

Culturally informed inquiry: methodological approaches to end-of-life research with culturally diverse participants

Jay Balante

Lecturer - Nursing

PhD Candidate | The Daffodil Centre | Cancer Care Research Unit

Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery | Sydney Nursing School

Faculty of Medicine and Health



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

PhD Supervisors:

Prof Kate White

A/Prof Diane van den Broek

Dr Bora Kim

Acknowledgement:

The Daffodil Centre Postgraduate Research Scholarship



The research



Study 1

Research question:

How do internationally educated nurses' *cultural beliefs and practices* inform their nursing care delivery in the context of cancer and end-of-life care?

Participants

Internationally educated nurses (IENs) from South, East and Southeast Asian countries working in Australia

Methods

Semi-structured interviews



Study 2

Research question:

How *culture* informs nursing practice in end-of-life care?

Participants

Nurses working in two palliative care settings: inpatient unit in NSW, Australia and community care setting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Methods

Case study approach: interviews & observations

Things we considered



The context of the research focus

- Culture as complex and multifaceted
- Perceptions and meanings of culture
- Sociocultural meanings of death and dying



The context of the participants

- Perceptions of the topic and research context
- Workplace context – workload, culture, gatekeeping
- Language, trust, power dynamics



The context of the researcher

- Personal and research experience
- Positionality
- Reflexivity

Culturally sensitive research



Addresses knowledge, language, viewpoints, and relevant behaviours that define cultural uniqueness and shared understanding of cultural, historical, and contemporary experiences.

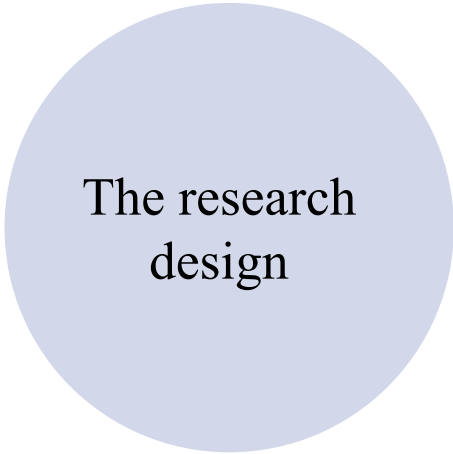


Research methods are adapted to include a cultural group's social norms, specialised vocabulary, and nonverbal cues like gestures and eye contact.



Culture is viewed as the focal point to describe relationships to other variables, instead of considering it as a tertiary variable in research.

Strategies to mitigate the challenges



The research design

Exploring the topic first and building foundational cultural understanding



- Systematic review of the literature
- Consultations

Selecting a methodology that accommodates cultural perspectives and shared understanding



- Interpretive and hermeneutic methodological approach
- Case study approach

Designing methods responsive to the research, participants and researchers



- Data collection strategies
- Reflexivity throughout the research

Strategies to mitigate the challenges



Data collection

Recruitment strategies



Cast a wide net
Social media and professional groups

Flexible interview strategies



Options to participate – individual or in a focus group
Semi-structure interview guide with flexible prompts

A combination of data collection methods (e.g. case study approach)



Observations
Brief/informal interviews and semi-structure interviews
Field notes

Relationship building



Pre-establish trust networks
Strategies to introduce the study
Participant check-in
Researcher's presence

Strategies to mitigate the challenges



Interpretation,
reflexivity &
ethics

Interpretation with context intact



Preserving the context
Providing a thick description of narratives

Maintaining the role of the researcher



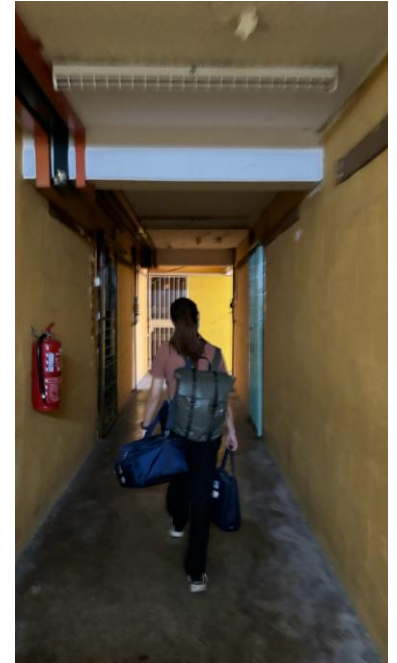
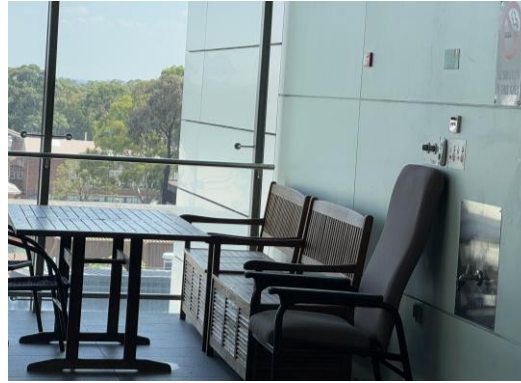
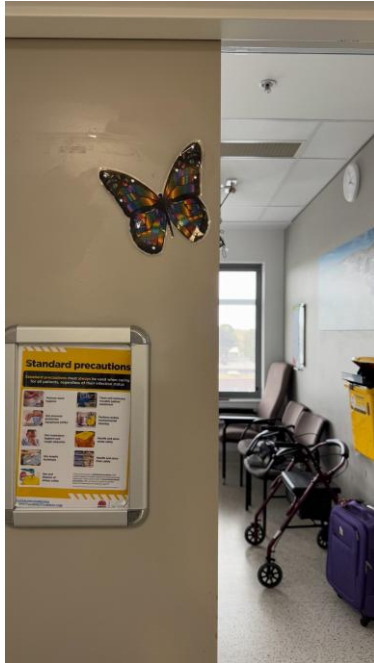
Ongoing reflection and debriefing
Research team with diverse perspectives

Ensuring ethics



De-identification techniques that protect participant identities
Ensuring consent is voluntary
Distress protocol

Research on culture needs to consider the wider sociocultural context.



Jay Balante

Lecturer - Nursing

PhD Candidate | The Daffodil Centre | Cancer Care Research Unit

The University of Sydney

Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery | Sydney Nursing School

Faculty of Medicine and Health

jay.balante@sydney.edu.au