

# Pragmatic Judgments in Direct Patient Care Moral Theory at the Beginning of Clinical Ethics Consultation

## Bernhard Bleyer: Book Review

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**Abstract:** *Pragmatic Judgments in Direct Patient Care provides insight into how moral theory influences clinical practice. Author Bleyer successfully combines theoretical and practical aspects of clinical ethical counseling, enabling professionals to better understand and make decisions in daily patient care. The book is an English edition of a text that was originally published in German under the title "Pragmatische Urteile in der unmittelbaren Patientenversorgung. Moraltheorie an den Anfängen Klinischer Ethikberatung" (2019). For this publication, the text of individual chapters has been revised and relevant references on the current state of research have been taken into account. dr. Brigitte Reschke of Springer - Verlag provided invaluable support to make the ideas available to the public. Historical changes in the approach to ethical issues in healthcare are analyzed in detail, as well as the influence of classical theories of pragmatism such as those of Charles Sanders Peirce, William James and John Dewey on the shaping of clinical practice. Special attention is paid to influential concepts such as the Quinlan case and the Presidential Commission reports. It is recommended as mandatory reading for all those who deal with clinical ethics or are interested in the theoretical development of ethical counseling in healthcare.*

**Keywords:** Pragmatism, clinical ethics, counseling ethics, moral theories, health care, medical decision - making

### Book Strengths

Using a thorough analysis of the literature, it provides a comprehensive overview of the historical and theoretical aspects of clinical ethics counseling, exploring its development and influences in detail. The author integrates insights from various disciplines, including philosophy, medicine, and ethics, offering a rich context for understanding ethical dilemmas in health care and thus includes an interdisciplinary approach. A special emphasis on British - American pragmatism offers a unique perspective on ethical theories and their application in practice, thereby contributing to the literature in the field of clinical ethics. Bleyer offers an in - depth analysis of classic pragmatic theorists such as Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, and John Dewey, exploring how their ideas inform contemporary ethical considerations in medicine. The book serves as an excellent educational tool for ethics students, health care professionals, and ethics consultants, enabling them to develop a sophisticated understanding of ethical issues and methods of resolving them.

### Book Weaknesses

The book delves into philosophical and ethical theories in detail, which can be challenging for readers who do not have a background in these fields. Detailed discussions of pragmatism and its application in clinical ethics may seem overly complex, making it difficult for some health professionals to understand without prior knowledge of moral philosophy. The book focuses primarily on British - American pragmatism, potentially neglecting other philosophical perspectives, especially from non - Western

traditions. This could limit the book's appeal and applicability in a global context where diverse philosophical contributions are valuable because of the potential bias towards Western philosophical frameworks. Although the book extensively discusses the theoretical underpinnings, it may lack detailed practical examples or case studies that illustrate how these theories can be applied in a daily clinical setting. This could make it difficult for practitioners to translate the discussed concepts into practical actions within different health care settings. All these aspects may limit the book's accessibility and practical utility for a wider audience, especially for those seeking direct, applicable insights into solving ethical dilemmas in health care settings. "Pragmatic judgments in direct patient care" clearly and convincingly presents theory and practice, but it could be challenging for those who are not familiar with the topic of clinical ethics. Nonetheless, Bleyer's work is valuable to those in the health care and ethics fields, offering insight into the key theoretical underpinnings that shape contemporary ethics counseling.

### Conclusion

The author's main aim and focus is to explore the relationship between classical pragmatism and clinical ethics consultation and to provide the theoretical foundations and examine the historical context of clinical ethics consultation, especially in its early days, and how it was influenced by classical pragmatism. Therefore, the goal is to bring clinical ethical counseling to all healthcare workers and how to implement the same knowledge in daily work with patients. The focus of the book is an exploration of the relationship between classical pragmatism and clinical ethical consultation, not a comparison with other existing works. The author

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successfully achieves the set goals, connecting the historical development of clinical ethics with the theoretical principles of pragmatism, and offers a concrete analysis and examples of how these concepts are implemented in practice. The book is a significant contribution to the field of clinical ethics, providing a multidisciplinary overview of the development of ethics counseling and raising awareness of the influence of philosophy on medical practices. The author draws on the theoretical line of classical pragmatism, especially the works of Peirce, James and Dewey, to explore moral theories in the context of clinical practice. The book will be useful to all healthcare professionals, ethical advisors, students of medicine and ethics, as well as anyone interested in the connection between philosophy and healthcare. Also without a detailed analysis, it is difficult to compare the book with other similar works, but its interdisciplinary approach and focus on pragmatism offer it as a unique resource. In any case, the book would be very useful as supplementary reading in medical ethics, health policy, and philosophy courses, providing students with a clear framework and examples for understanding complex ethical issues in the clinical setting.