



CINEMA

BY: ARIEL SHEEGER

Movies are a great way for counseling students to see models of counseling, compare and contrast our own knowledge and ideas about a situation, and witness a concrete example of a particular ethical dilemma in counseling. They are also a way to allow yourself to believe that you are indeed “studying” and “being productive,” rather than vegging out in front of the television. In the spirit of this week’s Ethics theme, I have listed a few movie titles that feature counselors faced with an ethical decision. With thanks to Netflix.com, and psychmovies.com, here are some films you can check out for some thought provoking ethical situations. See if you can spot the ethical dilemma and come up with your own solutions. (SEE BACK FOR LIST)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March:

7th - 11th: No Class

8th: Mardi Gras

17th: St. Patrick’s Day

18th: CSI Social @
The Bricks, 7-10p

26th: MS Walk in Audubon Park

30th: CSI Exec. Board meeting

April:

2nd: Spring Boil @

The Fly, 11a - 4p

8th - 10th: French Quarter Fest

13th: CSI Chapter and Exec.
Board Meeting @ 7:15p

18th - 25th: No Class

29 - 30th: Jazz Fest

May:

1st, and 5th - 8th: Jazz Fest

4th: CSI Exec. Board Meeting

9th - 12th: FINALS

13th: Baccalaureate Mass

14th: Commencement Ceremony

ETHICAL DILEMMAS

DR. EBRAHIM: IN HOUSE ETHICAL EXPERT

BY: STEPHNAIE DUCROS

After teaching ethics classes for 4 years, presenting at countless conferences, and supervising many counseling interns, Dr. Ebrahim is still faced with new ethical dilemmas. Dr. Ebrahim describes ethics as the foundation of the client-counselor relationship - a foundation that instills confidence in the counseling profession. Ethical guidelines serve to further the client’s autonomy. According to Dr. Ebrahim, “Teaching ethics is unlike teaching any other class.

As a professor, I gain a better awareness of students’ personalities. I learn who they truly are in an ethics class compared to some of the other classes. Students are more likely to open up about their views, values, and beliefs when discussing ethical issues.” ACA Guidelines serve as road signs in navigating foggy grey terrain, but there are no right or wrong answers in many cases.

Dr. Ebrahim believes that confidentiality is the biggest challenge for counselors, especially when working with minors. The question counselors must answer is: At what point does a child’s privacy end? Ultimately, counseling students must simply be aware of the ethical dilemmas they could face in practice and how their own values may affect decisions in the future.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF INTERNSHIP: AN INTERVIEW WITH STEPHANIE ROBINSON

BY: ALISON PHILLIPS

Dilemmas regarding running into clients while socializing...

Q: Do you feel an ethical obligation to not go out as much and do you feel like when you do go out, you have to be on your best behavior?

SR: For example, one of my clients was a graduate student, and I saw him at a bar while watching a Saints game in the afternoon with my friends. I wasn’t questioning, “Am I behaving appropriately?” I was more concerned with my friends’ behavior because I can’t predict it. How does their behavior affect how my client perceives me? I also saw him making out with a girl who I knew was not his girlfriend.

Q: Did you talk about that in session?

SR: In my initial meeting with clients, I always go over the disclosure statement in case there are any questions. It’s not on there, but I always say, “The possibility of us running into each other in this community is great. Whether it’s at Whole Foods or at a bar, I will never come up to you and say, ‘How’s it going?’”

If you want to do so, it’s up to you to make the first move.” Essentially what I am saying is that I don’t want to ignore a client, but I’m going to if that is the client’s wish. I usually wait to see if the client is going to bring up running into me outside of session. If they do bring it up, I ask, “Was that okay? Was that okay that I didn’t go up to you?” With this individual, he did not bring it up, so we did not discuss it, but then he also stopped coming to see me. It’s upsetting, because it left me to wonder if he stopped seeing me because I saw him out too often. If a client brings it up and he or she is uncomfortable, absolutely, I would change my social life. And that is what is weighing on me now. Did this guy stop coming to see me because he didn’t appreciate the fact that I have a social life that is somewhat like his? But ultimately, I will never know. What can I really do? I can’t just stay at home. Most ethical dilemmas are resolved case by case.

Notes from the Editors: Please feel free to contact us at CNSLGA@loyno.edu with comments, question, concerns, interesting topic you would like to read about, informative articles you would like to see published, and things you would like on the calendar of events.



CASE QUIZ! By: Lisa Chew

For each question, select the correct legal case that resulted in the described duty of care.

1. Prosenjit Poddar, a grad student at Berkeley, becomes obsessed with an undergrad acquaintance. He tells his psychiatrist that he plans to kill her. The doctor does not warn the woman and she is killed by Poddar. This case resulted in the creation of the duty to warn.

