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Spaces of Healing: The Topology of Private/Social Space

To patients with chronic and/or terminal illness, the bed in their bedroom has a different healing effect than the bed in a hospital room. Besides the fact that each of this space signifies different experience and thus generates different meanings that vary from person to person, it is also about how these spaces interact with the individuals who inhabit them, and the individuals' relations with the *elements* (e.g. machines, colours and gestures) within this “network of space”. This paper examines the relationship between illness and the healing space. By using the actor-network theory, I will argue that not only inhabited space transcends geometrical space as Gaston Bachelard writes, but the healing space in particular is one where it is neither delineated by boundary nor defined by functions. It does not exist as a single spatial type, rather, it is fluid and heterogeneous, and involves more than human-medicine and human-human interaction.