

## Danish University Colleges

### Involvement of older patients in nursing mediated by narratives nursing students learning to involve elderly patients in clinical decision making

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# Involvement of older patients in nursing mediated by narratives

## Nursing students learning to involve elderly patients in clinical decision making

**Background** An increasing number of elderly people calls for nurses in elderly care. Therefore, there is a need for encouraging nursing students to take an interest in elderly care. National and international research studies have shown both positive and negative attitudes towards elderly care. Though, the interest for gerontological nursing seems not solely determined by attitudes. A study found students' reluctance to join gerontological nursing, was due to a lack of knowledge, skills and negative experiences in clinical placements. The challenge is to discover how to guide the students into gerontological nursing.

**Aim** To investigate whether listening to narratives of older patients can facilitate nursing students' competencies and interest in elderly care.

**Method** An intervention study with a phenomenological-hermeneutic approach. Narrative interviews & interpretation inspired by Ricoeur.



**Findings** Students found the narrative interview of great value to mediate a better patient-nurse relation. Listening made it easier to involve elderly patients in clinical decisions and to adapt the care to the individual. Students wanted to use the narrative method further in their nursing practice, and they responded, that old people should be appreciated more.

**Conclusion** This research provides experience of using narratives to facilitate students' learning about elderly care. The narrative interview contributed to increase the interest in elderly care. The research suggests implementing narrative interviews into the first year of the Nursing Programme.



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