

‘At the Doctor’s Side’

a Trilogy of Documentary Films by Sylviane Gindrat

Avant Premiere Screening at the Wonca World Conference 2013 in Prague



How can you visualize the characteristics of family medicine and give insight into the high quality and complexity of the family doctor’s daily work? You can write a book. You can shoot a film with actors following a script. Or you can make a documentary film with real family doctors and real patients during real consultations.

However, the filmmaker Sylviane Gindrat did more than that. As a social anthropologist and family doctor herself, she made a film on the basis of ‘participant observation’. Sylviane received permission from six family doctors and their patients to observe them in their ‘natural’ environment. She and her film crew were immersed as ‘invisible shadows’ in the secret and scarcely revealed

world of real consultations. An astonishing endeavor full of unpredictable occurrences, surprises and unknown outcomes. Characteristics, which make her film trilogy a globally unique oeuvre.

After rigorous casting with personal visits to thirty family doctors in their practices she selected six doctors from different parts of Switzerland and created three films (52 min each), each of them revealing the fascinating story of two protagonists. The first film is about Gabi & Bruno: Gabi is an enthusiastic young doctor undertaking her vocational training in hospitals and in a practice in a mountain village. Bruno is an experienced family doctor who has been practising for thirty years in an independent one-doctor practice in a district of the city of Berne, the capital of Switzerland. The second film depicts Stéphane & Franziska, a married couple with four children who practise jointly in a valley of the Swiss Alps and whose work includes also mountain rescue emergencies. The third film follows Paul & Sébastien: Paul, an elderly doctor and the perfect incarnation of the old-fashioned doctor who is part of a dying breed. He knows all the inhabitants of his remote village and is on call for his patients day and night. Sébastien, a young doctor in a group surgery in the city of Lausanne works with his own patients but he shares the duties for the group practice’s walk-in clinic.

With her films Sylviane Gindrat shows how family doctors think and work with their patients; how they communicate, build up a supporting patient-physician relationship, treat patients with acute and chronic diseases, perform watchful waiting, practice shared decision making. She shows how they care for ultimorbid patients; how they care for the patients in their individual context and perform preventative measures; how they accompany their patients till death. Moreover the films show the emotions and non-verbal signs between patients and doctors very closely.

The protagonists talk about their passion for their profession, but also, in a very personal and comprehensive way, about the actual situation of and the crisis in family medicine. The trilogy shows the hopes, fears and worries of the family doctors in a respectful and profound manner and displays how they carry on believing in family medicine – against all the difficulties within the context of Swiss health politics.

Sylviane was inspired to make these films by her regular participation at a quality circle where the issue of complexity of family medicine had been discussed over many sessions. It is her third film project following two award-winning films about traditional sheep breeders in the Swiss Alps and about transcultural married couples in Switzerland.

**You can watch all three films at the Wonca conference centre in the Meeting Hall IV, 2nd floor Workshop
Wednesday, 15:30–17:00
Thursday and Friday, 17:00–19:00**

Und hier geht es zurück auf meine WEB : [Am Puls der Hausärzte - Dokumentarfilm-Trilogie - 2013](#).
Mit Inhaltsverzeichnis. Hier kann man ALLES nachlesen.

Ruth Kissling de Bâle-Suisse – Malerin

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Atelier