Assessing the Policies and Practices of Nurses Regarding Pain Management in Patients with a Suspected or Confirmed History of Addiction

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Pain is the symptom that often prompts most patients to seek professional health care. Pain is also a unique, subjective experience with diverse manifestations and etiologies. Only the patient can reliably convey the location, onset, duration, intensity, and quality of the pain. Relying on other factors such as increased vital signs, increased restlessness, irritability or agitation, increased diaphoresis, etc., can be misleading because of divergent etiologies that can occur in addition to or even in the absence of pain. Assessing, treating, and managing pain in an effective way is a key skill that healthcare professionals must possess. This is especially true for nurses since nurses are most likely to encounter and treat the patient. Pain management becomes increasingly difficult with patients with a history of addiction due to additional complications. Addiction, for the purpose of this study, is defined as an amalgamation of potentially harmful behaviors. These harmful behaviors include compulsive, inappropriate, uncontrollable abuse of a chosen substance in spite of knowledge of detrimental effects. Some complications of addiction include potential withdrawal difficulties, increased tolerance to analgesics over extended periods, increased sensitivity to pain, and a decreased pain threshold in addition to the stigmatization of addiction. The stigmatization of addiction can impede pain management due to a compromised patient-nurse relationship and mistrust. The purpose of this study is to assess the policies and practices of nurses regarding pain management of patients with a suspected or confirmed history of addiction. Additional research in this area should be conducted and expanded upon.

A Critical Analysis of Post 9/11 Labor Policy and Their Ethical Implications on the Undocumented Mexican Population in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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Labor policy has progressively had a more profound impact in everyday social, economic and political life of all individuals in the United States. Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, there has been a more aggressive push towards extreme exclusionary labor policy, specifically towards Mexican undocumented workers. Today’s labor policies are not only more extreme, but have significantly contributed in shaping negative attitudes towards immigrant populations. The current policies in place consequently create a more unethical and dangerous working environment for undocumented workers. Their natural rights are ignored by the law on the basis of illegal status. The research that follows conducts a critical post 9/11 labor policy analysis focusing on E-Verify and The Social Security No-Match Regulation. Additionally, it includes a survey of more than 200 Mexican immigrants in Milwaukee to give direct accounts of the drastic and unethical experiences resulting from the labor policies in place. The goal of this research is to critically analyze current United States labor policy and show how it influences negative social views of Mexican immigrants and creates an ethically unacceptable environment for immigrants today.

The Significance of the Exodus Story on the African American Experience Past, Present, and Future

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The Biblical Exodus story has had a profound impact on the African-American community throughout slavery and the civil rights era. The primary reason behind its rise to prominence within the African-American community was due to the immense persecution suffered under slavery. Christian slaves adopted the story of the Exodus to provide themselves with a sense of destiny, to guide them through slavery’s hardships. African-Americans used the story of the Exodus to associate themselves with a “chosen people” whom they believed were once also in slavery but escaped with the help of God. It was their hopes that God would do the same for them. Put simply, they used the story to teach themselves faith. As long as slavery kept the attention of antibeleum blacks, the Exodus story dominated as the central theme for black destiny. By examining the gradual conversion of African slaves to Christianity, and the emergence and widespread use of the Exodus story by African Americans during the 1800s to the civil rights era, this paper will assess the relevancy the exodus story had in the African American experience in the past and shed light on what it means today.

Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology: Should All Graduate Students Be Required to Have Multicultural/bilingual Exposure Prior to Practicing?

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Based on current statistics, approximately 1 out of 20 or 5% of the US population suffers from a speech or language disorder (Downloaded from http://media.cla.auburn.edu/commdis/clinic/index.cfm on June 20, 2009). Furthermore, the number of bilingual speakers has steadily increased; specifically, the number of people speaking a language other than English at home has risen from 24.9% in 1990 to 31.5% in 2000 and the numbers are only projected to continue rising (US Census Bureau, 2000). Based on these statistics, it can be inferred that a large number of individuals with communication disorders are bilingual. Most speech-language pathologists (SLPs), however, are monolingual, do not have extensive multilingual/multicultural training and do not feel competent to assess and provide intervention for bilingual speakers (Kritikos, 2003). Based on current research, bilingual/multicultural emphasis in speech language pathology has become synonymous with Spanish/English. This paper addresses this particular issue, reviewing and analyzing current university SLP programs and seeking answers to the following questions: Are perspective SLPs being prepared to practice speech-language pathology in a multicultural environment? Since the number of bilinguals is rising, is there a need for required bilingual/multicultural education for all SLP graduate students? Are there sufficient university programs that provide bilingual education if desired by SLP students and, if so, what language/s are considered for this bilingual education?
**Collateral Consequences for Female Felony Offenders in the US**

