International Nursing Practice Experiences - key framework themes
International Nursing Practice
Experiences driven by:

- Nursing Students/Faculty
- Internationalization of Postsecondary Institutions
- Shortage of practicum sites
- Desire to help those less fortunate
- Travel interests
- Commitment to nursing as a global force for social change
Frequently cited traditional rationales for INPE

- Cultural Sensitivity
  [TCN Framework]
- Cognitive development
- Broaden worldview
- Foster personal & professional growth
Current emerging INPE themes and means

- PHC
- Globalization
- Health as a Human Right
- Cultural safety/Post-colonial scholarship

- Learning/teaching theory of Mezirow (transformational learning)
- Learning/teaching theory of Freire (education of the oppressed)
Primary Health Care

- Health Promotion/PHC renewal (federal-prov. PHC 2007 renewal)
- Limited dev. of PHC locally
- Challenge to find numerous rich exp. of PHC
Globalization

- Age old movement of goods & services
- Neo-liberal economic ideology
- Privatization of social services
- Increasing disparities b/w rich & poor
Health as a Human Right

- UN Declaration of Human Rights
- Increasing discourse of health as a human right
Emerging Critical Perspectives informing INPE

- Cultural safety/relational practice
- Postcolonial scholarship
In many houses in Guatemala there is a black and white photograph of people who no longer exist….YES Genocide Happened -UN documents/Archdiocesan document Nunca Mas [Never Again].
Guatemala Statistics (U.S. State Dept. 2005)

- Population: 14.5 million (>50% Indigenous)
- 10% receives almost 50% all income
- 20% receives 66% all income
- 80% population lives in poverty
- 7.6 million live in extreme poverty
Statistics (PAHO 1993 stats)

- Infant mortality rate: 48.3/1,000 live births
- Literacy rate: 68.7
  * lit. rate (male): 76.2
  * lit. rate (female): 61.1
Five Project Partners
although we met with and learned from many, many more

- AMES-association of women in solidarity
- Community of Sipicapa
- Community of San Miguel Ixtahuanacan
- Health promoters of La Esmeralda
- Coop of Nuevo Horizonte
International Worker’s Day—marching with the Association of Women in solidarity (AMES)
Invited as guests to participate
Political action: acompañamiento, strategies for action, coalition building, education
Critical Reflection

Education is a right

Not one more woman’s death
AMES
Asociacion de Mujeres en Solidaridad
Association of Women in Solidarity

Works with women labourers in free trade zone factories on health and labour rights, women’s health issues, regional collaboration
AMES primary health care clinic

- Training centre, reproductive health, women’s health campaigns, gynecological surgeries, labour and delivery
Free Auxiliary Nursing Program for factory textile workers: ~ 2 yr. certificate
Learning, Teaching, Listening, Sharing
AMES Youth Group: outgrowth of priority health issues identified by the women (gang/drugs/sexual health/identity)
AMES rural outreach post Hurricane Stan

- Women’s Group
- History, leadership, group dev.
- Issues: income/health
- Visioning change
Dental health teaching/Women’s group/primary clinic
San Miguel Ixtahuacan
Goldcorp Inc.
Canadian owned gold mine/Canadian Pension Plan investment (cyanide-based leaching process ~ 99% foreign profits)

Increased tensions and health challenges among community members
Key Health Issues:

unstable housing, inadequate, contaminated water, increased stress, depression, skin lesions, respiratory conditions, alopecia
Infant with intact and open pustules covering body similar to that of numerous other children & elders
Telling our stories

Narrative as Reflexivity
Narrative as healing
Narrative as political
Sipicapa

Mother’s Day Celebration

NO A LA MINERÍA DE METALES en Guatemala
SI AL DESARROLLO JUSTO
SI A LOS BOSQUES
SI AL AGUA
SI A LA VIDA
Resistance to Gold mining via election of local civic committee

Project Ayudame: 15,000 Sipicapense with 2 high schools

* view educational scholarships as key to resistance
Sipicapa Health Clinic – serving 15,000 people
~ overview of vision, challenges re: health human resources/supplies/health challenges, and successes
Health worker as member of community

- Common purpose
- Putting education to service
- Patience
- Commitment
- Leading from behind
Revisioning the Healthcare Professional

“If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then we can work together”

Anon. Quote-Australian aboriginal woman
Health Promotion teaching/learning with student teachers
La Esmeralda
Cooperative of returned refugees from Mexico in 1997 –
no running water, electricity or volunteer high school teachers, volunteer health clinic, inadequate roads & transportation despite govnt. promises

welcome brothers[sisters] in solidarity
Dental and Hand Hygiene Teaching in surrounding villages with skits/stories
Volunteer Health Clinic
staffed by local health
promoters and dental
health promoters

NGO financial/moral
support re: training &
supplies

(students observed primary care work
with health promoters/actively
facilitated health promotion
teaching)
Nuevo Horizonte

Dr. Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara Popular Pharmacy
Co-operative of 400 former guerillas

The only way to survive is to be united with a commitment to work for our grandchildren’s children.
Sharing with high school youth re: how to promote healthy relationships using theatre of the oppressed vision/techniques
Diabetic health-invitation, stories, skit, foot health care/stress management
Stories move in circles
They don’t move in straight lines
There are stories inside stories and stories between stories,
And finding your way through them is as easy and as hard as finding your way home.
And part of the finding is getting lost.
And when you’re lost, you start to look around and to listen.

Sowers of death – mural art generates theme for personal and collective critical reflection
Economic development within framework of community health:
Environmental health
Food production
employment

Reforestation project – 400 hectares

Tilapia Fish Farm - 3000 fish/year
Aboriginal thoughts re: nursing
(recounting by Darlene Martin)

- Develop a relationship that is not motivated by an agenda
- We have 2 ears/1 mouth for a reason: Take the time to listen and then listen again to what is not being said
- Set aside your priorities and engage with the community around their priorities
- Be willing to go with the process
- Be willing to commit patience and time
Challenges

- How do we support integration of student learning?
- How do we cope with emerging voice?
- How do we deal with anxiety re: paradigm evolution of nursing?
Selkirk College Nursing - Guatemala
2005 - onwards
Nursing: committed to fostering social justice as foundation for health for all