**.
- **Interdisciplinarity** analyses, synthesizes and harmonizes links between disciplines into a coordinated and coherent whole (CIHR, 2005).
Interdisciplinarity is like a melting pot, such as a fondue or stew, in which the ingredients are only **partially distinguishable**.
- **Transdisciplinarity** integrates the natural, social and health sciences in a humanities context, and in so doing transcends each of their traditional boundaries (Soskolne, 2000).
Transdisciplinarity is like a cake, in which the ingredients are **no longer distinguishable**, and the final product is of a different kind from the initial ingredients.

From: Bernard C.K. Choi, Anita W.P. Pak (2006). Multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in health research, services, education and policy: 1. Definitions, objectives, and evidence of effectiveness. *Clin Invest Med*, 29 (6): 351–364.

 Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences

□ PHD RESEARCH

- The role of coercion in the admission process of people suffering from Korsakoff's syndrome.
- What is society's role with respect to these patients?
- Do we have to interfere in these patients life or should they be left alone?
- What can be understood as good care during involuntary admission processes?
- Who are responsible?



Hooft van den Hooft, S.L. 2015. *Transcending Responsibility. Empirical and theoretical perspectives on involuntary admission of patients suffering from Korsakoff's syndrome* (Dissertation).

 Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences

□ HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL

The question of interest for this presentation:
How to deal with the different responsibilities?

Some background of the Korsakoff's syndrome:

- Serious lack of thiamine due to prolonged bad food or stopping eating completely
- Self-neglect
- Memory disorders
- Confabulation
- Orientation problems in time and space
- No awareness of illness
- Uncertain and afraid of failure
- Central executive dysfunction

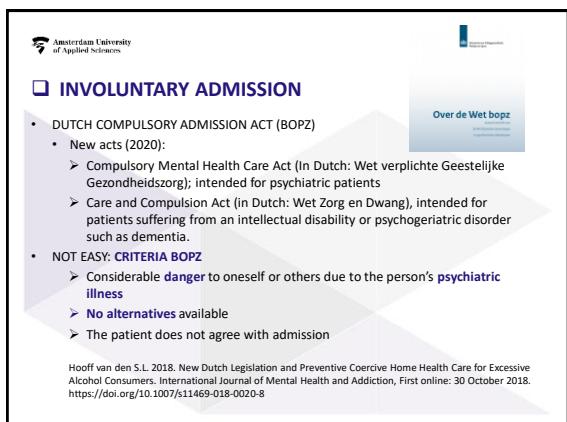
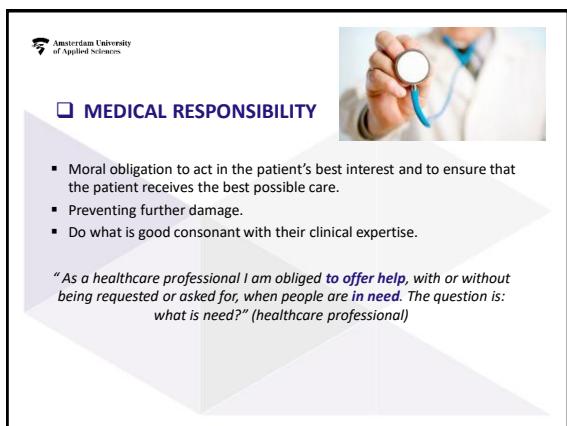
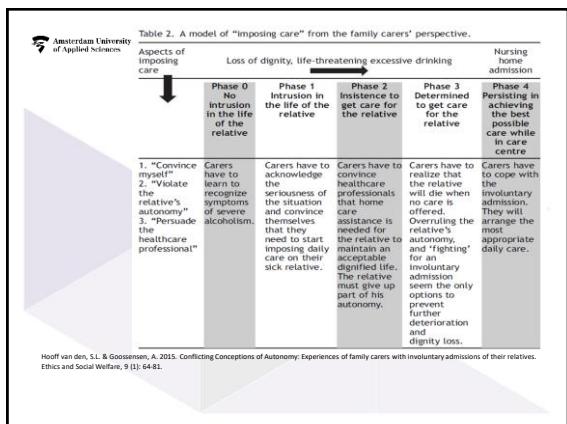
 Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences

□ FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY

- Preventing death, further mental and physical deterioration, and loss of dignity: to get good care for their relative;
- need for interference;
- convincing healthcare professionals of the urgent need for specialist care.

'They (doctors) are proud people. Fear of being proved wrong. I have turned over the whole hospital. I became very angry (...). And the doctor saw it all and saw how very ill she (her mother) was, he just let her go home. He said: 'the lady here just may decide for herself'.

