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Seminar 2: EOL& Elderly (Love and Care, Beyond Boundaries 愛·關顧 - 圓滿人生無界限)

# Self-competence of human professions in facing death 面對死亡與助人專業的個人能力

Agnes Tin

Honorary Lecturer

Centre on Behavioral Health

The University of Hong Kong

**BEYOND KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:  
SELF-COMPETENCE IN WORKING WITH DEATH,  
DYING, AND BEREAVEMENT**

**WALLACE CHI HO CHAN**

Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong,  
Shatin, Hong Kong

**AGNES FONG TIN**

Centre on Behavioral Health, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

*This study explored helping professionals' views on death work competencies. A total of 176 helping professionals were invited to state what the necessary competencies in death work are. Content analysis was conducted. Results showed that death work competencies can be categorized into 4 major areas: (a) knowledge competence, (b) practice competence, (c) self-competence, and (d) work-environment competence. Self-competence was the most frequently mentioned by the participants. Self-competence was further categorized into 3 themes: (a) personal resources, (b) existential coping, and (c) emotional coping. Findings reflect helping professionals' emphasis on the role of self and personal preparation in doing death work. Implications on future death education and training for helping professionals were discussed.*

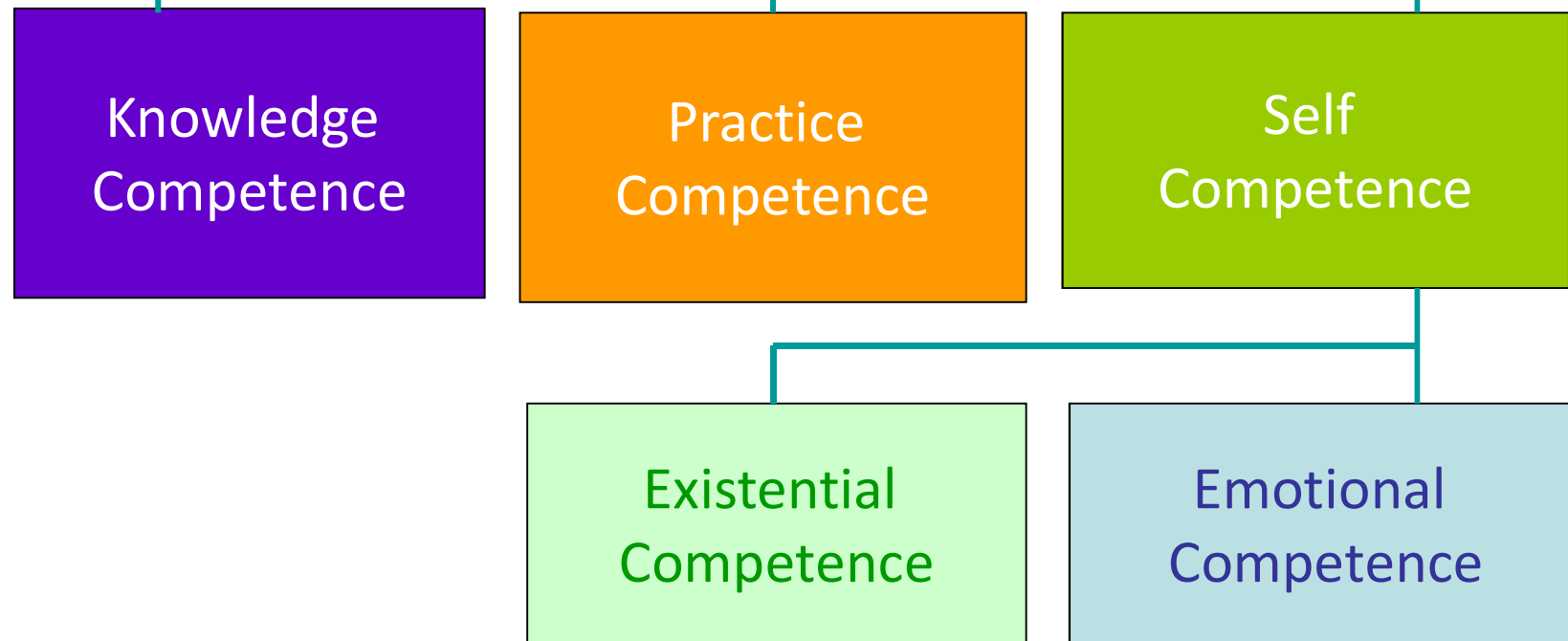
Death is a critical component in the various types of work that helping professionals do, such as counseling dying patients and families, palliative care, advance care planning, crisis intervention, disaster work, and bereavement counseling. The nature of this work is often diverse, the helping professionals performing various roles. For example, a palliative care nurse provides nursing care to advanced cancer patients, and a medical social worker in the accident and emergency department of a hospital provides crisis intervention. Yet, death is the common denominator of these

