BEING A PSYCHIATRIC NURSE: SHARED HUMANITY AND THE PATIENT ENCOUNTER

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Today

The Nurses

The Patients

The Wards

Conclusion

Chapter Six: The Encounters

Introduction

Julie and Robyn

Interpretive Summary

Vic and Kerrie

Interpretive summary

Judy and John

Interpretive summary

Lyn and Edna

Interpretive summary

Jean and Tracey

Interpretive summary

John and Tony

Interpretive summary

David and Gwen

Interpretive summary

David and Jim

Interpretive summary

Chapter Seven: Being a Psychiatric Nurse in the Nurse Patient Encounter

Summary of Existentials and Horizons

Existentials

Horizons
EXISTENTIALS

Being with as Understanding
Being with as immediate understanding

Being with as intuition

Being with as Possibility

Being with as Care-full Concern
Being with as being motherly

Being with as listening

Being with as being truthful

Being with as accepting

Being with as self doubt

Being with as being practical

Being with as being observant

Being with as being emotional, including:

- Being hurt, feeling powerless, being frustrated and angry
- Being anxious
- Being excited
- Being sad
- Being with as warm feelings

Being with as controlling, including:

- Being determined
- Being with as object
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This is a phenomenological study aimed at uncovering meaning and generating understanding of being a psychiatric nurse via the phenomenon of the nurse-patient encounter.

The study was informed by Heideggerian phenomenology and the philosophical hermeneutics of Hans Georg Gadamer. Seven psychiatric nurses were interviewed about their experience of the nurse-patient encounter. These interviews were transcribed and interpreted using a method of hermeneutic analysis that was inspired by the writings of Hans Georg Gadamer.

The elements to emerge from the interpretation of these encounters are the existentials of Being with as understanding, Being with as possibility, and Being with as care-full concern in the horizons of Time and the World. Each of these existentials and horizons have modes which are also described in the study.

An underlying theme of shared humanity emerged from the encounters and had the effect of unifying the existentials. Shared humanity informed and guided the encounters and the projected possibilities envisaged by the nurses. In the shared humanity of the encounter the patient is perceived as a fellow human being more similar than different to the nurse. Shared humanity is seen as essential to understanding the patient as an immediate living human being and to the projection of possibilities in the encounter.

The modes of the "Seli" nurse and the "They" nurse also emerged from the study and are described in the study. The nurses in the study chose to approach the
patient in the "self" nurse mode of psychiatric nursing which appreciates the common grounding of shared humanity in the encounter rather than the "They" nurse mode which covers over such shared humanity and denies the possibility of a true being to being encounter.