

Janice Nadeau's work on meaning making in bereaved families has had an enormous impact nationally and internationally, as measured by citations to her writings, the invitations she has received to contribute to major edited volumes on bereavement, and the honors she has received for her work. Through her research and her accumulated knowledge from years as a grief therapist she has made vitally important contributions to academic and clinical understanding of what goes on in families following a death, how families can get into difficulty following a death, and how they can be helped.

A key insight from her research is that there may often be many separate processes of meaning making going on simultaneously in bereaved families. Each individual family member may come to her or his own private meanings, and they may well differ from one another. And then family members, when they are together, may come to shared meanings which may differ from the private meanings most or all of the family members hold. These findings help immensely in understanding the complex politics of families and the ways that family members can at one level seem to be in agreement but at another level may be far apart.

Nadeau's academic writings provide an extremely valuable bridge between researchers and clinicians, between qualitative and quantitative researches, and between clinicians who work primarily with individuals and clinicians who work with couple and families.

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