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Address correspondence to Wallace Chi Ho Chan, 4/F, Department of Social Work, T. C. Cheng Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong. E-mail: chchan@swk.cuhk.edu.hk

# DEATH WORK



(Chan & Tin, 2012)

# Self Competence

- Make use of personal resources in working with death, dying & bereavement

# Existential Competence in Death Work

- Search for meaning in life, death and human existence

# Components in Existential Competence

- Acceptance
- Belief
- Commitment

# Emotional Competence in Death Work

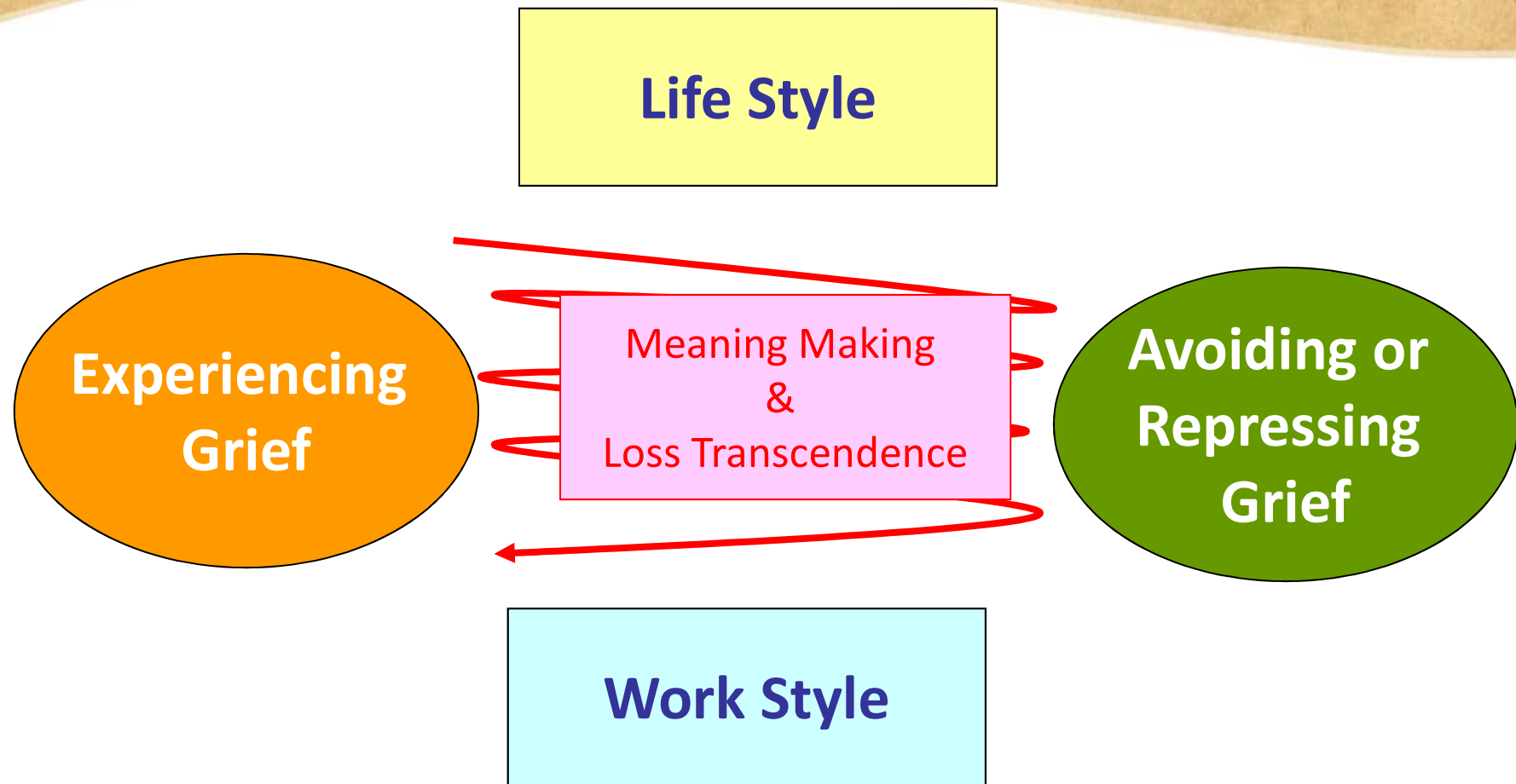
- Cope with professionals' own emotional response in death work

