

Title

Embracing paradigmatic diversity in nursing: The Stadium Model in Nursing

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Abstract

Within the discipline of nursing, there have been polarizing debates for many years about the nature of nursing reality and knowledge. This is exemplified in the infamous “simultaneity” and “totality” paradigm debate among nursing scholars. Arguably, the aimless quest to settle on a central, unifying paradigm, sometimes called “paradigm wars” by nursing scholars, has been a distraction from moving our disciplinary knowledge forward in a practical, accessible, and meaningful manner. While it has been long maintained that nursing espouses multiple epistemologies, in this discursive philosophical paper, we uphold that multiparadigmatic research teams and diverse approaches inform effective nursing praxis. As a group of doctoral nursing students, we will draw on four different worldviews (dialectical pluralism, critical realism, humanism, pragmatism) that we use to orient our research. We provide a brief overview of each of our worldviews (according to their ontologies, epistemologies, methodologies and axiologies) and describe how they are commensurate with the discipline of nursing. Through synthesis, we developed our novel Stadium Model in Nursing as a metaphor to illustrate how different worldviews function like different sections of a stadium. Our different ‘sections’ (those listed here and not, and those yet to be discovered) offer us diverse, but important vantages of our phenomena of interest in nursing. While welcoming thoughtful debate and critique of our assertions, we contend that welcoming diversity and pluralism in worldviews will help us move beyond discussions of ‘nailing down’ a unifying nature of nursing knowledge and focus on the dissemination of knowledge in practice.