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Is professionalisation a driver of community paramedicine?

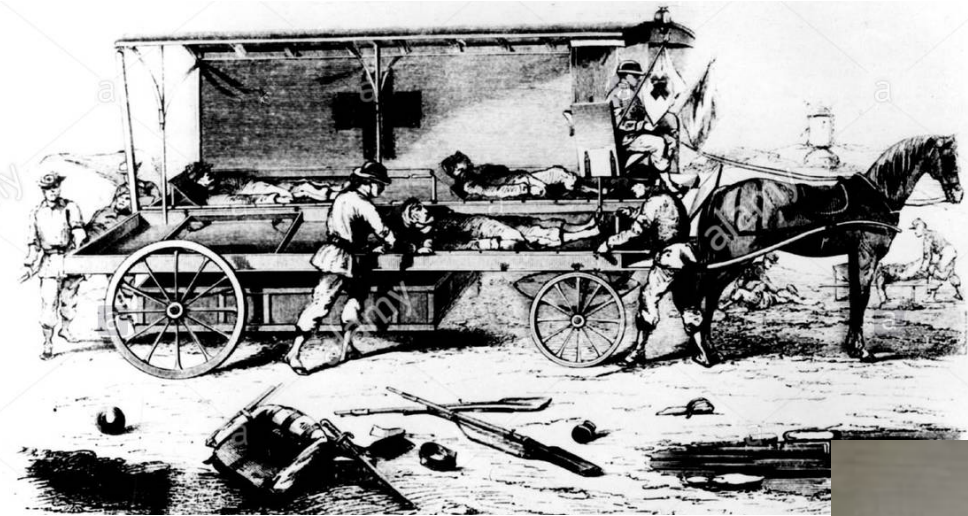
Looking at Paramedicine through the lens of professional identity

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The History of Paramedicine in 30 seconds



Occupational Identity

- Occupational identity refers to the conscious awareness of oneself as a worker
- Commonly linked to control of the means of production



Professionalisation

- Definitionalist (eg Greenwood)
- Functional Structuralist (eg Parsons)
- Occupational Value (eg Freidson)
- Discourse of Control (eg Evetts)

Professionalisation



Professionalisation

You get tertiary
education!
Advance 2 Spaces.

Someone in your
profession mistreats a
patient. Lose public trust.
Go Back 3 Spaces



Professional Identity

- “A representation of self, achieved in stages over time, during which the characteristics, values, and norms of the paramedic profession are internalized, resulting in an individual thinking, acting, and feeling like paramedic.” (Paraphrased from Cruess and Cruess)

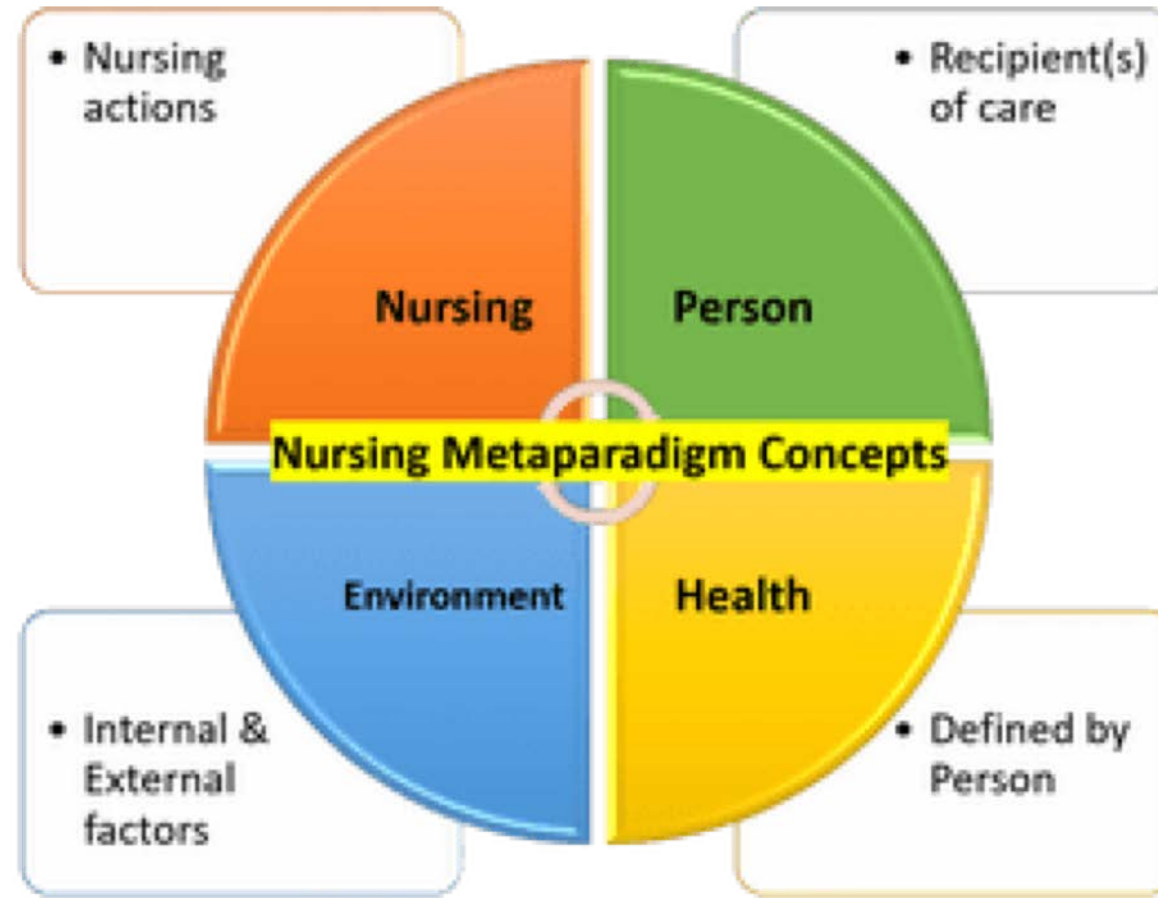
Professional Identity

- Professional identity is intrinsic
- Professional identity is informed by other forms of identity
- Professionalism is driven by professional identity, that is, needs to be internal rather than external in its origin

Metaparadigm

- Central theory of how a profession operates
- Describes the elements of that profession and the philosophical position of the profession

Metaparadigm



Do we need a paramedicine metaparadigm?

- We have no philosophical analysis or framework for the profession
- Most elements of paramedicine concern externalised elements

And then there is community paramedicine...



Community Paramedicine Commonalities

- Often manages patients with complex and non-specific health issues
- Focuses on wellbeing
- Is person-focussed and involves partnerships with patients
- Involves increased education and clinical autonomy
- Accepts boundary permeability and is integrated

Is this more professional?

- Expanded body of knowledge
- Increased accountability and decision making
- Stronger philosophical grounding
- Practitioner-driven approach to care

So which came first?



Professional Evolution

- As occupations professionalise they will want to extend themselves and become more autonomous
- A more practitioner-centric paradigm of paramedicine will focus on the approach to care rather than the delivery of service

Questions for the future

- Is there a paramedicine meta-paradigm?
- How will paramedic identity shift as the profession develops?
- What will the impact of communities of practice be on paramedic identity?

Questions?

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