

Publication

Towards an ethics of curiosity? The role of cinema in medical education on variations of sexual development

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4598334

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Year 2020

Title Towards an ethics of curiosity? The role of cinema in medical education on variations of sexual development

Journal Journal of Contemporary Medical Education

Volume 10

Number 4

Pages / Article-Number 102-113

Objective: Although it is not uncommon to be born with an intersex condition or DSD, it is a topic which is still relatively unknown. The aim of the present paper is to explore the extent to which fiction movies on DSD/intersex can be used to help medical students to gain more experiential knowledge, enhance their empathic abilities and facilitate self-reflection on this issue. Methods: A systematic film review was conducted to identify and critically review relevant fiction movies on intersex or DSD. For this purpose, an online database research was performed in the Internet Movie Database (IMDb). Results: Recent films refrain from conveying a stereotypical image of intersex persons (e.g. freaks, villains, criminals, femme fatale) but tend to focus on young adults' journey to self-discovery. Still, the many close-ups of body of the character with DSD might be interpreted as a kind morbid curiosity for a body that is considered "different". Conclusions: Although in some ways reductive, guided discussions on coming-to-age stories can be used in the medical curriculum to offer an insight in the lived experiences of DSD and to allow future healthcare professionals to turn the medical gaze upon themselves.

ISSN/ISBN 2146-8354

edoc-URL https://edoc.unibas.ch/76782/

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.5455/jcme.20191016125926