

Peer Review

Review of: "Humanity in a World Without Empathy: Medical Professionals and a Holistic View of the Human Being"

Andries Baart¹

1. Humanities, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

The article very succinctly addresses a relevant issue: the need for empathy in medical care. There is a great need for this. It uses a prominent Polish nurse as a model/example and thus introduces a Christian worldview perspective. From that example, the argument is substantiated.

The article is too short to be convincing and could and should be strengthened in a few respects.

- The need for empathy in medical care has received plenty of attention in recent decades, so the author should cite sources for his assertion that such empathy is needed even more strongly today.
- Empathy comes in types and sizes (affective, cognitive, distant, informal, etc.), and the author should better explain which is meant.
- In the nursing literature, there is much more attention to empathy (and person-centered care, the holistic approach, and the narrative interpretation of the profession) than in the training of doctors: again, the author here should more accurately say what is being referred to.
- The sub-theme of the spiritual interpretation or underpinning of this empathy is certainly interesting but is not sufficiently elaborated. In addition to traditional Christian underpinnings, there are solid humanistic underpinnings, and these are currently easier for many people to accept. What this spirituality does in care should also be better defined: is it a motivational force of the caregiver, a moral frame of reference, a contribution to the culture of care itself, or something else?

All in all, a contribution that deserves to be revised and better elaborated and substantiated.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.