Sage Journals

American Sociological Review

Impact Factor: **6.9**

5-Year Impact Factor:

By clicking “Accept Non-Essential Cookies”, you agree to the storing of cookies on your device to enhance site navigation, analyze site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts. **Privacy Policy** **Cookie Policy**

Manage Cookies

Accept Non-Essential Cookies

Reject Non-Essential Cookies

Contents

More

Abstract

As efforts are made to [illegible] severely ill patients and focus on comfort care has become an economic as well as a moral issue. This article examines the intricate intersection of economics and morality in U.S. hospice care. Using historical, interview, and ethnographic methods, I explain the resonance between hospice practitioners’ moral motivations and policymakers’, insurers’, and providers’ efforts to economize near the end of life. Drawing on theoretical literature on morality in markets, I analyze the moralization of economic scarcity. I argue that rather than posing an external financial constraint on the achievement of moral goals, scarcity itself can bear moral meanings. In the case of hospice care, the view that “less is better” and the wish to save patients from over-treatment converge with financial interests to limit spending on end-of-life care and imbue financial constraints with positive moral meanings.

Get full access to this article

View all access and purchase options for this article.

Get Access

References

Albrecht Jennifer S., McGregor Jessina C., Fromme Erik K., Bearden David T., Furuno Jon P. 2013. “A Nationwide Analysis of Antibiotic Use in Hospice Care in the Final Week of Life.” *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* 46(4):483–90.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Almeling Rene. 2007. “Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and the Medical Market in Genetic Material.” *American Sociological Review* 72(3):319–40.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Anspach Renee. 1993. *Deciding Who Lives: Fateful Choices in the Intensive-Care Nursery*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Anteby Michel. 2010. “Markets, Morals, and Practices of Trade: Jurisdictional Disputes in the U.S. Commerce in Cadavers.” *Administrative Science Quarterly* 55(4):606–638.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Ariès Philippe. 1974. “Death Inside Out.” Pp. 9–24 in *Death Inside Out*, edited by Steinfels P., Veatch R. New York: Harper and Row.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Ariès Philippe. 1981. *The Hour of Our Death*. New York: Knopf.

Google Scholar

Arney William R., Bergen Bernard J. 1984. *Medicine and the Management of Living: Taming the Last Great Beast*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Google Scholar

Asch David A., Ubel Peter A. 1997. “Rationing by Any Other Name.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 336(23):1668–71.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Bakker Karen. 2007. “The ‘Commons’ Versus the ‘Commodity’: Alter-Globalization, Anti-Privatization and the Human Right to Water in the Global South.” *Antipode* 39(3):430–55.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Boltanski Luc, Thévenot Laurent. 1999. *On Justification: Economies of Worth*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Google Scholar

Brooks Charles H., Smyth-Staruch Kathleen. 1983. *Cost Savings of Hospice Home Care to Third-Party Insurers*. Cleveland, OH: Hospice Council for Northern Ohio.

Google Scholar

Buntin Melinda B., Huskamp Haiden. 2002. “What Is Known about the Economics of End-of-Life Care for Medicare Beneficiaries?” *The Gerontologist* 42(3):40–48.

Crossref

PubMed

Google Scholar

Callahan Daniel. 1987. *Setting Limits: Medical Goals in an Aging Society*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Google Scholar

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2012. *Hospice Payment System* (http://www.cms.gov).

Google Scholar

Cetti Jan. 2009. “Measure the Social Outcomes of Nonprofits.” *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 12(1):12–13.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Christakis Nicholas A. 1999. *Death Foretold: Prophecy and Prognosis in Medical Care*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Google Scholar

Christakis Nicholas A., Escarce José J. 1996. "Survival of Medicare Patients after Enrollment in Hospice Programs." *New England Journal of Medicine* 335(3):172–78.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Cohen Kenneth P. 1979. *Hospice: Prescription for Terminal Care*. London: Aspen.

Google Scholar

Comptroller General. 1979. *Hospice Care: A Growing Concept in the United States*. Report to the Congress of the United States. Washington, DC: U.S. General Accounting Office.

Google Scholar

Dartmouth Atlas Project. 2013. *End of Life in California: You Don't Always Get What You Want*. California Healthcare Foundation. Retrieved July 24, 2014 (http://www.chcf.org/Publications/2013/04/EOL-What-You-Want/).

