

Poster Session II

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From Nursing Philosophy to Health Policy

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Purpose: The meta-language of nursing is explored from a meta-paradigmatic or integral perspective, incorporating the findings of 3 studies unified by the central question “What is Nursing?” Findings are set in the context of current research on nursing practice environments with implications for health policy research.

Background: Florence Nightingale’s often-quoted beliefs that the role of nursing is to put the patient in the best environment for the natural reparative process to occur dates back to the ancient Greek philosophers but is relevant today.

Approach: Integral Methodological Pluralism is guided by the principles of non-exclusion, unfoldment, and enactment, which serve as a framework for the presentation and synthesis of findings from 3 studies: an emancipatory study of nurses’ perceptions of practicing nursing and the changes they desire; an integrally informed philosophical inquiry of nursing’s core concepts across all major theories of nursing; and a qualitative conceptual analysis of all U. S. nurse practice acts. Major

Points and Rationale: An underlying framework of professional values splits our profession while sub-optimal working conditions impact nurses’ satisfaction with their work and ability to provide optimal care. The internal and external environment of both the nurse and patient contribute directly and indirectly to patient outcomes, for better or worse.

Conclusions: In response to fragmentation within both the paradigms and profession of nursing, this work aims to create coherence and hope for the future within the discipline and profession of nursing. Nursing care (or lack of care) impacts the health of individuals, families, groups and populations; therefore, as nurses, we must create optimal environments with and around ourselves to practice nursing, so that we may in turn co-create the best environment and conditions for our patients to heal.