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Expertise Areas:

Transcultural Topics

- Leininger's Theory
- Ethnonursing Method
- Qualitative Research
- Cultural Assessment
- Transcultural Nursing in Community Health

Cultural Groups

- Czech
- Jordanian
- Arab American
- African American

Clinical Topics

- Community Health
- Transcultural Health Care
- Nursing Theory
- Family Assessment

Research Methodology

- Qualitative
- Ethnonursing

Other

- Fulbright Scholar
- Amman, Jordan 2000
- President Transcultural Nursing Society 2004-2008

Languages spoken, read/write*

- English

Select Publications

Journal Articles

Outwater, A. et. al (2012). Meanings of care by bereaved relatives of homicide victims in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania: Implications for nursing. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 23(4), 397-405.

Andrews, M. et al. (2011). Developing a culturally competent workforce through collaborative partnerships. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 22(3), 300-306.

Miller, J. (2008). Transcultural Nursing Society Position Statement on Human Rights. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 19(1), 5-7.

Miller, J., Petro-Nustas, W. (2002). Context of Care for Jordanian Women. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 13(3) 228-236.

Miller, J (1997). Politics and care: A study of Czech Americans within Leininger's Theory. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 9(1), 3-13.

1. What Sparked my Interest in Transcultural Nursing

As a graduate student (MSN) at the University of Connecticut in 1977, I spent a summer working in Las Cruces, New Mexico with migrant workers. I was studying the role of the nurse practitioner in this setting, but came away with the overwhelming need to learn more about the role of culture in health care, especially in community settings. I worked with both migrant groups as well as Native American groups that summer, and was struck by the impact of cultural values on health and well-being, and the need to incorporate these values in care provided by health care workers in this setting. Four years later, when I moved to Michigan and began teaching Community Nursing in Detroit at Wayne State University (WSU), I met Dr. Madeleine Leininger. After several years working with her, I enrolled in the PhD program at WSU and studied Transcultural Nursing with a minor in Anthropology. Dr. Leininger was my research chair and a major influence in my life and career for over twenty-five years. My dissertation study of Czech Americans started with a preliminary study in Prague, Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1991. Dr. Leininger was my advisor for that study as well.

2. Present/Future Directions

I am currently retired, having taken my transcultural experience to Johns Hopkins, where I taught for several years. Because of a study in Michigan within the Arab American population there, I was invited to teach as a Fulbright Scholar at Hashemite University in Jordan in the fall of 2000. While there I conducted a study with Jordanian women, and taught nursing at the University. It was a life changing experience. The students and faculty, as well as neighbors and friends I met while there, were very welcoming and helpful. It was convenient that the science classes in Jordan are all taught in English. However, there were always some phrases and words which were difficult to translate, but I always had students to help me along the way!!

3. Favorite Transcultural Story

You can imagine how difficult it was to teach physical assessment skills to a mixed group of Jordanian students. Ninety percent were male, and the genders did not mix. The girls were covered, huddled in a corner of the lab and very shy. In the lab, it was difficult to even listen to heart sounds because the boys were so embarrassed if I asked if they would serve as patients. (I had one student who agreed to model if I gave extra points, which I definitely did!). We did most of the exams behind curtains. The dilemma was how to teach the reproductive exams! BUT, I was just fortunate enough to have my husband urologist along for the trip (recently retired). I put him to work with the boys, and we had excellent models to work with, so he came in and pinch hit for me for part of the lectures. He ended up being their favorite teacher!!