Google Scholar

Dubois Paul M. 1980. *The Hospice Way of Death*. New York: Human Sciences Press.

Google Scholar

Durkheim Emile. [1893] 1984. *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: Basic Books.

Google Scholar

Elias Norbert. 1985. *The Loneliness of the Dying*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell.

Google Scholar

Emerson Robert M. 1969. *Judging Delinquents: Context and Process in Juvenile Court*. Chicago: Aldine.

Google Scholar

Espeland Wendy Nelson. 1998. *The Struggle for Water: Politics, Rationality, and Identity in the American Southwest*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Google Scholar

Espeland Wendy Nelson, Stevens Mitchell L. 1998. "Commensuration as a Social Process." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24:313–43.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Faunce William A., Fulton Robert K. 1958. “The Sociology of Death: A Neglected Area of Research.” *Social Forces* 36(3):205–209.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Herman Feifel, ed. 1959. *The Meaning of Death*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Google Scholar

Fligstein Neil. 2001. *The Architecture of Markets: An Economic Sociology of Twenty-First-Century Capitalist Societies*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Fourcade Marion. 2011. “Cents and Sensibility: Economic Valuation and the Nature of ‘Nature.’” *American Journal of Sociology* 116(6):1721–77.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Fourcade Marion, Healy Kieran. 2007. “Moral Views of Market Society.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 33:285–311.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Glaser Barney G., Strauss Anselm L. 1965. *Awareness of Dying*. Chicago: Aldine.

Google Scholar

Goldman Michael. 2005. *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Justice in the Age of Globalization*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Google Scholar

Michael P. Hamilton, Reid Helen F., eds. 1980. *A Hospice Handbook: A New Way to Care for the Dying*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Google Scholar

Harrington Sarah E., Smith Thomas J. 2008. “The Role of Chemotherapy at the End of Life: When is Enough, Enough?” *Journal of the American Medical Association* 299(22):2667–78.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Healy Kieran. 2006. *Last Best Gifts: Altruism and the Market for Human Blood and Organs*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Heimer Carol A., Staffen Lisa R. 1995. "Interdependence and Reintegrative Social Control." *American Sociological Review* 60(5):635–54.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Heimer Carol A., Staffen Lisa R. 1998. *For the Sake of the Children: The Social Organization of Responsibility in the Hospital and the Home*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Google Scholar

Hoffman Beatrix. 2012. *Healthcare for Some: Rights and Rationing in the United States since 1930*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Hospice Project Task Force. 1980. *Report to the 1980 California Legislature*. Berkeley: California State Department.

Google Scholar

Kapo Jennifer, Harrold Joan, Carroll Janet T., Rickerson Elizabeth, Casarett David. 2005. "Are We Referring Patients to Hospice Too Late? Patients' and Families' Opinions." *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 8(3):521–27.

Crossref

PubMed

Google Scholar

Kaufman Sharon. 2005. … *And a Time to Die: How American Hospitals Shape the End of Life*. New York: Scribner.

Google Scholar

Kavanagh Eve. 1983. "Volunteers in Hospice." Pp. 209–222 in *Hospice Care: Principles and Practice*, edited by Corr C. A., Corr D. M. New York: Springer.

Google Scholar
Koff Theodore H. 1980. *Hospice: A Caring Community*. Cambridge, MA: Winthrop.

Google Scholar
Kornai Janos. 1980. *Economics of Shortage*. New York: North-Holland.

Google Scholar
Kübler-Ross Elisabeth. 1969. *On Death and Dying*. New York: MacMillan.

Google Scholar
Lamers William M. 1978. "Development of Hospice of Marin Country." Pp. 53–62 in *The Hospice: Development and Administration*, edited by Davidson G. W. Washington, DC: Hemisphere.

Google Scholar
Macaulay Stewart. 1963. "Non-contractual Relations in Business." *American Sociological Review* 28(1):55–67.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

MacKenzie Donald. 2006. *An Engine, Not a Camera: How Financial Models Shape Markets*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Crossref

Google Scholar

MacKenzie Donald, Millo Yuval. 2003. "Constructing a Market, Performing Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 109(1):107–145.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Marx Karl. [1867] 1976. *Capital*, Vol. I. New York: Penguin.

