

Episode: *Author Interview: “AMA Code of Medical Ethics’ Opinions Related to Critical Pedagogy in the Health Professions”*

Guest: Maya Roytman

Host: Tim Hoff

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[bright theme music]

[00:00:04] TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Author Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I’m your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative way to access the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Maya Roytman, a first-year MD/MA student at the Stritch School of Medicine and in the Bioethics and Health Policy Program at Loyola University in Maywood, Illinois. During the spring of 2023, she was an intern for the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. Maya’s here to discuss her article, “AMA Code of Medical Ethics’ *Opinions Related to Critical Pedagogy in the Health Professions*,” in the January 2024 issue of the Journal, [Critical Pedagogy in the Health Professions Education](#). Maya, thank you so much for being back on the podcast. [music fades]

MAYA ROYTMAN: Thank you so much for having me.

[00:00:53] HOFF: So, to begin with, what is the main ethics point of your article?

ROYTMAN: So, the primary ethics point of this article is to highlight critical pedagogy. And so, this is a theory put forth by Paulo Freire, and it’s a theory in which students explore conditions for inequity and challenge the status quo through collaborative dialogue, as well as a shared practice for justice and liberation. And so, the main point that I really wanted to drive home here is that social justice and medicine are interwoven threads of the same fabric of care, and that social and clinical competence, they’re not mutually exclusive, but rather providing competent and compassionate care and medicine through cultural humility is a way of upholding health equity and various social models of care. And so, providing competent clinical care relies not only on having an understanding of the traditional biomedical models of care that we are all taught in medical school, but also to understand the sociocultural contexts and ecological contexts and experiences that patients uniquely present with and that impact their health outcomes.

[00:02:07] HOFF: And so, what do you see as the most important thing for your fellow health professions students and trainees to take from this article?

ROYTMAN: One of the most important things for students and trainees like myself to really take away from this article is that pursuing service-based learning and really engaging with the critical social questions of medicine is really important to not only your understanding of the health environment and the health care environment and the structures in which we operate in, but also, it’s really impactful for finding treatment options and clinical decision making that’s appropriate for patients who present with different sociocultural backgrounds. And so, this is done through highlighting the *AMA Code of Medical Ethics’* opinions on disparities in health care, and really taking a critical lens on examining one’s own biases and cultivating effective communication in the health care environment that relies on interdisciplinary and collaborative care.

[00:03:17] HOFF: And if you could add something to this article that you didn’t have the time or the space to fully explore, what would that be?

ROYTMAN: I think one thing I would love to add would be to have examples of both where critical pedagogy can be applied in medical education and where those successes and potential obstacles might be in current clinical settings. So, critical pedagogy and service-based learning, it’s pretty universal medical education, but it’s in no ways standardized or really having effective

measurements, even though in the literature, it has been cited that it does support trainees in addressing health care disparities and structural biases in clinical care. [theme music returns] So, I'd really love to explore some of those examples in greater depth.

[00:04:08] HOFF: Maya, thank you so much for being back on the podcast and for your contribution to the Journal this month.

ROYTMAN: Thank you so much for this opportunity.

HOFF: To read the full article as well as the rest of this month's issue for free, visit our site, journalofethics.org. We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.