Presentation of study results / Présentation des résultats de l’étude

Fear and Power in Forensic Psychiatry: Nurse-Patient Interactions in a Secure Environment

Jean Daniel Jacob, BSc.N., PhD
Assistant Professor, University of Ottawa

DATE ET HEURE / DATE AND TIME

Jeudi le 26 janvier 12:00 à 13:00
Thursday January 26, 12:00 to 13:00

ENDROIT / LOCATION
Locale 3220 (Salle de conférence psychiatrie) / room 3220 (Psychiatry. Conference room)
Centre hospitalier de St. Mary / St. Mary’s Hospital Center

Un léger dîner sera servi / A light lunch will be served
Bienvenue à tous / Everyone is welcome
The purpose of this presentation is to present the results of a study conducted in a Canadian medium security forensic psychiatric facility. The primary objective of this qualitative research was to describe and comprehend how fear influences nurse–patient interactions in a forensic psychiatric setting. Eighteen semistructured interviews with nurses were used as the primary source of data for analysis. In brief, the results from this research indicate, as other researchers have demonstrated, that within this highly regimented context, nurses are socialized to incorporate representations of the patients as being potentially dangerous, and, as a result, distance themselves from idealistic conceptions of care. Moreover, the research results emphasize the implication of fear in nurse–patient interactions and particularly how fear reinforces nurses’ need to create a safe environment in order to practice. A constant negotiation between space, “at risk” bodies and security takes place where nurses are forced to scrutinize their actions in order to avoid becoming victims of violence. In parallel, participants also described how being able to self-identify with patients enabled therapeutic interventions to take place. However, exposure to the patient’s criminal history fostered negative reactions on the nurses’ part, which impede nursing work.