

Asano Humanities & Health Certificate

2019-2020

Reflection Examples

Agree or Disagree: Some of the concepts presented in Asano Events this year may have either confirmed or challenged your own views. Agree or disagree with an event, and support your argument. How do you see this issue affecting your own life, either personally or professionally?

Kelly Garrigan

Event: Liliana Velasquez: Dreams and Nightmares / Sueños y Pesadillas

The event Dreams and Nightmares challenged my view on healthcare access for undocumented immigrants. Upon hearing Liliana's story about coming to the U.S., it is clear that undocumented immigrant children need healthcare upon arriving to the U.S. In Liliana's presentation, she stated that 362,000 young people fled alone to the U.S. from 2013 to 2019 and as of November 2019, there are 13,000 unaccompanied children in detention centers. The current U.S. healthcare infrastructure does not support undocumented immigrants.

Undocumented immigrants are broadly excluded from federally funded health benefits in the U.S. and this raises some ethical questions regarding healthcare delivery to undocumented immigrants especially children.

I researched some information on how undocumented immigrants can receive healthcare in the U.S. Under current U.S. healthcare infrastructure, safety net providers, which are predominantly community clinics and hospital emergency departments, serve patients regardless of immigration status and provide free or reduced price care based on patient income level (McConville, Hill, Ugo, & Hayes, 2015). Despite lower rates of healthcare utilization and expenditures compared to U.S. citizens, undocumented U.S. residents remain uniquely dependent on the ED for care (Samra, Taira, Pinheiro, Trotzky-Sirr, & Schneberk, 2019). This shows how an undocumented legal status can be a barrier to healthcare access and is often overlooked as a social determinant of health. Although undocumented immigrants use emergency departments as their means of healthcare, they do not frequently access this care possibly due to fear of being deported. By improving healthcare access for undocumented adults

and children, U.S. healthcare infrastructure can improve and provide humane health services to this vulnerable population.

Liliana's story is unique but is shared by many other unaccompanied minors immigrating the U.S. People from Mexico and Central America believe in the American dream and often are astonished by what they arrive to in the states. She traveled over 2,000 miles to end up spending 4 months in a detention center. These detention centers often lack toothbrushes, soap, and other basic toiletries. This demonstrates how undocumented immigrants are treated so inhumanely upon arriving to the U.S. Basic needs are not being met to this vulnerable population. Spending time in the detention centers can cause extreme stress for anyone, but especially children separated from their families. Adverse childhood experiences, such as the experience of being held in a detention center, can lead to detrimental physical and psychological health effects.

In the future nursing practice, we must be educated on how to help the undocumented immigrant population especially in the emergency department. We must treat everyone with the same dignity and respect. Utilizing trauma-informed care can enhance the healthcare experience for undocumented children. Being in the detention center alone is an adverse childhood experience (ACE). ACEs play a huge role in the health of an individual. In nursing care, we must recognize the psychosocial aspects of health and how to connect to our patients, especially non-English speaking patients, that may have difficulty accessing healthcare.

References

- McConville, S., Hill, L., Ugo, I., & Hayes, J. (2015, November). Health Coverage and Care for Undocumented Immigrants. Retrieved November 22, 2019, from Public Policy Institute of California website: <https://www.ppic.org/publication/health-coverage-and-care-for-undocumented-immigrants/>
- Samra, S., Taira, B. R., Pinheiro, E., Trotzky-Sirr, R., & Schneberk, T. (2019). Undocumented Patients in the Emergency Department: Challenges and Opportunities. *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 20(5), 791–798. <https://doi.org/10.5811/westjem.2019.7.41489>

Lyena Birkenstock

Event: The People in the Middle: AI in Healthcare with Aimee van Wynsberghe

Technology's benefits to health may outweigh the threats

It is indisputable that technology has revolutionized the world we live in today over a very short period of time. Over my 23 years, I have witnessed the transition from VHS tapes to DVDs to streaming services like Netflix and Disney+. I have seen paper maps become GPS devices, which became apps now installed in every smartphone. The field of healthcare is also not exempt from this most recent technological revolution. I have seen handwritten paper notes by physicians transition into virtual notes spoken by the physician and transcribed by software. The definition of the physician-patient relationship has changed with the onset of major search engines like Google, where patients can now arrive to appointments with a greater understanding of their medical conditions. New technology is also radically changing the quality of life for patients experiencing chronic diseases. For example, patients can acquire and send EKGs to physicians to show changes occurring at the very moment that they occur.

