Forgot to Forget Website

Ideas for various web pages:

Jamie Bio

Jamie works as a nurse between Edinburgh and Berlin. His PhD at the University of Edinburgh explored nursing, philosophy and social justice. Jamie studied psychology as an undergraduate, before training as a nurse and earning his Master’s degrees in both Nursing and Sociology. He works as a research associate at The University of Edinburgh and Charite Universitatsmedizin Berlin. Jamie focusses on bringing strong critical posthuman theory to research using mixed methods of quantitative, qualitative and post-qualitative approaches to his work. His work explores how people, place and structures produce intimate relations and care. +HEADSHOT

Eva Bio

Eva-Maria Willis is currently pursuing to become a PhD candidate at the Open University, with co-Supervision in Organisational Studies and Nursing with a focus on New Materialisms. She has been a practicing nurse in Germany and the UK since 2010. Currently she works on a dialysis unit and before that on a transplant unit in Edinburgh. Together with Jamie Smith, she published a paper in 2020 in the Journal of Posthuman Studies “Interpreting Posthumanism with Nurse Work” and in 2017 “Internationalization of Higher Education from the Perspective of Transcultural Education - Challenges, Concepts and Experiences” which discussed overcoming dualistic thinking through teaching how to live with tension and multiple truths to students across faculties. Eva gained her MSc in Sociology and Global Change at the University of Edinburgh and a BA in Sociology (minor History) at the University of Kassel. With the method of ethnography she researched nurses embodied knowledge(s) of work culture on an Intensive Care Unit and the production of sacred spaces in a Bible Study Group. She loves philosophy, physics and dog-human-assemblages. +HEADSHOT

Tartan project

***Survival of the most collaborative - Nursing in Scotland and beyond***

Kinship and collaboration are essential characteristics for success. We are a group of nurses living, learning and working in Scotland; keen to celebrate the work of Scottish nurses. Scotland is a world-leading place to study, research and practice as a nurse.

To acknowledge Scotland’s place internationally in Nursing, we designed a tartan using the colours of the national uniform of Scotland. This is for anyone to wear to show that we are all in this together, but we are not one and the same. We want to recognise the challenges we share and celebrate different perspectives in meeting the challenges in nursing. Through actions, we can raise the status of nurses together, and through symbols such as tartan, we can show the connections that unify us in improving the health of the world.

Scotland is part of the global conversation in Nursing, and Alongside the WHO year of the nurse and the Nursing Now campaign, we are working with and ready to meet the challenges of contemporary universal healthcare.

Vitruvian Nurse Project

Nursing and the crisis of care has become a metaphor for the end of the anthropocene; ageing populations and global pandemics highlight the fundamental place of care and nursing across the world (Puig de la Bellacasa, 2017). Yet, when it comes to living and working as a nurse, the policies that guide them are restricted to reproducing narrow definitions of what it is to be human (Haraway, 2016). We argue that paradigms of care create idealised patients (Smith and Willis, 2020) and ‘vitruvian’ nurses using metaphors as modes of regulation.

We argue with the concept of the vitruvian man (Braidotti, 2013) to create the concept of the vitruvian nurse. As the vitruvian man is a version of the ideal human, the vitruvian nurse is established as an axiomatic mechanism to govern care. We argue that this is misogynistic and reproduces restrictive power relations.

The metaphor of the vitruvian nurse is a uniformed woman who goes out of her way to attend to everyone's needs in an unconditional and subservient way where her self value correlates with her ability to serve others at the detriment of herself. The vitruvian nurse is achieved when she ceases to exist as a subjective entity, therefore becoming an impossibility.

Contemporary nursing systems that maintain ideas such as Florence Nightingale are colonial (Wytenbroek and Vandenberg, 2017), patriarchal and reproduce knowledge production systems which we find troubling i.e. the white european male mutates into the white european female nurse, and is the perfect nurse. This completely unachievable metaphor becomes a mechanism of control and leads to feelings of isolation, boredom and burnout, which again is a metaphor for the epoch advanced capitalism that we live in. Feminine histories are overwritten to create care as a branded commodity.

This metaphor is built on assumptions of the liminal human as an individual not a dividual, the individualistic (and neo-liberal) nature of patient centred care and that the care described in nursing codes of practice reveres the ‘autonomous’ practitioner over the material-discursive practices of care. Therefore, an irrefutable future is predetermined by the narrow philosophies of humanistic science - the human as a bound individual is privileged above everything. If we recognise the metaphors of the vitruvian, and of boredom and burnout - in the times of the posthuman convergence - then what are the affirmative futures that we can produce?

We aim to diffract these metaphors in care and nursing by understanding how they became territiorialised. What metaphors and imaginations could support nurses to practise ethics within a code of conduct? How do we negotiate contradicting perspectives with patients and acknowledge long histories of care? When the nurse has a different understanding about what could be best for a patient's health and wellbeing than the patient how do we create possibilities where the patient feels acknowledged and sees possibilities for themselves and nurses subjectivities and insights are not silenced in this process?

Coffee Round project

The significance of nursing work was highlighted in the Triple Impact Report that concluded that if nursing practice and perspectives are fully realised communities will receive the triple benefit of nurses which are: better health, improved gender equity and economic prosperity (All Party Parliamentary Group on global health (APPG), 2016) . However, nurse writers Jane Salvage and Barbara Stilwell (2018) propose that antecedents of patriarchy stymie the nurse voice, limiting the capacity of nurses to achieve their triple impact. The findings of the Triple Impact report and positions of writers like Stilwell and Salvage are the underpinnings of the Nursing Now campaign that aims to raise the profile of nurses globally (Nursing Now, 2018). To make nurses aware of the Nursing Now campaign and to embody the essence of the campaign which is to empower and ackowledge nurses we took the opportunity to say thanks to nurses in Scottish hospitals by delivering free coffees and say “thanks for being a nurse.”

As we handed out coffees to nurse on hospital wards responses from nurses and other health care staff was visceral. Most nurses looked at use sceptically and asked “what’s the catch?” To which we would respond with “nothing, just thanks for being a nurse.” Some nurses were over come with emotion and broke down in tears, others stated that they had never been thanked before for the work they did. Some who were having particularly challenging shift thanked us for the validation as it helped them to move forward in their day. On many occasions we had further conversations with nurse about their work lives where ‘venting’ often occurred but was typically concluded with a simple “thanks for listening.” Even though we were not in a position to enact any changes that nurses fed on to us there was an underlying tone that being thanked for the work they did was simply enough to have made a difference in their day. This had me wonder the power that gratitude can have.

In follow up to the coffee rounds, I came across a piece of writing by Angeles Arrien (2017) who defines gratitude as “essentially the recognition of the unearned increments of value in one’s experience.” In short an unconditional ‘thank you’ is a way of expressing gratitude. Arrien propose that: “gratitude continues to be the glue that consistently holds society and relationships together; its opposite – ingratitude – contributes to societal dissolution and separation.” Following Arrien’s perspective then by being grateful, saying thank you invites the possibility of building stronger relatiionships while styving off jadedness and burnout that seem all too common among nurses.