

THESES AND DISSERTATIONS ON THE HISTORY OF BRAZILIAN NURSING PRODUCED BETWEEN 1979 AND 2013

TESES E DISSERTAÇÕES SOBRE HISTÓRIA DA ENFERMAGEM BRASILEIRA ENTRE 1979 E 2013

TESIS Y DISSERTACIONES SOBRE HISTORIA DE LA ENFERMERÍA BRASILEÑA ENTRE 1979 Y 2013

Lisandra Risi¹
Keythluci Faria²
Mercedes Neto³
Luciane Velasque⁴
Fernando Porto⁵

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Objective: to characterize the production on Nursing History in theses and dissertations in Brazil. **Method:** quantitative study, of historical nature, using the serial history method. **Results:** The total number of theses in Nursing History accounts for 5.39% of all the production in CEPEn. In Capes, this production represents 4.17%. When it comes to the dissertations, in CEPEn they account for 4.01% of the total; in Capes, 2.85%. The research evidenced that the Southeastern region of Brazil is a strong propagator of research in nursing history. **Conclusion:** Nursing graduate systems occupy a fundamental position in the process of modernization and development of scientific knowledge, which has also strengthened research in the history of nursing.

Descriptors: History of Nursing. Nursing Research. Systems.

Objetivo: caracterizar a produção sobre História da Enfermagem nas teses e dissertações no Brasil. *Método:* estudo quantitativo, de natureza histórica, sendo utilizado o método história serial. *Resultados:* o total de teses em História da Enfermagem representa 5,39% de toda a produção no CEPEn e na Capes essa produção representa 4,17%. Já nas dissertações temos para o CEPEn a representatividade de 4,01% e na Capes a de 2,85%. A pesquisa evidenciou que a região Sudeste é um forte propagador da pesquisa em história da enfermagem. *Conclusão:* os sistemas de pós-graduação em Enfermagem ocupam uma posição fundamental no processo de modernização e desenvolvimento do conhecimento científico, o que também vem fortalecendo a pesquisa em História da Enfermagem.

Descritores: História da Enfermagem. Pesquisa em Enfermagem. Sistemas.

¹ Master. Professor of Post-Graduation in Nursing, Health and Nursing Audit and Labor Nursing at Centro Universitário Celso Lisboa. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

² Academic in nursing at the Alfredo Pinto School of Nursing at the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. keythlucifaria@gmail.com

³ Nurse. PhD in Sciences. Adjunct Professor, Department of Public Health Nursing, State University of Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Vice-leader of the LACUIDEN WG and member of the SÁPESC WG.

⁴ Statistician. PhD in public health. Adjunct Professor, Department of Quantitative Methods, School of Mathematics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

⁵ Bachelor in Nursing and History. PhD in Nursing with Postdoctoral degree from USP. Associate Professor of the maternal and child nursing department of the Alfredo Pinto School of Nursing, Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Objetivo: caracterizar la producción sobre Historia de la Enfermería en las tesis y disertaciones en Brasil. Método: estudio cuantitativo, de naturaleza histórica, siendo utilizado el método historia serial. Resultados: el total de tesis en Historia de la Enfermería representa el 5,39% de toda la producción en el CEPEn y en la Capes esa producción representa el 4,17%. En las disertaciones tenemos para el CEPEn la representatividad del 4,01% y en la Capes la del 2,85%. La investigación evidenció que la región Sudeste es un fuerte propagador de la investigación en historia de la enfermería. Conclusión: los sistemas de posgrado en Enfermería ocupan una posición fundamental en el proceso de modernización y desarrollo del conocimiento científico, lo que también viene fortaleciendo la investigación en Historia de la Enfermería.

Descriptor: Historia de la Enfermería. Investigación en Enfermería. Sistemas.

Introduction

Understanding the trajectory of Nursing as an academic product is the same as stating that humans are aware of the past because they spend time with older people. This means that the passing of time is one of the permanent dimensions of human consciousness, inevitable for the institution by the values and standards advocated by society⁽¹⁾.

