Hermeneutic clinical ethics
The first part of the thesis investigates how hermeneutic bioethics translates into the practice of clinical ethics. The three articles in this section all represent reflections on different aspects of a hermeneutic approach to clinical ethics support.

Chapter 2 discusses the epistemological and anthropological presuppositions underlying hermeneutic clinical ethics and points to the consequences of such presuppositions for the practice of clinical ethics support as well as for the use of ethical theory in clinical ethics interventions.

Chapter 3 analyses more generally the features of clinical ethics from the perspective of hermeneutic bioethics and its consequences for the roles of the clinical ethicist. It also discusses the synergies with and differences from two other clinical services that touch upon moral questions in their own ways: pastoral care and psychosomatic counselling.

Chapter 4 is a reflection on a clinical ethics consultation that was actually lead by Paul Ford years ago, during the time I did an internship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, U.S.. Both of us were struck not only by how the case ‘resolved’, but also by its intensity and by the many questions that came to our minds in the aftermath about the difficult task of clinical ethics consultation. For me it was a great learning opportunity and therefore I was delighted when Paul Ford asked me to write with him on this case in the book ‘Complex ethics consultations - cases that haunt us’.