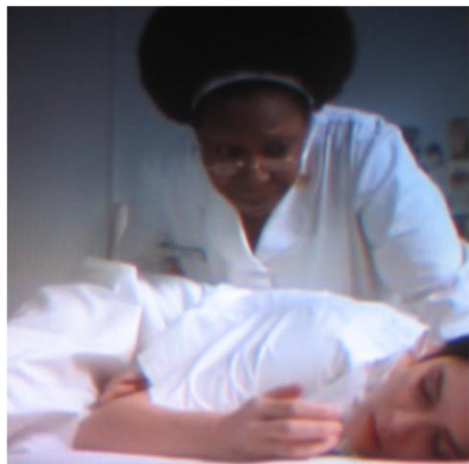


Reel Nursing Care

Mental Health Nursing Care in Film

Cheryl Pollard PN, RN, MN, PhD (Nurs)





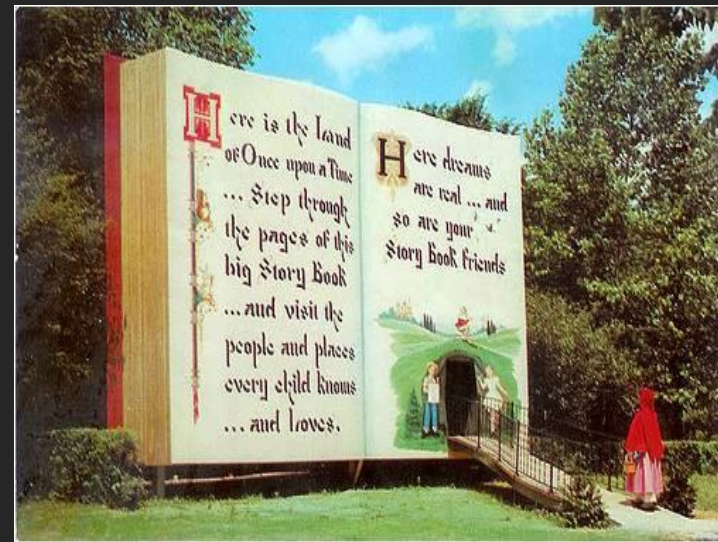
What is it like to receive psychiatric treatment?
What is it like to be a psychiatric mental health nurse?

“Each day, scores of images of nurses and nursing speed past readers and viewers, leaving only a diffuse awareness of their impact. These fleeting images rarely elicit prolonged contemplation or critical analysis.”

Kalisch & Kalisch 1987 p. lx

Setting the Scene

- The story begins ...
- Research design
 - Methods
 - Sample
- Findings
- Challenges
- The story continues ...



Reading of film is much like the reading of history, it is not a passive act, but an active process of judgement.

Allen & Gomery, 1985

Previous Thinking about Images

Psychiatric Nurses in Cinema

Prominence in the Plot
Personality Characteristics
Primary Values
Professional Competence



What about
the
relationship?

The Depiction of Relationships

- Relationship central tenet of nursing theories
- Interpersonal process
- Relationship “between” is essential for the development of therapeutic interactions

The question

How does cinema portray the relationship between mental health/psychiatric nurses and persons with mental illness?