In this perspective, nurses with the soul of historians produce knowledge that transcends the area of Nursing and enables a cross-disciplinary approach, as it dialogues with other types of knowledge, such as Art, Sociology, Anthropology, Philosophy, Technology, History, Law, Fashion, Administration, Education, among others⁽²⁾.

Therefore, knowledge represents the moment of maturity of the human complex. In other words, it is proper to the prevailing levels of knowledge to each need of knowing that distinguishes itself from the individual in relation to space and temporality⁽³⁾. Educational policies, as well as public policies, are not built from the scratch. They are articulated with the socio-political, economic, and cultural contexts from which they emerge⁽⁴⁾.

With the establishment of general rules for organization and operation by the Federal Council of Education, post-graduation officially began in Brazil in 1965. About three years later, it was politically instituted by the University Reform of 1968 and started to include Nursing at the beginning of the following decade⁽⁵⁾. Over time, the Brazilian Nursing Association (ABEn) became the nurses' organization space. During its

trajectory, the struggles of the category included the search for a solution to internal issues such as growth, development and recognition.

The creation of the Center for Studies and Research in Nursing (CEPEn) by the ABEn on July 17, 1971, started building a database of doctoral dissertations and master's dissertations in the area of Nursing in Brazil, with more than 7,500 registered studies in its⁽⁶⁾ collection. Moreover, it proves to be a rich source of historical data on the scientific production of Brazilian Nursing, with its use in research and studies.

The Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education (Capes) and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) created in 1951 became historical milestones in the effort to institutionalize research in Brazil, in all scientific fields, including Nursing. In 1953, the University Program was implemented, Capes being the main link with universities and institutes of higher education (IES). It encouraged exchange and cooperation activities among Institutions, granting scholarships and support to scientific events⁽⁷⁾.

The appreciation of the production of theses and dissertations on the History of Nursing, of the Postgraduate Programs model *stricto sensu*, has the following objective: to characterize the production on History of Nursing in theses and dissertations in Brazil. The authors will not make analysis of theses and dissertations, only their characterization.

Method

It is a study of historical nature, using the serial and quantitative history method.

In the so-called “Serial History” the historian establishes a “series,” and it is this series that particularly interests him, that is to say, questions related to History should not be thought only as the final result of the work, but rather in multiple ways, that is, in the combined looked into objects, methods and documents⁽³⁾.

This type of study is capable of providing the disclosure of information that can often be hidden in documentary records. The so-called Serial History was introduced in the vicinity of the mid-twentieth century, in an entirely new perspective, being responsible for constituting a serialization of sources and approaching them according to equally unpublished techniques. In it the historian establishes a sequence, and this is what particularly matters^(8,9).

The temporal delimitation of the study was designed between 1979 and 2013, by identifying the first and last catalog available for consultation of the oldest and most recent scientific production on the History of Nursing in Graduate Programs *stricto sensu* found in the banks of data from CEPEn and Capes. What weighs the scope of this study with the delay in sending the information by the graduate programs.

The period for the collection of data was from March to November of the year 2013. The inclusion criteria were summaries that had the word History of Nursing in both the title and the body of the abstract of the theses and dissertations which were in the databases, and also those who had in their body the historical method described. The written abstracts had to be included in the Nursing area containing the completed classification card (classification number, author, university, year of submission, total pages, title, advisor, advisee, and abstract).

The data were collected and organized in three stages, which are described below: identification of theses and dissertations produced in CEPEn and Capes in the period from 1979 to 2013, both available in catalogs, virtual media and *compact disc* (CD), identification of theses and dissertations in Nursing History through classification of studies in this subject by CEPEn and

Capes produced in the period from 1979 to 2013 and construction and completion in spreadsheet of the program *Office Excel*® 2010, composed of the following variables: year of publication in the catalog, region, federative unit, institution, methodology used, supervisor, total of theses and dissertations produced by nurses and total of theses and dissertations in Nursing History. *A posteriori*, the data were separated according to their classification for the construction of graphs and tables.

It should be noted that, after data collection, it was verified by comparison whether there would be the possibility of duplicate work in the two databases, due to the fact that CEPEn is a more comprehensive base. After the verification, no repeated materials were found in both banks.