While this revolution in health technology seems exciting and promising at first, Aimee van Wynsberghe presented a more concerned and negative outlook. In moving so quickly to make the potential of technology into a reality, Ms. van Wynsberghe argued that the ethics of this technology has not been given enough time or energy by its producers to understand the implications of artificial intelligence. Behind the veil of collecting data to help patients is a hidden network of personal, private data being shuffled around, largely unregulated, by large commercial companies. In a world where consumers agree to share their data and information in exchange for the rewards that apps and smart technology return, Aimee van Wynsberghe asks "What is the cost?" What can be a more serious example than when this

issue reaches the most private areas of a consumer's life – their health?

These thoughts, presented at the event and at dinner with Ms. van Wynesberghe the night before, challenged me to think about my own interface with technology. I am an active member of social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. I love that my phone can be unlocked through Face ID. I have found greater and greater solace in being able to communicate over virtual platforms to schedule appointments or voice complaints. Thus far, I have not experienced any issues with some black box entity knowing personal information about myself, as it has not impacted my personal life directly. This talk reiterated to me the importance of stepping back and thinking about how technology may be affecting my personal life without me noticing. What does privacy entail in this world of technology we now live in? How will my future career as a physician change with electronic medical records, apps that track health, and “Dr. Google”? While I agree it is important to bring increasing awareness to the possible issues that accompany the benefits of new technologies, I would also qualify that recent technological advancements are not as dire as Aimee van Wynesberghe presented. I think the benefits for health and patient autonomy from technology may outweigh the threat to privacy.

Nellie Shields

Event: The People in the Middle: Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

On December 10th 2019, I attended *The People in the Middle: Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare* lead by Dr. Aimee van Wynsberghe and Jefferson's CEO, Dr. Steven Klasko. Dr. Wynsberghe is a "robot ethicist" at Delft University of Technology and president of the Foundation for Responsible Robotics. During this event, Dr. Aimee van Wynsberghe spoke about the inevitable integration of AI into healthcare, and the crucial need to incorporate ethics into this integration process. Later, a panel discussed these issues from their own unique viewpoints.

I agree with much of what Dr. Wynsberghe discussed in her talk. Artificial Intelligence is extremely important and inevitable in our futures, but it needs to be integrated carefully into our society. The ethics of AI is particularly imperative and should be considered with every step of this integration process. I agree that I will benefit from the use of AI in my future as a medical physician, especially because the vast amount of medical information to know currently exceeds the capacity of a human brain. By the time I am practicing, medical knowledge will exponentially increase and continue to do so throughout my life. I believe AI will be useful, but I need to understand it and use it in a way that will complement my practice.

Although I agree with most of this event, I disagreed with some opinions discussed during the panel at the end. During the panel, one of the speakers explained how platforms, such as Facebook, should have every right to use our data, because we chose to sign up for them. When we made an account, we agreed to share all of our information. He said that joining Facebook was our own conscious decision and we were never forced to share this information. I disagree with this point because I do not feel that getting Facebook was purely my own decision.

Although I physically made my account and voluntarily joined the network, it is difficult to function in our society without it. For instance, much of the information regarding SKMC events, clubs, and even some information about schedule changes are *only* posted on the SKMC class group on Facebook. If I did not have Facebook, I would not be notified of upcoming club meetings or applications to apply for leadership positions. This would be a disadvantage to me as a medical student, and ultimately may reduce the amount of extracurriculars I am involved in.

I believe online sites, apps, and devices should be more transparent about the data they use. I understand many people click 'accept cookies' and quickly 'Accept' the Terms & Services of various platforms, but I still believe there should be more transparency beyond this. Very few people have time to research every site or device they use on a daily basis to fully understand where their data is going. I believe there should be an easier way for users to understand where their information is going and have a greater say in how it is used.