If my mother thinks that she can go on drinking her bottle of wine in the hospital, what is the doctor thinking when he sent her home? That everything will be okay at home?' (daughter)



 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

▪ preventing harm to others;
▪ protecting individuals from undue interference in their independent life: respecting their rights;
▪ competent addicts who refuse care should be left alone.

*"Sometimes there is an argument in Court, because the patient claims: I just want to drink myself to death, I do not want to be hospitalized. That is interesting. Is it possible to give this person the opportunity to reach this decision? I think so. I will argue for his **right of self-determination** and **free will**." (legal professional)*



 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

Patient perspective

▪ See themselves as competent autonomous people, free to make decisions about one's own life, regardless of what others might decide.

*"What I really don't like, is what they do to me, by imposing that juridical authorization. As soon as I get free, I dug in my heels and take a drink, I have deserved it. Just for fun. I will show them that it **did not work**, that treatment. I will have my drink." (patient)*



 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

DEALING WITH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Interdisciplinary field**, with different perspectives on the involuntary admission process of patients who lack awareness of illness.
- This results in **Tensions and Challenges** due to these differences in perspective and responsibility.
 - healthcare professional
 - family carer
 - legal professional and
 - the patient





❑ CONCLUSION

All actors look at dilemmas in different ways, which results in tensions:

- the moment of recognition of the problem;
- the moment of feeling responsible;
- the moment of needing a coerced intervention in the patient's life;
- the reason for an involuntary admission.

Understanding of the different responsibilities.



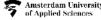
❑ TRANSCENDING RESPONSIBILITY



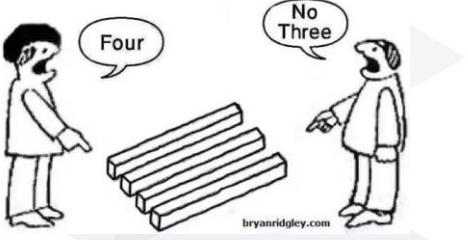


❑ WHAT DOES THIS IMPLY?

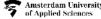
- More flexible notion of responsibility: **transcending responsibility**
- Try to transcend (going beyond) the own professional responsibility to connect with the **others' perspective** on responsibility.
- This asks for a re-examination of assumptions and values, critical thinking and new creativity.
- Question and reframe own assumptions or habits of thought.
- Professionals need to **reflect** critically on their own responsibility.

 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

Reality can be so complex that equally valid observations from differing perspectives can appear to be contradictory.



bryandidgley.com

 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

INTERPROFESSIONAL WORKING

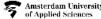
Necessary:

- Work together
- Not blaming the others for having another worldview
- Be reflective
- Reach out to the other

This will lead to a **shared responsibility** for the problem.

Students need to practice this!



 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

NEXT STEP: DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TEACHING PROGRAM

In the Amsterdam metropolitan society, legal and healthcare professionals (including social workers) are increasingly confronted with issues at the **intersection of (health)care and justice**.

Special areas of interest are:

- the problems surrounding people suffering from a mental illness,
- youngsters that cause nuisances of themselves on the streets and
- homeless people.



 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

The approach to this kind of problems requires a **interdisciplinary approach**. This means that healthcare, social welfare and legal professionals have to work together, for instance to apply for involuntary care.



 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

□ TEACHING PROGRAM

In which students from different faculties:

- work together on real time cases;
- receive interdisciplinary training and courses;
- learn what is meant by 'Transcending Responsibility'
(be open to the perspective of the others professionals and to create a new shared responsibility)



The idea is to familiarize students with:

- **the legal contexts** in which they have to operate (for instance themes related to pressure and coercion) as well as
- **the welfare and care context** in which the client/patient is situated (the care from neighbourhood teams, youth care teams or mental health care teams).

 Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

□ INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMWORK

- Required in health and social care, such as primary health care, education in health care,
- Training of medical, nursing students and legal students
- Such teamwork can offer a coordinated range of skills, expertise and clinical experience in a setting of interprofessional support.

Interdisciplinarity
Why scientists must work together to save the world

 **POSTER DOWNLOAD**



 Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences

□ Discussion

In this project, we like:

- to **work together** with and learn from the expertise of other members of the consortium;
- to **enhance the quality** of this educational project;
- to be inspired, informed about and discuss **innovative approaches** which make **interdisciplinary** educational programs possible.

So please contact me!
Email: s.l.van.den.hooff@hva.nl

www.hva.nl