Parallel presentations

Sanne Angel, Doctoral Student

Getting on with Life after a Major Change

A Qualitative Study of How Spinal Cord Injury Patients recreate Meaning during the Rehabilitation period

In this presentation, we want to show how a triangulated approach can capture the patients’ re-creation of meaning, even though it goes beyond, what people are able to answer. We present our narrative analysis of one case from a study, where we follow 12 persons during the first year after a traumatic spinal cord injury.

The essential focus is what makes the patient move on. The background for the study is that we know that most do and some don’t and live a life in depression or longing for another life. But for all it is a tremendous challenge. As health professionals, we might have a chance to facilitate a good future for these patients knowing more about that.

The analysis illuminates in what way, the patient gets on with life during the first half year following the injury. The data is interpreted through an iterative process, encompassing:

1. In depth analysis of four interviews, applying three steps (naive reading, structural analysis, critical interpretation), inspired by Paul Ricoeur.
2. An examination of the structure of the interview from the theoretical assumptions of Victor Frankl about how people create meaning.
3. An analysis and interpretation of the meanings uncovered in light of information about the participant’s larger personal and social situation and history.

Preliminary analysis suggests that there is a close connection between the negotiation of the patient’s existential life and normal daily life experiences. Further findings will be described at the conference.

Ylva Benderix, PhD Student, Family therapist

Parents’ experience of having a child with autism and intellectual disabilities living in a group home

A case study

A group of parents asked the local authorities to organize a group home for their 10–11 year old children, when they could no longer take care of the five children with autism and intellectual disability. The children had a very challenging behaviour, needed attention all the time, and displaying serious aggressive and self injurious behaviour. The present case study concerns experiences of the 10 parents from the five families before and two years after entrusting their child with autism to a group home.

The aim of the study was to describe the experiences of five couples who had child with autism and intellectual disability, each of the children currently living in a group home for period of two years.

Hermeneutic phenomenological analysis of narrative interviews with the parents were conducted before the child’s moving and two years later.

Analysis showed parents experiencing grief and sorrow, total exhaustion because of inability to regulate their child’s behaviours, social isolation, and negative effects on the child’s siblings, but experiencing themselves as more sympathetic than earlier towards other people with problems. Two years later they experienced relief for the family due to the group home arrangement and the child’s improvement, but an ethical dilemma about leaving their child to others, which gave them a bad conscience, despite their hope for the future being awakened. Some felt disturbed by the staff situation at the group home.

Elisabeth Björk Bråmborg, RN, MSc, Doctoral Student

What is it like to be an immigrant in Sweden? Does the immigrant factor have any significance when a person seeks medical care in Sweden?

Three people are presented in this introduction, and we will become better acquainted with them. They left their countries because of persecution or war and have established themselves in a new country; Sweden. These people are part of a qualitative, hermeneutic study the purpose of which is to gain a deeper understanding of how immigrants perceive their situation in Sweden and if being an immigrant in Sweden has any significance when a person seeks medical care. Data is gathered from open interviews with immigrants who have lived in Sweden from three to twenty years and who can speak Swedish. The interviews are analyzed using interpretive methodology. Since there is no methodology that dictates the precise handling of the material, the analysis begins with reasoning about how the material is to be handled. Data, which consists of interviews transcribed word-for-word, is analyzed so that each respondent’s story results in an existential interpretation of what it is like to be an immigrant in Sweden. All existential interpretations are compared and tentative interpretations are formulated. Finally, a main interpretation is formulated.

Preliminary results indicate that the situation of immigrants in Sweden can be interpreted as that these people create a new home-like environment with family, work and knowledge of the Swedish language as well as Swedish society. It also appears that the immigrant’s history, for example refugee status, plays a role when the immigrant seeks medical care.
The role of drug and therapeutics committees is developing – Perceptions of DTC Chairs

Background. According to Swedish law every county council must have a local drug and therapeutics committee (DTC). It is stated that the DTCs should contribute to safe and cost-effective drug use but how this should be done is not further dictated. Consequently, we found it interesting to study how key persons within the DTCs perceive the role of the committees. In 2002 we did a first study on Chairs and Information officers, and in 2004 we decided to repeat the study on the Chairs.

Aim. The aim of this study was to explore the variation of conceptions of the role of the DTCs among the Chairs of the committees and to compare the results with the earlier study.

Method. Data were collected in questionnaires which were sent to all Chairs in the DTCs in Sweden. Completing telephone interviews of a selection of Chairs were used to get a deeper understanding of the notions. The analysis was done with a phenomenographic approach.

Results. Four conceptions were identified. All conceptions involved prescribers and patients were involved in two conceptions. Comparison with the earlier study showed a trend of a higher patient awareness and a higher agreement of the DTC goals with an increased focus on quality issues.

Methodological considerations Our approach of phenomenography is not the traditional, but the method is a rather new and under development and thus, it is interesting to study its possibilities. The strengths and weaknesses in our approach will be further elaborated in the presentation.

Meta questions in metasynthesis research

This ongoing methodological study is a part of a Nordic collaborative metasynthesis research project in childbearing. Metasynthesis is research on qualitative research and various methods have been developed to synthesize qualitative studies, and thus deepen the meaning beyond the original piece of research. In the late 80’s, there was an imperative to further qualitative meta research in human sciences, and the development soon started in the field and there is a growing body of knowledge based on metasynthesis of qualitative studies. The overall aim of this study was to contribute to the development of metasynthesis through an analysis of the methodologies that have been applied in metasynthesis research and also form a sound epistemological and methodological basis for the research project. The specific aim of this study is to secondary analyze 30 published metastudies that pertain to nursing and allied health studies following the meta-method analysis developed by Zhao and Paterson, Thorne, Canam and Jillings. The rapidly growing metasynthesis research is characterized by an evolving terminology, a prevalent use of secondary references and various applications with or without explicated modifications, which may increase the risk of validity problems in a new methodology. The primary worth of metasynthesis research is questioned when the core ideas of qualitative meta studies, theoretical and/or methodological development (‘synthesis’) combined with the potential for reflection; going beyond and behind the studies (‘meta’), is missing. Metasynthesis research has the potential to raise questions of methodological, theoretical and disciplinary development, research co-operation, culture, language and care. Reflections on the rigor and potentials of metasynthesis studies are presented.

Gunilla Carlsson, PhD

Patients longing for authentic personal care

A phenomenological study of violent encounters in psychiatric settings

This paper focuses on patients’ violence against carers. Several studies show that violence and threats within the healthcare setting are an increasing problem. Encounters that become violent have been the issue of many debates but the phenomenon is still not fully understood. It is import to understand the course of events in violent encounters, both for the sake of the patients’ and the carers’ well-being.

The aim of this study was to describe the essence of violent encounters, as experienced by patients within psychiatric care. Guided by a phenomenological method, data were analyzed within a reflective lifeworld approach. The findings explicate violent encounters characterized by a tension between “authentic personal” and “detached impersonal” caring. In caring that is “authentic personal” patients are encountered in an undisguised, straightforward and open way, and they sense that unrestricted respect which a carer would show another human being. In these encounters violence does not develop well. However, in caring that is “detached impersonal”, the encounters are experienced by the patients as uncontrolled and insecure. These encounters are full of risks and potential violence.

Alex Carson, PhD

Whose Epistemology? Whose practice? Relativism and the limits of Qualitative Research

This paper will explore the relationship between the ontological, epistemological and the practical. The paper will begin with a discussion of the practical and epistemological limits of qualitative research. As we conduct health care research with other persons, it is important that we develop research methodologies that are organic and reflect our interest in clients as whole persons, worthy of respect. The story so far, in terms of qualitative research will be discussed and limits shown to its ability to sustain this holistic ideal. The paper will go on to show that narratives, as an ethical research methodology, can help us...
in developing answers to people’s problems in a way that more explicitly empathises with their world view while not simply becoming an echo of their wishes and perceptions. Narratives, it will be argued, provide a way of evaluating both epistemology and practice and as such allow research in health do be more authoritative, while still remaining faithful to the contexts in which it is situated.

Inge Christensen, RN, MPH, Dr PH – Student

Clarity, Consistency and Coherence – Creating and Maintaining Validity and Scientific Evidence in Qualitative Research Through a Close Linking of Underlying Philosophical, Ontological and Epistemological Assumptions With Methodological and Methodical Assumptions in Method Development

Background. Development of strong and valid qualitative research methods in a Public Health context with a clear and close connection between research focus, research method and the philosophical, scientific philosophical and methodological foundations from which they originate, appears an integral criterion of the validity of research results. Linking such philosophical, scientific philosophical, methodological and methodical reflections will contribute to strengthen the consistency in method development and will thus strengthen and represent an inherent internal and external validity of qualitative research which again will contribute to strengthen transferability, credibility and relevance of research results. Thus becoming an integral prerequisite of the creation of credible and strong scientific qualitative evidence in qualitative research in general and narrative research in particular.

Aim. The aim of this paper is to discuss the importance of philosophical, scientific philosophical, methodological and methodical clarity, consistency and coherence in developing qualitative research methods in general and narrative research methods in particular in order to create and maintain validity and scientific evidence throughout the research process. Furthermore a discussion of a complementary understanding of the concept of scientific evidence within a qualitative research paradigm will be introduced.

Method. The starting point of the discussion of this paper will be reflections on validity and scientific evidence in connection with the development of a specific narrative hermeneutic-phenomenological research method investigating the lived experience of coping of young adult cancer patients.

Results. A broader understanding of the concept of scientific evidence is suggested, which is rooted in the creation of valid scientific knowledge based upon clear, consistent and coherent qualitative research methods focusing on qualitative phenomena such as coping and narratives/narration in human life, and which also appears to represent a substantial, complementary and equal understanding along with a traditional scientific, statistical and quantitative understanding of scientific evidence in the ongoing discourse of the understanding of the meaning content of different forms of scientific evidence.

