

The question of *waṣā'it* (intermediaries): Ibn Abbad, *ṣukr* (gratitude) and Muslim patients during times of crisis - an empirical study

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Abstract

With the rise of inquiry surrounding Muslim chaplaincy in increasingly pluralistic Global North societies the need for empirical research becomes evident. What do patients think and need when life becomes unbearable during hospitalization? How do people use and practice their religious resources during tribulations? By learning about patient's religious and existential thoughts, we may come closer to understanding patient perspectives and how (and if) it influences their well-being, relationships during hospitalization and healthcare decisions. Through an elaboration of the results from my PhD dissertation- a qualitative empirical study of hospitalized Muslim patients during the COVID-19 pandemic- I will delve into one finding from my study, 'relational gratitude'. For patients, gratitude has different addressees namely hospital staff, family and God. This keynote will reflect on the nature of this type of gratitude, its implications and prospectives for patients' hospital lives.

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