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According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2001), since 1974, over half a million women have served time in prison. The growing number of female felony offenders in State or Federal prison in the US is noteworthy for numerous reasons. Women are most often mothers and caregivers at the time of their arrest. Rehabilitative resources are not always readily available for these inmates, which in turn cause the collateral consequences to be more burdensome. Collateral consequences for felony inmates who are not stated in the criminal law, and may carry on past the completion of a prison, parole, or probation sentence, some even permanently. These consequences include, but are not limited to, losing custody of one’s children, attaining certain employment, and losing the right to vote in an election. Felony drug-related convictions bar offenders from receiving governmental aid, which includes food stamps and public housing. Little tangible change has accompanied the rise of incarcerated women in the US and the devastating effects for children and families include housing and child welfare implications, marginalization in the workforce, and the denial of federal aid for higher education. A qualitative analysis of the interviews of ten female inmates, who were soon to be released from Shakopee Women’s Prison in Minnesota, was assessed. The interview analysis resulted in common themes of painful separation from families, the lack of drug treatment while incarcerated, and the label of being a “felon,” which may affect the inmate’s chances of successful reintegration and the inmate’s overall self-esteem.

**Affinity of Phosphate-Containing Denture Base Materials to Bind Salivary Antimicrobial Peptides**

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Unlike natural teeth, dentures do not have the surface charge to enhance salivary antimicrobial adsorption, which makes them more prone to the adhesion of bacteria. Poly (methyl methacrylate) [PMMA] is a polar, uncharged polymer widely used for denture base fabrication because of its adequate physical and mechanical properties. The modification of PMMA by adding negatively-charged phosphate groups represents a promising solution to reduce biofilm formation. Theoretically, the negative charge of the newly synthesized polymer should enhance the binding of antimicrobials, which have a multivalent positive charge. The anionic charge of the polymer and the increased antimicrobial adsorption has proved to hinder the adhesion of bacteria. In this study, PMMA beads and modified polymer beads loaded with different amounts of phosphate groups were used to determine their affinity to bind protein. To quantify the amount of protein binding to the beads, the free protein concentration in the supernatant was calculated using biocinonic acid after an overnight incubation. Then, these concentrations were subtracted from the initial concentration to measure the protein bound to the beads and to the walls of the tube. Surface area, another factor that influences the binding interactions, was also determined. Additional experiments were designed to account for the variability of preliminary studies. Overall, it was found that increasing amounts of phosphate groups in the beads and larger surface area enhance protein adsorption proportionally. The importance of these findings is to use phosphate-toasted denture base materials to hinder bacterial adherence and prevent denture-induced stomatitis and other oral infections.

**Glutamatic Acid Decarboxylase Distribution in the Brain Stem Region**

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The hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical axis (HPA) is known to be the hierarchial structure of hormone secretion that leads to the release of glucocorticoids. The PVN is the common converging point of all inputs that initiate the HPA axis glucocorticoid cascade. Glucocorticoids adjust our physiology in order to be more adaptive to various stresses. Recent studies have focused on mapping the intricate neurocircuitry of forebrain regions that have direct connections to the paraventricular nucleus (PVN) of the hypothalamus. These studies used a research procedure known as in situ hybridization to identify glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD), which is a precursor to γ-Aminobutyric acid (GABA). GABA is a hormone that inhibits the PVN, which essentially shuts down glucocorticoid secretion. The purpose of this research is to expand the borders of the GAD map into the regions of the brain stem. Once a comprehensive map of GAD expression in the brain is complete, further research can be implemented on studies of psychiatric illness such as depression and Alzheimer, where there is a malfunction in glutocorticoid feedback.