Dellve Lotta, RN, MScPH, PhD
Morberg Siv, RN, MScPH, PhD-student
Karlsson Birgitta
Lagerström Monica

Constructed space and legitimacy for health work in the educational system: The perspectives of the school nurses

Background. Among children and youths’ there is a clear increase in psychosocial problems. The schools are important arenas for managing child public health. However, school health-care has become a lowered priority in schools with increased demands for school health professionals. How changes in welfare system have influenced the conditions for providing health support in schools is unclear.

Aim. To explore conditions for practicing health support to children within the educational system.

Method. Six focus-group interviews with 24 school nurses were performed. The transcribed data was analysed with content analysis.

Results. Interests and positions from political and organisational leadership, the school personnel and children/parents, as well as the school nurses own strategies, constructed a limited space and legitimacy for health supportive work. Experienced conditions for practicing health support was: restricted opportunities for quality and development; disregarded work, different perspective, not part of the dominant team and children’s/parents demands of availability. Health professionals strategies to meet the limited legitimacy were “remaining the individual health support”, described in the following sub-themes: claiming individual meetings with pupils to prevent and early solve psychosocial problems, keeping availability for individual support, being an advocate for children and families, seeking support/confirmation from children. Another strategy was “compromising and negotiating position and legitimacy”, i.e. having autonomy but working isolated, accessibility and flexibility, being a service function and organisational buffer, increasing role and profile. Thus, in order to strengthen the legitimacy of school health professionals’ continued professional development as well as developing methods for health supportive work is needed.

Helene Ekström, MD

Keeping My Ways of Being: Middle-aged women dealing with the passage through menopause

Background. In the medical literature, midlife for women is often redefined in terms of menopause, emphasis is placed on estrogen deficiency, symptoms and risks of different diseases. In contrast, social scientists and feminists have emphasised the social construction of menopause. The meanings given to menopause by women themselves are often left aside.

Aim. Letting that emerge which concerned the women in passing through menopause.

Method. This grounded theory (GT) study is based on in-depth interviews of 24 women, aged 45–61 and on
open-ended questions in questionnaires answered by women aged 45, 50, 55 or 60 during the years 2000–2002.

**Results.** Analysis of data revealed that not being able to know what would happen and what influence menopause would have on them as individuals were sources of uncertainty. A theory of a general pattern of behaviour emerged, keeping my ways of being, resolving the uncertainties involved. In this process, the women were perceived as actively involved subjects. The intensity of the process and the use of its three different stages, those of Preserving present ways of being, Limiting changes and Reappraising, were considered as dependent upon the central and important Personal calculation process. Although keeping my ways of being emerged from data concerned with the menopausal transition, the theory might well be expanded in its area of application beyond the realm of menopause, contributing to an understanding of how people, men and women alike, deal with more or less inevitable passages or changes in which they endeavour to deal with the uncertainties present.

Carina Elgán, RN, Public Health Nurse, PhD
Anna-Karin Dykes, RN, Midwife, Associate Professor
Göran Samsioe, MD, Professor,
Bengt Fridlund, RN, Professor

A model of the relation between young women’s lifestyle behaviours and their bone mineral density changes

**A grounded theory analysis**

**Background.** Limited information is available on healthy young women’s own perspective of lifestyle behaviours. By lifestyle behaviours e.g. smoking and physical activity, individuals have the possibility to influence bone mineral density (BMD). The aim of this study was to generate a theoretical model of lifestyle behaviours among young women with different BMD changes.

**Methods.** Data were collected through interviews with 11 women, and the material was analysed by means of the grounded theory method.

**Findings.** Two core categories were generated (1) the respondents’ outlook on life and (2) their life situation. The respondents’ outlook on life consisted of two categories, either a rigid outlook on life or a relaxed outlook on life. Respondents who had a rigid outlook on life were adjusting to others and had a decreased BMD while respondents with a relaxed outlook on life were doing things for fun and had an increased BMD. Life situation also consisted of two categories: stagnation and development. Respondents in a static life situation did not pursue any active actions while in a developing life situation the respondents were actively striving towards a goal. Four dimensions emerged which characterised the respondents’ outlook on life in relation to their life situation: subordinating and enduring with a decreased BMD or compromising and discerning with an increased BMD.

**Conclusion.** It seems as if outlook on life has a greater influence than the acted lifestyle behaviour for bone development.

Christine M Ferris, PhD

**Expert practice – a metasynthesis**

**Background.** The concept of "expert practice" underpins a new career structure culminating in consultant status for nurses and allied health professionals in the National Health Service in the United Kingdom. Expert practice constitutes 50% of a nurse or allied health professional consultant’s role but there are no clear definitions of what the term "expert practice" means, how it is gained, recognised and maintained. Whether the term “expert” is used as a noun or in its adjectival sense, it fails to illuminate the specific meaning of expert practice in this context.

**Aim.** To identify characteristics of expert practice.

**Method.** A systematic literature review of 12 primary qualitative research studies to produce a meta-synthesis.

**Results.** The review identifies two key themes, credibility and compatibility, each of which is divided into two components, knowledge and practice, and practice context and philosophy respectively. Characteristics of expert practice emerge from each component. Although discussed as separate entities a number of overlaps and symbiotic relationships are identified. Some aspects of the self-reinforcing nature of expert practice are evident. Recognition of expert practice may allow selective information and networking so that the expert practitioner has access to privileged information. The ability to move fluidly between the different characteristics is as much a part of expert practice as are any of the characteristics.

Tove Fisker, RN MPH

**Phenomenological study of experiences of surviving spouse in life period with illness and death at home of terminally ill spouse**

**Life period in an altruistic perspective**

The aim of the study is to recognise the experiences of surviving relatives in connection with their care at home of terminally ill, dying spouses, followed by an outline of the need for prophylactic palliative assistance by the district nurse. Qualitative interviews with eight surviving relatives have been analysed on the basis of the phenomenological method. Five subphenomena emerged during analysis: the loving promise to the terminally ill and dying spouse, the shared grief, structural disintegration in time and space and primary needs, lifelines and supporters and viable grief. The essence of these phenomena is altruism. The altruistic behaviour of the surviving spouse resulted from his or her care of the spouse at home.

A significant finding is the promise made to the terminally ill spouse that he or she will be able to stay at home during the illness and his or her desire to die at home, such promise being given during uncomfortable hospitalisation and springing from the spouse’s desire for autonomy and integrity at the end of his or her life. In keeping the promise, the surviving spouse became altruistic, neglecting his or her own primary needs in the unselfish fulfilment of the needs of the terminally ill spouse. The surviving spouse grieves in lonely isolation characterised by stress, an ethical
dilemma in connection with breaching the promise, despair, infringement, affected psycho-social and somatic condition.

Light is shed on the professional palliative care with the surviving spouse's lacking verbalisation of despair, grief and infringement, regardless of whether expert professional palliation or insufficient professional palliation was provided. The findings of the study show the necessity for professional involvement in the decision concerning palliation at home, including identification of the resources of the primary caregiver. Professional support in connection with the verification of and intervention in the surviving spouse’s psycho-social conditions and somatic condition is of significant value in preventing stress and overburdening.

**Solgun Folke**

**Conceptions of xerostomia among health care professionals**

**A qualitative analysis**

**Aim.** The aim of this study was to describe how health care professionals perceive xerostomia in general as well as its influence on patients’ well-being in particular.

**Background.** Xerostomia is caused by changes in quality and quantity of the saliva due to poor health, certain drugs and radiation therapy. It is a common symptom, particularly among elderly, and has devastating consequences with regard to oral health and general well-being.

**Methods.** Data were collected by interviewing 16 health care professionals. Phenomenography was selected as the method of analysis.

**Results.** Four main categories emerged upon describing how health care professionals perceive xerostomia: to be aware of xerostomia, to ignore the problem, to have compromised quality of life and to be aware of inadequacies.

**Conclusions.** Although xerostomia was recognised as commonly occurring it was considered to be an underestimated and an ignored problem. The attention to xerostomia conditions as well as patient management was considered fragmentary and inadequate. A holistic view and improved knowledge were considered prerequisites to enhance collaboration among health care professionals and to improve compassion for and support of patients with xerostomia.

**Implications.** Further quantitative surveys among health care professionals will be necessary to plan and facilitate improved, educational programs.

**Kina Hammarlund, RN, Midwife, MSc, Doctoral Student**

**Ingela Lundgren, RN, Midwife, MPH, PhD**

**Maria Nyström, RN, MSc, PhD**

**To Contract Genital Warts – A Risk of Losing Love? Experiences of Swedish Men Living with Genital Warts**

**Objectives.** The aim was to analyze and describe the experiences of Swedish men living with genital warts*

**Methods.** Eight men, aged 19–31 years, were interviewed. The study was conducted using a lifeworld hermeneutic approach. Lifeworld-based research focuses on the lived experiences of the phenomena being studied. In hermeneutic research, interpretation is used. The focus for this approach is thus meaningful ways of understanding a phenomenon (Dahlberg, Drew, & Nyström, 2001).

**Results.** The findings show that the men seem to experience a need for control over their situation and that it is easier to maintain control if the warts are invisible. Some of the men were prejudiced about who contracts a venereal infection and the intensity of feelings of shame appeared to correlate with these prejudices. Those who previously had a reproachful attitude to people who contract venereal infections are consequently more ashamed than those who outwardly, towards their friends, seem proud of their active sexual life. The more fear, anxiety, and shame the men felt, the more there was a need for trust in consulting healthcare services. In the meeting with the health service the men expresses that a competent care provider are someone who combines professional distance with a personal approach.

Finally, the fact that a man is disease carrier is of great significance to him. When the man contracts a sexually transmitted infection, it affects not only his present but also his future. Attitudes from the past imprint his experience in the present. And, as a disease carrier, his future will be affected. The man is afraid that he will lose love if he tells a future partner that he has a sexually transmitted infection. If the woman the man loves still looks upon him with love after being told about the contagious venereal infection, the shame as well as the threat to his self-esteem is overcome. However, if her look shows rejection, the man’s fear of losing love is confirmed.

