

REPORT

OVERSEAS VISIT TO CANADA AND THE USA FROM 14 FEBRUARY TO 28 FEBRUARY 1998

BY PROFF. M POGGENPOEL AND CPH MYBURGH

The objectives of this visit were:

- to attend a workshop: "Phenomenology" by Prof. Max van Manen on 18 February 1998
- to deliver four papers at the Fourth International Qualitative Health Research Conference from 19 to 21 February 1998 in Vancouver, Canada:
 - * The impact of legalisation of abortion in South African Health Services with specific reference to the nursing profession (Poggenpoel, M; Myburgh, CPH & Gmeiner, AC)
 - * Communication patterns of adolescents (Grobler, S; Poggenpoel, M & Myburgh, CPH)
 - * Challenges and dimensions of a qualitative strategy in a group research project (Poggenpoel, M & Myburgh, CPH)
 - * Nurses' experience of violence when nursing mentally ill people in general hospital settings: a phenomenological study (Mavundla, TR; Poggenpoel, M & Gmeiner, AC)

This conference was attended by 750 interdisciplinary professionals and academics from 27 countries. Two hundred papers, 130 posters and 50 symposiums were presented.

- to attend a breakfast meeting (by Prof. Poggenpoel) of the International Research Journal: Qualitative Health Research's editorial committee, Hotel Vancouver, Canada on 21 February 1998
- to attend as directors the meeting of the "International Board of Directors of the International Institute of Qualitative Research Methodology" and the opening ceremonies of the Institute at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on 23 February 1998
- to visit Prof. Janice Morse, international advisor to the group research project "Several Dimensions involved with the Freedom of Choice of Terminating Pregnancy" (HSRC-Funded project) at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on 23 February 1998
- to visit Prof. Joann Wessman, international advisor to the group research project "Several Dimensions involved with the Freedom of Choice of Terminating Pregnancy" (HSRC-Funded project) at St Benedict College: St John University. During the visit to St Benedict we participated in a lecture on drug abuse. We also visited Bethel College, Minnesota, USA 25 February 1998. During this visit to Bethel College a lecture by Dr Stephen Brookfield "Through the lens of learning" was attended. He is a distinguished professor in Education at the University of St Thomas and author of "Becoming a critically reflective teacher" and "The skillful teacher". After the lecture we participated in a Master class on "Leadership" with Prof. Wessman.

During our visit we made contact with the following academics:

- Prof. Nancy Anderson, Primary Care, UCLA School of Nursing, Los Angeles, California
- Dr Pat Bazaley - Research Development Unit, University of Western Sydney, Macarthur
- Helen Callaghan - Midwifery, University of Newcastle, Australia

- Cladia Chambers - Director, Psearch Associates, Jamaica
- Prof. Mieke Grypdonck, Faculteit Geneeskunde Universiteit Utrecht, Nederland
- Patricia Hayes - Nursing, University of Alberta, Canada
- Prof. Tina Koch, Nursing, The Flinders University of South Australia
- Prof. Lyn Richards, Qualitative Software, Australia
- Prof. Irene Madjar, University of Newcastle, Australia
- Prof. Janice Morse, University of Alberta
- Prof. Dave Muhovich, Bethel College, Minnesota
- Prof. Judith Ottoson, Education, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- Prof. Petersen, Nursing, Bethel College, St Paul, Minnesota
- Daniel Ruth, Editor, Sage Publication, California
- Dr KR Shin, Nursing, College of Nursing Science, Ewha Women's University, Korea
- Prof. Kathleen Twohy, Nursing, College of St Benedict, St John's University, Minnesota
- Andre Wenger, Medical Anthropology, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

We also met the following academics and received complementary books, with their autographs in each of the copies, for the African Institute for Qualitative Research Methodology:

- Dr Hedy Bach, Curriculum Studies, School of Education, University of Alberta, Canada
- Ms Claudia Malacrida, Sociology, International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, University of Alberta, Canada
- Prof. Irene Madjar, University of Newcastle, Australia
- Ms Karen Martin, Sociology, University of Alberta, Canada
- Dr Ian W Sewell, Virtual Teacher with Peace Wapiti School Division, Edmonton, Canada.

We have benefited tremendously from the contact with high profile academics from the field of qualitative research. We have also benefited from participating as international director representing the African continent on the international board of the International Institute of Qualitative Methodology. Our institution, the RAU, and Africa, especially the southern African region will hopefully benefit from the networking concerning research interaction that is already developing as a result of this relationship. This is especially true in view of the fact that this international institute at the University of Alberta has now established research links with the continents of the world.

We want to thank our colleagues of the departments of Education Science and Nursing Science who supported our requests for financial support and leave of absence and managed our academic affairs during our absence. Also to the HSRC who supported Prof. Myburgh's visit financially.