Google Scholar
McCabe Sheridan V. 1982. "An Overview of Hospice Care." *Cancer Nursing* 5(2):103–108.

Crossref

PubMed

Google Scholar

McNulty Elizabeth, Holderby Robert A. 1983. *Hospice: A Caring Challenge*. Springfield, IL: Charles Thomas.

Google Scholar

Mechanic David, McAlpine Donna D. 2010. “Sociology of Health Care Reform: Building on Research and Analysis to Improve Health Care.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(2):147–59.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Mitchell Timothy. 2005. “The Work of Economics: How a Discipline Makes Its World.” *European Journal of Sociology* 46(2):297–320.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Mor Vincent, Masterson-Allen Susan. 1987. *Hospice Care Systems: Structure, Process, Costs, and Outcome*. New York: Springer.

Google Scholar

Munley Anne. 1983. *The Hospice Alternative: A New Context for Death and Dying*. New York: Basic Books.

Google Scholar

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). 2008–2012. *Facts and Figures: Hospice Care in America* (http://www.nhpco.org).

Google Scholar

O’Neill Sean M., Ettner Susan L., Lorenz Karl A. 2008. “Paying the Price at the End of Life: A Consideration of Factors That Affect the Profitability of Hospice.” *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 11(7):1002–1008.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Pantilat Steven Z., Rabow Michael W., Kerr Kathleen M., Markowitz Amy J. 2007. *Palliative Care in California: The Business Case for Hospital-Based Programs*. California Healthcare Foundation, University of California-San Francisco, Palliative Care Program.

Google Scholar

Polanyi Karl. [1944] 1956. *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Google Scholar

Prommer Eric. 2004. “Guidelines for the Use of Palliative Chemotherapy.” *American Academe of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Bulletin* 5(1):2–4.

Google Scholar
Quinn Sarah. 2008. “The Transformation of Morals in Markets: Death, Benefits, and the Exchange of Life Insurance Policies.” *American Journal of Sociology* 114(3):738–80.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Reinbolt Raquel E., Shenk Allison M., White Patrick H., Navari Rudolph M. 2005. “Symptomatic Treatment of Infections.” *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* 30(2):175–82.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Riley Gerald F., Lubitz James D. 2010. “Long-Term Trends in Medicare Payment in the Last Year of Life.” *Healthy Service Research* 45(2):565–76.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Robbins Lionel. 1945. *An Essay on the Nature and Significance of Economic Science*. London: MacMillan.

Google Scholar
Rodwin Mark. 2011. *Conflicts of Interests and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France, and Japan*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Rossman Parker. 1977. *Hospice: Creating New Models for Care for the Terminally Ill*. New York: Association Press.

Google Scholar
Sack Kevin. 2007. “In Hospice Care, Longer Lives Mean Money Lost.” *New York Times*, November 27.

Google Scholar

Sandel Michael. 2012. *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets*. New York: Farrar.

Google Scholar

Scott W. Richard, Ruef Martin, Caronna Carol A., Mendel Peter J. 2000. *Institutional Change and Healthcare Organizations: From Professional Dominance to Managed Care*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Google Scholar

Stark David. 2009. *The Sense of Dissonance: Accounts of Worth in Economic Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Starr Paul. 1982. *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. New York: Basic Books.

Google Scholar

Steinfels Peter. 1974. "Introduction." Pp. 1–6 in *Death Inside Out*, edited by Steinfels P., Veatch R. M. New York: Harper and Row.

Google Scholar

Stoddard Sandol. 1978. *The Hospice Movement: A Better Way of Caring for the Dying*. New York: Stein and Day.

Google Scholar

Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (TEFRA). Public Law 97-248. 97th Congress. September 3, 1982.

Google Scholar

Teno Joan M., Gozalo Pedro L., Bynum Julie P. W., Leland Natalie E., Miller Susan C., Morden Nancy E., Scupp Thomas, Goodman David C., Mor Vincent. 2013. "Change in End-of-Life Care for Medicare Beneficiaries: Site of Death, Place of Care, and Health Care Transitions in 2000, 2005, and 2009." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 309(5):470–77.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Thompson E. P. 1971. "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd." *Past and Present* 50:76–136.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Timmermans Stefan. 1999. *Sudden Death and the Myth of CPR*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Google Scholar

Titmuss Richard. 1971. *The Gift Relationship: From Human Blood to Social Policy*. London: Allen.