As limitations of this study, we highlighted two databases that are in the catalog of volume XXX of the year 2011, including studies presented in 2005, however they were cataloged by CEPEn in 2011, so there were summaries abstracts late with the year changed.

It should be noted that another limitation was the formatting of the abstracts that were inserted in the first catalog that originated the studies, having as a temporal delimitation the years from 1979 to 2000 that is in CD. These abstracts were formatted with *links* to be consulted through the year of publication, and letters of the alphabet to identify the titles of theses and dissertations, but when clicking on the letters D/F/G/H, there was only the name of the authors. Therefore, they were excluded from the study.

In this sense, 295 doctoral theses and 1,121 master's theses were disregarded for the research, due to the impossibility of identifying if they were referring to the History of Nursing.

Results

During the period under study, 1,872 PhD theses and 5,953 Master's theses produced by nurses and other professionals from the Postgraduate Programs related to healthcare were

inserted by CEPEn. In Capes, a total of 216 doctoral theses and 1,438 master's theses were found.

It should be noted that both bases share the abstracts of this intellectual production. During the analysis of these bases, we noticed that two doctoral theses and 13 master's dissertations are only in the Capes database, not included in the CEPEn database, and are counted in the total analysis.

Next, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be displayed, which will lead to the absolute and relative frequencies of the theses and dissertations of both banks.

It is important to note that, in 2002, two catalogs were produced, due to the increase in the number of theses and dissertations that year. Furthermore, it can be pointed out that during the research it was verified that the first semester of that year evidenced most of the theses in Nursing History.

The highlight of Table 1 in the first half of 2002 is the highest percentage in studies in the field of Nursing History, with a result of 8.33%. It is noteworthy that, even with the years from 1979 to 2000, in the first catalog the percentage variability in six months was greater than the previous 21 years, thus, we can see the convergence of research in Nursing History for the year highlighted.

Table 2 is also highlighted in the second semester of 2002, in which the highest percentage of dissertations in Nursing History with 7.30% is shown, which corroborates with the launching of two catalogs in this year of study.

In the years 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2004 there were no cataloging of theses, only four dissertations that were not in the field of Nursing History, and therefore, these four years were not included in Table 3.

In the years of 2006 and 2010 there were a significant number of theses published, but none was found on Nursing History. During the period of data collection it was noticed that after 2010, there was no update or new production published in Capes.

In addition, in the year 2009 it can be seen in the same table that there is the highest percentage of accounting for theses in the bank of the Capes in the field of History of Nursing, presenting the value of 11.11%.

In Table 4, it becomes evident that for the dissertations in Nursing History, the year 2009 in the Capes database, the highest percentage of publications of the studies in this subject represented 5.32%. It should be remembered that, until the data collection period, no publication was published after the year 2010 until 2013 in the Capes database.

Table 1 – Absolute and relative frequency of theses in Nursing History available in the CEPEn database from 1979 to 2013. Rio de Janeiro, 2014

Year	Total Theses	Nursing History Theses	% Thesis in Nursing History
1979–2000	295	24	8.47%
2001	94	5	5.32%
2002/1^o	72	6	8.33%
2002/2 ^o	54	2	3.70%
2003	110	8	7.27%
2004	121	3	2.48%
2005	160	9	5.63%
2006	104	5	4.81%
2007	111	5	4.50%
2008	147	5	3.40%
2009	99	8	8.08%
2010	123	9	7.32%
2012	186	4	2.15%
2013	196	8	4.08%
Total	1,872	101	5.39%

Source: Base of theses and dissertations of CEPEn. 1979 to 2013.

Table 2 – Absolute and relative frequency of dissertations in Nursing History available in the CEPEn database from 1979 to 2013. Rio de Janeiro, 2014

Year	Total Dissertations	Dissertations in Nursing History	% Dissertations in Nursing History
1979–2000	1,121	33	2.94%
2001	384	12	3.13%
2002/1º	216	9	4.17%
2002/2º	233	17	7.30%
2003	215	8	3.72%
2004	271	12	4.43%
2005	398	17	4.27%
2006	420	20	4.76%
2007	337	12	3.56%
2008	340	17	5.00%
2009	269	10	3.71%
2010	425	21	4.94%
2012	714	28	4.06%
2013	610	23	3.92%
Total	5,953	239	4.01%

Source: Base of theses and dissertations of CEPEn. 1979 to 2013.

