

Relational care around maternity : the experience of independent midwives as a confronting mirror to Evidence Based Practice.

Patricia Perrenoud is preparing her PhD thesis in Health Anthropology. She's currently working on a comparison about conceptions and practices in the fields of Evidence Based Research and independent midwifery. Evidence Based Research is examined through a systematic and critical review of randomized controlled trials designed to assess interventions implying social skills (e.g. counseling, depression prevention, motivational interviewing) and occurring during pregnancy or the first year post partum. Midwives' conceptions and practices are being described through a field research and a grounded theory approach. Three main topics are being thoroughly observed and analyzed in order to illustrate reflexivity in research and practice fields. These topics are: equity and acknowledgement of population's personal, social and cultural diversity, acknowledgement and insight about context of care and finally conceptions and practices of helping behaviors. This twofold research's aims are to describe similarities and differences between two activity fields, to unveil shared issues and to discuss complementary roles of Evidence Based Research and field reflexivity.

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