




LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WHAT KNOWLEDGE SHOULD BE PRODUCED BY/FOR NURSING?**¿QUÉ CONOCIMIENTOS DEBERÍAN SER PRODUCIDOS POR/PARA LA ENFERMERÍA?****¿QUE CONHECIMENTOS DEVEM SER PRODUZIDOS POR/PARA A ENFERMAGEM?****Camilo Andrés Silva-Sánchez¹** ¹Facultad de Enfermería, Universidad Andrés Bello, Santiago, Chile.c.silvasanchez2@uandresbello.edu **Cite as:** Silva-Sánchez CA. What Knowledge should be produced by/for Nursing? Rev. chil. enferm. 2023;5(1):4-6. <https://doi.org/10.5354/2452-5839.2023.69942>

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Dear Editor:

The way in which knowledge is acquired can be linked to different philosophical currents such as empiricism, pragmatism, realism, and positivism, among others.¹ The philosophical perspective found in any of them implies proposing, following their own arguments, the concepts to be developed in order to acquire a new understanding of knowledge.² Nursing uses some of these approaches to develop its own knowledge, which we currently understand as a knowledge structure.³

Nursing has had a fairly wide shift with regard to its scientific and professional development in recent years, focusing on the care of people; therefore, its set of knowledge is based on human beings.^{3,4} People experience constant transformation; this makes the Nursing profession a dynamic discipline, whose expression, processes, and patterns vary among cultures.⁴

Although the construction of knowledge depends on each discipline, it has to be created, proven, and applied. For this reason, Nursing is in an incessant search for a framework of its own on which to base its identity.⁵ In other words, it attempts to reduce its historical dependence on other health sciences.⁶

There was an explosion of Nursing philosophies, models, and theories during the 20th century, for instance, the ones created by the theorists Ida Jean Orlando, Virginia Henderson, Myra Levine, Martha Rogers, Dorothea Orem, and Calista Roy, among others, with more than one hundred theoretical elements being developed to the date. These propose different visions, each one of them

emerging amid sociocultural influences corresponding to the time, and all based on the four concepts of the metaparadigm that constitutes Nursing thinking (health, person, nursing, and environment).⁴ However, from a philosophical point of view, Nursing requires expanding the questions that guide its nature. In this regard, research is what mainly helps shape the discipline, by contributing to improving people's health in different contexts.⁷

There are diverse factors that influence the construction of the body of knowledge in the discipline of Nursing; among them, we can find interpersonal relationships, experience acquired with time, studies, personal knowledge, and the balance between theory and practice. New knowledge should be directly related to the existing one.⁸ It is undeniable that, despite all the social obstacles found in the development of the profession, Nursing has maintained the same ideology and philosophy that have made it possible to shape its knowledge.⁹

In the academic field, the curricula based on which new nursing professionals are trained require using Nursing knowledge as a basis for research and the development of the profession.¹⁰ However, it has been observed that there is a lack of academic preparation, and a gap in the postgraduate training that would be necessary to encourage research and development in undergraduate students. Due to this, it has been observed that there is low interest on the part of students to learn and study their own discipline, thus exhibiting deficiencies in the foundation of their work.¹¹

Undoubtedly, research has undergone exponential growth in recent years, which is reflected in an increase in academic work that has boosted postgraduate training at the master's and doctorate levels, as well as the participation of Nursing in research groups. These opportunities have contributed to the improvement of the profession and discipline.¹² Nonetheless, it is still evident that Nursing bases its practices on the biomedical model, which makes it difficult to reach a deeper development of knowledge.¹³

Not having our own language makes us invisible to society and it means Nursing will continue to be perceived as derived from medical sciences.¹³ It is possible that Nursing professionals themselves create a gap between theory and practice, by not finding the applicability of the structure of knowledge in their everyday work.⁴ Maintaining one's own quality knowledge would allow separating a good professional from one who merely executes orders: this would grant confidence in professional practice and strengthen the field of Nursing.^{4,7}

Boosting the development of research in new and future professionals could help the knowledge of the profession to grow.³ The presence of trained professionals would help create research lines that contribute to the proposal of new philosophies, models, and theories that influence the improvement of the population's health.¹⁴

The philosophies, theories, and models at the base of Nursing support daily practice and simultaneously encourage the development of research.⁸ Relying on these foundations could make it possible to provide more humanized and quality care to every person and their families.

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