# Components in Emotional Competence

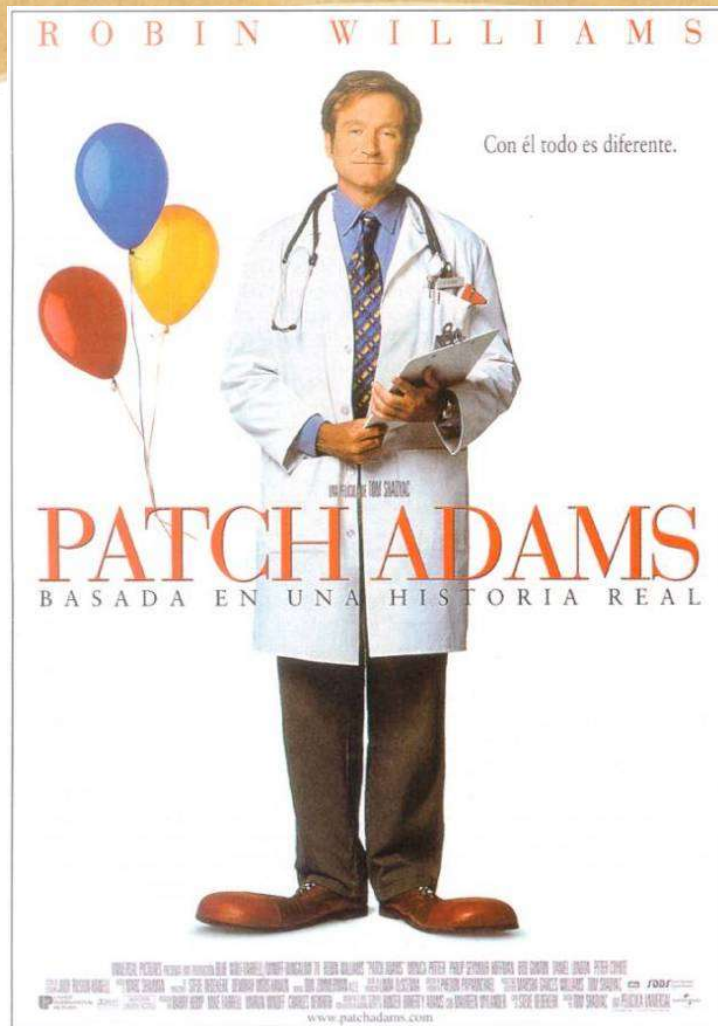
- **A**ppreciation
- **B**alance
- **C**oping



