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Corina Caduff

**From a Humanities' Perspective: The Design of Dying in an  
Era of New Media, in Literature, and in Palliative Care**

Research in Palliative Care, SAMW  
21 November 2019  
Kursaal Bern

# Medical Humanities – Narrative Medicine – Palliative Care

## Aim:

-Strengthening the narrative competence of doctors



Narrative  
Medicine

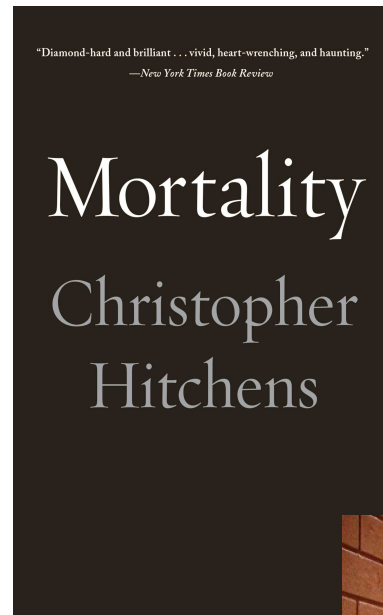


## Subject:

-Patient narratives  
-Literary narratives focused on disease

Medical  
Humanities

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying



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## Yep, I'm dying

Posted on October 16, 2017

I know nobody wants this to be true, but folks, I really actually am dying. Let's talk about what's going on.

Today we met with Dr. Marzbani, aka #bestdoever. I wore this shirt.



# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: **Narratives**



Uncertainty



Life review



Desease / The sick body



Care

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: Text Blogs

## The last post

By [Derek](#) on May 4, 2011 7:51 AM | [148 Comments](#) | [No TrackBacks](#)

Here it is. I'm dead, and this is my last post to my blog. In advance, I asked that once my body finally shut down from the punishments of my cancer, then my family and friends publish this prepared message I wrote—the first part of the process of turning this from an active website to an archive.

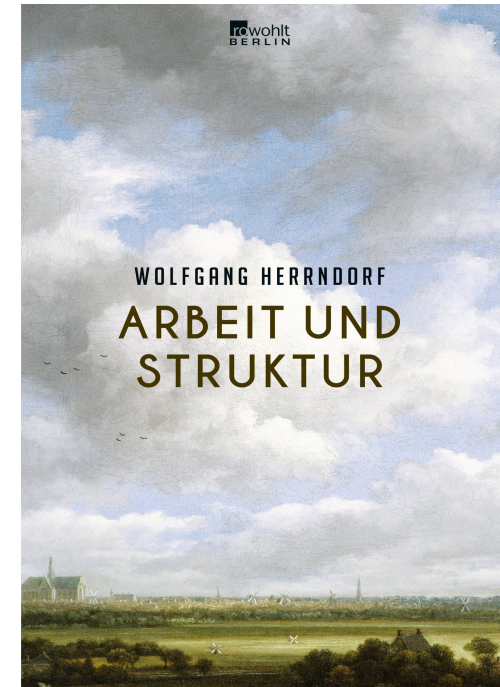
If you knew me at all in real life, you probably heard the news already from another source, but however you found out, consider this a confirmation: I was born on June 30, 1969 in Vancouver, Canada, and I died in Burnaby on May 3, 2011, age 41, of complications from stage 4 metastatic colorectal cancer. We [all knew](#) this was coming.

That includes my family and friends, and my parents Hilkka and [Juergen Karl](#). My daughters [Lauren](#), age 11, and [Marina](#), who's 13, have known as much as we could tell them since I first found I had cancer. It's become part of their lives, alas.

### Airdrie

Of course it includes my wife [Airdrie](#) (née Hislop). Both born in Metro Vancouver, we graduated from different high schools in 1986 and studied Biology at UBC, where we met in '88. At a summer job working as park naturalists that year, I flipped the canoe Air and I were paddling and we had to push it to shore.