*The human papillomavirus, which causes genital warts, is one of the most commonly sexually transmitted infections and has no cure.

**Kristianna Hammer PhD Student**

**The meaning of hope for women hysterectomied due to cancer**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the experiences of hope for women hysterectomied due to cancer. This is accomplished by performing a conceptual analysis of the literature on hope by interviewing and by drawings.

Today more people survive cancer because of improved possibilities of cancer therapy. However, the experience will stay in their minds, probably for ever. Hospitalized women with cancer make an increasing group; every year 1200 women in Denmark get a hysterectomy because of cancer. The project will analyze the experienced hope as the women are telling it in words and through drawings. The study is built on the assumption that hope and hopefulness are most important to tackle emotions, also that hope and hopelessness are so closely related that the professionals easily can spoil hope and create hopelessness. This qualitative study is in progress at a surgical unit at a Danish University Hospital. In order to provide a comprehensive understanding of hope, the data collection is
Immy Holloway, PhD

Thinking differently: challenges in qualitative research

This paper will explore ideas about challenges in qualitative research. We will review the received wisdom about data collection, analysis and dissemination and attempt to discuss some alternative perspectives. The discussion will focus on the recent challenges which qualitative researchers have faced, and in particular, on interesting innovations that are emerging at the ‘growing edge’ of our endeavours. Several areas of change and challenge can be identified:

- The integration of art and science
- The development of non-traditional forms of dissemination
- The collaboration of members from different disciplines

Far from attempting to legitimise the use of art and the arts to our research, we will show the contribution that they have made to research in recent years. This involves discussion of qualitative research as craft. Included are some of the ways in which new researchers can learn this craft from experts. Recent non-traditional forms of data collection and dissemination will also be evaluated, such as data collection through film or photography. Analysis and dissemination through performance-based presentations or poetics and their usefulness will be discussed. Although these forms are not new, they have only become acceptable in recent years and present challenges for the researcher working in a traditional research environment.

We will show how interdisciplinarity might present challenges to the mono-disciplinary stance of much qualitative research, and how the collaboration of researchers can cross-fertilise the work.

These topics present only some of the challenges confronting qualitative research, and we hope that this paper will start a fruitful debate on these issues.

Bente Hoeck, PhD-Student

Qualitative quality – is there a set of criteria?

Background. In evidence-based practice (EBP) in healthcare in Denmark there is a preference of randomized controlled trials (RCT) as the preferred method of achieving evidence and meta-analysis of RCTs are considered the highest level of evidence. Qualitative studies are considered as being of lower status and quality. This differentiation is problematic for EBP, since some problems are better investigated and unfolded by using qualitative methods. Meta-analysis/meta-synthesis is also being used in qualitative research as an interpretive analysis that goes beyond aggregating, but the methods are purely developed. The limitations are among other things due to the qualitative terminology, the diverse methods and disagreement about criteria for qualitative quality.

Aim of project. Establish a set of (acknowledged) criteria for critically appraising qualitative studies.

Method. 1. Literature review of existing criteria. 2. Synthesis of review. 3. Testing of criteria in practice in meta-synthesis of a given phenomenon.

Result. The research is in progress. In the context of evidence-based practice my paper will discuss (a) does accumulating knowledge have a place in the qualitative paradigm and (b) are there qualitative criteria for good qualitative research regardless of methods?

Inger Holmström, Associate Professor, PhD, RN

The study object in phenomenography – phenomena or people?

Phenomenography was developed from an educational framework, but has subsequently been used for studies within the health care context. The approach has developed in different directions; one has its focus on scientific phenomena such as mathematics. This field of research gives only limited new knowledge about a phenomenon. Another direction has focus on mapping and unrevealing what the phenomenon actually is conceived as. In the present presentation we would like to address the question of what the proper study object in phenomenography is: phenomena or people. Traditionally, phenomenography as a research approach has been occupied with the study of conceptions of phenomena in the surrounding world in a group of people. The results have been presented on group level only, as the argument is that conceptions not are stable over time and thus cannot be studied on an individual level. However, some researchers claim that this is possible. In accordance with the latter view, we would like to argue that within a non-dualistic ontology it is possible not only to study, but to take an existing conception as a starting point for learning. However, to be able to do empirical research on individuals’ conceptions one needs to take specific precautions during the research interview. Keeping focus on actual concrete experiences is one important aspect, avoiding descriptions of how thing should be or ought to be. To study how an individual develops a comprehensive conscious conception of a phenomenon and how this development can be facilitated is of great pedagogical interest.
Henrika Jormfeldt, RN, MNSc, doct cand

Perceptions of the concept of health among nurses working in mental health services: A phenomenographic study

Background. A new understanding of the concept of health is needed to meet the goal of mental health nursing, which besides reducing disease is to strengthen the patient’s health.

Aim. To describe perceptions of the concept of health among nurses working in mental health services.

Methods. The present study had a descriptive qualitative design with a phenomenographic approach. Phenomenography has been developed over the last 25 years based on research findings in the area of learning within higher education, and distinguishes between the actual state of something and how it is perceived. Perceptions often represent something that is implicit, and barely can be verbalized because it has not previously been reflected upon even though it fosters most actions of the individual. Twelve Swedish nurses working in mental health services were interviewed and data were analysed with a phenomenographic approach. The approach was chosen to ascertain the qualitative variations in the participants’ perceptions of the concept of health.

Results. The nurses expressed ten perceptions, which constituted three description categories: autonomy, process and participation. The result showed that health explicitly was described as more than absence of disease. Simultaneously perceptions were expressed indicating that health was perceived as absence of disease, which implies that the concept is not sufficiently defined.

Conclusions. The result emphasizes the need to clarify the concept of health if it is to be used as a goal in mental health nursing and to integrate a clarified definition of health at all hierarchical levels in mental health services.

Mark Kingston

Promoting an open dialogue in the culture of nurse education: enhancing the work worlds of lecturers and the preparation of nurses for the health care arena

Background. The first years of lecturing, educating nurses who will be at the forefront of healthcare, can be a difficult experience that involves a departure from the relative certainty of clinical practice to an unfamiliar and highly challenging world of teaching. The capacity of nurse educators to prepare neophyte nurses for the profession is dependent on their ability to enable learning in both the rational and emotional aspects of health, complex work that is linked in the literature to quality healthcare practice. The aim of this study was to systematically uncover and describe the meaning of being a lecturer in the field of nurse education, in order to make recommendations for supporting lecturers and enhancing pedagogical processes.

Method. Since a deeper understanding of the experience of being a lecturer was sought after, a phenomenological approach based on van Manen’s (1997) framework was used. Open-ended interviews were conducted with five participants, all lecturers with between two and five years teaching experience.

Results. Four phenomenological themes emerged: politics as a destabilising force; commitment as leadership; content as security/process as security; and being an insider and an outsider as a shifting space. A deeper consideration of these themes revealed them to be experienced as part of an uncertain and shifting political environment where there has been an erosion of professionalism and decreasing levels of trust in the health care and education arenas. Recommendations include the implementation of Senge’s (1994) ‘deep learning cycle’ as a way of promoting significant and enduring change.

Dorte Kjeldmand, MD, PhD-Student (Presenter)
Urban Rosenqvist, MD, Professor
Inger Holmström, RN, Assistant Professor

Satisfaction and Sense of Security

GP’s experience of Balint group participation – a phenomenological study

Background. The working life of general practitioners (GPs) is often diversified, lonesome and demanding. There are signs of exhaustion and many GPs want to resign early. Balint groups (BGs) may be one way of coping. A BG consists of 4–10 physicians who want to improve their competence in the physician-patient relation. The group is characterised by stable frames, concerning members, schedule and confidentiality.

Aim. To study GPs’ experience of Balint group participation and how it influences their working life.

Methods. Semi-structured interviews were made with nine Swedish GPs with long experience of BG participation. The Empirical Phenomenological Psychological (EPP) method outlined by Karlsson was used for analysis in order to identify and describe the essence of the experienced phenomenon of BG participation.

Results. The essence of these GPs’ experience of their BG participation’s influence on their working life was: A means of endurance and satisfaction, enabling them to rediscover the joy of being a doctor. The themes constituting the essence were: competence, professional identity, sense of security, parallel process, and endurance and satisfaction.

Conclusion: The informants in this study described their BG participation as beneficial and essential to their working life as GPs, enabling them to endure in their job and find joy and challenge in their patient relations. The EPP method was useful in the analysing process, although we also found that this method has limitations, as illustrating narratives are reduced to meaning units. These limitations will be addressed in the presentation.

Susanne Källerwald, PhD Student

Life of patients living with malignant lymphoma

This project highlights the life-world of patients suffering from malignant lymphoma, a cancer that often starts in the lymphatic systems. The purpose of this study is to describe how patients live with malignant lymphoma. Interviews with nine patients are conducted. To reach the objective,
patients are asked to describe their experience of living with the disease. Data are analyzed using a reflective life-world approach, which means searching for a meaning structure in a phenomenon, living with malignant lymphoma. The approach is grounded in phenomenological philosophy.

Result shows how patient's life is filled with existential uncertainty, caused by the threat of the disease. The disease is experienced as an invisible threat that at any time and very abruptly can destroy the future. To avoid the sense of threat, patients strive to live an every-day life that is as similar as possible to the life they lived as before they were hit by the disease. The every-day life that they long for doesn't include any threat from an unreliable disease.

The Result also show that there are difficulties in sharing existential uncertainty with others, and also in obtaining understanding from people in the patients' closest surroundings. This is a contradiction for these patients. The contradiction lies in that if they come close to living an ordinary everyday life then obtaining understanding seems to be even harder. This indicates that inner uncertainty together with difficulties in relationships with others entails an experience of loneliness.

