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Expertise Areas:

Transcultural Topics

- Influence of culture on experience of homelessness
- Social determinants of health
- Cultural competence
- Interprofessional education, research, & practice
- Transcultural caring

Cultural Groups

- Appalachians
- African Americans living in urban communities

Clinical Topics

- Public health and health disparities
- Homelessness & Poverty
- Food insecurity
- Chronic disease management
- Vulnerable populations

Research Methodology

- Ethnonursing
- Ethnography
- Grounded Theory
- Mixed Methods
- Community-based participatory research

Other

- Community-Academic Partnerships to promote community health and enhance cultural competence of students

Languages spoken, read/write*

- English

Select Publications

Journal Articles

Lee, R. C. (2014). Transcultural nursing scholars' corner: Homelessness and human rights. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 25(2), 211.

Lee, R. C., & Fawcett, J. (2013). The influence of the metaparadigm of nursing on professional identity development among RN-BSN students. *Nursing Science Quarterly*, 26(1), 96-98.

Lee, R. C. (2012). Family homelessness viewed through the lens of health and human rights. *Advances in Nursing Science*. 35(2), E47-E59.

Book Chapter

Lee, R. C. (In process). Culture care meanings, expressions, and lifeways of Appalachian mothers experiencing homelessness. In M.R. McFarland & H.B. Wehbe-Alamah (Eds.), *Transcultural nursing: Concepts, theories, research, and practice* (4th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill Global Education Holdings.

1. What Sparked my Interest in Transcultural Nursing

My original interest in transcultural health began at an early age growing up in the Appalachian region of our country. I “lived” and “witnessed” transcultural health as a member of a large Appalachian family, and as the daughter of a Southern Baptist minister whose churches were nestled within the Appalachian mountains. Many years later, I discovered a professional context for these early passions. As a 1st year PhD student, I attended my first TCSN conference, held in Annapolis, MD. I was thrilled to learn that there were so many fascinating individuals who “spoke” my language of human and transcultural caring. During that trip, I was blessed to meet and receive encouragement from so many giants of transcultural nursing. Dr. Marilyn McFarland attended the session during which I presented my research on pregnancy and infant care among African American women living in a low-income community. I still remember her words of support and encouragement as she left the session. Later that evening, while on a waterway cruise, I met Dr. Marilyn “Dee” Ray, one of the most caring individuals I have ever known. It came as no surprise to learn of Dee’s involvement with both TCNS and the International Association for Human Caring. The following day, I met another great scholar of caring, Dr. Josepha Campinha-Bacote. From that first meeting, Dee and Josie provided me with immeasurable support. Josie served on my dissertation committee and last year both Dee and Josie served as external reviewers of my dossier as I successfully sought promotion and tenure as an Associate Professor of Nursing. Along my professional journey, I have also been honored to meet and receive encouragement from the foundress of our organization, Dr. Madeleine Leininger, and numerous other caring individuals who enrich and inspire this wonderful area of nursing.

2. Present/Future Directions

Currently, I am continuing my program of research which focuses on the development and testing of culturally congruent interventions to promote health among vulnerable populations, including those experiencing homelessness and poverty. In addition, I am engaged in ongoing efforts to develop interprofessional education, practice, research, and service strategies at my university in order to enhance cultural competence in caring for vulnerable populations.

3. Favorite Transcultural Story

Many of my favorite transcultural memories come from the period of time during which I was conducting my first ethn nursing research for my dissertation. As part of my research, informed by Culture Care Theory, I lived in a family homeless shelter with a group of black and white Appalachian mothers and their children. One of my favorite of Leininger’s guides for engagement with participants is the Stranger to Trusted Friend Enabler. I took great care to journal about my early experiences with the mothers, awaiting the sign that I had “arrived” and was now considered a trusted friend. One day when I entered the shelter, a young mother, 7 months pregnant with her second child, approached and asked if I could talk with her privately. Sitting in a dark room of the shelter, she told me that she had decided to give up her baby daughter upon her birth so that she would have a better life and not experience homelessness. We sat in silent caring for a moment, holding hands and shedding a few tears as mothers, and human beings. She went on to share with me that she had been awaiting my arrival and the sharing of her decision with me, because she knew she could trust me, and that I cared.