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Derek K. Miller (1969-2011) [www.penmachine.com](http://www.penmachine.com)  
Blog 2007-2011

Wolfgang Herrndorf (1965-2013) Blog 2010-2013

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: Text Blogs

The screenshot shows a Blogger blog interface. At the top, the title "Sterben mit Swag" is displayed in white on a dark background. The browser address bar shows "van.der.ich@gmx.ch" and navigation links for "Dashboard" and "Abmelden".

The main content area features two blog posts:

- Samstag, 8. Oktober 2016**  
**Lebt wohl**  
Lebt wohl, meine Freunde, war schön mit euch.  
Leb wohl, Welt, du warst die tollste, in der ich hätte sein können.  
Leb wohl, Leben, ich hätte kein besseres haben können.  
Eingestellt von **Teys** um **07:36** Kommentare:
- Sonntag, 11. September 2016**  
**11. September 2016 |... das passt ja vom Datum**  
Ich schreibe wohl lieber, als dass ich diktiere.  
So eine Macke von mir.  
Diktieren wäre eine Option, ist aber irgendwie doch keine, unnatürlich, Widernatürlich?  
Wir wollen's nicht übertreiben.  
Bin jetzt im Hospitz, nach wie vor in Marburg, sehr gechillt, feiner Besuch, Schmerzen im Arsch und sonstwo, fragt weiterhin, was ihr wollt.  
Bin also weiterhin da, nur sehr müde.  
Beine wollen fast gar nichts. Werden wohl auch nicht mehr. Aber egal. Was unvermeidbar ist, ist eben unvermeidbar, Muss sein. Muss man nur mit klarkommen.  
Ist nicht einfach, aber was soll's.  
Nicht ganz den Stil beibehalten, egal.  
Gut genug ist gut genug.

The right sidebar contains:

- Über mich**  
  
**Teys**  
"Only the Lord and I shall know. And that shall be sufficient."  
[Mein Profil vollständig anzeigen](#)
- Blog-Archiv**
  - ▼ 2016 (59)
    - ▼ Oktober (1)
      - Lebt wohl
    - ▶ September (2)
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    - ▶ März (7)
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- Labels**
  - Chaos
  - Danke
  - Gedicht

Dmitrij Panov (DE)

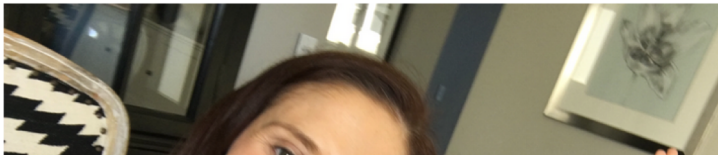
Feb – Okt 2016

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: **Text Blogs**

TERMINALLY FABULOUS

BLOG

CONTACT



type would probably call a "lifestyle" blog.

Well here goes.....



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## Categories

All

Lisa Magill (AUS)

Jan 2016 – Feb 2017

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: **Text Blogs**

## My Cancer Journey

Michael Becker's blog about living with Stage IV head & neck cancer caused by HPV



Home Buy My Book About Michael Becker About Head & Neck Cancer Photo and Media Gallery


### 100th Blog Post

October 26, 2018 by Michael D. Becker

Pop the champagne! Today is the publication of my hundredth (100th) blog post for *My Cancer Journey*.

I still remember typing the inaugural post on November 25, 2015. That was the day I first discovered a suspicious lump on the right side of my neck. In many ways, it feels like yesterday. In other ways, it seems so very long ago.

At the time, I opted to start blogging versus keeping a private journal about my experience with Stage IV oropharyngeal cancer after being formally diagnosed in December 2015. Beyond finding writing cathartic, ~~blogging allowed me to efficiently keep family and~~



Humphrey Celebrating 100th Blog Post

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Michael D. Becker (USA)

seit Nov 2015



# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: Text Blogs

Home About D E

## "THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED." Mark Twain (by Ev)

Posted on January 19, 2015

Happy New Year! My update is long overdue. Judging by the reaction of some, to Bruce's last blog entry, I feel I need to clarify how we are doing right now.

