

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

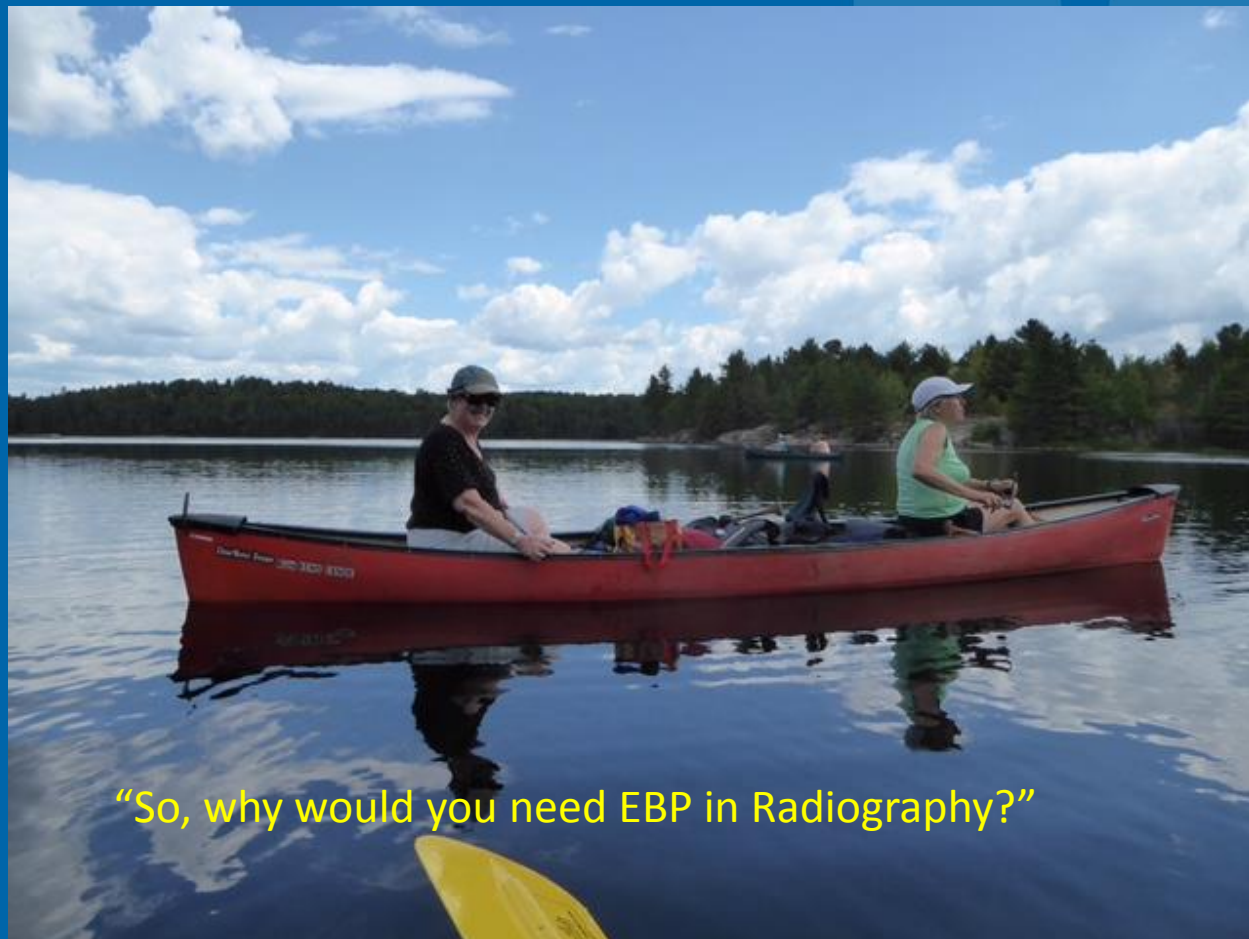
Cynthia Cowling

Snr Lecturer

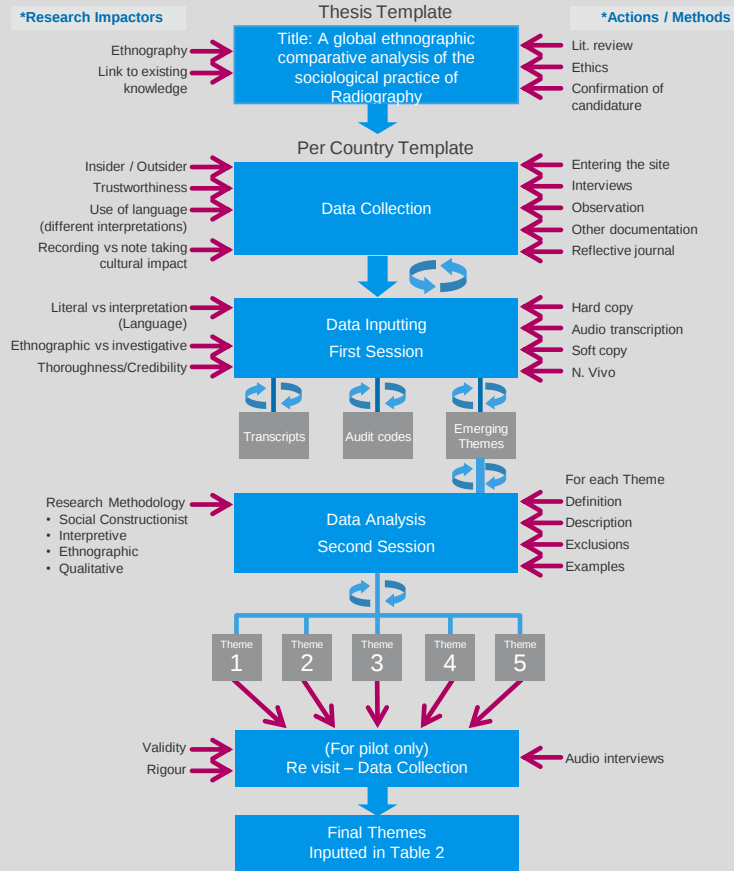
