

Understanding courage: the nursing context

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Background: Courage in nursing



- Courage is a virtue, a positive trait or a quality considered morally good (Gallagher 2010).
- In 2012 a new vision for Nurses, Midwives and Care givers (Cummings and Bennett 2012), outlined the 6 C's, one of which is courage.
- That got me thinking.....
- What do I and other nurses understand by courage in nursing?
- And so a study was born.....

Aim of study: To enhance understanding of adult nurses use of courage in their everyday professional practice.

Research Questions:

- **RQ1:** How do qualified adult nurses understand the meaning and use of courage in their everyday professional practice?
- **RQ2:** How can a theoretical understanding of courage inform the future professional practice of qualified adult nurses?

Methodology:

- This study utilizes a constructionist grounded theory approach
- Epistemologically “constructivism” emphasizes the subjective interrelationship between the researcher and participant – the researcher co-constructing meaning with the participant
- Differs from the positivist idea that the world is objectively knowable

Recruitment and interviews:



- Recruited adult staff nurses from local Trusts and University
- Interviewed 12 experienced and junior participants across acute and community settings
- Unstructured interview style
- Transcribed by hand
- Coded using Nvivo:
 - Initial coding
 - Focused coding
 - Theoretical coding

3 selected emerging themes

Being in a situation you don't want to be in

- *“...you don't want to look weak in front of Doctors, other colleagues and patients and families, you just do it”*
- *“....it's a situation you don't want to be in, that you wouldn't have chosen to be in, so yeah, I think that's courage definitely”*

Speaking up

- *“Its having the courage to have a voice”*
- *“having the courage to say no to them” (Doctors)*
- *“So that word courage shouldn't even be there”*

Taking risks

- *“not be scared by boundaries but accept there are some...”*
- *“and then risk, kind of humiliating myself”*
- *“I think its perhaps, being very brave, taking, taking risks”*
- *“at least she has the courage to fight”*

The next Steps:

- Focused Coding
- Theoretical coding
- Theoretical sampling
- Further interviewing
- Further refining coding
- Developing emerging theory

And finally...

- Write my thesis.....
- And that could be only half the story.....the other half of my data is how and why does courage develop?
- Watch this space!
- Any questions
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*Thank you
for listening*



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