One of Bruce's all-time favorite movies is MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL. There is the memorable scene in the plague-ridden town where they cry, "Bring out your dead! Bring out your dead!" One old man carried out on a stretcher says, "But I'm not dead yet!" That's Bruce.

It is hard to hear the dreaded 'H' word – the H, of course, being Hospice. In the United States, we don't do hospice well. We wait far too long to take advantage of the hospice benefit. Sometimes, the person who is dying is not even aware they are in hospice, because hospice wasn't called in until the patient was in a coma. We hear "Hospice" and we all jump to the conclusion that death is imminent – a matter of a few days.

Bruce is still here and still very much alive.

Hospice is a philosophy. The main idea is that when a person is within 6 months or so of death, they ought to be made as comfortable as possible so that they can wrap up their life, say the things they want to say, do the things they most enjoy doing, and be able to say their goodbyes to the people they love in a planful way.

Dis Ease Diary

11

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RECENT POSTS

- "THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED." Mark Twain (by Ev)
- Happy Complicated New Year!
- Just One More Time
- What have you done for me lately?
- The Elephant 2.0
- Christmas Letter in June
- Maundy Thursday, From the Silence
- Falling 3.0
- Beneficence
- Time Traveler 2.0

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ARCHIVES

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Bruce Kramer (USA)

Okt 2014 – Aug 2016

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: **Text Blogs**

## YOU DON'T LOOK SICK : 27 AND DYING OF CANCER

**ABOUT** **CANCER TIMELINE**

Archive | February, 2012

7  
FEB

### What Scares Me the Most

I am not afraid to die.

Once upon a time, I was. In preschool. For a reason unknown to me, it came up as a topic of conversation between my best friend Becky and me in the middle of the night during a sleepover. Snuggled in our sleeping bags in a tent made by sheets stretched over the empty space between the two beds in her room, we wondered what it would be like to die and decided we didn't want to.

I still don't want to die. I have too much left to do. There are so many places I'd still like to see -- Ireland, Greece and Turkey were on the list with my best Belgian friend and travel buddy, Thandi, plus I long to visit Israel and connect more closely with the Jewish family. I want to grow in my Judaism. I wanted to

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**FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL**



Kitty Chatelain (USA)

Aug 2011 - Feb 2012

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: **Text Blogs**

An authentic glimpse into the roller coaster that is life with Stage 4 Melanoma - the highs, the lows, and the in between.

[Read More...](#)

Blog Archive ^

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Illustration and styling by my favourite nurse!

It's World Cancer Day today and how fitting is it that I am in hospital dealing with this wretched disease... at least, trying to deal with it.

I was going to get on the bandwagon and put my own version of Beyoncé's pregnancy announcement, but I have chickened out and you only get the boring/disgusting photo – my pregnancy photo - beautiful oversized and fluid filled abdomen, with my amazing ever-growing bruise, topped off with a colostomy bag to catch the fluid that dribbles out. This is home to my babies. My tumours.

As you know, I came into hospital last Friday night because I wasn't able to manage my pain from home. In the last few months my lesions have grown dramatically. One in particular that sits at the top of my abdomen in an area called the porto hepatis. It is pushing on some pretty crucial structures and causing a truckload of pain.

When admitted, we discovered that I had a build-up of fluid on my abdomen – I looked like I was at the end stages of pregnancy. After a botched attempt, they managed to drain 2 litres of fluid on Monday and have had another 2 litres drained today. They will continue to drain 2 litres daily as

Emma Betts (AUS)

