



SEMINAR

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A Study on Existential Meaning- Making Coping with Cancer

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The ways in which individuals cope with different illnesses have been a topic of interest in health research. A relatively new trend in this research area is the interest in the role of religion, spirituality, and existential issues in coping. Some studies focus on the role of religiosity and spirituality in treatment of diseases and others dispute the real importance and effectiveness of such coping strategies for patients with serious illnesses. However, the role of culture in the choice of these coping strategies was rarely taken into consideration. To 'turn to religion or spirituality in coping' is primarily a question of religion's position in the culture in which the individual has been socialized. Once religion becomes a larger and more integral part of the culture, it occupies an important role in coping. When it is less prominent in the culture, and less relevant to life experiences, it loses its importance for coping.

The purpose of the International Research Project on Meaning-making Coping is to implement international studies on existential meaning-making coping among people who have been hit by cancer; this in order to understand the influence of culture on the use of these methods. The term "existential meaning-making coping" is used to describe the coping methods related to existential questions; these methods include religious, spiritual and existential coping methods. The study has already conducted in Sweden, China, South Korea and Turkey and is conducting in Japan, Malaysia and Philippines. In this seminar first this project will be presented and then the result in the Turkey be focused.