

- What is truth? (Epistemology)
- What is beauty? (Aesthetics)
- How are we good? (Ethics)

Willis D **Conscientious Objection- a Way Out for Assisted Suicide or a non Starter?**. *International Journal Of Palliative Nursing* Vol 23 p 306-7 June 2017

So today?

- What do we understand by profession?
- How does profession fit with conscience?
- How healthy is the idea of conscience and does it fit with rights?
- Does the argument need split?

Accepted for

- Termination of pregnancy
- Withdrawal of ventilation

But must still point to health care professionals who will

Exists but

- Must not result in discrimination against patient
- Have to refer on to someone who does not hold that opinion

The situation

- Assisted Dying- in recent legislation- has doctors administering this
- Doctors- specifically in palliative medicine- mostly do not want to be involved in this
- The legislation stated that conscientious objection for doctors will be allowed

Sociological definition

Guild

Freidson definition

- Self regulation (GOSPORT)
- Autonomy

Autonomy



- If you hold with this idea of a profession – it allows doctors to decide what is right for doctors qua doctors
- Doctors may do things- but for individual practitioner may have individual difficulty with this- not just religious
- patient autonomy exists- but is a compromise autonomy in line with the three autonomies

- **Conscientious Objection (Medical Activities) Bill [HL] HL Bill 14 of 2017-19**
- *Greater Glasgow Health Board v Doogan and Another* [2014] UKSC 68
- *R v Salford HA Ex p. Janaway* [1989]

Rights

- We decide what doctors do becomes -transactional

Rights

- My rights are absolute above yours- therefore you have to respect my autonomy rather than yours

Rights

- You signed up for it you do it
- We pay for you?? GPS Hospices??
- Did we sign up for it?

So what is the argument

- Not necessarily defending definition of professions
- Not necessarily defending doctors right to conscientiously object
- But I am saying that a rights based argument does not uphold doctors ability to either refuse qua doctors or object as an individual

The problem

- The arguments for AS/ AD do not allow for a practitioner to conscientiously object- therefore to argue that there is a 'get out' is to be dis-ingenuous

Two prongs

- If society decided AS is right- then is it up to society to administer this?
- Is this necessarily a medical procedure- does it need health care professional involved at all??