Table 3 – Absolute and relative frequency of theses in Nursing History available in the Capes database from 2002 to 2010. Rio de Janeiro, 2014

Year	Total Theses	Nursing History Theses	% Thesis in Nursing History
2002	1	0	0%
2005	16	1	6.25%
2006	44	0	0%
2007	27	1	3.7%
2008	46	2	4.35%
2009	45	5	11.11%
2010	37	0	0%
Total	216	9	4.17%

Source: Base of theses and dissertations of Capes. 2002 to 2010.

Table 4 – Absolute and relative frequency of dissertations in Nursing History available in the Capes database from 2000 to 2010. Rio de Janeiro, 2014

Year	Total Dissertations	Dissertations in Nursing History	% Dissertations in Nursing History
2000	4	0	0%
2001	3	0	0%
2002	5	0	0%
2003	5	0	0%
2004	14	0	0%
2005	44	2	4.55%
2006	199	9	4.52%
2007	251	5	1.99%
2008	407	9	2.21%
2009	301	16	5.32%
2010	205	0	0%
Total	1,438	41	2,85%

Source: Base of theses and dissertations of Capes. 2000 to 2010.

It is believed that this increase was due to the increase in the research groups in Nursing History in the country, and the fact that 2010, at the Triennial Evaluation 2007-2009, the Nursing area had 41 Post- Graduation and 61 courses accredited by Capes, with 20 doctorates, 38 academic masters and three professional masters⁽¹⁰⁾.

Discussion

The production of knowledge, not an isolated enterprise, is the collective construction of the scientific community, a search process, in which each new study is inserted, complementing or contesting contributions previously given to the study of the subject^(11,12).

In applying this understanding, we can say that for Nursing this translates into disseminating knowledge and experiences in specific historical contexts of the profession.

The data presented in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 show that theses represent the highest percentage of nursing history productions, although there is a greater absolute number of dissertations.

Another detail that can be presented, in its totality in theses and dissertations in Nursing History does not exceed 10.0%, being 9.4% (5.39% + 4.01%, respectively) in CEPEn in Tables 1 and 2, and in Capes there is a sum of 7.02% (4.17% + 2.85%, respectively), as can be seen in Tables 3 and 4.

It is well known that for a profession to play its part, it needs a class entity that upholds the principles of the profession with its eyes on history. Thus, it can be observed that CEPEn provides scientific knowledge for Nursing professionals⁽¹³⁾.

Over the years, the process of political, economic and social expansion evidenced the need to increase the construction of academic knowledge, which reaches Nursing as a domain, and it can be observed in the tables presented with the expansion of the quantitative of theses and dissertations each year.

With the quantitative analysis and the realization of the regionalization distribution in both databases, one can bring the Southeast region as the hub of most publications.

In CEPEn with the theses according to the region we have the Southeast region with 85, followed by the South region with 17, Northeast and Center-West each with two publications. In Capes, there is only publication in two regions: South with six and Southeast with three.

The Southeast and South regions have the largest quantity of published productions of theses catalogs in both databases, which can be justified by the number of educational institutions concentrated in the locality, mainly in the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

The same occurred with the dissertations and their regions in CEPEn. Again, the Southeast region appears with 149, followed by the Northeast with 58, South with 26, Center-West with eight and North with one. In Capes, the Southeast region has 20, followed by the Northeast with 12, South with seven and Center-West with two publications.

The Northeastern region presented an expansion, which can be justified by the expansion of the Graduate Programs and the creation of Research Groups in the History of Nursing, such as the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN) and the Federal University of Alagoas (UFAL).

Given this context and considering that, in order to make progress in the Capes training process, it was fundamental to write and publish the research results, since one of the ways to measure the production of knowledge is from the scientific production of a certain academic sector⁽¹⁴⁾.

The methodology used in the theses and dissertations of the CEPEn and Capes database was the analysis of only the methodological constructions with the focus on historical approaches written in the abstracts matching the study.