**Interaction of Fibrinogen and Factor XIII: Movement of Factor XIII Through Clots**

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Fibrinogen is symmetrical protein composed of three polypeptide chains. In humans it can be separated into two fractions: fibrinogen 1 and fibrinogen 2. Factor XIII (FXIII) is a protransglutaminase that circulates in the blood as an Aβ₃ heterotrimer bound to the γ chain of fibrinogen 2. It has been shown that inactive FXIII can crosslink fibrinogen. This poses the question of whether FXIII or FXIIIa (activated FXIII) can diffuse through a clot or gel. Additionally, the make up of the clot—whether it is made up of fibrinogen 1 or fibrinogen 2—must also be examined to determine differences in diffusion occurrence and rate. To address these queries two clotting systems were employed. In the first, fibrinogen 1 solution was added to fibrin 1 clots and fibrin 2 clots that contained FXIIIa. In the second, the fibrinogen 1 solution was added to fibrinogen 1 gels and fibrinogen 2 gels (no thrombin) containing FXIII. Both systems were analyzed by gel electrophoresis after 3, 6, and 24 hour intervals. The first clotting system showed presence of γ dimers in the added fibrinogen 1 solution after an incubation period of 3 hours. The second system, showed γ dimers in the added substrate after 6 hours of incubation. This suggests that FXIII and FXIIIa diffuse out of fibrin clots and fibrinogen gels, but that FXIII takes a longer time interval to diffuse and cross-link the added fibrinogen 1 substrate. No difference was observed in the diffusion rate between fibrinogen 1 or fibrinogen 2 clots/gels.
Preliminary Study of the Potential Role of Beta Adrenergic Receptor Subtypes in Stress-Induced Reinstatement of Cocaine Seeking in Male Mice

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Stressors have been shown to stimulate abstinent drug addicts into relapse. One neurobiological system that is potentially responsible for cocaine relapse is the noradrenergic system mediated through either alpha or beta adrenergic receptors. Previous research has indicated that beta adrenergic receptors but not alpha adrenergic receptors are responsible for relapse of cocaine seeking. However, it is not known whether beta-1 or beta-2 adrenergic receptors mediate cocaine relapse. The relapse phenomenon has been shown through the reinstatement model using male CD1/8 mice. Through this model, the mice acquire conditioned place preferences associated with their cocaine exposure (15 mg/kg/ip). Following this procedure, the association is extinguished. The mice are injected with Betaxolol (beta-1 antagonist) or the vehicle (saline) and then exposed to a stressful stimulus, forced swim. After this exposure, the data is analyzed to determine if the mice have reached reinstatement, in other words, re-establish extinguished preference. The hypothesis is that beta-1 adrenergic receptors are responsible for reinstatement after a stressor. If this is true, Betaxolol, a beta-1 adrenergic receptor antagonist, would be expected to have a similar neurological effect on stress-induced reinstatement as Propanolol, a non-selective beta adrenergic receptor antagonist. Since Betaxolol is a beta-1 receptor antagonist, if our hypothesis is correct, Betaxolol should be able to block reinstatement as well.
Attitudes Toward Affirmative Action: Is it Related to Racism?

Karen N. Martinez Pagan
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Affirmative action programs and policies have been the topic of heated debate since they were first implemented. It is a way to strive toward an equal society with opportunities for all who are qualified regardless of race or gender. By connecting affirmative action to race-conscious programs, one might believe that affirmative action policies are based on race not merit. The majority of people tend to assume that you have to agree with one extreme or the other, but are not informed about what affirmative action policies are in practice, and under the law. A common misconception tends to be that these policies create reverse discrimination for some, particularly white males. Others feel that affirmative action establishes a belief of inferiority toward minorities and women. These beliefs produce a notion that minorities and women have no chance of improving their situation without help from the government. In this pilot study, survey research was conducted using a student sample from one private Midwestern university. The research explores the relationship between a person's score on a racism scale and their views of affirmative action policies. Supporters of affirmative action are expected to have a lower score on the racism scale, and opponents should have a higher score. This pilot study argues in favor of affirmative action policies by dissecting the critiques of opponents and defining clearly what legal affirmative action is. In addition, this study will examine if there is a way to separate racism from opinions about affirmative action.

Reducing Sexual Violence: The Empowerment of Congolese Women Through Peace Building

Monai Myles
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The conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) escalated into a great war in Africa amongst five neighboring countries, all with the intent to gain economic wealth from the DRC's mineral-rich resources. From this conflict emerged sexual violence (particularly rape as a weapon of war) on the eastern border of the DRC, which manifested itself as an issue beyond the typical occurrence of rape during wartime. Characterized as one of the 'worst humanitarian crises since World War II,' rape against Congolese women prevents the advancement of women's rights and a shift in gender equity. The purpose of this research is to illustrate the importance of involving Congolese women in peace building as a method to reduce sexual violence. Their operation as a group provides a firm voice and representation. Their mobilization serves as stepping stone to eradicating gender inequality in the DRC. It is also necessary to understand how the international community has responded to this issue. The international community's engagement in this phenomenon is critical to the empowerment and protection of Congolese women who have the capability to occupy an active role in peace building. Relying upon international human rights documents (U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa), I further outline and evaluate the contribution of these documents, which promote the needs of women in the DRC.