Carol Lewis, Senior Lecturer

**Judging Quality in Qualitative Research: Ethical challenges and dimensions**

This paper explores current thinking about how issues about quality might be addressed in qualitative research and draws, critically, on a wide range of recent emerging literature which seeks to place QR on an equal footing with non-qualitative or positivist research. The paper will outline the difficulties posed by this approach in terms of the ethical requirements placed upon research in health and social work / social care. It will highlight a lack of ethical critique in current writing and also the consequences of de-contextualised knowledge production, which ignore the significance of issues such as practice, power and influence.

It will report on work being carried out at the Institute of Health and Community Studies to develop standards for QR and to synthesise research reports. It has included critical analysis of the literature on quality and standards in QR and the development of systematic review methodology in health and social care in the UK.

The paper will conclude by examining the implication of a proposal that judgements about quality in all research should be grounded in an understanding of context, the value of 'lived experience' and the need to understand research as a social practice in itself. The often conflicting interests of service users and providers and the state need to be understood and considered in terms of their influence on what research is carried out, how it is done and disseminated or used in policy and practice. Ideas about how this might be implemented will be suggested and it is hoped that this will promote positive academic debate which might help to progress the issues further.

The paper is likely to be submitted to a journal for publication before the conference but further progress will be reported from that point.

Ingela Lundgren, RN, RM, MPH, MNSc, PhD, Senior Lecturer

**The midwife-woman relationship in the transition period from traditional midwifery to the scientific medical period**

**Background.** Since childbirth became a matter for medicine, in the seventeenth century, focus has been on complications and the outcome of pregnancy. The documents were mostly written by male doctors, and described extraordinary births, among urban elite or in institutions. Thereby, there in an absence of historical documents – especially written by women – covering normal ordinary births, and of knowledge directed at women's perspective of giving birth. However, two midwives wrote midwifery books during this period, Louyse Bourgeois (1564–1636), and Justine Siegemundin (1670–1750) practising at the French and German courts. In Sweden, Helena Malheim wrote a midwifery book in 1756 and sent the manuscript for publication to “Collegium Medicum” but it was turned down. Normal deliveries became the professional domain for midwives and the Scandinavian midwife has an own responsibility for women during normal birth. Today we know that most important factor for a positive childbirth experience for the birthing woman is support, which can be provided by professionals as well as by families. Thereby, the encounter between the woman and the midwife should be a central aspect for research and maternity care. However, research in midwifery is dominated by a medical perspective in Sweden and few studies have focused the relationship and the caring dimensions of midwifery. A question for this study is if the relationship between the midwife and the woman is mentioned in the old midwifery books?

**Aim.** To analyse the midwifery book written by Bourgeois, Siegemundin and Malheim in the light of the midwife-woman relationship.

**Method.** Hermeneutic analysis of the text and interpretation towards the relationship between the midwife and the woman giving birth.

**Result.** Will be presented at the conference.

Nanna Mik-Meyer, PhD

**Methodological consequences of looking at personal desire in different organizational frames**

**Background.** Over the last 10–20 years a person’s individual health situation has become not only a private issue or a welfare issue, but also an issue many private organizations focus upon in their daily management. One popular instrument in Denmark today is the “personal health conversation” between an employee and a health consultant. In these conversations the employee explains his or her lifestyle, e.g. eating, smoking and drinking habits, so the health consultant can give advice on how the individual employee can improve his or her health. As a result a contract between the two parts is signed, documenting that the individual employee will try to work toward a healthier lifestyle in the future. The papers empirical set off are these conversations.
Aim. The paper will discuss how the object of management (personal desire) and its context (sociological literature that diagnoses our present society with the terms “moral” and “risk”) affects both theoretical and methodological choices. Relevant literature will be the work of e.g. Czarniawska (1998), Valverde (2003), Rose (2001) and Ericson & Doyle (2003).

Method. As a consequence the methodological grab has to reflect organizations complexity (even paradoxes), making all empirical material relevant in principle. In this case the paper pays special attention to the methodological discussions that stem from using very different empirical material, e.g., documents and recorded interactions between the health consultant and the ‘somatic’ individual (managed employee). The papers will be situated in a constructionist methodological literature, e.g. Alvesson & Sköldberg (2000), Miller & Dingwall (1997), Silverman (1997), Gubrium & Holstein (1997).

Result. The paper’s discussions will illuminate 1) the productivity of a flexible methodological approach 2) the importance of a constructionist inspired approach when the researched area is the relation between private issues (desire) and welfare organizations.

Sharon L. Moore, RN, M.Ed., PhD, Associate Professor

A Hermeneutic Photography Study of the Experience of Hope and Aging

Aging successfully is a topic that has been targeted in recent years. Given the increased life expectancies in North America, and the graying of the population, increased efforts are being directed at what it is that helps people age successfully. A key ingredient in this process is the role that hope plays in helping people live meaningful lives as they age.

A hermeneutic photography method was used to explore how older adults experience and live hope in their day to day lives. Older adults were asked to photograph how they lived and experienced hope and were then interviewed using the photographs as interview prompts. Phillips (2000) offers support for the significance of photography in research when she says that “photography gives us a chance to say, in more than words alone, what we believe in, where we stand. It is a form of expression that reveals not only who we are, but how the world appears through our eyes” (Phillips, 2000, p. 44). It is this perspective of hope, that which reveals where the older persons stand, how they experience it, and how it appears through their eyes, which will be described. Hermeneutic photography as a research method and how it was used in this study will be described. A short audiovisual presentation “The Landscape of Hope” will be used to portray the results of the study.

Luigina Mortari

The meaning of care in nursing practice

Background. In Italian health contexts there is little reflection regarding ‘caring’ in nursing practice. Training for nurses mainly focuses on scientific and technical expertise, while in everyday practice nurses are required also to care and the labour of caring is very demanding. In order to modify the health culture it is necessary to ask nurses what they think about care, that is, what meaning they attribute to the experience they live through.

Aim. Through this research we aim at exploring the care culture in nursing in a context where care is undervalued and undertheorized, and then to work out an effective way of interviewing that can be processed by practitioners. In this perspective the results will be shared with the nurses.

Method. On this premise I carried out 24 interviews with a group of nurses engaged in a post-graduate course in “health management”.

Above all I organized a first meeting with the nurses in which I made the concept of care explicit, with the Heideggerian thought as the starting point, in order to share the conceptual frame which is the background of the research with them. A second meeting was dedicated to presenting the phenomenological mode of analysis. These meetings, aimed at making nurses aware of the approach to theoretical and epistemological research, were important in order to avoid any kind of objectivation by the practitioners. The interviews were articulated around six critical nodes; the questions were formulated in the midst of the conversation on the basis of the flow of ideas emerging from the dialogue.

Results. The paper is aimed at presenting: (a) the path of analysis, and (b) the data that emerged.

Sylvia Määttä, RN, PhD, Senior Lecturer

Closeness and distance in the nurse-patient relation. The relevance of Edith Stiens concept of empathy

Background. This paper emanates from the concept of empathy as understood by the German philosopher Edith Stein. It begins by highlighting different interpretations of empathy. According to the German philosopher Martin Buber, empathy cannot be achieved as an act of will. In contrast, the psychologist Carl Rogers believes that empathy is identical with dialogue and is the outcome of a cognitive act of active listening.

Aim and Methods. The empathy concept of Edith Stein, philosopher and follower of Edmund Husserl’s phenomenology, concept of empathy goes beyond these conflicting views and offers a more complex interpretation, with relevance for both health care and nursing education.

Results. When studying Stein’s three-level model of empathy, a field of tension between perspectives of closeness and distance to the patients becomes apparent. The paper concludes by suggesting Steins model of empathy as a strategy to overcome the tension and meet the demands of empathy.

Maria Nyström, RN, MSc, PhD

Aphasia-the loss of the world of symbols

The aim of this study was to analyse the existential consequences of aphasia and the struggle to regain the ability to communicate. Data were collected by means of interviews, published books and diaries from four women
and five men, who varied in type of aphasia and time since cerebral lesion. Data were interpreted in accordance with a lifeworld hermeneutic approach. The findings led to six interpretations, which serve as a base for a comprehensive understanding and which indicate that the intentional, non-verbal act when something is recognized as something is not affected by aphasia. Aphasia affects the world of symbols, which is necessary for interaction with others. It is therefore connected with feelings of alienation, inferiority and shame in social settings. Losing one’s ability to recognize symbols thus makes it essential to cope with existential loneliness. The outcome, a sense of community or alienation, appears to depend on the quality of interpersonal relations. The results thus demonstrate that interaction and communication are important aspects of professional care giving.

Ewa Rundqvist, PhD, RNT, Senior Lecturer

Hermeneutic understanding of patients’ experiences of powerlessness and suffering

In nursing science there are many different approaches to both phenomenological and hermeneutic research but some of these have become indistinct in relation to the masterminds of the philosophies. Hermeneutics are considered as a philosophy of understanding and interpretation but it can be speculative to transform an essence of a philosophy to a structure for research. If caring science is to be understood as a humanistic paradigm, both the ontology and the epistemology are questions of great importance. The research has to start in questions important for the human being in the caring cultures and find methods to gain understanding and knowledge in order to prevent suffering. Care is the core of nursing and caring as well as caring science has its idea and utmost mission in keeping the patients dignity in order to alleviate her/his suffering. Abuse of power in nursing even in its most subtle form can lead to patients suffering.

The purpose of this paper is to exemplify how Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutic and Odman’s model for hermeneutic work, although modified, was used together in search for deep understanding of patients’ experiences of powerlessness and suffering.

Eight patients’ narratives were read in different ways. The first phase lead to rational understanding. In the second phase the researcher tried to structure the facts and find patterns in the material. The final phase gave deep understanding of the patient’s experiences of her/his homelessness, powerlessness and despair. The health processes stops and the patient feels deprived of all strength.