In this sense, it can be observed in the study that the methodologies in the CEPEn theses were those of a social-historical nature with 37, followed by oral history with 26, life history with 20, historical-dialectic with 16, serial history and historiography each one with a publication. In Capes, one has the dialectical historical methodologies with six followed by oral history with three publications.

For the publications of dissertations in the databases, the methodologies were counted. Of social-historical nature, there were 86, followed by oral history with 74, life history with 42, historical dialectic with 31 and historiography with a publication. In Capes, we have the historical-social methodology with 18, followed by dialectical with 6 followed by oral history with 3 publications.

To contextualize in the socio-historical perspective, one can say that there is language, society and history, because people can now understand the ancient and classic texts and the original innovations of a contemporary writer⁽¹⁵⁾.

This regionality exerts influence on society in several respects, at the same time as it is influenced and determined by historical and social conditions. Its strategic position in the country's development does not stem only from processes of technological innovation, the production and diffusion of science and culture, but especially its impacts on the formation and qualification of the knowledge of Nursing as a profession^(16,17).

It is known that there are other historical approaches that are relevant for the preservation of professional *ethos*. However, history is a construction that does not cease, it is a perpetual gestation from the present to the past, so the document can not be understood as the historical reality itself, but as portions of that reality. In addition, historical sources are read and explored with the present filters, according to the values, concerns, conflicts, fears, designs and tastes of each observer⁽¹³⁾.

Conclusion

When conducting the study about the production on Nursing History, we opted to analyze the two databases of theses and dissertations available in Brazil in a quantitative fashion.

In Brazilian Nursing, research is a recent activity, however there is some scientific production already consolidated. According to the study, 1,872 theses written by nurses were counted, comprising a total of 101 in the field of Nursing

History, which represents 5.39% of all CEPEN production. From the Capes database, this production was registered as 216 theses for Nursing History, which represents 4.17% of the total. For the dissertations, in CEPEN a sum of 5,953 was identified, of which 239 were on History of Nursing, which represents 4.01%. The Capes database, there are 1,438 dissertations written by nurses, but only 41 in the field of Nursing History, which represents 2.85%.

From the analysis carried out, it is noticed that the Nursing education system, in the sets of the Graduate programs, occupies a fundamental position in the process of modernization and development of scientific knowledge, which has also strengthened the history of the profession. However, it can be noted that in Capes the amount of production available for consultation is lower than the CEPEN.

When analyzing productions with a regional focus, it is identified that the Southeast and South regions bring the highest quantity of productions in both theses and dissertations. This fact can be explained by the greater number of Graduate Programs *stricto sensu* in the universities of these regions of Brazil.

The identification of methodological approaches in CEPEN showed 37 theses with methodology in Social History, followed by 26 Oral History, 20 with History of Life, 16 with Dialectical History and only a summary in the methodologies Serial History and Historiography. In Capes, there are six with dialectical historical methodology and three with oral history methodology.

For the dissertations, we have the CEPEN scenario with 86 with the social-historical methodology, followed by 79 oral history, 42 with a history of life, 31 with a dialectical history and only one with historiography. Capes also showed that the social-historical methodology predominates with 18, followed by oral history with 16, life history with five and historical-dialectic with only two.

It is important to note that the results presented are intended to fill a gap in the field of Nursing History, dealing quantitatively with the

characteristics of the field, using complex systems tools (dynamic systems).

It is understood the importance of Post-Graduation *stricto sensu* in the development of the History of Nursing, which has been engaged in the reflection and proposal of training projects to disseminate knowledge in the field of the history of the profession.

The results obtained by the analysis of the data measure the fulfillment of the objective of this research, which in this way progresses to the finding of some assumptions already indicated by other authors who study the field, as well as for the possibility of discussing new trends.

Collaboration

1. conception, project, analysis and interpretation of data: Fernando Porto, Lisandra Risi e Luciane Velasque.

2. essay writing and critical review of intellectual content: Fernando Porto, Lisandra Risi e Keythluci Faria.

3. final approval of the version to be published: Fernando Porto e Luciane Velasque.

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