Impact of Ovarian Hormones and Chronic Stress on Anxiety

Bernard J. V. Rahming II
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Women are twice as likely as men to develop anxiety disorders, yet we currently lack the knowledge to describe the mechanisms responsible. Increasing evidence suggests that a better understanding of the interactions between chronic stress, anxiety, and gender will improve our understanding of this observed phenomenon. This study addresses why women and female mice are more susceptible to abnormal fear conditioning following exposure to chronic stress. We examine the role of ovarian hormones in mediating the relationship between chronic stress and anxiety. Overiectomized female mice (OVX) and sham operated female mice (SHAM) were exposed to chronic stress (twice a day for 7 days), through the Chronic Variable Stress (CVS) procedure. Control groups (CON) were handled and transported an equivalent amount, but remained in their home cages throughout the duration of the CVS procedure. CON groups also consisted of both OVX and SHAM mice. Immediately after the CVS period, all animals were conditioned for fear by 3 tone shock pairings (tone: 85dB, 2800Hz, 30s; shock: 0.75mA, 2s). Stress was found to have a significant effect on response. While exposure to stress slightly impaired responding during fear acquisition, two days later, it led to an inflated fear response to the tone. Surgery appeared to have no significant effect on response. Since all stressed animals (CVS and SHAM) behaved in a similar fashion, we conclude that organizational effects of ovarian hormones may play a greater role than the activation effects. Future research must be conducted before discounting the activation effects of ovarian hormones.

Death in the Cellblocks: A Study of Inmate Mortality in Jail and Lockup Custody- Part II

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This study examines mortality in municipal and county detention and correction facilities in a Midwestern county from roughly 1989 to 2009. It is a follow-up to a study conducted in 1988 which covered the previous twenty years of inmate mortality, thus providing four decades of data from which to identify those factors associated with inmate death and how they may have changed over time. Data were obtained from the official case files of the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office as well as from criminal justice agency records and reports detailing the demographic and socio-legal characteristics of the decedents in question. As with the first study, no single factor proved highly predictive of sudden death, although certain variables and combinations of variables seemed more associated with in-custody deaths than others. Findings point toward improved intervention strategies such as the suicide prevention training of custodial staff and more thorough healthcare screenings as beneficial in reducing the mortality rate behind bars. Further reduction of fatal occurrences may be problematic, however in light of budgetary constraints on detention and correctional staffing levels.

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The Role of OCT3 in Corticosterone-induced Increases in Serotonin in the Ependymal Cells of the Dorsomedia Hypothalamus

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The dorsomedia hypothalamus (DMH) plays a significant role in regulating neuroendocrine, autonomic and behavioral responses to stress. Previous studies revealed that stress elevates tissue concentrations of serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT), dopamine (DA) and norepinephrine (NE) specifically within the DMH. Organic cation transporter 3 (OCT3), a corticosterone-sensitive transporter for 5-HT, DA and NE, is expressed in ependymal cells within the DMH. Corticosterone-induced inhibition of OCT3-mediated transport of monoamines may be a mechanism by which stress regulates monoamine clearance within the DMH. We hypothesize that OCT3 is responsible for the stress- or corticosterone-induced accumulation of serotonin in the DMH. We suggest that OCT3 in the DMH plays an important role in the regulation of serotoninergic neurotransmission. To test this hypothesis, we used immunohistochemical techniques to examine the anatomical distribution of serotonin-containing cells within the DMH of female rats which had been treated with corticosterone or saline.

What is Possible?: An Exploration of Liberatory Oppression Theory Through the Works of Maria Lugones and Judith Butler

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This essay puts into conversation the works of Maria Lugones and Judith Butler specifically concerning the theorization of oppression. These two theorists share an overall political project that attempts to understand oppression and resistance within our social field through our relations with and to others. For Butler, this is done through her appeal to the discursive functioning of gender and for Lugones, through her attention to the spatio-temporal dimensions of domination and resistance. Infrequently are these two theorists thought of as comparative, but I aim to show that through careful translation, the two can be read as sharing important similarities but also differences that if read together, can push forward key issues in oppression/liberation theory in regards to political resistance. This essay will seek to add another voice echoing their strivings while also pointing us in the direction of offering more clarity on those ideas.

I plan first to compare Lugones’ and Butler’s respective theories of oppression in spatial and discursive terms and then examine their corresponding accounts of resistance. What I find most important in both theorists’ works is their attention to reevaluating our conception of politics in terms of what counts as “political” as well as their emphasis on the need for a level of uncertainty in and the multiplicitous nature of our resistant trajectories. In a summary note, I look at a case study example, attempting to understand the ways in which each theorist would respond to the situation in question, with the ultimate aim of considering how political resistance fits into the schema.