



March 20-23, 2018

Nijmegen, the Netherlands

**Keynote speaker:**  
**Allan Kellehear**

Academic Director Digital Health Enterprise Zone,  
50th Anniversary Professor (End-of-Life Care),  
University of Bradford, UK

**Advanced European Bioethics Course**

**SUFFERING, DEATH AND PALLIATIVE CARE**

**Ethical Issues of Medically Assisted Death and Palliative Care in a Pluralistic World**

**INTRODUCTION**

New developments in health care strengthen the promise of a better life for everyone. This process also influences the way societies deal with the end of life and with questions regarding the meaning of suffering and death.

International debates often centre around the question whether medically hastening death is a proper means to preserve human dignity and quality of life. The other side of this issue is palliative care, defined by the WHO as the active total care of patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment. The suggestion that adequate palliative care helps prevent the cry for euthanasia and assisted dying, needs careful investigation.

Questions raised by these developments require thorough conceptual interpretation as well as ethical reflection. Objective of this course is to educate the participants on two main aspects: ethical questions of palliative care and medically assisted death, and philosophical, theological and medical reflections on the concepts of death and suffering. Attitudes towards death and dying, and the ethical aspects of continuing or foregoing medical treatment, and of medically assisted death receive considerable attention in this course. In addition, the dimensions of spirituality, rituals and intercultural diversity are covered.

**SUBJECTS AND METHODS**

The course consists of a series of lectures, discussions, parallel sessions and audiovisual materials centered around a variety of topics:

autonomy and dependence; palliative sedation and euthanasia; spirituality and palliative care; quality of life and a good death; scientific research in palliative care; moral deliberation.

The parallel sessions are devoted to in-depth small group discussions and moral deliberation on different real life cases and particular, contemporary issues in the area of end-of-life decisions. Each group will consist of ten to fifteen participants, led by a faculty member.

The course management strives for a diverse group of participants, with a large diversity in professional and cultural background.

This diversity among both faculty and participants stimulates fruitful exchange of ideas and enhances understanding of others' professional and cultural perspectives on suffering, death and palliative care. The course language is English.

Prior to the course participants will receive a syllabus with introductory readings. Since the program schedule is strict, participants are advised to study these materials in advance. Lecturers will assume acquaintance with these basic readings.

**COURSE COORDINATOR: Gert Olthuis PhD,**

Gert Olthuis is assistant professor of medical ethics at the Radboudumc. He wrote his PhD-thesis 'Who cares' on the moral attitude of professionals in palliative care practice. Currently he is a researcher on various topics, including informal carers and end-of-life decision making.

**CONTACT INFORMATION and REGISTRATION**

Simone Naber, course management

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For an online [registrationform](#) please follow the link.

**KEYNOTESPEAKER: Allan Kellehear, PhD, FAcSS,**

50th Anniversary Professor End of Life Care and Academic Director for the Digital Health Enterprise Zone.

Professor Allan Kellehear is a medical and public health sociologist with interests in death, dying and end of life care. Most of Professor Kellehear's work examines behavior at the end of life in palliative care, intensive care and aged care contexts. He has conducted major sociological and social psychological research on the human experience of dying. He has also developed public health models for care of the dying, the bereaved and caregivers. These models are based on the application of health promotion, community development, and social ecology ideas and principles.

**Tuesday afternoon March 20th**

Introduction to palliative care, Kris Vissers

Keynote lecture: Allan Kellehear

**Wednesday, March 21st**

Scientific research in palliative care, Ghislaine van Tiel

Autonomy and Dependence, Gert Olthuis

Parallel session: Autonomy and beneficence in terminal illness

Suffering, Jelle van Gorp

Workshop: From your own perspective

Documentary: 'Choosing to Die'

**Thursday, March 22nd**

Palliative sedation, Jeroen Hasselaar, Kees Besse

Physician assisted dying, Marianne Dees

Euthanasia, Theo Boer

Introduction in the Nijmegen Method of Moral Deliberation, Jelle van Gorp

Parallel sessions: case discussion using the Nijmegen method of moral deliberation

**Friday, March 23rd**

Quality of life and a good death in palliative care, Ruud Welten

Mini-symposium on cultural issues in death and dying, Natashe Lemos Dekker, Claudia Venhorst, Jacqueline van Meurs

Introduction to rituals regarding death and suffering, Joanna Wojtkowiak

Interactive plenary session death, spirituality and rituals, Joanna Wojtkowiak

**PARTICIPANTS**

Past participants for this course came from diverse professional backgrounds, such as nursing, medicine, health care administration, ethics, philosophy, theology and pastoral care, and PhD students in these areas.

A former participants [impression](#) of this course is available on online.

At the conclusion of the course participants will receive a certificate. Participants are reminded that they may be eligible for continuing education credits from their professional association. Registration for accreditation from the Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) and the Dutch register for Pastoral carers (SKGV) will be submitted. Please contact the program coordinators for further details or if you have any questions regarding this issue.

**COURSE FEES and PAYMENTS**

The course fee is € (Euro) 690 for registration before or on 31 January, 2018, € (Euro) 790 for registration after 31 January, 2018. This price includes tuition and course materials, as well as refreshments, three lunches and a dinner.

For cancellation after February 25, 2018 a banking and administrative fee of € 91,- will be charged. Fees are non-refundable if applicants cancel after March 11th, 2018.

You will be contacted with payment details after registration.

- **Kris Vissers MD, PhD**, professor in pain and palliative care, Radboudumc
- **Ghislaine van Tiel PhD**, assistant professor of medical ethics, UMC Utrecht (invited)
- **Jeroen Hasselaar PhD**, assistant professor in palliative Care, Radboudumc (invited)
- **Kees Besse PhD, MD**, anesthesiologist, Radboudumc
- **Marianne Dees PhD**, general physician, post-doctoral researcher
- **Jelle van Gorp PhD** assistant professor clinical bioethics, Radboudumc
- **Theo Boer PhD**, professor of medical ethics, Protestant Theological University
- **Ruud Welten PhD**, associate professor philosophy, Tilburg University (invited)
- **Jacqueline van Meurs**, spiritual caretaker/ pastor, Radboudumc
- **Natashe Lemos Dekker**, PhD candidate Dementia and the politics of care at the end of life, University of Amsterdam
- **Claudia Venhorst PhD**, postdoctoral researcher, Centre for Thanatology, Radboud University (invited)
- **Joanna Wojtkowiak PhD**, assistant professor Ethics of Care and Spiritual Counseling Sciences, University of Humanistic Studies