Målfrid Råheim, Associate Professor

Researcher and Reflexivity – Tension Between Pre-understanding and Openness, Closeness and Distance

Background. Reflexivity is a term very much at home in the literature on qualitative research, closely tied as it is to the role of the researcher in the knowledge production. With an altered concept of validity, from correspondence with an objective reality to defendable knowledge claims, the craftsmanship and credibility of the researcher are considered to be core issues. The aim of the present paper is to discuss the role of the researcher’s reflexive process when exploring other’s experience.

Methods. Based on reflexive analysis of research literature, “results” are highlighting different stances on the role of reflexivity, which are debated according to the following self-constructed themes: 1. To consider pre-understanding seriously without considering it seriously, 2. Confronting pre-understanding in order to put it aside or at risk, and 3. The confessional tale in service of or dominating the experiential phenomenon under study. Tension between pre-understanding and openness, closeness and distance is the prevailing theme throughout the paper.

Marta Röing, DDS, PhD Student
J-M. Hirsch, DDS, PhD, Professor
Inger Holmström, RN, PhD, Associate Professor

The uncanny mouth – a phenomenological study of oral cancer

Background. The treatment of oral cancer is complex, lengthy, and involves a large number of medical and dental professionals. Surgery and/or radiation therapy are the only curative treatment forms. Surgical removal of larger tumours in the oral cavity can leave defects which impair speaking and eating. The six-week radiation therapy, painless in the beginning, does not remain painless, and patients may have to be hospitalized to prevent dehydration and malnutrition.

Aim. The aim of this ongoing study is to describe the lived experience of oral cancer during treatment.

Methods. An interpretive phenomenological approach was chosen. A purposeful sample of 7 patients with oral cancer was interviewed. Data were analysed using van Manen’s method of ‘guided existential reflection’ where the existentials of lived time, lived space, lived body and lived relation are used as interpretive means to illuminate the patients’ everyday experiences during treatment.

Tentative results. The results illuminate the patients’ increasing need of a lifeline of support as the mouth, wounded first by cancer, gradually ceases to function normally during treatment. The central theme that emerges is the patients’ embodiment in a mouth that has become uncanny.

Preliminary conclusions. The use of phenomenology has identified the patients’ all increasing need for support during treatment and great need for further support and rehabilitation at end of initial treatment. As the treatment and rehabilitation of oral cancer is multiprofessional, this knowledge may be useful in guiding the organisation of cancer care and multiprofessional collaboration. More extensive results are forthcoming.
Striving for Emotional Survival in Palliative Cancer Nursing

Background. While it is recommended that cancer patients should be cared for in specialist cancer units and centers, many cancer patients are still cared for in regular medical and surgical wards. Acute hospital care philosophy diverges from hospice care philosophy with acute hospital care primary aimed at curing in a “culture of quickness”.

Aim. The aim was to develop a grounded theory of nurses caring for palliative cancer patients in hospital care. The research question was: What is the main concern for nurses caring for palliative cancer patients in hospital care and how do they resolve it?

Method. In this study 46 formal interviews, field notes from informal interviews and observations were coded and compared, yielding concepts and categories. Theoretical memos of the relationship between codes and categories were written and later sorted according to classic grounded theory.

Results. Striving for Emotional Survival emerged as the pattern of behavior through which nurses deal with their main concern, the risk of being emotionally overloaded by their work. Striving for Emotional Survival involves three main strategies: Emotional Shielding through professional shielding or cold shielding; Emotional Processing through chatting, confirmation seeking, self-reflecting, or ruminating; and Emotional Postponing through storing or stash ing. Emotional Competence is a property of Striving for Emotional Survival that explains more or less adequate ways of dealing with the emotional overload experienced. The theory Striving for Emotional Survival can be useful in the nurses’ daily work and provides a comprehensive framework for understanding how emotional difficulties are dealt with. We suggest that healthcare organizations encourage self-care, prioritize time to talk and offer counseling to nursing staff with emotionally difficult working conditions.

Jane Springett, Visiting Professor
Cecilia Linskov, Doctoral Student
Pia Petersson, Doctoral Student
Inga Olsson, Doctoral Student
Yvonne Johansson, Doctoral Student

Reflections on doing qualitative research in a participatory action research context: epistemology in practice

Background. The Forskningsplattformen för utveckling av Närsjukvård (FPL) is a set of research projects supported by a unique collaboration between Kristianstad Högskola and Region Skåne aimed at supporting the development of Närsjukvård (near sick care) within NO Skåne. A common feature of all the projects is that they have been developed using a participatory action research approach. Action research or interactive research is a systematic approach to inquiry increasingly used in the field of health as it directly links theory, research and practice to solve real world issues. It uses interpretative processes of qualitative research at its core but due to its collaborative nature generates particular challenges at different stages of the research process. These challenges can potentially compromise its epistemological basis.

Aim. Using case studies from a sample of the platforms’ projects the symposium will explore and illustrate some of the methodological and epistemological issues that have arisen at different stages of the action research process. The case studies will focus on “gaining entry”, engaging and involving stakeholders “negotiating the research question” and “feedback” stages of the action research process. They will show how qualitative research was integrated within the process.

Method/Results. The case studies will be linked together by an introduction which will give a background to the FPL and the dialogical and collaborative principles that underpin the action research cycle. There will be four case studies, each of which will be looking at one aspect of the research cycle in each of the four particular on-going action research projects which are centred on 1) a Family house in a multicultural area 2) patient participation in their care 3) the development of a cross disciplinary collaborative care network 4) collaboration across sectors for Närsjukvård. As a framework each case study will use the evaluation questions, what worked, what did not work and what was learnt. A concluding discussion will draw together the overall implications.

Margaretha Strandmark K. RN, Associate Professor

Symbolic Interactionism and Grounded Theory

Background. Grounded Theory (Glaser and Strauss 1967) has strong links to symbolic interactionism (Mead 1967, Blumer 1998). Symbolic interactionism rests on three premises. Firstly, human beings act on the basis of the meaning of the things. Secondly, the meaning is derived from social interactions between human beings. Thirdly, this meaning is found in an interpretive process in which the actor becomes aware of the phenomena and thereafter communicates with oneself and others (Blumer 1998).

Aim. To describe and discuss how symbolic interactionism influences conducting and analysing of data in Grounded Theory studies.

Method. Theories about symbolic interactionism and Grounded Theory (Charmaz 1990, 1995, 2000, 2003) are interpreted towards practical experiences.

Preliminary results. The participant’s response is adjusted to the interviewer in a given act in the interview. The interviewer completes the given act through the response of the participant in which the meaning of the participant’s indications is interpreted. Then, this described process results in a mutual social act. The same process is made in the analysis of data through an interaction between the researcher and the transcribed data. The text gives some indications to the researcher, thereafter the researcher asks
questions to the text and the interpreted meaning is emerged. In the comparison of codes and categories the meaning of the text is interwoven in a pattern with help of the indications from the text and the researcher’s understanding of the text.

**Helena Sunvisson, RN, PhD, Senior Lecturer**

**Thoughts about living place when suffering from Parkinson’s disease**

Parkinson’s disease is a chronic and progressive disorder and the symptoms become with time more severe and complex. Aggravating conditions change the habitual body and influences on how the lived body experiences and understands environment. Studies have shown that PD-afflicted persons in certain situations experience themselves ruled by their illness, but in other situations they feel illness experiences fading away. The way they were in the situation seemed to have importance for involvement experiences and for their ability to carry things out. The intention with this presentation is to probe into how perception of environmental influences interacted with the experience of Parkinson’s disease, and thereby scrutinize why PD sufferers are so sensitive to environmental influences. Symptoms related to PD as slowness in motor performance, decreased capacity for simultaneous movement, increased sense for stress, and visuospatial deficit i.e. indistinctness for distance in the narrow space, might be understood in new ways if illuminated within the frame of phenomenology.

**Petra Svedberg, RN, MNSc, cand.**

**Patients’ conceptions of how health processes are promoted in mental health nursing**

A qualitative study

**Background.** The goal of mental health nursing is not merely to alleviate or reduce disease but also to actively strengthen the patient’s health.

**Aim.** The aim of the study was to describe patients’ conceptions of how health processes are promoted in mental health nursing.

**Method.** The study had a descriptive qualitative design with a phenomenographic approach. The essence of phenomenography is how something is conceived to be and the approach has a high applicability to identity different human perceptions of a complex phenomenon. The approach was chosen in order to ascertain the qualitative variations in the participants’ conceptions of how health processes are promoted through nursing interventions in mental health nursing. Twelve patients with experience of mental health nursing were interviewed, and the data material was analysed in accordance with the phenomenographic tradition.

**Result.** The result shows thirteen different conceptions of the phenomenon in four descriptive categories: interaction, attention, development and dignity. The findings demonstrate that nurses promotes health processes in the patient by focusing on the patients’ opportunities, trusting the patient’s potential and being aware of how important it is to respect the individual as a resourceful person. It is crucial that nurses encourage motivation by trusting the patients’ capacity to make their own decisions.

**Conclusion.** It is suggested that mental health nursing should be built on humanistic science. The view that every individual has the ability to grow and develop is one of the most important preconditions for the promotion of health processes in mental health nursing.

**Les Todres, Karin Dahlberg, Kate Galvin, Steven Keen, Margaretha Ekebergh, Bengt-Olof Pettersson** (Symposium)

**Linking qualitative research to practice: the contribution of lifeworld-led care and education**

Professors Les Todres and Karin Dahlberg will introduce a collaborative programme between Vasjö and Bournemouth Universities that has been pursuing the contribution of the phenomenological tradition to health and social care. Three important strands that have emerged, and which will form the focus of this symposium are:

- The philosophical foundations of lifeworld-led care
- Innovative forms of dissemination of qualitative research findings that serve citizen-oriented approaches to care
- Illustrations of lifeworld-led education

**Part 1: What is lifeworld-led care? Professor Kate Galvin**

In this paper, we describe the value and philosophy of lifeworld-led care. Our purpose is to give a philosophically coherent foundation for lifeworld-led care and its core value as a humanising force that moderates technological progress. We begin by looking at lifeworld-led care in the context of citizen-oriented, participative approaches to healthcare. We link this to Husserl’s notion of the lifeworld and then look at how lifeworld-led care could provide important ideas and values that are central to the humanisation of healthcare practice. The paper proposes a framework for capturing the principles and scope of such care. This framework includes the core value, core perspectives, relevant methodologies and main benefits of lifeworld-led care. The model is offered as a potentially broad-based approach for integrating many existing practices and trends.