Juni 2014 – Feb 2017

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: Text Blogs

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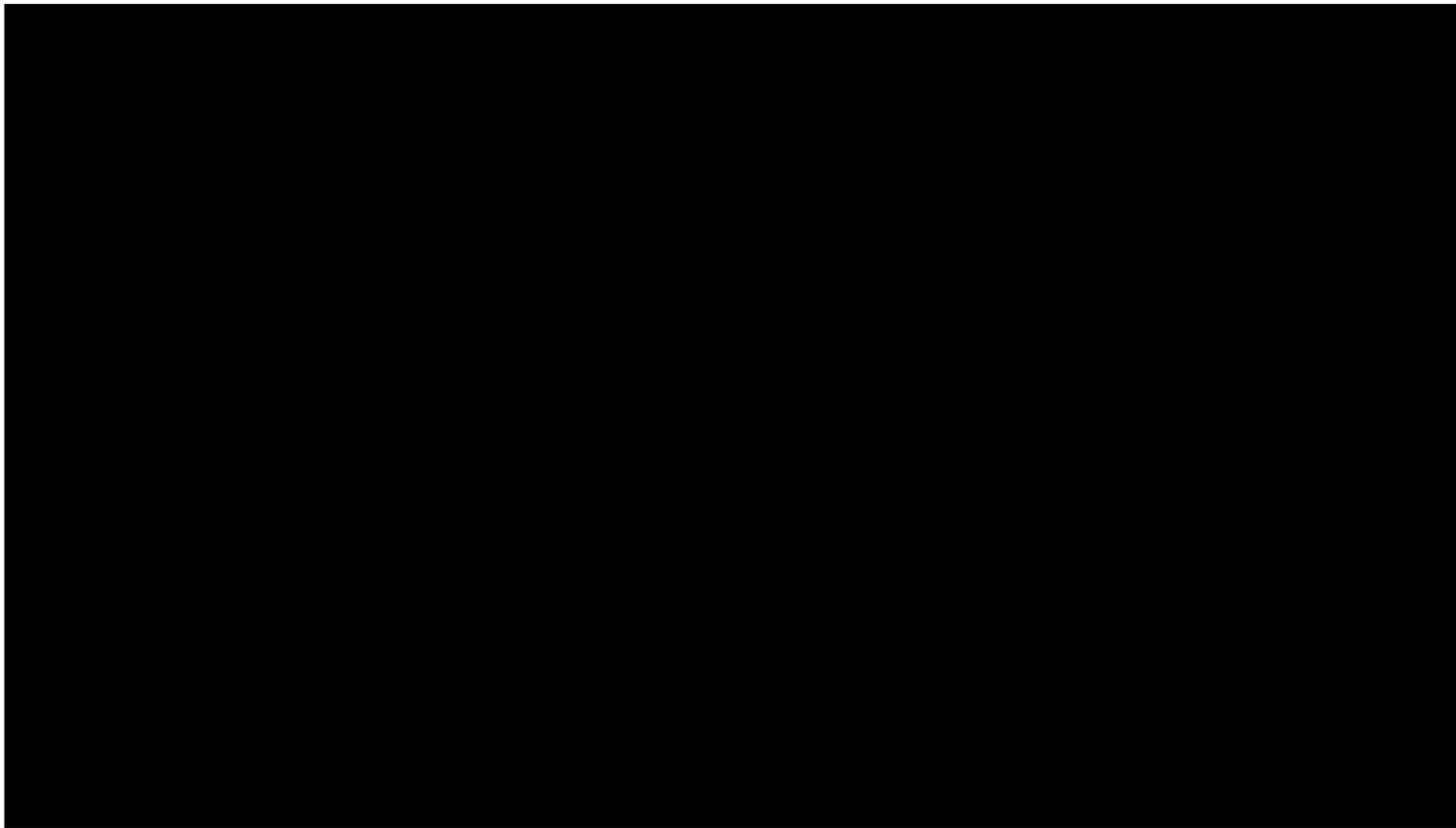
Today we met with Dr. Marzbani, aka #bestdocever. I wore this shirt.



