

Contribution of the History of Nursing in the construction of professional identity

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The professional identity is a process where the past and the present intertwine with personal perspectives and visions group, organized social restrictions and wills. As a process, it is a human construct, constantly updated, trained and continuously transformed to remain always incomplete⁽¹⁾.

Professionals weave professional identity, through two different processes, identification and identity. Assuming the integration of belonging and reference sets, simultaneously creating autonomy, differentiation, distances and borders in relation to others. This being so, is an eminently relational concept⁽²⁾. It is heavily dependent on established power relations and place the individual occupies in the group⁽³⁾, and where collective identities are based not only on an aggregate of social interactions, but also of political-strategic reason of actors⁽⁴⁾.

The professional identity is a process of accession, identification to each other and to a social group, where it is expressed and it has been present, a particular cultural repertoire - habit, which allows individual freedom within certain limits⁽⁵⁾. The individual to integrate, carries particular visions implicitly or explicitly that contribute to the process of constant redefinition. A particular cultural repertoire comprises a historical dimension to the extent that it is made up of elements were structured over time, resulting collective group experiences, identifying biographical processes, construction and imaginary confrontation with realities. A complex, dynamic process that interacts past and present, internal and external vision, power games, cravings and social restrictions.

The contribution of History and History of Nursing may be in the area in which describes and interprets frames, the process of building classes, which we use and others use, coinciding or not from internal group view, to characterize the nursing and nurses. In this process, "evoke code, images and representations given a priori, that identify people, abstract concepts, visualize places and legitimize and recognize"⁽⁶⁾.

The story will have an instrumental role in the construction of identity, especially in the understanding and interpretation of the construction and constitutional processes of that identity. These elements are related to the social sphere, personal game and the group, that nurses and nursing are those who believe they are, what made them to be, what others think of them, but also what they want to be and other let them to be. It is this complexity that history helps to explain processes and identity categories. The exercise of the historian is in the field of reading processes and to extent contributes to the construction of identity, conveying understanding and objectivity.

In this historical process analysis assumes significance, the factual, the objective, where it inserts as a process of ideological construction of the idea of nursing and nursing. The revelation in this process, of what is not factual, what is not intentional, has also a historical significance in itself, that it is important to recognize.

For the History of Nursing in terms of professional identity, it is important to question some made ideas. For example, the idea of nursing as a female activity per excellence. What is the historical foundation that allows us to generalize this assertion? It will transportable the French or English reality for all geographies? Did reality happen in the origin and development at all times? It is known that in Portugal the feminization of professional nursing is a accentuated process alone markedly from the New-State. Another category is the nursing identity related to the religious matrix, which must also be contextualized in a specific time and space. Interests on this purpose, this study the emergence of the modern and professional nursing in the field of positivist scientism, which is linked to the non-presence of religious nursing major central hospitals to even nowadays, at least in some latitudes . It will also be enlightening the contribution that historical research nurses bring to the construction of the category maternity / goodness, identified with nursing and nurses. Equally interesting are the contributions of history to the dialectic of medical mimicry, the genesis of nursing in medicine, and in this area the modern movement of attraction and repulsion simultaneously.

The history of nursing being a human construction process is related to the process of professional identities and with the process to create historical science that contribute to the

identity update, which provides clarification of the constituent lines of contexts, attitudes and ideologies, which give color and nuance to different nursing visions.

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