Dept. of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences

Leading the way.

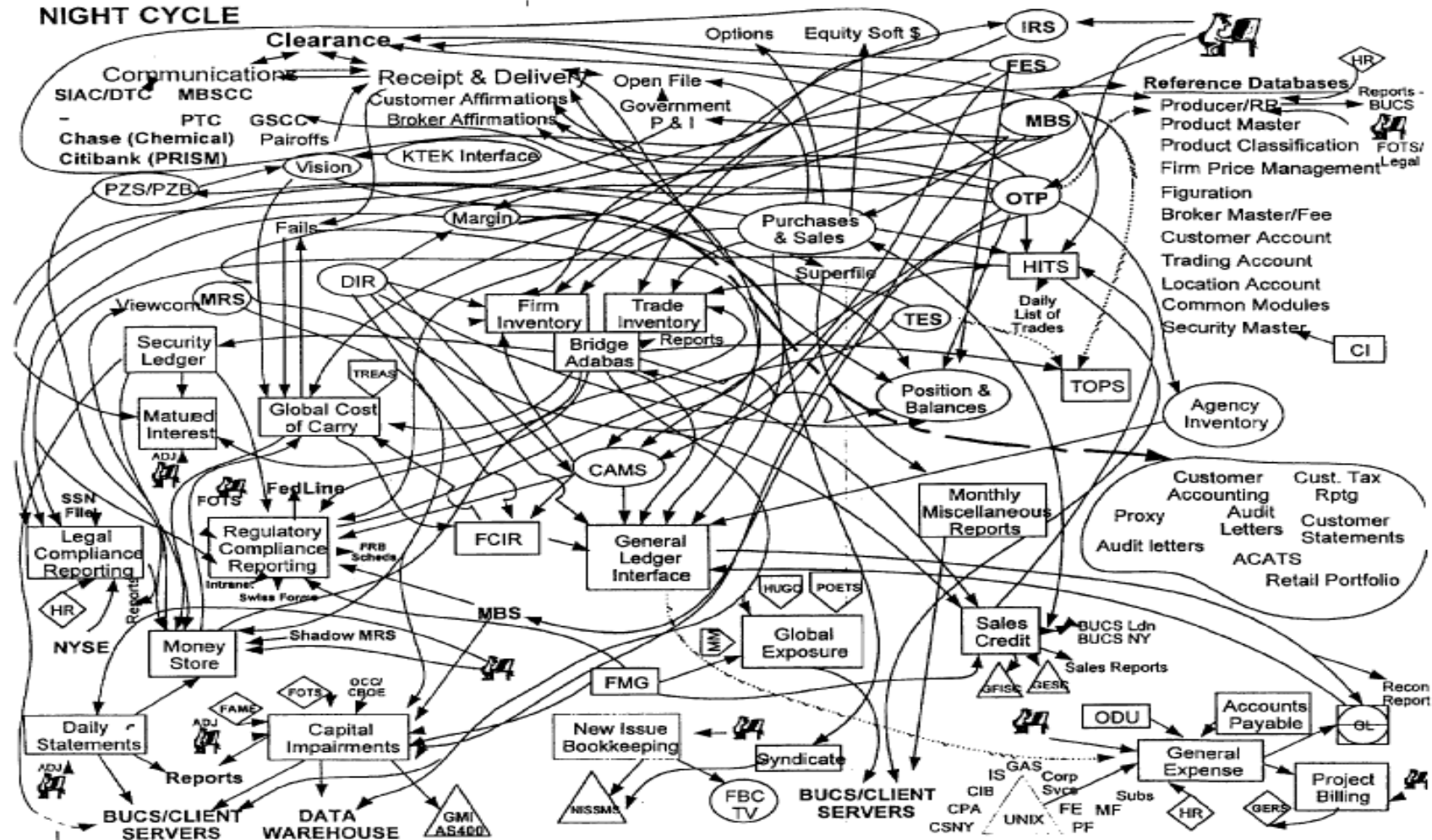
The advanced
practice
Conference
Sheffield
Sept 2016



