

The Ethics of Care and Mental Health Nursing:

An evolutionary concept analysis.

Presentation Outline

- Background
- Research questions
- Methodology
- Theorists
- What is the Ethic of Care?
- Research findings

Background

- Questions about the philosophical basis or essence of nursing.
- Does ethical caring inform my practice?
- How do I articulate caring in an ethical framework?

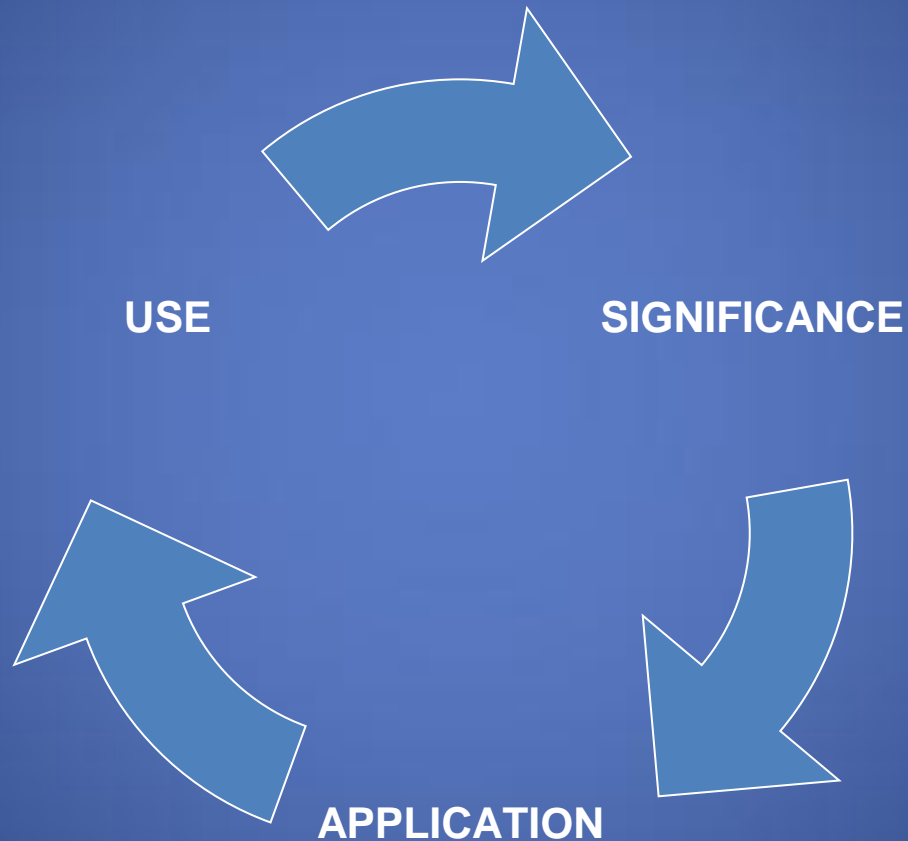
Research Questions

- What were the origins of the ethic of care?
- What did the literature say about the ethic of care between 1985 and 2005?
- Does the ethic of care inform mental health nursing?

Methodology

- Roger's evolutionary method of concept analysis.
- Antecedents, attributes, consequences & exemplar.

Rodger's evolutionary concept analysis



Methodology cont'd

- Literature taken from 1985 – 2005.
- 78 articles brought up under search terms.
- 20% of this resulted in 15 articles relevant to the analysis.
- Analysis focuses on actual data collected.
- As data collated relevance may ebb & flow, trends may emerge & information may change dramatically.

Theorist - Carol Gilligan

- Worked with Lawrence Kohlberg on moral reasoning.
- Identification of gender differences & moral reasoning.
- Developed an ethic of care model based on the way girls & women interpret & verbalize moral problems.

Theorist - Nel Noddings

- Caring is based on receptivity, relatedness & responsiveness.
- Identified the “carer” & the “cared for”.
- The carer must be engrossed & motivated to care.
- The cared for must respond to caring for it to truly be caring.
- Criticized by many feminists.

Theorists - Joan Tronto & Berenice Fisher

- Caring, morality & politics.
- Care could be both a moral value & the basis for political achievement in society.
- Caring is not confined to human interactions.
- Caring is not individualistic but functional socially & politically.
- Caring is culturally defined.

What did the literature say?

- Tronto (1987, 1995)
- Bowden (1994)
- Carse & Lindeman Nelson (1996) & Crigger (1997)
- Dyson (1997), Schreiber & Lutzen (2000), Lagana (2000) & Tarlier (2004)
- Morris (2001)

What did the literature say?

- Sevenhuijsen (2003)
- Maeckelberghe (2004)
- Black (2005)

Does the EOC inform MH nursing practice?

- Predominantly identified by the majority as the essence of nursing.
- Recurring theme that there was a lack of discourse & debate in nursing circles.
- Tronto (1994) stated that the EOC had a conservative quality...
- Carse & Lindeman Nelson (1996) & Maeckelberghe (2004) discussed issues of power & control.

Where to from here?

- MH nurses focus their practice on the therapeutic relationship (Barker, 2001).
- The EOC may provide MH nurses with a relational paradigm from which to articulate practice.
- In my opinion there is a need for further research.
- This research has raised more questions...

The future...

- Comparison of the EOC between different health care disciplines.
- Cultural viewpoints in terms of the EOC.
- Do MH nurses understand the impact of the EOC?

The final word

- Tronto & Fisher defined care as being...

“...a species activity that includes everything we do to maintain, continue and repair our world so that we can live in it as well as possible.”

(Tronto, 1994, p103).

Questions



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