



## *Book Reviews / Buchbesprechungen / Comptes rendus de lecture*

Sonja Kalauz

### Sestrinska profesija u svjetlu bioetičkog pluriperspektivizma

(Nursing Profession in the Light  
of Bioethical Pluriperspectivism)

Pergamena / Hrvatska komora  
medicinskih sestara, Zagreb 2011.

Every book has its background: a general time frame and social context, a story of the author's life and personal development, curious paths of maturation of the book's content, and (especially in Croatia) the saga of finding the ways for a book to be published. In the case of the recent book authored by Sonja Kalauz, however, there is something more to be stressed – its pioneer importance for an entire profession.

In order to understand it, one has to be reminded of the prevailing perception of nursing profession in our society: nurses have generally been treated as a “second echelon”, fully subordinated to physicians' position, interests, and logic. Only recently, the concept of nurse as an equal-footed, highly important part of healthcare team has appeared, opposing not only the old-fashioned Florence Nightingale model of nursing, but also the views of many “modern” healthcare policy makers and medical practitioners. In such surrounding, it is very difficult for a profession to develop and, therefore, it is no wonder that only a few years ago in Croatia we finally witnessed joint congresses of physicians and nurses and the opening of nursing graduate study programmes.

Sonja Kalauz, the author of the book we review here, has herself been a nursing practitioner. She was schooled in her native city of Šibenik and later at the Higher School for Nurses in Zagreb. But, unlike the thousands of her profession-mates, Sonja Kalauz recognised in herself the reformatory ambition and,

with no possibility to continue her formal education within nursing, entered and graduated from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Defectology. At the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb she completed her first master study in Public Health, and at the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb and the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, a second master programme, in Healthcare Management. After obtaining a master degree in Public Health, Sonja Kalauz prepared and defended also a Ph.D. thesis devoted to bioethical perspectives of nursing at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. The thesis has been transformed into the book we here consider.

Now, let us for a while consider more closely that ambition of Sonja Kalauz – the ambition of changing an entire education system, of providing a new and radically different vertical axis of a profession. This courage and resoluteness certainly are something to be admired.

In the book (i.e., dissertation), Sonja Kalauz first addresses “Identity, theories, and models of nursing”, revealing the identity crisis of nursing profession within modern biomedical technology progress. Nursing models analyses Dorothea Orem's, Martha E. Rogers', Sister Callista Roy's, and the Sphere of Nursing Advocacy models. “The history of nursing” chapter tries to provide a brief overview of nursing and medicine in Pre-History, Babylon, Egypt, Palestine, China, India, Greece, Rome, Middle Ages, South America, Renaissance, Reformation, and modern times, with special regard to the history of nursing in Croatia. In the chapter entitled “Ethics and morality”, the author tries to present the development of ideas in the sphere of ethics from the Ancient Greek philosophers to Immanuel Kant in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. “Ethics and nursing” offers an overview of major ethical theories (virtue ethics, deontology, utilitarianism, care ethics). “Professional ethics in nursing practice” tries to analyse the history of nursing ethics and ethical codices of nurses, stressing the dilemma of considering nursing as a science or an art. Finally, the results of

Sonja Kalauz' own research are presented, exploring "The system of moral values in nursing practice in Croatia", revealing a disturbing finding that modern time nurses (like many other sub-populations of Croatian society) overestimate the value of financial compensation. In the final chapter ("Bioethics and nursing"), a history of bioethics is exposed, emphasising pluriperspectivism and integration of various perspectives into an "orientation knowledge".

At the same time, the book is a compendium, an encyclopaedia of nursing, and an introduction to what might be called "nursing bioethics": a far too huge list of topics and fields to be swallowed by one person and writer. However, the book should be considered necessary reading for those interested in their own development as nursing professionals and nursing education theory. For the rest of us, Sonja Kalauz' book is a horizon-broadening milestone of viewing the growth of nursing problems and solutions. Therefore, it would not be exaggerated to state that reading the book of Sonja Kalauz provokes not only the improvements of our knowledge, but the corrections of our perceptions as well.

**Amir Muzur**

**Iva Rinčić**

### **Europska bioetika: ideje i institucije**

**(European Bioethics: Ideas and  
Institutions)**

**Pergamena, Zagreb 2011**

Recently, in the well-known series "Bioetika" (Bioethics) published by Pergamena publishing house, Zagreb, we have gained one more very valuable publication in Croatian and regional intellectual area. Let us say few words on the context of this publication. This book series is a part of the large project of integrative bioethics which is the leading idea of *Zagreb School of Bioethics*, developed under the guidance of professor Ante Čović from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb. This effort has tremendous results which can most clearly be seen in the *Lošinj Days of Bioethics*. To this day, the "Bioetika" series numbers twenty two

books among which are many very important publications for the development of bioethical thought in the region, such as books of proceedings from various scientific events, collections of papers and monographic publications. Special place in the mentioned series is reserved for the prepared Ph.D. theses which are a clear sign of the strength and influence of the idea of integrative bioethics: doctoral students, with their own original scientific work, participate in forming this new field of knowledge, which already developed its own scientific infrastructure. Very noticeable contribution in that mater can be found in Iva Rinčić's book which is also a published Ph.D. thesis. In the following few pages our aim is to provide an overview and evaluation of this book and point out some key positions of integrative bioethics.

The book is divided in five parts, and it has a significant list of appendixes (mostly legislative documents; laws, resolutions, recommendations and other documents from different European institutions) as well as a very useful list of references and other, for scientific publication, common items. Let us first state the parts of the book: besides the "Foreword" and (1) "Introduction", there are the following chapters: (2) "Historical context of the development of bioethics in the second half of the twentieth century", (3) "Accomplishments of bioethical institutionalisation in the European Union", (4) "Theoretical footholds of bioethical institutionalisation in the European Union", and (5) "Conclusion: Perspectives of European bioethical ideas and institutions".

