A comparative ethnographic study of sociological practice of radiography: an advanced practice perspective

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“So, why would you need EBP in Radiography?”
Title: A global ethnographic comparative analysis of the sociological practice of Radiography

*Research Impactors
- Ethnography
- Link to existing knowledge

*Actions / Methods
- Literature review
- Ethics
- Confirmation of candidature

**Thesis Template**

**Per Country Template**

**Data Collection**
- Insider / Outsider
- Trustworthiness
- Use of language (different interpretations)
- Recording vs note taking cultural impact

**Data Inputting**

**First Session**
- Literal vs interpretation (Language)
- Ethnographic vs investigative
- Thoroughness/Credibility

**Data Analysis**

**Second Session**
- Research Methodology
  - Social Constructionist
  - Interpretive
  - Ethnographic
  - Qualitative

**Emerging Themes**
- Transcripts
- Audit codes
- N. Vivo

**Validity**
- Audio interviews

**Final Themes Inputted in Table 2**

* Each factor backed up by literature/research methodology
Title: A global ethnographic comparative analysis of the sociological practice of Radiography

* Research Impactors
- Ethnography
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* Each factor backed up by literature/research methodology
Countries Chosen

Mid Sized Regional
Publically funded

20-30 radiographers

2-15 years qualified

Understanding of
English
Accessible by
researcher
Per Country Template

Data Collection

- Insider / Outsider
- Trustworthiness
- Use of language (different interpretations)
- Recording vs note taking cultural impact
- Entering the site
- Interviews
- Observation
- Other documentation
- Reflective journal
Literal vs interpretation (Language)
Ethnographic vs investigative
Thoroughness/Credibility

Data Inputting
First Session

Transcripts
Audit codes
Emerging Themes

Hard copy
Audio transcription
Soft copy
N. Vivo

Emerging Themes
Audit codes
Transcripts

Data Inputting
Research Methodology
- Social Constructionist
- Interpretive
- Ethnographic
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Data Analysis
Second Session

For each Theme
- Definition
- Description
- Exclusions
- Examples

Theme 1
Theme 2
Theme 3
Theme 4
Theme 5
Key Conceptual Areas

- Work of Radiographer
- Impact of Technology
- Role of Radiographer
- Relationships within and beyond department
- Impact of Country Culture
Organised listings for the day
Flexibility with location
Time management overrode desire for quality
Factory like precision in countries with more rigid hierarchy
Higher job satisfaction where greater autonomy was allowed within scope of practice
Impact of Technology

- Necessary barriers for radiation increase isolation and fear factor in some countries
- Digital workplace decreases access and contact with radiologist
- Can improve relations with medical staff if radiographers are more knowledgeable
- Allows tighter controls of timelines.
Role of the Radiographer

- Varying levels of autonomy
- Impacted by level of education
- Rigid hierarchies result in top down approach
- Flat organisations promote effective communities of practice.
- Patient care/ radiation safety quoted as key feature of job
- No mention of positioning/evidence based practice or reflection
- Tacit recognition of role of regulatory bodies and professional organizations
- No groundswell of interest in expansion of role. 4 out of 35 actively enrolled in further education (1 in UK, 3 in Trinidad and Tobago)
With radiologists…
  – Mostly respectful
  – Fear factor in Taiwan
  – Very collegial in Trinidad and Tobago
  – Virtually non existent in USA

Outside department
  – Unknown
  – Underappreciated
Impact of Culture
Hofstede’s Six Dimensions of Culture

Significantly impactful

- Abu Dhabi- Very individualistic, no common thrust or interest
- Australia- Egalitarian, mutual respect, communities of practice
- India- Paternalistic, socio economically affected
- Taiwan- Rigid hierarchy
- TT- Collegial and informal
- UK- Innovation and compromise
- USA- Expedient and efficient
Impact on Advanced Practice
- Medical dominance and protocol driven occupation very evident still
- Increased ability to work more freely within the scope of practice increases job satisfaction and decreases interest in any further advancement
- Structured environment either by hierarchy or managerial structure inhibits interest in advancement
- Digital environment decreases interactions with medical staff, increases isolation and ability to be innovative
- Impact of country culture inhibits opportunities for advancement
Conclusions
- Pockets of progression but a global footprint is a long way off
- Radiographers feel pride in their work, feel underappreciated and misunderstood by others.
- Radiography is an occupation so similar in process yet bound by socio economic, work and country based culture, which continue to inhibit any significant global change
Radiographers are in a crucial place to ensure their techniques are evidence based. However, research, dissemination and importantly knowledge translation remain key to ensuring professional evidence base is developed.

Snaith B (2016). "Evidence Based Radiography. Is it happening or are we experiencing practice creep or practice drift. Guest editorial." Radiography 30: 1-2


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