- A. *Jackson v. Commonwealth*
- B. *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*
- C. *Tarasoff v. Board of Regents of the*

2. A man agrees to a voluntary psychiatric exam. Doctors determine that there is no emergency and no need for involuntary commitment. Later, the man returns to the hospital with his partner who expresses concerns for her own safety. Again, doctors conclude that the man should not be committed and release him. A short time later, he kills his partner. This case formed the basis for the duty to commit dangerous individuals.

- A. *Jablonski v. United States*
- B. *Fortich v. Corona*
- C. *Miller v. California*

3. A man admits himself voluntarily for inpatient psychiatric care. He tells his therapist that he plans to kill his wife and her lover. The man is given an unrestricted weekend pass to visit his children at his wife's home. He goes to the house and kills his wife and her lover. This case illustrates the duty not to negligently release dangerous clients.

- A. *Hedlund v. Superior Court*
- B. *McFarlane v Tayside Health Board*
- C. *Bradley Center v. Wessner*

3 out of 3? Dr. Ebrahim would hug you she would be so proud! 2 out of 3? Dr. Ebrahim would give you a slight head nod of acknowledgement.

1 out of 3? Dr. Ebrahim would frown disapprovingly. 0 out of 3? Dr. Ebrahim would kick you in the shins and back over you with her car! Answers: C, A, C

ONLINE COUNSELING BY: CAITLYN GALAJOUR

CINEMA

...continued from front

Antwone Fisher

Genre: Drama

Year: 2002

Actors: Denzel Washington, Derek Luke, Joy Bryant

Topics: Treatment, Childhood Disorder

Canvas

Genre: Drama

Year: 2006

Actor: Joe Pantoliano

Topics: Psychosis, Family Dysfunction, Treatment

Good Will Hunting

Genre: Drama

Year: 1999

Actors: Robin Williams, Matt Damon, Ben Affleck

Topics: Treatment, Personality Disorder

He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not (A la folie...pas de tout)

Genre: Drama

Year: 2002

Actors: Audrey Tautou, Samuel Le Bihan

Topics: Psychosis, Family Dysfunction

With nearly 77% of Americans using the Internet, online counseling is an up and coming modality that presents unprecedented ethical concerns. Consider the following pros and cons.

Confidentiality: Pro: Client does not have to worry about being seen walking into the counselor's office. **Con:** Email can be accidentally sent to wrong person or read on a shared computer.

Access: Pro: (a) Clients who are homebound, live in a rural areas, or do not have the means necessary to get to a counselor's office can receive counseling online. (b) Clients have access to professionals that specialize in a field but are not in the same geographic area. **Con:** Economically troubled clients who do not have access to a computer are unable to access online counseling.

Time Flexibility: Pro: (a) Client can contact counselor at his or her own leisure without having an appointment. (b) Counselor has more time to reflect on client's concerns before he/she needs to respond. **Con:** Clients in crisis situations cannot be guaranteed an immediate response.

The ACA has recently updated its code of conduct to include ethical guidelines for using technology-assisted services. These guidelines will hopefully lead to a more constructive use of online counseling practices.

I THINK YOU'RE HOT! BY: NATHAN KOCH

In a desperate search to complete an article about the most common ethical dilemmas presented to professional counselors, I found out a few things. First, and most daunting, was the general lack of research readily available to counseling students regarding common ethical dilemmas. Second, any research available, including different codes of ethics, includes remarks on such dilemmas but offer little in the way of process.

However, Craig D. Fisher from Argosy University in Washington D.C. wrote a compelling article discussing one of the most often referred to ethical dilemmas: sexual attraction to a client. Fisher compiled over 60 articles to examine the appropriateness and nonmaleficence of self-disclosing sexual feelings to a client.

Fisher reported 70%-90% of professional counselors found themselves attracted to a client at least once in their career. The ACA code of ethics states clearly that one must not have sexual relations with a client, but fails to explain whether self-disclosure of such feelings is beneficial or harmful to a client. Of the counselors that reported sexual attraction, between 5% and 25% disclosed such feelings. Clients of counselors that chose to disclose reported higher attractiveness of the counselor, but lower perceived expertise than those in non-disclosure situations. Female counselors received higher ratings of perceived expertise than male counselors regardless of disclosure.

Some counselors reported benefits to disclosing such information, citing that those who disclosed viewed the therapeutic effect of the attraction more positively than those counselors who did not disclose. Fisher noted that these reports are solely from the perspective of the counselor, without any input from the client.

Through further examination of case studies and detailed examination of the APA ethics code Fisher concluded with five recommendations regarding sexual attraction to a client. I won't provide those in this article to encourage you to read Fisher for yourself, but I will let you know that he found minimal benefit and significant potential for harm in disclosure of sexual attraction. I urge you to educate yourself and decide when the inevitable attraction occurs, whether you plan to utter "I think you're hott."

Fisher, C.D. (2004). Ethical Issues in Therapy: Therapist Self-Disclosure of Sexual Feelings. *Ethics & Behavior*, 14(2), 105-121