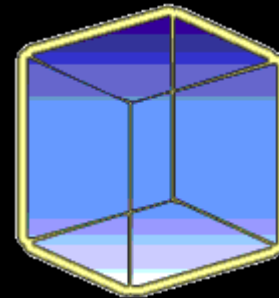




*Nursing Theory*  
**Disciplinary  
Influences**

# Logical Empiricism

- Manifested as: tests, experiments
- Measurements
- Scientific Hypotheses
- Control, Quantitative
- Diagnoses
- Positivist
- Science of Nursing
- = Reductionist Approach



# Historicism

- Manifested as: Interpretative
- Qualitative
- Aesthetics = Art of Nursing
- Descriptive
- Phenomenological
- Organicism
- Holistic



# Critical Social Theory



- Direct link to practice, the context of nursing
- Includes the environment, power structures, hegemony
- Embraces the context of health, e.g. Social determinants of health
- Examines the context of health care – the “system”
- Analyzes the context of nursing – knowledge & power, visibility, voice

# Theory is.....



- “A statement that purports to account for or characterize some phenomena”
- “Provide ways of thinking about and looking at the world around us”
- “The systematic abstraction of reality that serves a purpose or goal”
- “Should be a true reflection of the world around us”
- “A conceptual framework invented to serve some purpose”

# Theory Ultimately is,....



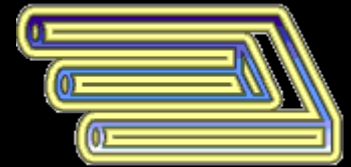
- “A set of concepts, definitions, and propositions that projects a view of phenomena by designating specific interrelationships among concepts for purposes of describing, explaining, and predicting phenomena” (Chinn & Jacobs)
- Is based on assumptions, value choices, and judgments – is purposeful and goal-oriented
- Way of providing knowledge, enhances power, aids deliberate action, provides rationale and professional autonomy by guiding practice, education and research

# Purpose of Theory

- Define nursing broadly
- Aid curriculum design
- Enhance professional nursing practice
- Form the basis of a language through which nurses can communicate
- Strengthens the autonomy of nursing
- Exists to improve nursing practice by providing a rationale for nursing actions
- Aids coherence of purpose



# Scope of Nursing Theory



- Meta Theory – focuses on broad issues
- Grand Theory – give broad perspectives to the goals and structures of nursing practice e.g. Orem's nursing model – view nursing in the ideal world
- Middle Range Theory – conceptual analysis
- Practice or Situation-Producing Theory – explain specific area of nursing practice = theory that comes from practice for practice – view nursing in the “real” world

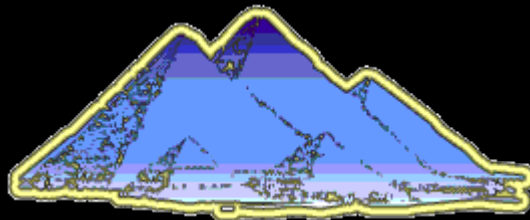
# Theory-Practice Gap



- In the “ideal” world of nursing theory, nursing practice is discussed as it “ought to be”
- Conflict of nursing as a Practice Profession and an Academic Discipline
- Separates the Academics who write and teach from those who Implement in reality
- Language is one key issue – language of theory (elitist) is different from language of practice (realist) – need **Knowledgeable Doers**

# Four Levels of Theory

- Factor Isolating Theory – names concepts
- Factor Relating Theory
- Situation Relating Theory
- Situation Producing Theory – uses theoretical work to produce valued



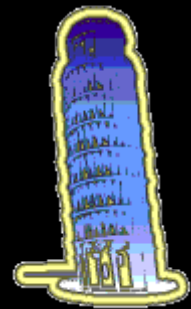
# Role of Reflection

- Reflection on practice is one important tool for developing these Knowledgeable Doers who can lead the way to develop Practice Theory
- - helps develop tacit knowledge
- - learn to Reflect in Action = Praxis
- Requires time and a safe environment
- Takes patience and diligence
- Can lead to Action Research



# Why does Nursing need Theory?

- To avoid relying on “borrowed” theory?
- How do we make theory accessible to nurses, and relevant to everyday practice?
- To enhance our body of legitimate knowledge?
- To be regarded as a profession?
- To enhance nursing practice?
- To achieve autonomy?
- To promote evidenced-based practice?





# Personal Theory of Nursing

- What is your central belief about the individual person?
- What constitutes the environment?
- How do the individual and the environment interact?
- What is your view of health?
- How does illness relate to health?
- What is the central reason for the existence of nursing?

