

An ethnographic study of the culture in a Diagnostic Imaging department (DID)

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This is a doctoral thesis which is ongoing.

ABSTRACT

Purpose of study

There has been very little written about radiographers and how they work and interact. This study will explore the culture in a DID, looking at how radiographers work and what the issues are within their working environment. This study will contribute to the sparse evidence base by providing valuable insights into how radiographers work in the pressurised environment of the NHS. The results of this study may prove beneficial for prospective diagnostic radiographers (DRs) and other health and social care professionals.

Research question/area

What is the culture in a DID like and how does this working culture affect the work of DRs, their colleagues and the patients visiting the DID.

Aim

To explore the culture in a DID with the primary focus on DRs

Objectives

To describe the culture in a DID and highlight the current cultural issues that face DRs

To explore how people learn to become a DR and how they become professionally socialised

To look at how DRs communicate and interact within the DID

Methods

This will be an ethnographic study of the culture in a DID. The study will involve observation for a three month period in a DID in the East of England. This will include both structured and un-structured observation of staff in the DID to identify current issues for DRs. The researcher will observe the work of DRs and describe the culture of the DID.

After a period of observation the researcher will conduct semi-structured interviews with key informants from the DID to include senior management, radiographers, support workers and domestic staff. The interviews will explore issues identified from the observation in greater depth and seek to validate the findings from the observation through triangulation.

Documents used in the DID will also be analysed.

Data analysis

Observation notes and interview transcripts will be analysed using thematic and discourse analysis to highlight themes and trends.