

In class we talked about delivering bad news to a patient and the problems that can arise

Problems

- “not my job
- vague, withholding doctors
- there is a need for more resources
- stigmas in the field
- expectations vs. reality

Possible Solutions

- improvements in MD curriculum
- new job - “expert”
- recognize bias
- practice!
- explain individual factors influencing outcomes
- start with descriptions rather than stats

Realistically, how could these solutions actually be implemented across the world? Would people be willing to try new things?

Honestly thinking about it, if it was me I really can't be certain of how I would want this type of news delivered to me.

It's so hard to try and use statistics when telling someone this type of information, because people beat statistics all the time and differ from the norm. I'm sure it helps some people to know and others probably would rather stay unaware.

Every case is unique,
as is every person.

strongly believe that
moment you decid
tter at your chosen
men, you
more to learn. My jo
on a particular day

She writes so beautifully


We must learn to count the living with that same particular attention with which we number the dead.
(Lorde, 1980)

I must be responsible for finding a way to handle those concerns so that they don't enervate me completely, or bleed off the strength I need to move and act and feel and write and love and lie out in the sun and listen to the new spring birdsong. (Lorde, 1980)



Last words and words that last





I cannot pretend I am without fear. But my predominant feeling is one of gratitude. I have loved and been loved; I have been given much and I have given something in return; I have read and traveled and thought and written. I have had an intercourse with the world, the special intercourse of writers and readers.

Above all, I have been a sentient being, a thinking animal, on this beautiful planet, and that in itself has been an enormous privilege and adventure.

the idea of death declarations and using them in legal proceedings is interesting for sure but I struggle with the ethics and pressure of it

I know Oliver Sacks wrote this at the age of 81 which is already a long life, but this still makes me really sad. His words are very eloquent though.

“Legal actors become used to assuming that the performative function of their words confers on them the mystery of the dying declaration, the testimony from beyond the grave that cannot, by its very nature, be questioned” (Brooks, 2020).

It is up to me now to choose how to live out the months that remain to me. I have to live in the richest, deepest, most productive way I can. In this I am encouraged by the words of one of my favorite philosophers, David Hume, who, upon learning that he was mortally ill at age 65, wrote a short autobiography in a single day in April of 1776. He titled it “My Own Life.”

I didn't really enjoy Anil's Ghost too much if I'm being honest. I think it was powerful and impactful and I know some people liked it but it just wasn't my favorite. Still glad we had the chance to read it though.

The key terms and concepts were interesting to me.

Some of the ones that stuck out were:

- destruction of destruction
- glomar denial
- devil's advocate
- mummy complex
- murky evidence

“What mattered was to whom the bones belonged”
(Keenan and Weizman, 2011).

What else is there to know? Hers is the same fate as every other Black Venus: no one remembered her name or recorded the things she said, or observed that she refused to say anything at all.² Hers is an untimely story told by a failed witness. It would be centuries before she would be allowed to “try her tongue.”³ (Hartman, 2008)

Wow, wow, wow!!! ↗

Narrative restraint, the refusal to fill in the gaps and provide closure, is a requirement of this method, as is the imperative to respect black noise—the shrieks, the moans, the nonsense, and the opacity, which are always in excess of legibility and of the law and which hint at and embody aspirations that are wildly utopian, derelict to capitalism, and antithetical to its attendant discourse of Man.³⁸ (Hartman, 2008)