“So, why would you need EBP in Radiography?”



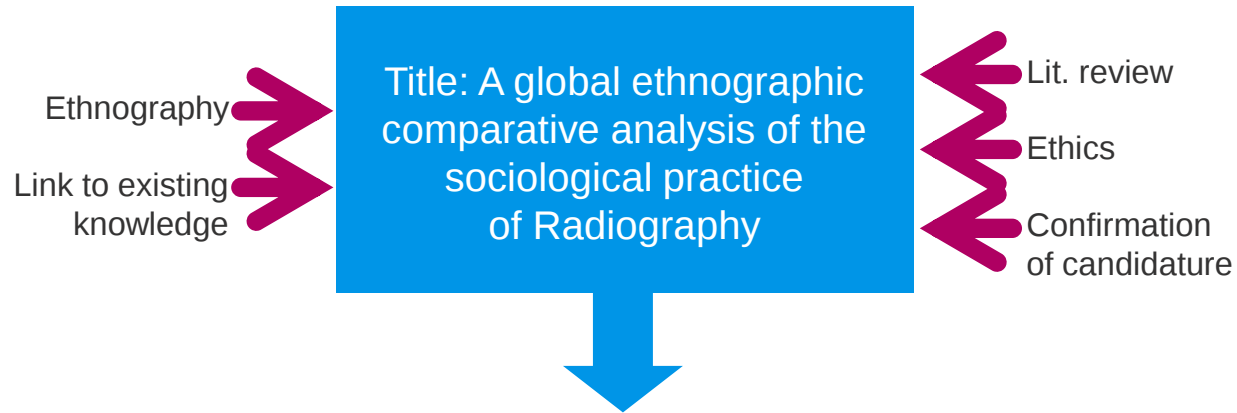
NIGHT CYCLE



Thesis Template

*Research Impactors

*Actions / Methods



* Each factor backed up by literature/research methodology



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Countries Chosen

Mid Sized Regional
Publically funded

20-30 radiographers

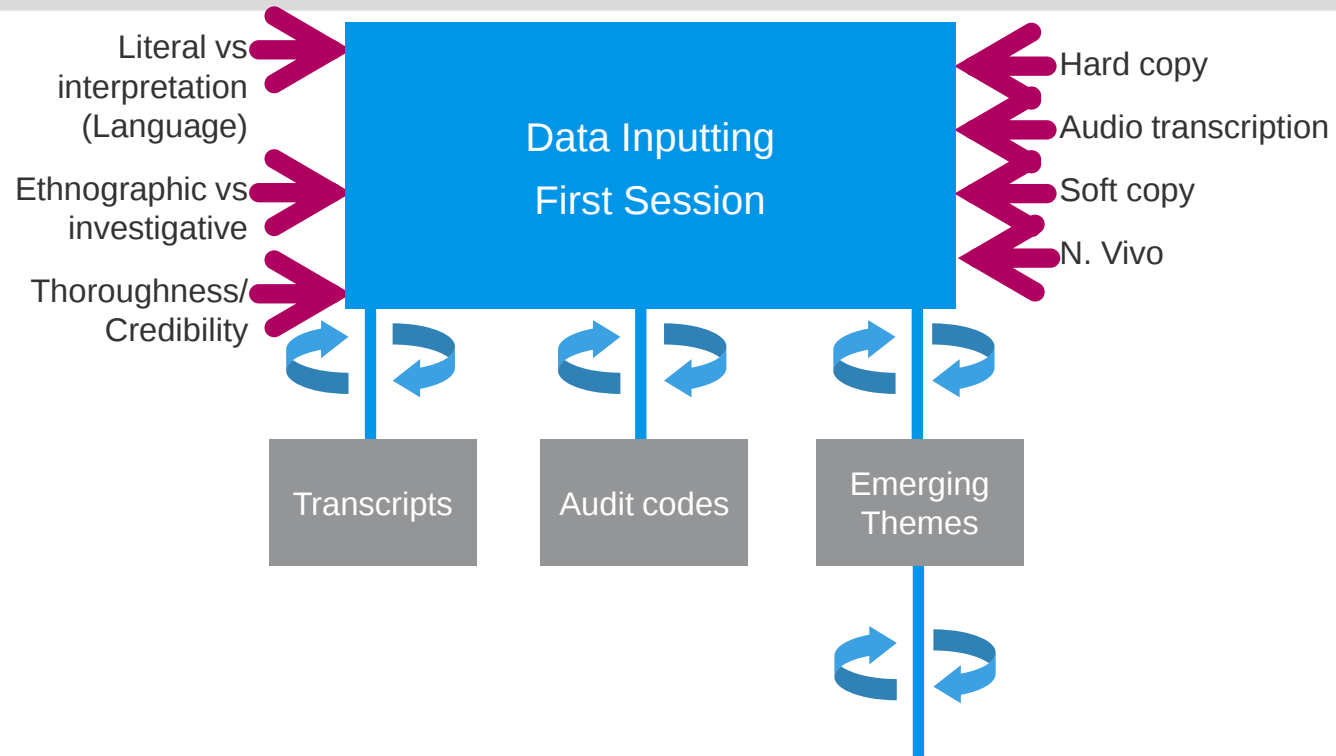
2-15 years qualified

Understanding of
English
Accessible by
researcher



Per Country Template







Research
Methodology

- Social Constructionist
- Interpretive
- Ethnographic
- Qualitative

Data Analysis Second Session

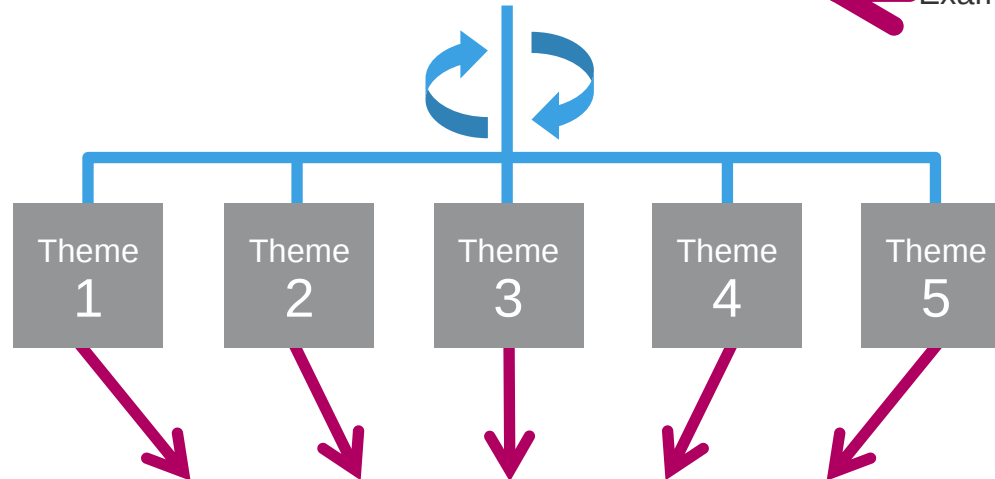
For each Theme

Definition

Description

Exclusions

Examples



- 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

- 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.

- 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 (1in 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

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



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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



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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
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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

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