Google Scholar

Ubel Peter A. 2000. *Pricing Life: Why It's Time for Health Care Rationing*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Google Scholar

United States Congress. 1982. House Committee on Ways and Means, the Subcommittee on Health. *Coverage of Hospice Care Under the Medicare Program*. 97th Congress, 2nd Session. Pp. 1–257.

Google Scholar

United States Congress. 1983. House Committee on Ways and Means, The Selected Committee on Aging. *Administration's Proposed Payment for Hospice Care*. 98th Congress, 2nd Session. Pp. 45–132.

Google Scholar

Von Gunten Charles F. 2008. "Profit or Not-For-Profit: Who Cares?" *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 11(7):954.

Crossref

PubMed

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Walzer Michael. 1983. *Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality*. New York: Basic Books.

Google Scholar

Weber Max. 1946. "Science as a Vocation." Pp. 129–56 in *From Max Weber*, edited by Gerth H., Mills C. W. New York: Oxford University Press.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Welch Gilbert H., Schwartz Lisa, Woloshin Steve. 2011. *Overdiagnosed: Making People Sick in the Pursuit of Health*. Boston: Beacon.

Google Scholar

Wentzel Kenneth B. 1981. *To Those Who Need It Most, Hospice Means Hope*. Boston: Charles River Books.

Google Scholar

Werth James L., Blevins Dean. 2002. "Public Policy and End-of-Life Care." *American Behavioral Scientist* 46(3):401–417.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Wuthnow Robert. 1996. *Poor Richard's Principle: Recovering the American Dream through the Moral Dimension of Work, Business, and Money*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Google Scholar

Xanthopoulos Judy. 2007. *Economic and Cost Analysis of a Proposal to Modify the Hospice Care Payment Cap*. Retrieved July 24, 2014 (https://web.archive.org/web/20101206034258/http://www.nhpco.org/files/public/regulatory/Economic_and_Cost_Analysis.pdf).

Google Scholar

Zelizer Viviana A. Rotman. 1978. "Human Values and the Market: The Case of Life Insurance and Death in 19th-Century America." *American Journal of Sociology* 84(3):591–610.

Crossref

Web of Science

Google Scholar

Zelizer Viviana A. Rotman. 1979. *Morals and Markets: The Development of Life Insurance in the United States*. Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

Crossref

Google Scholar

Zelizer Viviana A. 1994. *The Social Meaning of Money: Pin Money, Paychecks, Poor Relief, and Other Currencies*. New York: Basic Books.

Google Scholar

Zelizer Viviana A. 2005. *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Google Scholar

Zelizer Viviana A. 2011. *Economic Lives: How Culture Shapes the Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Google Scholar

Zussman Robert. 1992. *Intensive Care: Medical Ethics and the Medical Profession*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Google Scholar

Biographies

Roi Livne is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of California-Berkeley. His dissertation analyzes the intersection between the moral predicaments of end-of-life care and the health care economy. He is currently writing on end-of-life decision-making in hospitals, drawing on an ethnography of palliative care clinicians. He is interested in theoretical discussions of morality in markets and seeks to apply them to contemporary U.S. health care politics.

Supplementary Material

Please find the following supplemental material available below.

For Open Access articles published under a Creative Commons License, all supplemental material carries the same license as the article it is associated with.

For non-Open Access articles published, all supplemental material carries a non-exclusive license, and permission requests for re-use of supplemental material or any part of supplemental material shall be sent directly to the copyright owner as specified in the copyright notice associated with the article.

livne_mediaabstract.pdf | 9.68 KB

livne_online_supplement.pdf | 395.39 KB

livne_spanish_asr_abstract.pdf | 29.95 KB

You currently have no access to this content. Visit the access options page to authenticate.

View full text | Download PDF

Also from Sage

CQ Library

Elevating debate

Sage Data

Uncovering insight

Sage Business Cases

Shaping futures

Sage Campus

Unleashing potential

Sage Knowledge

Multimedia learning resources

Sage Research Methods

Supercharging research

Sage Video

Streaming knowledge

Technology from Sage

Library digital services