

Title of abstract: Crossing Borders: A Narrative Inquiry into the Experiences of International Graduate Nursing Students.

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Background: In response to the global needs for nursing faculty, and nurses at leadership and advanced clinical practice roles, aspiring students from different countries come to Canada for their graduate nursing education because of the positive reputation and the numerous perceived advantages of the education system. However, many international students come from different social, historical, political, cultural, and educational backgrounds that deeply influence their learning experiences in Canada. Working from a space of the inquirer's personal experience, the aim of this inquiry was to understand the experiences of international graduate nursing students across time, place, and social contexts.

Research puzzles: The focus was to unravel the following puzzles: What stories across social, historical, political, and cultural, and educational borders shaped our identities? How did our experience in Canada shift our lived stories?

Methodology: 4 participants were invited from the Master of Nursing program at a university in Western Canada. Attending to relational ethics, I lived relationally in series of conversations alongside participants on a virtual platform for over 10 months. Conversations were recorded and transcribed verbatim. My narrative beginnings, participants' conversations, artifacts shared, and my detailed field notes formed the basis for our narrative accounts.

Resonant threads: Multiplicity of borders and identity making, border making, border crossing, and border dwelling were the four sustaining threads that resonated across our accounts.

Justifications: These four threads provided insights into our lived experience and our shifting identities across borders. The inquiry made visible how the university environment could be made more inclusive for international students to live their dreams personally and academically, and how policies and strategies could be used to accomplish the aims of internationalization of Canadian higher education in graduate nursing programs.