

CALL FOR PAPERS | VOLUME 17 (2025)

**RETHINKING PATIENT-CENTERED CARE:  
EXPLORING THE INTERPRETIVE AND RELATIONAL NATURE  
OF CLINICAL PRACTICE**

Guest Editor: Nicole Piemonte, Creighton University

“Interpretation is not an isolated act, one thing among many that we do, it is what we are, the pivot, the crux of our being.”—John D. Caputo

Hermeneutics as a philosophical framework emphasizes the interpretive and relational aspects of human experience. This framework is particularly relevant to healthcare, as practitioners engage in the complex task of interpreting patients' stories, symptoms, and experiences to provide the right care for the particular patient before them. Medicine, therefore, emerges not only as an applied science, but also as an interpretive, relational, and narrative *practice* deeply intertwined with values, emotions, and convictions.

*Analecta Hermeneutica*, the official peer-reviewed journal of the International Institute for Hermeneutics, invites submissions that explore the complex dimensions of healthcare practice from a hermeneutic perspective. We seek contributions that critically examine the interpretive, relational nature of clinical encounters and how such a perspective nuances our understanding of “patient-centered care.” Submissions might examine the interpersonal and ethical dimensions of clinical decision-making; the relational dynamics between clinicians and patients (and/or clinicians and families, clinicians and trainees, clinicians and clinicians, clinicians and themselves), the inherent ambiguity and uncertainty surrounding clinical care; or the social, historical, and political forces that shape the clinical encounter. We seek contributions from those within the interdisciplinary heart of hermeneutics, as well as from practitioners across healthcare disciplines.

Questions for consideration include:

- How does the hermeneutic approach highlight the shortcomings of patient-centered care and enrich our understanding of the patient-clinician relationship?
- What role does interpretation play in clinical diagnosis and treatment planning?
- How do cultural, social, historical, and personal narratives influence the interpretation of illness and health?
- In what ways does the hermeneutic perspective inform medical education and training?
- How might hermeneutics help address the challenges of clinical uncertainty and ambiguity?
- How does the recognition of medicine as an interpretive practice affect healthcare policies and systems?
- What insights can we gain from traditions and perspectives beyond Western medicine that can inform/create new understandings of clinical care?

While we encourage authors to draw on the work of those established within the hermeneutic and medical hermeneutic tradition—such as Heidegger, Gadamer, Ricoeur, Caputo, Toombs, Svenaeus, Zaner, and others—we encourage submissions that explore connections with diverse traditions and emerging voices within the field. We welcome contributions that shed light on the ethical,

epistemological, and practical implications of embracing a hermeneutic approach in healthcare practice and education.

## **SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND GUIDELINES**

Extended Deadline: 15 February 2025

Send submissions to: [AnalectaHermeneutica@asu.edu](mailto:AnalectaHermeneutica@asu.edu)

Please use “Analecta Hermeneutica Submission” as the subject of the email.

All manuscript submissions should be written in English. Manuscripts should be anonymized for peer review, prepared in Microsoft Word using a 12-point common font, double-spaced, and between 6,000 and 9,000 words (inclusive of footnotes). *Analecta Hermeneutica* follows the Chicago Manual of Style (17th ed.); all citations should appear as footnotes. Long or explanatory notes should be kept to a minimum and every effort should be made to include substantial comments in the main body of the manuscript.

All manuscripts should include an Abstract of no more than 250 words and Keywords in English not to exceed seven (7). Keywords should only be capitalized if they are proper nouns.

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

In keeping with the journal’s practice, submissions will undergo rigorous peer review, including screening by the editors and review by at least two anonymous referees.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

We also seek book reviews of 1,000–1,500 words on topics of interest to the journal. Books appropriate for review should have been published within the last 3 years and be relevant to the philosophical scope and mission of the journal.

Requests for review copies may be addressed to Andrej Božič, PhD: [andrej.bozic@institut-nr.si](mailto:andrej.bozic@institut-nr.si)

Please use “Analecta Hermeneutica Reviews” as the subject of your email.

Inquiries about this volume of *Analecta Hermeneutica* should include “Analecta Hermeneutica Queries” as the subject of the email and can be directed to:

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