Universität Zürich UZH

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Digital Religion(s)

Project 11: Digital Spiritual Care.

Introduction

Spirituality is an important factor in health. As spiritual care providers encounter increasingly digital healthcare settings, how spirituality is understood, lived, cared for and indeed measured and documented, changes.

In our project, we investigate ongoing developments, accompany emerging practices, and engage in knowledge transfer.
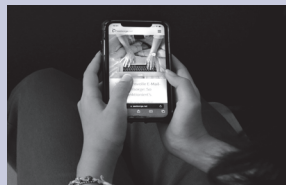
Overview of research foci

We have identified five core foci for research:

Focus 1: The digitalization of communication and interaction through clinical documentation in electronic medical records (EMRs)

Focus 2: Digital instruments for quality control (e.g. patient-reported outcome measures, PROMs)

Focus 3: Digital religious practices of patients (e.g. participating in online healing ceremonies and prayer-groups or spiritual exchange in online communities)

Focus 4: Digital forms of chaplaincy (telechaplaincy)

Focus 5: Digitalization of chaplaincy research and training

First research phase (2020-23)

In this first phase, we have emphasized foci 1), 4) and 5); the more complex focus on patient practice and satisfaction will be addressed more intensively in a later phase of the UFSP.

The documentation focus continues lines of research from a previous project and is currently proving to be highly relevant in the Swiss context.
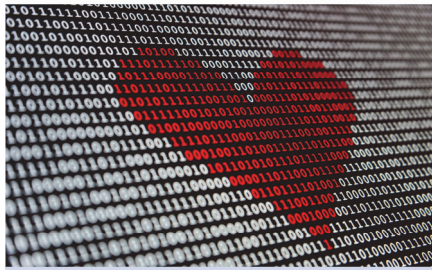
A conference held, on 19 January 2022, illustrates the cooperation with the professional association for pastoral care in this regard, cf. www.bsg-apa.ch/documentation/.

We work hermeneutically and empirically, involve key figures regarding digital transformations, and work closely with professional associations and other UFSP Digital Religion(s) projects (see e.g., Winiger at al, forthcoming).

International conference October 19-20, 2022

University of Zurich UZH
URPP Digital Religion(s)

TRANSFORMING CHAPLAINCY
Promoting Research Literacy for Improved Patient Outcomes

Professorship for Spiritual Care & Transforming Chaplaincy

Spiritual Care for the 21st Century

An International Conference on the Theory and Practice of Telechaplaincy.
October 19-20, 2022, 10 - 2 pm (EST)

Telechaplaincy poses unique challenges and opportunities that require new skills to master. However, there are few resources for chaplains to learn and improve their work. This conference will bring together over 20 healthcare chaplains, spiritual care providers, and managers at leading healthcare institutions to share their experience with telechaplaincy. It will give an overview on current developments, provide an opportunity to acquire and improve practical telechaplaincy competencies, and exchange and network with telechaplains in Europe and North America.
For details see the conference programme.
Inquiries: fabian.winiger@uzh.ch and psprik@uab.edu

Registration:
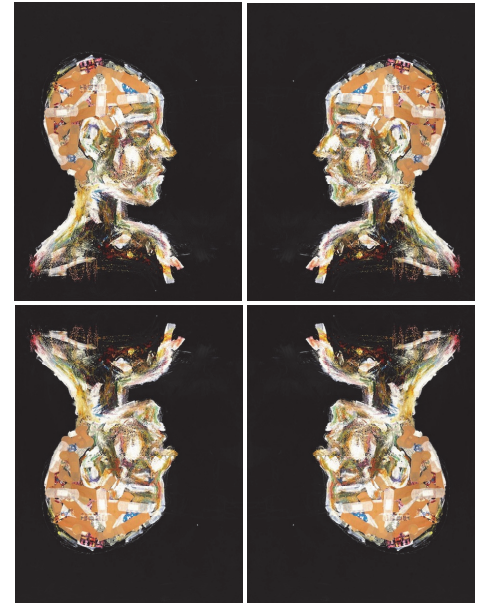https://bit.ly/3PAGLiB
Attendance is free of charge.

Feedback & more information

Visit Spiritual Care @UZH   Tell us your thoughts!

The needs of the «patchworked patient» is the concern of Spiritual Care and also of our project (artwork Noemi Neuhold).

Next Steps

A virtual conference is currently underway with our U.S.-based partner Transforming Chaplaincy (see box on left). A conference is planned to be held in Zurich in September 2023 under the title «Digital Spiritual Care - quo vadis?», which will facilitate knowledge transfer from the U.S. to the Swiss context.

A special edition of the Journal «Spiritual Care» is planned for 2023 by Annette Haussmann, Simon Peng-Keller, Fabian Winiger and David Neuhold. In addition to theoretical reflections, it will feature interviews with telechaplains, historical protagonists in Digital Spiritual Care and leading actors in current praxis.

Publications

Neuhold, David. "'Chaplaincy: Critical and Changing Roles in Covid-19': Bericht zum Webinar im Rahmen der WHO (World Health Organization) und RFP-Initiative (Religion For Peace), Moderation Fabian Winiger/Universität Zürich, 20. Oktober 2021.' *Spiritual Care* 11, no. 2 (26 April 2022): 170–172. https://doi.org/10.1515/spircare-2021-0075.

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Peng-Keller, Simon, and David Neuhold, eds. *Seelsorgedokumentation in Digitalen Patientendossiers. Rechtswissenschaftliche und Theologische Erkundungen*. Theologische Studien 17. Zürich: TVZ, 2021.

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Winiger, Fabian. 'Digitalisierung Seelsorglicher Spiritual Care'. *Digital Religion(s): Der Blog* (blog). Accessed 7 September 2022. https://www.uzh.ch/blog/digitalreligions/2021/08/16/digitalisierung-seelsorglicher-spiritual-care/.

———. 'Spiritual Care and Digital Presence: On the Turn to Telechaplaincy during the Covid-19 Pandemic'. Leeds Centre for Religion and Public Life conference, 2021. https://religioninpublic.leeds.ac.uk/2021/09/22/religious-communities-and-pastoral-care-in-times-of-covid/.

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Winiger, Fabian, Gerold Schneider, Janis Goldzycher, David Neuhold and Simon Peng-Keller, The 'Spiritual' and the 'Religious' in the Twittersphere: A Topic Model and Semantic Map (forthcoming).

We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done.
— Alan Turing (1912-1954)