# Health care professionals' grieving process (Papadatou, 2000)

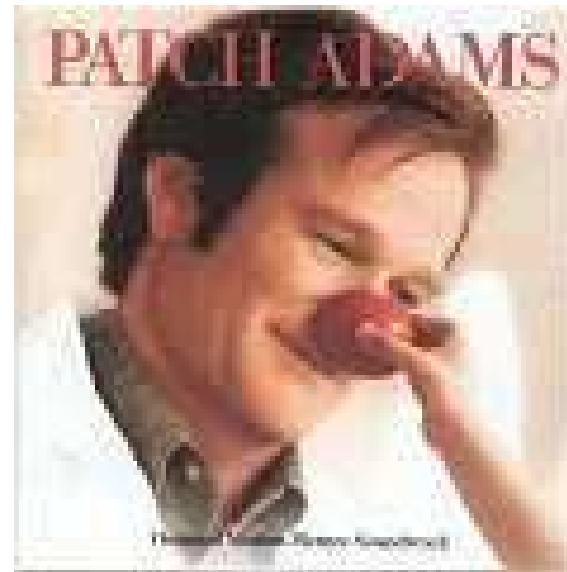


To conclude...

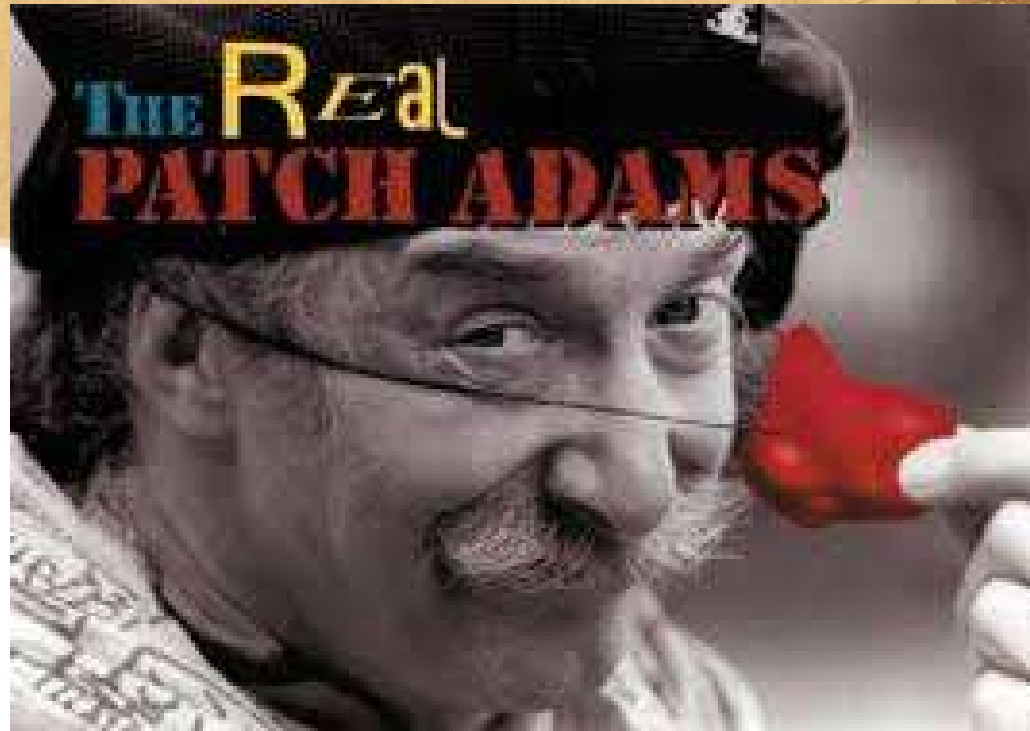


## Patch Adams

### 妙手情真







Treat death as part of life,  
NOT as our enemy.

Treat our client as a person,  
NOT as a symptom.



And rediscover  
our PASSION  
in work.

Thank you!

[tinfong@hku.hk](mailto:tinfong@hku.hk)