**Part 2: The ‘so what’ of lifeworld research: Dr. Steven Keen**

This section of the symposium addresses a gap between lifeworld studies and their use in practice. The number of studies increase year on year, yet the implications of this work appear to show little impact on practice, research, policy or service users’ lives. Few authors of qualitative research studies move beyond the traditional dissemination of their work in peer-reviewed journals. This paper reports the results of a recent literature review that demonstrates how qualitative researchers currently
communicate their findings. In particular, it focuses on studies paying attention to both the scientific and communicative concerns of qualitative research. Many of the authors of these studies use non-traditional modes of dissemination, for example, drama, dance or poetry to reach their intended audience. These innovative strategies of dissemination will be considered to illustrate their value for lifeworld-led care.

Part 3: An illustration of lifeworld-led education: Dr. Margaretha Ekebergh and PhD Student Bengt-Olof Petersson

In this section the focus is on learning and reflection. The purpose is to give an illustration of lifeworld-led education on the basis of some preliminary results of a practice related research project in the area of nursing education. In this paper we want to show how the pedagogy can be formed to support the intertwining of the student’s lifeworld, the theoretical and the practical knowledge, in the learning process. Especially important, according to the research, is that the education enables an openness for the patient’s lived experience and need for care, which is the core of caring practice.

Tricia Ware, PhD

Wanting to please. Issues with focus group feedback in developing stroke rehabilitation equipment

P. Ware, Maskrey, J. Hammerton, S. Mawson, N. G. Mountain, B. McNair, H. Zheng, R. Davies and N. Black

Background. User involvement is a key element in the development of any technology and a major aspect of government health policy in responding to patient needs. However, it is not always clear how to evaluate the input that service users and carers contribute.

Aim. The SMART project is developing new technology to enable stroke patients to undertake rehabilitation in the home environment. This paper describes the process of involving users in the development of remote monitoring, interactive feedback and rehabilitation equipment.

Method. Seven focus groups were conducted with a total of 32 patients and carers. We initially recruited 16 participants and held four one-off groups investigating attitudes to rehabilitative technology prior to the development of prototypes. We then recruited another 16 people and held a series of three groups with the same participants to discuss the prototype devices which included an interactive information platform and movement tracking sensors.

Results. Requirements emerging from the initial focus groups were that any devices should be compact, simple to operate, usable by patients without the help of carers and able to give measurable feedback. Following the feedback from the subsequent series of groups, the team were able to modify sensor attachment and refine the display of screen information. Some users had a lack of support in their own rehabilitation which may have influenced them to be unrealistically positive about any new developments. Service users as participants can be anxious to please which may affect the reliability and validity of their feedback.

Helle S. Wentzer, Cand Mag PhD

Making qualitative studies talk back – the poetics of user-reception of EPR

Background. Information technologies are playing a growing role in the organization and enactment of health care services. Visions of shared use of (electronic) data for administrative purposes, for research purposes and for performing daily health care services push the IT-development and challenges the understanding of what health care work actually is. The Achilles of ICT-mediated health care is the clinician. They feed the systems by entering data as well as clinical tasks increasively depend on retrieving data from IT-systems.

Aim. Critical hermeneutical insights on communication and sense-making are suggested for understanding and explaining IT in health care practices. The presentation advocates that qualitative studies of user-reception can inform system design and IT-development in health care.

Method. The framework of analysing user-reception of IT-systems was developed on the background of an evaluation study of ICT-implementation in primary health care (Wentzer, Bygholm 2001). High standardisation of clinical language for IT-development of clinical documents is a well-known challenge to health care authorities and to clinical users. The theoretical foundation of the method is the critical hermeneutic of Paul Ricoeur (1978, 1981, 1988, 2002), Don Ihde (1996) Inger Lytje (2000), and Joseph Dunne (1993). The textual paradigm of the critical hermeneutic is applied to technology and software development from a neo-aristotelian understanding of health care as techniques serving praxis and ‘the good life’.

Results. The poetics of the e-text offers ‘a way in’ to understand why health care praxis is difficult to communicate with IT. A proper articulation of users experiences can explain problems of continuity of work practice with ICT and inform further system design from a user-centred perspective.

The oral paper presents the poetics of the e-text, as a methodology for analysing ICT-reception and use, with the prospect on continuous development of ICT in relation to clinical praxis.

Lars Westin, RN, MNSc, PhD-Student

Ella Danielson, RN, PhD, Associate Professor

Nurses’ experiences of caring encounters with older people living in Swedish nursing homes

Background. Life for residents in nursing homes can be characterised as a process of decreased physical and psychical resources, therefore encounters with nurses are important activities for providing meaning and security for the residents. Research in this field has previously focused on communication, attitudes and job satisfaction, but gives limited knowledge about what the human encounters in this context mean for the nurses.

Aim. The aim of the study was to describe and interpret the meaning of nurses’ experiences of caring encounters with residents in nursing homes.
Method. A hermeneutic method was used in this study. Interviews were conducted with 14 nurses from two nursing homes about their experiences of caring encounters. The transcribed interview texts were interpreted as a whole.

Results. In the interpretation of the text concerning the meaning of nurses’ experiences of encounters with resident’s four themes emerged and eleven sub themes. The comprehensive interpretation mainly showed possible ways available being present, being significant, and being aware of opportunities for the nurse to find meaning in the encounter with the resident, but impossible ways as being inadequately were also revealed. The results show the importance of caring encounters between nurses and residents in nursing homes. The good encounters have various possible ways for nurses to find meaning and a sense of communion with the resident. However, bad encounters, described as being inadequately available, were also found as impossible ways for nurses to find meaning in the encounters with the residents.

Erika Vieira
ABUCHAIM, E de SV; SILVA, IA.

Experiencing Breastfeeding and Sexuality in Motherhood: “separating yourself between motherhood and being a woman”

The interface between breast feeding and feminine sexuality is an aspect of crucial importance in a woman’s life. Nevertheless, it is not well known by the professionals who assist them, and for this reason an investigation was begun as to how that self-expressiveness happens throughout the woman’s point of view. This study has, as it’s principle, the theoretical model “Pesando Riscos e Benefícias” (Silva, 1997) Comprehending the meaning of the sexual interface of breast feeding for women experiencing this process and to comprehend how this dimension attributed the sexual interface is shown in a woman’s behavior. It was taken as theoretical and methodological referential symbolic interactions and action based on data and it’s analysis respectively, and was obtained by interviewing 13 women who have been living in Sao Paulo’s municipal district, that were either breast feeding or have already had this experience. From these results emerged three observations: Feeling the body’s change; Taking on new duties, and neglecting the relationship and Separating themselves between motherhood and relationships. The study revealed that for these women the breast feeding experience and it’s interface with the feminine sexuality happens throughout motherhood, by trying constantly to separate themselves from motherhood and being a woman. She wants to mediate the breast feeding and her sexual life by trying to conciliate these new functions with the others; understanding, however, that in this phase of her life the priority is the child and its needs.

David Wood, MSc, BA (Hons), RN

Harm Minimisation policies in Prison, Rhetoric or Reality?

Greenway (1994) argued that prisons contain a disproportionately high number of individuals who have placed themselves at risk from HIV infection through their behaviour both inside and outside prison. It appears that a sizeable proportion of prisoners engage in unprotected sexual activity and the sharing of intravenous (IV) needles for drug use (Decker and Rosenfeld, 1992). These factors coupled with little or no access to the resources and information required to prevent infection have made inmates a vulnerable population. Indeed the activities in prisons that spread HIV are usually illegal within the prison environment and so meet with disciplinary measures not health measures.

HIV and AIDS in prisons is one area which has not been tackled sufficiently at a policy level in England and Wales. Furthermore the policies that do exist have not always been effectively implemented. Findings from European research studies indicate that it is possible to implement innovative and effective policies to minimise the risk of HIV transmission in prison (Van Doorninck and De Jong, 1998; Dolan, 1997; Shaw, 1994). Godin et al. (2001) argued that it is often the attitude of prison officers that is crucial in the implementation of harm minimisation policies.

This qualitative research study gathered information to examine the extent to which high risk behaviour, that is likely to lead to HIV infection, occurs in prison. It then investigated by means of semi-structured interviews the extent to which existing harm minimisation policies are implemented in English and Welsh prisons and how custodial institutions could utilise information and ideas from some European initiatives.

Annika Öhman

Awareness of the consequences of Alzheimer’s disease in everyday life

Background. Commonly, people with Alzheimer’s disease (AD) are described as having decreased awareness concerning their situation. After diagnosis, they continue to do everyday occupations although with increasing impact of their disabling illness. Interventions have been focusing on the later stages of AD, while community-living people with AD have received less attention. There is a need to develop supportive intervention strategies focusing on everyday occupations that contributes to the well-being of people with AD living in their own homes. Empirical studies of awareness from the perspective of the person with AD are needed. The lived experiences of the consequences of AD are suggested to be the starting point towards a deeper understanding of awareness.

The aim of this study was to describe the characteristics of awareness of the consequences in everyday life among people with AD.

Method. The study design was qualitative and phenomenological. Six persons with diagnosed AD, three males and three females, participated. They were all living in their own homes without professional support. Data were collected using repeated interviews, conducted in the participants’ homes, focusing on their own descriptions and experiences of living with AD.

