Unfinalizability at the Workplace of Care and Justice

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Abstract

At the intersection of organizational discourse studies and practice-based ethics, this paper explores the sense of responsibility of a Dutch Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team. As an institutionalized hybrid of community mental health outreach and criminal justice surveillance, FACT oscillates between both meanings of the term recidivism.

I suggest that Mikhail Bakhtin’s concept of unfinalizability may help disclose what appears as a nexus of (1) an ongoing *emplotment* where responsibility is calibrated into compliance; (2) a sharing of *potential* where people are drawn in; and (3) a realignment of this divide into a *threshold* that is difficult to resist and to address.

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