

**Carlo Leget, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, The Netherlands**

***Towards a new art of dying: a perspective from the ethics of care***

Normally, palliative care is organized for patients and families, from the perspective of professionals. But what if we would turn the table and organize care around death and dying with patients and from a patient and family perspective? One of the first things that is needed then, is a framework for patients and families that helps them to express what is important to them and supports them in the choices that need to be made. Based on empirical research in two Dutch nursing homes, and inspired by a medieval tradition of block books, the development of a new art of dying has resulted in a conversation model for patients, families and caregivers which enables them to speak about ethical and spiritual issues. But the model also helps to become aware of the cultural and societal pressure put on patients and families. A new art of dying may help to put the ethical and spiritual dimension of dying back in the centre of palliative care. This, however, can only be realized in cooperation with patients and their families. Ethics in action becomes ethics with and for the people cared for.