

In this feature, our team provides you with an overview of the most recent publications in the field of bioethics, with a particular focus on contributions coming from (or having relevance for) Switzerland.

Buona lettura! Bonne lecture ! Viel Spass beim Lesen! Enjoy the reading!

The editors: Andrea Martani, and Maddalena Favaretto

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THEORETICAL BIOETHICS



“Respecting Older Adults: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic”

In the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most debated themes in public policies both in Switzerland and abroad was how to best protect the well-being of aged people. Older people were often required to reduce social contacts to a minimum and the message to the public was that they represented the most vulnerable group in society. But did these approaches really serve the well-being of older adults? In this contribution the authors argue that this was not the case, since most governmental policies did not embody the idea of respect towards older people, intended as the capacity of “paying attention to the needs and vulnerabilities of particular individuals” by recognizing them “as individuals with the capacity to choose for themselves but who nonetheless have to be acknowledged and understood as embedded in a community.” The authors explore the concept of respect in great depth and they then suggest some public policy measures that could redress the lack of respect towards older people that emerged during the pandemic.

Voinea C, Wangmo T & Vică C. Respecting Older Adults: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Bioethical Inquiry*. 2022. doi: [10.1007/s11673-021-10164-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-021-10164-6)

CLINICAL ETHICS



“What does coercion in intensive care mean for patients and their relatives? A thematic qualitative study”

The use of coercion in the clinic and its bioethical implications are often investigated in the context of psychiatric hospitals. However, also in the Intensive Care Unit – given the urgency and gravity of patients and their (often limited) decisional capacity – the use of coercion should not be neglected. To contribute to the scant research on the use of coercion in ICUs, Jöbges and colleague publish the result of interviews with 29 ICU patients and their relatives on their experiences during the stay at the several Swiss hospitals. The study shows the various forms how both formal and informal coercion is perceived

from the viewpoint of patients. It also investigates the perceptions of good care and tease out how gaps in the patients' memory can have an impact on how they live and recall their stay at the ICU.

Jöbges S, Mouton Dorey C, Porz R. et al. What does coercion in intensive care mean for patients and their relatives? A thematic qualitative study. *BMC Med Ethics* 2022;23:9. doi: [10.1186/s12910-022-00748-1](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-022-00748-1)