



Charles Sturt
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Is Community Paramedicine a Unique Identity?

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Acknowledgement

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*WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WIRADJURI,
NGUNAWAL, GUNDUNGARRA AND BIRIPAI (OR BIRIPI)
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RESPECT TO THEIR ELDERS BOTH PAST AND PRESENT.*

YUMALUNDI

Social Identity Theory

Identity through membership to a social group.



Professional Identity

Identity reflects elements of a profession.

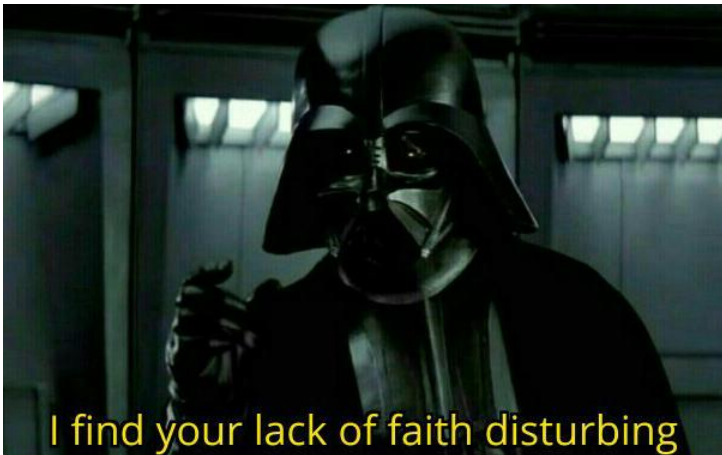
- Roles
- Responsibilities
- Values
- Ethical Standards



Situated Identity Theory

- Identity is contingent on positionality and situation.

Manager



Negotiator



Parent



Community of Practice Framework

- Part of Situated Learning Theory
- Communities of practice are groups which create groups of practitioners.
- Communities of practice are defined by:
 - Domain: The area of interest and the problems which need to be solved
 - Community: The people involved and their interactions
 - Practice: The body of knowledge created by practice and the application of that body of knowledge.



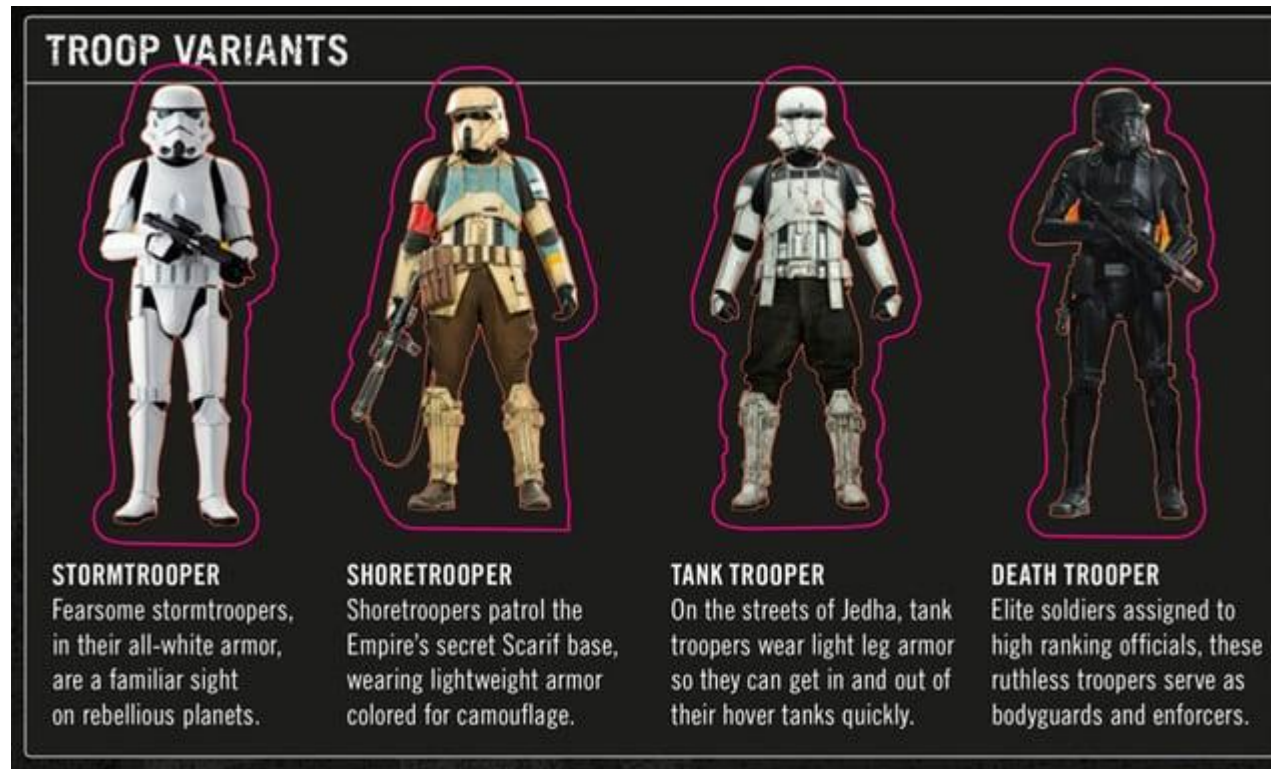
Positive Distinctiveness

- A component of Social Identity Theory
- Members of a group engage in behaviours which make the group more unique
- The self-esteem of the members is tied to the distinctiveness of the group



Sub-identities

- Sub-identities are identities which exist within a larger identity group



Other influences on identity

- Organisational Identity
- Geographic and cultural factors
- Personal identity
- Boundary Permeability



Community Paramedics and Identity

- Community paramedics exist within a larger paramedic identity

Element	
Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on preventative and complex care
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Higher degree of personal responsibility for patients• Different goals and metrics of success
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong focus on person centred care• Strong focus on quality of life• Strong focus on patient experience
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More personal relationships with patients• Strong focus on quality of decision making• Strong focus on problem solving

Community Paramedics and Identity

- Community paramedics are situated differently than most paramedics within the practice environment
 - Greater emphasis on interprofessional practice
 - Different expectations from patients
 - Different situated learning which supports different elements of identity
 - Permeability of boundaries and interprofessional practice means shared identity with other health professionals

Community Paramedics and Identity

- Community paramedicine is a community of practice within paramedicine more broadly

Element	
Domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific body of knowledge• Problems are unique within paramedicine• Situated learning
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Majority of community paramedics choose community paramedicine• Collaboration between individuals to share knowledge
Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evolving practice• Different practice activities• Different practice environments• Diversity of practice

Sub-identities

- Community paramedics are, by definition, paramedics and exist within paramedicine
- Community paramedics exist as a sub-identity within paramedicine
- Positive distinctiveness can be shown through
 - Different uniform
 - Different professional language
 - Different values, behaviours and focus
- Further sub-identities can be underpinned by
 - Situated practice
 - Specialisation
 - Organisational, geographic or cultural elements

Discussion

- Community paramedics and professionalisation
- Community paramedics and evolution
- Community paramedics and self-esteem/values
- Community paramedics and individual relationship with paramedicine

Conclusion

- Community paramedicine is a unique sub-identity
- The unique identity supports values, professionalisation and evolution of community paramedicine
- Community paramedic identity itself is diverse – and the diversity itself is part of the identity

Questions

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