Practical Justice in Cancer and Palliative Care: Suffering, Hope, Survivorship

20 November 2015, 8.30am – 5.00pm
Lowy Cancer Research Centre, UNSW Kensington
Hosted by UNSW Practical Justice Initiative
How might we conceptualise and better achieve practical justice in the context of cancer and palliative care? How do we make sense of suffering and hope, and the way they are experienced by people affected by cancer?

Indeed, how do we understand survivorship when the experience of living with an illness is subjectively constituted and culturally bound?

To address these questions, and to solve them in creative and innovative ways, Professor Alex Broom, Dr Emma Kirby, and the team from the Practical Justice Initiative bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars, researchers and clinicians to explore the themes of suffering, hope, and survivorship.

**MORNING TEA**
Session 2: Cultural Practices and Cancer and Palliative Care

Associate Professor Assa Doron

Associate Professor Doron, from the Australian National University, is a social anthropologist who has written prolifically on the subjects of contemporary India and South Asia, contemporary health and ethnographic practices, urbanisation, waste and recycling, and so forth. Associate Professor Doron’s areas of expertise broadly include studies in Asian society, social and cultural anthropology, the anthropology of health and medicines, and the anthropology of development and communication technologies.

Associate Professor Renata Kokanovic

Associate Professor Renata Kokanovic, Monash Fellow, is Associate Professor of Sociology of Health and Illness and Director of the Social Studies in Health and Medicine (SSHM) Research Program at the Faculty of Arts, Monash University. She is foundation Co-Director of Healthtalk Australia, an innovative internet resource providing reliable, rigorously collected and analysed information about health and illness experiences to support people experiencing illness and their families, and inform healthcare providers and policymakers.

Ms Lisa Woodland

Lisa Woodland is Acting Manager of the Multicultural Health Service, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District. Lisa is a registered Psychologist and has extensive experience in service development, research and the management of multicultural, refugee and mental health projects and programs. Lisa has been instrumental in establishing models of care for newly arrived refugees in South Eastern Sydney and was involved in the establishment of the Refugee Health Nurse Program across metropolitan Sydney.

Session 3: Suffering and Healing

Professor Damien Ridge

Professor Damien Ridge is Professor of Health Studies at the University of Westminster, London. He is a sociologist with over a million pounds of funding in recent years, who has published over 60 academic papers and one sole authored book. He co-leads the new SPOC research group (Supporting Patients with longterm health Conditions), and has broad interests in patient experiences of health problems, HIV, depression, distress, recovery, masculinity, sexuality and men’s wellbeing.

Dr Melanie White

Dr Melanie White is Senior Lecturer in Sociology & Anthropology at UNSW. She specialises in classical and contemporary social theory. She has written on the conceptual underpinnings of sympathy and suffering, and is currently working on a project titled ‘The Animal Question in Society’ which offers a reappraisal of late 19C French social thinkers such as Durkheim, Tarde and Bergson in order to reveal the constitutive entanglement of the human, the animal and society at the origins of the discipline of sociology.

Professor Andrew Metcalfe

Professor Andrew Metcalfe is Professor of Sociology in the School of Social Sciences at UNSW. He teaches and conducts research across the disciplines of sociology and anthropology, exploring areas including health, religion, pedagogy, relationships, everyday life and creativity. The author of many papers and six books, he has published widely on the social logic of care and the gift, and on the aspect of suffering that involves acceptance and patience.

Dr Phillip Good

Dr Phillip Good is a Palliative Medicine Specialist working at Mater Health Services and St Vincent’s Private Hospital, Brisbane. He completed a PhD from the University of Newcastle with a thesis on evidence-based palliative medicine. As well as an active clinical practice, he is involved in clinical research studies, pharmacology studies on methadone, and qualitative studies in regards to patient and carers’ journeys in palliative care, as well as the experience of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) patients, carers and interpreters.

LUNCH

AFTERNOON TEA

Lowy Cancer Research Centre, UNSW Kensington

Hosted by UNSW Practical Justice Initiative
Session 4: Hope in Medicine

Professor Alan Petersen

Professor Alan Petersen is Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Monash University. He is also Honorary Visiting Professor at the Centre for Biomedicine and Society, Brunel University, UK. His work spans the sociology of health and illness, science and technology studies and gender studies and his recent work has focused on the promises, hopes and expectations attached to new biomedical technologies. He has authored and edited 19 books, and numerous articles and chapters in these areas, and currently leads two ARC Discovery Projects, one focusing on stem cell tourism and the other focusing on the anti-ageing treatment market. His most recent book is ‘Hope in Health: The Socio-Politics of Optimism’ (Palgrave, 2015).

Dr Joanne Bryant

Dr Joanne Bryant is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Social Research in Health at UNSW Australia (The University of New South Wales). Dr Bryant’s disciplinary background is in sociology and public health, with a particular focus on identity and agency, gender, youth and citizenship. Dr Byrant has published widely in the areas of health, risk reduction and harm reduction including a recent article on hope as a form of agency. She is also joint editor of Health Sociology Review, an official journal of The Australian Sociological Association.

Dr David Wyld

Dr David Wyld is Director of Medical Oncology at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital in Queensland, and has also been providing clinical services to Rockhampton since 1998. Dr Wyld specialises in gastrointestinal cancer and has a specific interest in neuroendocrine tumours, and is actively involved in oncological research.

WINE RECEPTION

Practical Justice Initiative

The Practical Justice Initiative is a major UNSW Arts & Social Sciences research initiative focused on dealing with some of the most difficult social issues that face our society and the globe today.

The Practical Justice Initiative brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars from across the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at UNSW, to better understand key social problems, and seek to solve them in innovative and creative ways.

UNSW’s Practical Justice Initiative couples innovative research on the theoretical dimensions of justice together with a practical, applied focus on significant social and political problems such as climate change and health.

The Director and Stream Convenors of the Practical Justice Initiative are Scientia Professor Peter Aggleton (Director), Professor Alex Broom (Convenor, Health Stream) and Professor Jeremy Moss (Convenor, Climate Justice Stream).