

On Open Access, Euthanasia, And Mental Health

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MULTIMEDIA + PERFORMING ARTS

ABSTRACT: This podcast was a discussion on my pieces, “On my Grandmother’s Death” and “On the Aftermath of My Grandmother’s Death.” The piece was inspired by my grandmother, Luybov Kapuza, who recently ended her battle with Alzheimer’s. Through watching my grandmother suffer, I developed strong views on several bioethical topics, the most prominent of which was euthanasia.

This work was explaining the way my grandmother lived and died, and presenting an alternative scenario. It makes the case that one cause is more ethical than the other. Doctors swear to uphold ethics—do no harm—but we still question when doing nothing is taking the most harmful path? For this reason, euthanasia is an essential issue to bring up in the case of medical or bioethics. What should doctors do when presented with a case that is sure to deteriorate and have no measurable quality of life?

This piece also discusses financial incentives for caretaking and financial penalties for failure to meet standards of care. This is an important topic as it dictates medical care of the most vulnerable members of society.

I felt that presenting a real-life case—the case of my grandmother and her family as she deteriorated, and in the aftermath of her eventual death—would demonstrate my argument best and push it into the spotlight of bioethical debate.

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