

'n Teoretiese ideaal vir wetenskap is reeds deur die Antieke Grieke, onder andere Aristoteles, gepropageer, waar Kennis ter wille van Kennis as grondslag gestel is. 'n Alternatiewe (modernistiese) benadering dateer terug na die 1600's, toe onder andere Francis Bacon 'n meer pragmatiese ideaal, Kennis is Mag, gepropageer het. Deur kennis kan en moet realiteit gemodifiseer word. Eeue gelede is hierdie "realiteit" reeds beskryf as een van sedeloosheid, onheil, siekte, agteruitgang, nekrofilie en so meer. Dieselfde "realiteit" oorheers die huidige internasionale nuus, met berigte van post-oorlogse misdaad en geweld, terrorisme, selfmoordbomme en vreemde virusse. Ter plaatse word nuus oorheers deur moord en roof, kindermolestering en die toenemend ernstige nagevolge van MIV/VIGS op kultureel-sosiale, sielkundige en biomediese vlakke en op die land se ekonomie en produktiwiteit. "Moderne" wetenskap-ideale kon nie daarin slaag om "realiteit" te modifiseer nie, wat tot 'n nuwe epistemologie, 'n nuwe soeke na waarheid, die post-modernisme, aanleiding gegee het, waar die kompleksiteit, onvoorspelbaarheid, onsekerheid en nie-lineêre dinamika van fenomene in ag geneem word. Die klem val op die disorganisasie van sisteme eerder as op kosmiese orde en harmonie. Die huidige uitgawe van Health SA Gesondheid reflekteer nie alleenlik die differensiële status van wetenskap in terme van die epistemologiese dimensie (en per definisie sy ontologiese status) nie, maar ook in terme van daaruitspruitende metodologieë: prakties en teoreties, modern en postmodern, kwantitatief en kwalitatief, induktief en deduktief. Op metodologiese vlak is die onderskeie wetenskap-ideale nie wedersyds uitsluitend nie en is daar te midde van polarisering 'n sterk beweging na holisme, insluitendheid en multidisziplinêre integrasie. Vier groter temas, wat almal die moderne realiteit reflekteer, verskyn in die huidige uitgawe te wete drie bydraes oor MIV/VIGS, twee bydraes (waarvan een ook die tema van MIV/VIGS onder die loep neem) oor kindergesondheid, drie bydraes oor verplegingsopleiding en laastens een bydrae wat die Suid-Afrikaanse realiteit punttueer, naamlik oor gesinsmoorde in Suid Afrika. Die bydraes oor MIV/VIGS is al drie teoreties-beskrywend van aard en eksplorieer die geloofsisteem van "menswees deur met mense te wees", en die onsekeibaarheid van ekonomie, politiek en siekte, die stigma wat steeds aan MIV/VIGS kleef, hoe dit verpleging affekteer en die belang van toepaslike intervensie-programme vir sowel MIV/VIGS-babas met neuro-ontwikkelingsagterstande as houdingintervensies vir verpleegpersoneel. Die twee bydraes wat op jong kinders en babas fokus verwys enersyds na bogenoemde neuro-ontwikkelingsagterstande by MIV/VIGS-babas en andersyds na tipiese gesondheidsgedrag van moeders met siek kinders in 'n plattelandse gebied. Laasgenoemde is 'n kwantitatiewe studie. Die drie artikels oor verpleegstersopleiding reflekteer sowel 'n kwantitatiewe opname van tevredenheid ten opsigte van opleiding en 'n kwantitatiewe (Deel 2) sowel as teoretiese (Deel 1) weergawe van 'n potensiële krisis in gesondheidsversorging as gevolg van 'n tekort aan personeel. Die laaste artikel beklemtoon die moderne realiteit met sy gesinsmoord-tema, wat vanuit 'n sosiaal konstruksionistiese perspektief enkele refleksies gee en intervensies voorstel. Samevattend verteenwoordig die bydraes in die huidige uitgawe die onderskeie sieninge van waarheid en gepaardgaande metodologieë van wetenskapbeoefening. Daar is egter 'n sterker fokus op die verkennende, kwalitatiewe, beskrywende en kontekstuele navorsingsontwerpe. Die vraag is of die postmoderne wetenskap 'n eeue-oue "realiteit" van oorlog, siekte, terrorisme, moord, molestering en armoede meer effektief sal aanspreek as die sogenaamde modernisme. Tyd sal leer.

A theoretical ideal for the sciences as propagated by the Ancient Greeks, inter alia Aristotle, stated as basis Knowledge for the sake of Knowledge. An alternative (modernistic) approach dates back to the 1600's when inter alia Francis Bacon furthered a more pragmatic ideal namely Knowledge is Power: by means of knowledge, reality can and should be modified. Many centuries ago this reality was already described as one of deprivation, evil, sickness, deterioration, necrophily etc. At present the international media is dominated by news of post-war crime, violence, terrorism, suicide bombers and new viruses. Nationally, news of murder and robbery, child molestation and the increasingly serious effects of HIV/AIDS on socio-cultural, psychological and bio-medical levels and on South Africa's and Africa's economy and productivity dominates. "Modern" scientific ideals dismally failed to modify reality, which led to the development of a new epistemology, a new search for truth, the post-modernism, where the complexity, unpredictability, uncertainty and non-linear dynamics of phenomena are considered. The focus is on disorganised systems as opposed to cosmic order and harmony. The present edition of Health SA Gesondheid not only reflects the differential status of the sciences in terms of the epistemological dimension (and per definition its ontological status) but also in terms of the subsequent methodologies: practical versus theoretical, modern versus post-modern, inductive versus deductive. On a methodological level these various scientific ideals are not mutually exclusive and there is, amidst polarisation, a strong movement towards holism, inclusiveness and multi disciplinary integration. Four greater themes which all reflect the modern reality form the contents of the present edition namely three contributions on HIV/AIDS, two contributions (of which one also refers to HIV/AIDS) on child health, three contributions on the training of nurses, and in conclusion one contribution on family murder which punctuates the South African reality. The three contributions on HIV/AIDS are all theoretically-descriptive and explore the belief systems of 'being a human being by being with human beings'; they emphasise the inseparableness of economy, politics and disease; the stigma which is still attached to HIV/AIDS is explored and also how this affects nursing; and the importance of appropriate intervention programmes for HIV/AIDS babies with neuro-developmental deficits as well as attitude interventions for nursing staff are explicated. The two contributions which focus on young children and babies refer to the abovementioned neuro-developmental deficits in HIV/AIDS babies and to the typical health behaviours of mothers with sick children in a rural area. The latter study is quantitative. The three articles on nurses' training reflect not only a quantitative survey of satisfaction with training but also a two part theoretical and quantitative investigation of reasons why nurses leave the profession. A potential crisis in health care is predicted. The last article emphasises the modern reality, with its theme of family murder. This article reflects a social construction perspective and proposes interventions. In summary the present edition of Health SA Gesondheid represents different views of truth and scientific methodologies. There is however a greater focus on the exploratory, qualitative, descriptive and contextual designs. The question is whether the post-modern sciences will be able to more effectively address the very old reality of war, disease, terrorism, murder, abuse and poverty. Time will tell.