In the "Introduction" we meet the main issues of the book: what the European bioethics is, spatially in the comparison with the American bioethics, and what the roots and perspectives of European bioethics are, particularly of integrative bioethics, especially looked from the position of political institutions functioning.

The second chapter, "Historical context of the development of bioethics in the second half of the twentieth century", introduces us to the problem of the history of bioethics, especially to the significance of problems of human survival faced with technological progress and its impact on human lives. Two names are the most important: one is Aldo Leopold, and the other is Van Rensselaer Potter. The latter was named "the father of bioethics", and his work is permanently imprinted in the history of bioethics. The author gives us a very informative and stimulating description of the context of Potters work. Especially valuable part of that description is the portrait of social situation from which bioethics emerged and transformed from scientific knowledge to an interdisciplinary area. Very important

part of this inquiry is the description of the following relations: health care–bioethics, science–bioethics, and bioethics–law. All of these intellectual circuits determined the development of bioethics. Most certainly, as the author points out, the domination of law in the American bioethics influenced the formation of principlism, which has had a long lasting influence, evident in the work of various committees, on the processes of institutionalisation of bioethics. Rinčić has managed to show a specificity of bioethics in America and provide a very useful outline for discussion on the subjects of *other bioethics*.

The third chapter, “Accomplishments of bioethical institutionalisation in the European Union”, introduces us to the problems of formation of the European Union in several dimensions: historical, cultural, economic, political, etc. Very valuable part of this chapter is the overview of institutional integration of the European Union in which author describes all political processes and most important documents (for example, *The Treaty of Maastricht*, *The Treaty of Nice*, *The Treaty of Lisbon*, etc.) through which the most important institutions, as *European parliament*, *Council of Ministers*, *European Commission*, etc., were formed. On the basis of this insights author gives us a view of development of bioethics in Europe, especially of its role in European institutions. Here author deepens earlier outlined positions on the problem of interconnection of law and bioethics: regulatory rules were made on the basis of transposition of ethical norms in the legislative areas with purpose of protection of life and dignity of human beings. In this intellectual circuit, as author suggests, we can observe connection between law and European values. Aiming to preserve human life and dignity through these values, European bioethics, in some earlier phases, was determined with the following ethical principles: principle of autonomy, principle of dignity, principle of integrity, and principle of vulnerability. Let us say again that these principles were guidelines for human acting in the area of medicine and health care, and they are in essence the intellectual heritage of the American bioethics. But there was a lack of guidance in other problems besides human health, and lack of deeper connection with European culture and intellectual tradition. Answers to these questions were of substantial and institutional character. On that matter, the author provides us a very informative and useful overview of development of bioethical institutionalization in the European Union with special concern with the documents and bodies of bioethical practice.

In the fourth chapter, “Theoretical footholds of bioethical institutionalisation in the Euro-

pean Union”, the author opens with analysis of the problem of institution theory through very inventive approach. First, by analysing the appearance and role of social institutions, then by outlining sociological theories on the problem of institution (especially Durkheim’s and Giddens’ theories) and finally through the anthropological theory of Arnold Gehlen. Second very important problem, which the author examines thoroughly, is the problem of institutionalisation. Other assembly of problems regards the conceptual footholds of bioethics as an inspiration for the creation of European bioethics and its institutionalisation in EU institutions. First is the thought of Immanuel Kant, especially his teachings on the problem of categorical imperative, second is the thought of Fritz Jahr, whose teachings are an attempt to deepen Kant’s categorical imperative so it could oblige beyond human community. Third inspiration for establishing the European bioethics is the thought of Albert Schweitzer, especially his famous theory of reverence for life in which Schweitzer offered a new understanding of human role in life and therefore a new dimension of human obligations towards life. Last source that author suggests as an inspiration for further development of the European bioethics is the thought of Hans Jonas, especially his ethics of responsibility. Before we point out main characteristics of this chapter, we must say the following: choice and interpretation of possible sources for further construction of the European bioethics suggest two dimensions: widening of subject field and methodology of pluriperspectivism, which has been well developed in the framework of integrative bioethics. Both of these dimensions direct our conclusion that the European bioethics is a possible object of further inquiry, and furthermore, that current results of research oblige us to further seek for possibilities of rooting bioethics in European cultural horizon. Second remark, which must be pointed out in this review, concerns the author’s inquiries on the issue of Fritz Jahr’s thought. This section of the book is probably so far the most substantial and best formalised insight in Fritz Jahr’s work, especially in the Croatian bioethical context. This is a fine example of multidimensional scientific research which includes archive work, comparative readings of literature, field work, etc. Due to this fact, for further research on the issue of Jahr’s thought the results of this research are indispensable.

The final chapter, “Conclusion: Perspectives of European bioethical ideas and institutions”, is a synoptical view on the issues presented in this book; it outlines possible directions for further research, and most importantly, sug-

gests that the concept of integrative bioethics could be the answer and guideline for the various questions that other bioethical traditions cannot provide, especially concerning the problem of European legislation and bioethical institutions.

Regarding all the remarks that we have pointed out in this review, we can conclude that this book is a very important contribution to the efforts of conceiving a theory that could be the platform for answers to question that arise daily in our human life. From the practi-

cal side, this is a very useful book because it could be used as a guide through the area of contemporary political problems, e.g. ways of decision-making in EU, or contents of some important European documents. Let us say in the end that this book successfully connects various scientific fields and for that reason it will most certainly be interesting to a wide spectre of scholars.

**Tomislav Krznar**