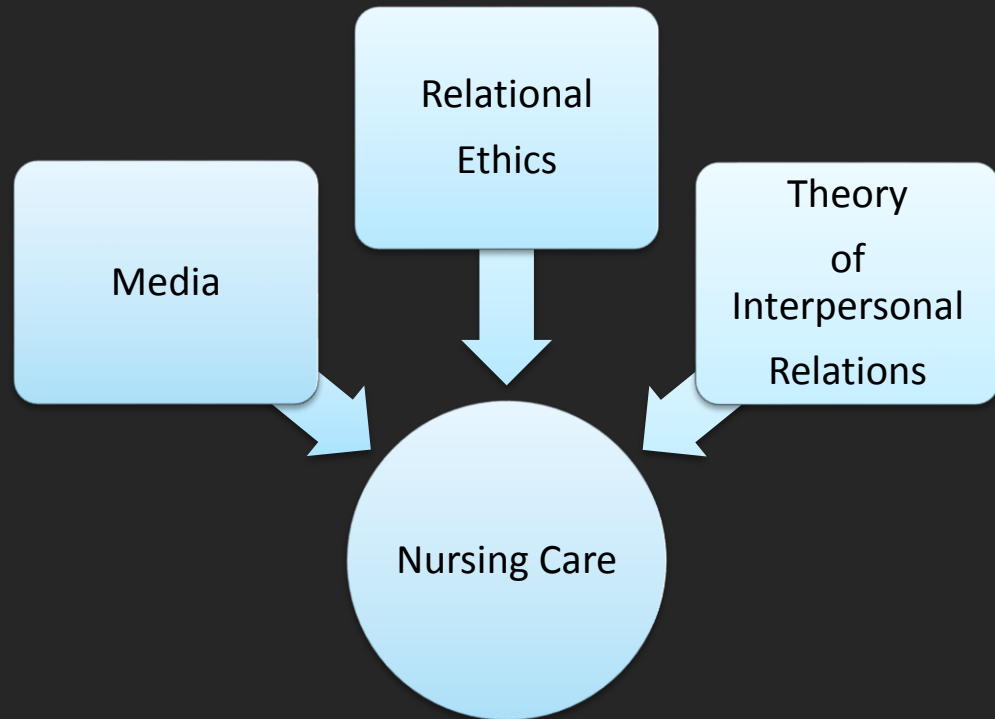
Reality exists outside language, but is constantly mediated by and through language: and what we know and say has to be produced in and through discourse.

Hall 1999



Theoretical Assumptions

- Tolerant of ambiguity and pluralism
- Multidimensional
- Requires embodied self
- Requires a discourse or dialogue



Research Design

Types of Visual Inquiry	Sites of Meaning for the Visual Image	Investigation of Meaning
• Compositional Interpretation • Content Analysis • Semiology • Psychoanalysis • Discourse Analysis • Mixed Method	• Construction of the image • How was it made? • Painting, drawing, photograph, film • The image itself • What kind of image is it? • Black and white or colour • Meaning of the image • How is the image interpreted?	• Research has typically used psychoanalytic, feminist, or sociological perspectives • Essential to have a worldview to deconstruct the images • Plan is to use a relational ethic framework in this research project

Research Design

- Film Selection
 - Films
 - Located in public domain
 - Examples:
 - *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
 - *High Anxiety*
 - *Snake Pit*
 - *Girl, Interrupted*
 - *Harvey*
 - *Caretakers*
 - *The Cobweb*

Research Design

- Data Analysis
 - Longitudinal/Developmental viewing
 - Narrate general plot
 - Determine significance of psychiatric nurse to plot
 - Character development
 - Map relational ethic tenets

Relational Ethic Framework

Central Tenets

Mutual Respect

Engagement

Embodied Knowledge

Interdependent Environment

Uncertainty

Findings:

Relationships and Embedded Themes

- *The Relationships*
 - *Mutual Respect*
 - *Engagement*
 - *Embodied Knowledge*
 - *Interdependent Environment*
 - *Uncertainty*
- *Embedded Themes*
 - *Otherness*
 - *Power & Control*

Findings:

The Role of the Nurse (Peplau)

Stranger
Resource Person
Teacher
Leader
Surrogate
Counsellor
Mediator
Administrator
Recorder
Observer
Researcher



Challenges



- Literature was about the depiction of the nurses characteristics
- Integrating the data analysis
- Managing all the data
 - Determine significance of psychiatric nurse to plot
 - Character development
 - Map relational ethic tenets
- Writing – description of the films – past present tense
- Potentially look at the changes in the relationships over time
 - Images were static
- Film selection
 - Limitation – English speaking films
 - Persona is subtitled and used voice overs
- The meaning of the image
 - No privileged access to TRUTH

Future Research

- Look at how other healthcare providers relationships are depicted in comparison to nurses. (Physicians, aides, OTs)
- Investigate the movies with a psychiatric theme that do not have nurses present – how are they different – why are there no nurses?
- Further investigate why the depictions of nursing care did not change over time.
 - Potentially linked to the static depiction of mental illness

Future Research

- Expand audience
 - Participatory action research – action to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness/mental health care
- Move further into literary depictions

Ideas have power.

Words and images have consequences.

Watson, 2004



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