Expertise Areas
Transcultural Topics
- Cultural competence education for healthcare professionals & students
- Cultural issues for Latina women concerning lactation
- Cultural considerations for Jewish women concerning the childbirth continuum
- Overseas student immersion experience

Cultural Groups
- Jewish
- Arab Israeli
- Israeli multiethnic

Clinical Topics
- Midwifery
- Lactation

Research Methodology
- Comparative
- Correlational
- Descriptive
- Qualitative - ethnographic

Other
- Cultural Competence Expert for the Israel Ministry of Health national initiative to decrease disparities in healthcare
- Translation of tools into Hebrew

Languages spoken, read/write*
- English*
- Hebrew*

Select Publications
Book Chapter

Manual

Journal Articles


1. What Sparked my Interest in Transcultural Nursing

Working as a nurse and then as a midwife and a lactation consultant in the US and Israel, I have had the opportunity to work with women and their families who come from many different cultures. It was natural for me to choose to study Transcultural Nursing while studying for my doctorate. The focus of my doctoral dissertation was Cultural Competence and, since then, I have continued to promote cultural competence as an educator, research and practitioner.

2. Present/Future Directions

In 2007, I founded the first interfaith group for healthcare professionals in Israel, as a branch of the Interfaith Encounter Association. I continue to coordinate this group which has allowed healthcare professionals, Jewish, Christian and Moslem, and from many different ethnicities to come together to discuss cultural issues concerning health and illness.

I am the Cultural Competence Expert for the Israel Ministry of Health’s national initiative to decrease healthcare disparities by educating healthcare professionals about delivery of cultural competent care. As an educator, I continue to promote cultural competence as it relates to different specialties and healthcare professionals. Additionally, my present and future research continues to examine cultural aspects related to Women’s Health and Lactation.

3. Favorite Transcultural Story

Many years ago, a 13 year old. Armenian boy, living in East Jerusalem, was diagnosed with osteo-sarcoma. Over several years, he underwent amputation of his right leg, chemo & radiotherapy. Relapses resulted in more chemo & radiation therapy and additional amputation of his leg. He received pain medication as needed. At one point, he asked the nurses that the pain medication be stopped if he was nearing death as he wanted to feel the pain. The staff tried to explain that he would need the pain medication, especially at this time, yet he did not relent. The nurses tried to discuss this with the boy’s mother but she did not speak English or Hebrew (at the time, there were no professional interpreters). The staff felt very frustrated that he did not want any pain medication during this time and that the pain would be unbearable. One day, the boy’s priest came to visit. One of the nurses spoke to the priest about the boy’s refusal for pain medication before he died. The priest explained that in Christianity, there is a concept to suffer before death and that was why the boy did not want to receive pain medication.

After hearing the priest’s explanation, the nurse approached this boy and spoke to him. She explained that he is already suffering and that was something that the pain medication could not remove. She offered that, when the time came, she would be by his side and hold his hand. Together, they made a signal that if he squeezed her hand, she should give him pain medication. That is what happened, she stayed by his side, holding his hand. When he squeezed her hand, she gave him pain medication.