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Expertise Areas

Transcultural Topics

- International Health and Exchange Programs
- Women's Health
- Transcultural collaboration in health and education
- Cultural Assessment
- Use of drama and innovative pedagogical tools in education (cross-cultural education)

Cultural Groups

- Middle Eastern
- Arab
- Muslims
- Refugee Women

Clinical Topics

- Women's Health
- Quality of Life
- Chronic Illnesses
- Refugee Health
- International Health/ Nursing

Research Methodology

- Qualitative methods
- Comparative studies
- Descriptive studies

Languages spoken/Written

- Arabic
- English

Select Publications

Journal Articles

Halabi, J.O, Abdalrahim, M. S., Length Persson, G., Hedemalm, A., & Lepp, M. (2012). The development of a preceptor training program on clinical nursing education in Jordan in collaboration with Sweden. *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing, 43*(3), 135-144.

Lepp, M., Halabi, J.O, & Maatta, S. (2012). Jordanian nursing faculty experiences of participation in international exchange programmes with Sweden. *Diversity in Health and Care, 8*, 181-188.

Lepp, M., Halabi, J.O, Abdalrahim, M. S., Olausson, S. & Suserud, B.O. (2011). Learning Through Drama in the Field of Global Nursing. *Applied Theatre Research/IDEA Journal, 12*(2), 1-15.

Halabi, J.O., Majali, S., Carlsson, L., & Bergbom, I. (2011). A model for international nursing collaboration. *Journal of Continuing Nursing Education, 42*(4), 154-163.

Halabi, J.O. (2006). Psychometric properties of the Arabic version of Quality of Life Index. *Journal of Advanced Nursing, 55*(5), 604-11.

1. What Sparked my Interest in Transcultural Nursing

When I started my higher education in the US, my interest in culture and exchange has deepened and made me very inspired and motivated to explore culture and related matters. I met many international students who lightened my way and broadened my horizon. It was so inspiring how all these different human beings can come together and discuss and share their values and experiences. Sometime back in the mid of 1980's and after my Master's degree and going back home, I was invited to participate at a conference where Madeleine Leininger was the keynote speaker in western New York and share my experience, that was really a special light that motivated me to go for it. When I joined the PhD program years later, I participated in many activities with international students and the community at large where I learned how much similar we are. I did my thesis on Palestinian refugee women, and as a refugee myself, this special cultural group humanized me more to immigrants and refugee problems. I was asked by some journals to review articles that has cultural component from Arab/Muslim background which opened for me a great opportunity to deeply become Transcultural person. Over the years and since then, I became the coordinator for different international collaboration projects especially with Sweden which lasted for 15 years and resulted in other exchange projects and introduced me to the TCN journal and became a reviewer and later on an editorial board member and more recently a Transcultural scholar. I am proud of being Transcultural by all means.

2. Present/Future Directions

Planning to continue working with research groups to conduct more cross-cultural studies related to international phenomena that could be of interest to large audience. I was invited by a publisher to be an editor for an open-access e-book. I started the process for writing the e-book about the ethical and cultural considerations and experiences from an Islamic perspective. Ten authors were invited to take part and the process is in place. Furthermore, I am planning to do similar book about the experiences gained from various international programs implemented across countries by contacting authors/researchers who have experienced international collaboration and exchange programs to take part in sharing their experiences and the lessons learned.

3. Favorite Transcultural Story

Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran Surah closets "O people, we created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that the sight of God that God knows expert. The great truth of God" [closets: 13]. The words of nations and tribes in this verse mean: human beings, are people of various groups and subcultures and the best of whom is those who have good deeds and have mercy to all humankind.