Results. The preliminary results show surprisingly rich and divergent expressions of awareness, e.g. adapting
strategies to meet occupational changes, relating to a situation that appears to be unaffordable and the experience of an evasive perception of change. The study will be finished in March 2006.

Posters
Ella Abraham, RN, MPH
Ingrid Gejej, RN
Elisabeth O.C. Hall, RNT, MscN, PhD

Snacks for patients at risk of in-hospital malnutrition

Experiences of the patients and the staff

Aims and objectives. The purpose of the study was to test the effect of consuming snacks in three different groups of patients at risk of in-hospital malnutrition and to investigate a new way of health promotion to develop and compose valid and optimal products (snacks) in relation to the patient’s desires and needs.

Background. Many patients do not eat and drink sufficiently during hospitalization. Surveys have shown that 30% of the patients are undernourished when hospitalized and for the majority of these patients their protein and energy requirements are not met during hospitalization. Sick people often experience reduced appetite, an aversion against certain types of food or nausea. These symptoms are part of the reason for insufficient consumption of food and drinks.

Methods. The study was designed as a descriptive intervention investigation carried out in a Danish University Hospital with total 1000 beds. The study included 97 patients from three different units – oncology, lung medicine and orthopaedic. The connected project assistant nurse daily served a 24-hours catering pack to the patients over a six months period. The packaging of the “Snak Pak” was designed to look appetizing and also the aesthetics of the pack had high priority.

Food intake was recorded on a daily basis during the hospital stay (mean = 12 days). Total 15 of the 97 patients were interviewed about their health state, knowledge of nutritional care and their opinion of this kind of catering service. At the end of the study the staff was interviewed about their experiences during the test period.

Results. Compared to another Danish study the daily energy intake was increased with 20% among orthopaedic patients and showed that the weight was stable or increased in this group together with the medicine group but not in the oncology group. The patients express that they have learnt at lot about comfort food during illness and felt motivated to eat sufficiently. Relatives were very interested too. Especially the relatives of the oncology group showed a big interest. The staff still talks about barriers such as lack of time to implement better nutritional care, but they have been inspired by the project.

Relevance to clinical practice. The idea of “Snak-pak” and guidelines of different types of snack products are easy to implement in every bed ward and thereby increase nutritional health care as pointed out both from The European – and The National Board Department.

Kerstin Andersson

“Oral health is not my department”

Perceptions of elderly patients’ oral health by general medical practitioners in primary health care centres. A qualitative interview study

The purpose of this study was to explore general medical practitioners’ (GPs) perceptions of the oral health of their elderly patients. The design was a qualitative study based on individual in-depth interviews with GPs. The criterion for inclusion in the study was that the GP was a specialist in family medicine working in a primary health care centre (PHCC:s) in the County of Stockholm. Eleven GPs were interviewed. The process started with the first interview and proceeded with successive interviews until no new relevant information was forthcoming. The initial semi-structured part of the interview guide was analysed for content with special reference to descriptive answers. The final open questions were analysed by a method inspired by grounded theory (GT) and comprised three stages: open coding, axial coding and selective coding. In the GT influenced analysis process, three categories, each in turn containing subcategories, were identified and labelled. The most significant category, cultural differences, was identified as the core category, explaining the central meaning of the respondents’ perceptions of the oral health of their elderly patients.

The GPs in this study showed little or no awareness of the oral health of their elderly patients. The interviews disclosed several contributing factors. Barriers to closer integration of oral and general health in the elderly were identified. There existed a cultural gap between the disciplines of dentistry and medicine which does not enhance and may be detrimental to the overall wellbeing of elderly patients.

Pia Bastholm Rahmner, Eva Andersén-Karlsson, Thomas Arnhjort, Marie Eliasson, Lars L Gustafsson, Lennart Jacobsson, Marie-Louise Ovesjö, Urban Rosenqvist, Susanne Sjöviker, Göran Tomson, Inger Holmström

Physicians’ perceptions of possibilities and obstacles prior to implementing a computerised drug prescribing support system

Background. Accident and Emergency physicians’ often meet elderly patients using many drugs and with a large risk for adverse drug effects. One way to reduce adverse drug reaction is to use a computerised drug prescribing support system. The research on the introduction of modern systems in clinical practice is fragmentary. One prerequisite to develop functional work tools is that the development is carried out in close collaboration with physicians and based on their needs, experience and understanding.

Aim of the Study. The aim of this study was to identify the physician’s perceptions of possibilities and obstacles prior to implementing a computerised prescribing support system.
Material and methods. At the Accident and Emergency Department of South Stockholm General Hospital, a computerised prescribing support system was installed. Before the implementation process a descriptive, qualitative study with semi-structured face-to-face interviews with all 21 physicians working at the department was done. An inductive thematic analysis was made from the empirical material. The transcribed interview material was analysed in five steps by three independent individuals.

Results. Four descriptive categories for possibilities and obstacles were identified. Possibilities consisted of access to the patient drug history from all health care providers, improved pharmacological knowledge, increased information access and time saving. Obstacles consisted of fear of technical problems, shortage of computers, diminishing patient contact and present routines.

Conclusion. Getting access to the patient drug history would enable the physicians to carry out work in a professional way. The computerised prescribing support system was not developed to provide this. It gave only alerts and producer-independent drug information, which also would be valuable and reduce workload. The interviews identified a discrepancy between the physicians’ needs and the service that could be provided by the prescribing support system.

Angela Gillis, PhD, RN, Professor

A Qualitative Exploration of Nursing Graduates’ Perceptions of the BScN Honours Experience

Background. The topic of honours education in nursing is one that many schools have examined but few have taken steps to implement. This is particularly true in Canada. One exception is St. Francis Xavier University School of Nursing which in 1997 implemented an honours program within its four year BScN curriculum. The purpose of the Honours program is to provide to exceptional and highly motivated students a qualitatively different experience within its four year BScN curriculum. The purpose of the Honours program is to provide to exceptional and highly motivated students a qualitatively different experience from the regular BScN program.

Aim. The aim of this poster presentation is to report on phase two of a triangulated study designed to evaluate the outcomes of graduates’ participation in an honours program two to seven years post graduation.

Method. Phase two of the study used a qualitative descriptive approach to explore the participants’ perceptions of factors that influenced their choice to complete the honours program and their perceptions of factors in the workplace that influenced participation in research based activities that were core to their educational experience. A purposive sample of eight graduates (four honours and four advanced major) were interviewed about their experiences in the honours/non honours program, factors that influenced their decision to complete the honours or advanced major option, and participants’ perspectives on factors in the workplace that influenced their participation in research activities. Interview data were analyzed using established procedures for qualitative data analysis. The transcripts were coded into thematic content units and the content units grouped into central themes.

Results. Three central themes emerged: Meeting Career Expectations, Enablers of research Based Activities, and Barriers to research Based Practice. Each theme is described. The implications for undergraduate nursing education curriculum revision and nursing practice are examined.

Ulrika Hallberg Dr, PH
G Klingberg

Health care professionals’ assessment of oral health needs in children with disabilities

Children with disabilities are high consumers of medical care and hospitalization. Good collaboration between medical and dental care is essential in order to provide not only good oral health care, but also a more holistic care for children with disabilities.

Aim. The aim of the present study was to explore and describe health care professionals’ assessment and considerations of orofacial problems and treatment needs in children with disabilities and their families. Method: In-depth interviews focusing on orofacial function were carried out with 17 health care employees. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and analysed in open, and focused (selective) coding processes according to grounded theory.

Result. A core category was identified and named unsuspecting omission of oral health, showing that oral health care assessment was not on the agenda of health care professionals’ when treating children with disabilities but rather viewed as a responsibility of parents or dentists.

Conclusion. This study shows that oral health issues are not fully integrated in the medical caring of children with disabilities. The omission of oral health issues from the medical agenda implies a risk of oral health problems in children with disabilities. In order to put the oral cavity and oral health on the medical agenda dentists need to influence both undergraduate training of medical professionals and to initiate cooperation with the medical care system.

Finn Hjelmblink
Inger Holmström

The meaning of comprehensive control – the experiences of stroke victims

Background. To be empowered to have control may influence positively on patient satisfaction and treatment results. However: some patients do not need to be empowered, they claim control of the disease-treatment from the very beginning. The experiences of these patients are important to the understanding of the concept of control.

Aim. To reveal what it means to stroke victims to be in comprehensive control of their rehabilitation.

Method. Four stroke victims in comprehensive control of their treatment were purposefully selected from a larger interview study. They were interviewed with open ended interviews 3 and 12 months after the stroke accident. The interviews were analysed through a modification of the Empirical Phenomenological Psychological method.
Findings. Control was intertwined with responsibility. This influenced the informants’ behaviour towards their body, their relations with others, their life in time and their life in the environment. They successfully achieved important treatment goals. On the other hand the control prevented them from important professional advice. In relations with others they engaged skillfully and searched encounters loaded with mutual response. However, these relations contained a distance, that might be named as distant intimacy.

Conclusion. To be in comprehensive control meant to be comprehensively responsible but even to be alone. This loneliness demanded a therapeutic support that contained emotionally closeness but left over the control to the patient.

Nanna Kappel, PhD-Student

The interaction between nurses and hospitalized drug users in somatic hospital wards

Background. In spite of the fact that the Danish society has defined equal right of all citizens to contributions of the health care system, groups of citizens feel stigmatized and do not experience easy access to the health care system.

Aim. The purpose of this research project is to examine whether the understandings of the nurses will contribute to the feeling of stigmatization of users of hard drugs when in contact with the health care system.

