

Time for a change? Negotiations of religious continuity, change, and consumption among Danish cancer patients.

Abstract:

In her thesis Nadja Hørdam Ausker explores the religiosity of young Danish cancer patients. Through 40 qualitative interviews with 21 leukemia and lymphoma patients it is examined whether and how religiosity is altered or maintained during life crisis. Ausker concludes that continuity and synchronic, as opposed to diachronic, validations were important for the informants in their choice of religiosity. She also concludes that religious beliefs were not seen as having greater legitimacy than other faiths and she illustrates that religion was important and gave meaning through social relationships. Thus, the membership of small and large communities was a substantial part of the informants meaning-making. Through a focus on consumerism Ausker shows that the possibility of consumption of religious goods was more important than a continuous replacement. Through the informants knowledge about this opportunity to consume religious goods continuity between past and present was preserved. Hereby the religious change, especially with regards to religious practise, could be immediate and situational.