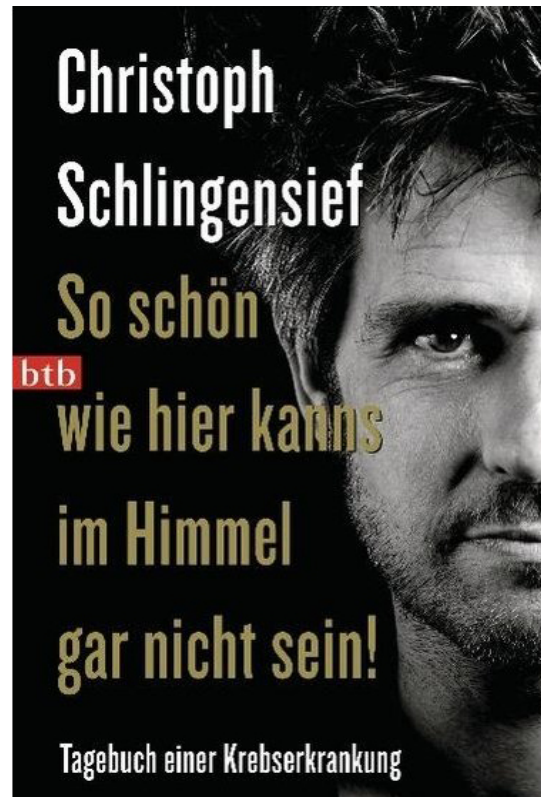
Beth Caldwell (USA)

Juli 2013 – Nov 2017

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: **Video Blogs**



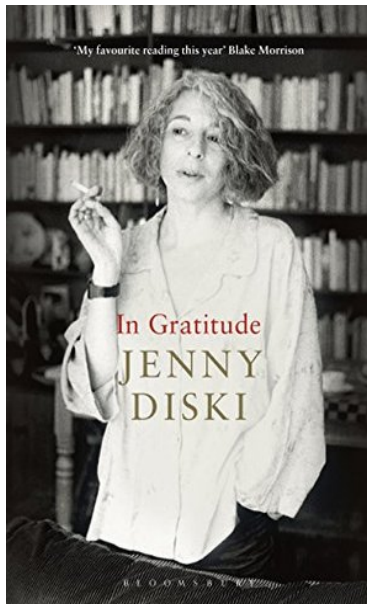
# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: **Books**



2009

# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: Books

2016



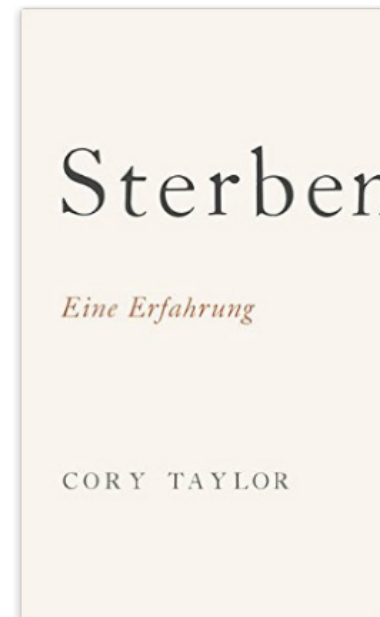
1947-2016

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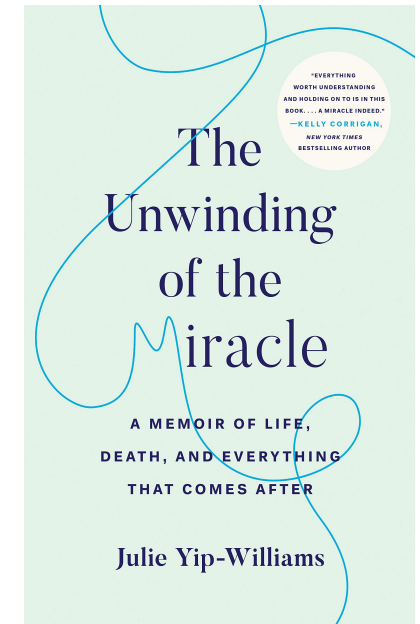
1950-2016

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# Autobiographical Reports about Dying: **Books**





# Functions of Reports about Dying



Regaining Self-Worth



Legacy



Resonance

# Communication at the End of Life

Patients at the End of Life

Health Care Professionals

Autobiographical Reports about Dying  
as Narrative Medicine

Relatives