By virtue of their profession and position nurses have a big influence on how citizens while admitted to hospital feel accepted and welcomed. Nurses are subdued rules and regulations when performing their task, but are also obliged to offer nursing of high quality to all patients. Drug users have high frequency of morbidity compared to other citizens. Due to their somewhat chaotic lifestyle they get severe infections, wounds, injection damages, and therefore advanced hospital care is necessary. Drug users have high frequency of morbidity compared to other citizens. Due to their somewhat chaotic lifestyle they get severe infections, wounds, injection damages, and therefore advanced hospital care is necessary. Drug users have often bad experiences in their contact with the hospital system beyond these experiences of conflicts during hospitalization and due to this they might postpone contact to the health care system. Apparently conflicts often break out when users of hard drugs are inpatients in somatic hospital wards.

The project wants to enlighten the meeting between the drug user and the nurse in the hospital. Which roles do the nurses and the users carry and what will the meaning be of former experiences of the drug users of the health care system in the meeting with the nurse?

Methods. The data collection will be performed during system in the meeting with the nurse.

Sparud Lundin, C
Öhrn, I
Danielson, E

From multi-dimensional support to decreasing visibility: a grounded theory study on care culture in pediatric and adult diabetes outpatient clinics

Background. As the incidence of Type 1 diabetes mellitus has increased during childhood, more patients will experience the transfer from pediatric diabetes care (PDC) to adult diabetes care (ADC). Therefore, the need for a coherent system between the links in the diabetes chain of care will increase.

Aim. The aim of this study was to describe care culture in pediatric and adult diabetes outpatient clinics.

Method. Field studies have been conducted in two pediatric clinics and two adult clinics in Sweden. 51 focused observations of patient visits to nurses and physicians and ten semi-structured interviews with caregivers were carried out. The data were analysed using the grounded theory method.

Results. In the analysis process, one core category, four categories and subcategories were generated. The core category shifting aspects of diabetes care culture is related to the categories. The categories support of self-management and unfocused behaviour describes mostly similar strategies and attitudes in PDC and ADC, while multidimensional support and decreasing visibility describes differences in characteristics of care culture in PDC versus ADC. The decreased visibility might have consequences for vulnerable patients, such as young diabetics with insufficient metabolic control and self-management abilities. By illuminating shifting aspects of care culture, caregivers can be given a basis for reflection and discussion of how the care is provided in their own setting and how different environmental conditions and care strategies can promote formal and informal contacts between patients and caregivers.

Kicki Klaeson

To be at the same age as your mother
Young women’s experiences of breast cancer treatment

The purpose of this study was to describe young women’s experiences of premature menopause after chemotherapy and/or treatment of hormones. A further purpose was to describe the women’s experiences of sexuality due to these treatments. The study was conducted in two steps with phenomenological method. Unstructured individual interviews were chosen in part 1. In part 2 focus group interviews were used. Nine women in all participated in the study. These women were younger than 45 years at time of diagnoses and had stopped menstruate due to treatment. The essence that emerged: Not recognizing oneself consisting of the following components: the fertile body, the aging body, vulnerability and confirmation. In the focus group the essence turned out to be: feeling marginalized consisting of the following components: not being at home in your own age, stigma, desire and intimate relationships, existential anxiety and confirmation. The conclusion was that health care services should provide room for the women to discuss feelings of identity confusion and marginalization. Some data indicated that being knowledgable about sexuality and the functioning of one’s own body helped in coping with the difficulties caused by drug-induced menopaus.
Permanent dependence on others during meals

A phenomenological study of patients’ experiences

At hospitals a lot of patients receive help during meals. Some only rely on help from others in a short period as part of rehabilitation. Others need help to eat for the rest of their life. When patients have to be fed by others there is a risk that the meal will cause conflicts or ambivalent feelings between patient and helper. Yet there is a lack of research within this area especially when it comes to patients who have to be fed for the rest of their life.

The purpose of this study is to investigate how people, suffering from spinal cord injuries, may experience being helped by others during meals. The main questions are: How does the dependence affect the self esteem of patients? Which consequences may it have for their social lives? How is the importance of the relationship between patient and helper? Which changes may happen over time regarding the patients’ self esteem, their daily lives and their relations to assistants.

The data will be collected by interviewing 16 persons three times within the first 18 months of the study. Between every round of interviews the transcriptions shall be analysed as described below. The plan is that the material from first round may give rise to questions for the second round etc. As this is a phenomenological study the aim is to describe the essence of the participant’s life world, i.e. to grasp the essence of the experience of being dependent on help from others during meals. The work is inspired by Van Manen’s phenomenological approach (1990). Broadly speaking, the analysis process consists of four steps: First, a holistic step where the interviews will be read carefully several times to gain an overall understanding of how patients experience being assisted during meals. Each particular experience will be condensed into short sentences. Secondly, a selective reading has to be done by highlighting phrases and quotes that seem to be thematic. Each of these meaning units will be scrutinized to find out what they reveal about being dependent on others during meals. The third step will be a detailed approach where the researcher interprets each meaning unit in a way that is pertinent for the discipline of nursing. Finally, the aim is to create a coherent, sensitive phenomenological text that seeks to capture the essence of being helped by others during meals.

Status. The study began on 1 September 2005 and at this moment the first round of interviews is being conducted and the material is being analysed.
conductors of the caring science perspective, conceptualising the emerging clinical phenomenon and reflecting on this against the core of the theories. The clinical co-researchers are responsible for interpreting the data from a clinical perspective. Through the triangulation of researchers, the plausibility of a variation in interpretation can be highlighted and gathered in a meaningful synthesis.

Lisbeth Uhrenfeldt, RN, MScN, PhD Candidate
Elsabeth OC Hall, RN, MScN, PhD

Clinical Wisdom among Proficient Nurses

Background. By laddering nurses from novice to experts and later adding clinical wisdom, Benners theory has been applied as a laddered payment tool for Danish nurses during the last decade. The work of Benner and colleagues is critiqued for a trend to conceptualize ethics, searching for the “good in nursing” and its relationship to knowledge, skills, and practise. Dreyfus’ stage model is critiqued; for supporting learning by routine, and with lack of thinking.

Aim. The purpose of the study was to understand proficient nurses’ experience and clinical practices, by giving voice to the nurses themselves, and to look for differences in their practice.

Method. The study was qualitative, based on 20 semi-structured interviews, and stepwise analysed using hermeneutics. Interviews took place twice at two Danish hospitals with nurses who had diploma degree, minimum two years of experience, and selected by colleagues as proficient and satisfied.

Median age of interviewees was 45 (range 30–55), their median clinical experience was 15 years (range 5–32); they worked in different units, with patients from all over the lifespan. Each interview lasted from 50 to 110 minutes.

Results. Important themes in the clinical wisdom were the proficient nurses’ individual professional thinking, drive for actions, responsibility, as well as lack of clinical wisdom.

Though limited in size the knowledge of clinical wisdom, and the lack of, as gained from this study, may have significance for patients, nurses, students, and nurse managers who seek to retain, recruit and support proficient nurses.

Eva Wendt, RN, RM, MNSc
Bengt Fridlund, Professor
Evy Lidell, PhD

Trust and confirmation in a gynaecologic examination situation

Background. Many women experience the gynecologic examination as a more or less negative event, with shortcomings in the examiner’s behavior. The examination is to be performed in ways that give women positive experiences.

Aim. To describe women’s experiences concerning the personnel’s behavior in the situation of gynecologic examination

Methods. Qualitative research interviews with 30 women, 18–82 years old with different background and different gynecologic and obstetric experiences. The method used was critical incident technique analysis (CIT).

Results. The personnel enabled trust when they promoted participation, created confidence and were supportive. Participation was promoted through information. Insufficient or no information at all interfered with the women’s participation. Confidence was created when the personnel were accurate, sincere and kept their promises. When the personnel broke a promise, the confidence was insufficient. The personnel were supportive when they were understanding, showed humor and assisted the women in contact with other professions. Nonsupportive behavior dealt with the personnel who doubted the women.

Confirmation described behavior that was shown through the presence or lack of respect and engagement. The personnel’s behavior was respectful when they greeted, looked the woman in the eyes, invited conversation, were calm, cautious, listened, showed a lot of time, were discrete and when they were capable to apologize. Disrespect appeared through different negative behavior as nonchalance, arrogance, incautious behavior, when the personnel deserted the woman and expressed lack of time.

To be engaged was shown when the personnel cared about the woman as an individual, invited questions and recognized the woman. To work in a routine fashion and omit questions showed the opposite behavior.

Kristina Ziegert, PhD, Lecturer

The qualitative content analysis helping to view everyday life among next of kin of seriously ill patients

Background. The thesis had a descriptive and explorative design based on a qualitative approach. Two perspectives were applied: a holistic perspective on the everyday life of next of kin of haemodialysis patients and a social perspective with focus on human communication and understanding of next of kin’s experience of everyday life.

Aim. The aim of this thesis was to explore and describe everyday life among next of kin of haemodialysis patients.

Investigation of everyday life among this group of next of kin raised various questions about life situation, health, time and professional support.

Method. The data collected in the studies consisted of interviews with next of kin to haemodialysis patients and analysis of support in nursing documentation from two hospitals in Sweden. A qualitative descriptive and explorative design comprising phenomenographic and content analysis was used in Studies II-IV in order to capture experiences of everyday life among next of kin with focus on health, time and professional support. The analysis began by forming an impression of the content of the transcribed interview texts, which were read several times in order to ascertain the manifest meanings. The analysis continued with coding, in which step the texts and annotations were reread and subsequently condensed into text units, after
which the meanings from categories were labelled. In Study IV, the nursing documentation was mainly analysed by means of manifest content analysis. 

**Results.** The experience of time in everyday life among next of kin of haemodialysis patients demonstrated that time for them is minimised and life space contracted. Next of kin experiences ambivalence towards their own health especially in cases of patients’ spouses.

Accordingly, the findings were different types of data such as patient records and interviews, which were suitable for phenomenographic and qualitative content analysis, leading to a deeper understanding of the next of kin’s everyday life over time. The method was deemed suitable for these studies, due the fact that it reflects human communication and preserves information from the original material.