Abstract for 2015 Ethnography Symposium.
Reflection in Action: Taking Stock of 10 Years of Ethnography Symposia

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This abstract/paper is based on lessons learnt from a doctoral thesis for a Professional Doctorate.

Title
Reflection on an Ethnographic study in Diagnostic Radiography.

Introduction
The ethnographic study being reflected upon explored the culture in a Diagnostic Imaging Department (DID), looking at how radiographers work and what the issues were within their working environment. This study was carried out within one DID in a District General Hospital in the East of England (Strudwick, 2011).

Methods
The researcher used ethnography to study the culture in a DID. Observation for a 4 month period was carried out by the researcher in a DID in the East of England. The author, who is a diagnostic radiographer took on the role of observer as participant during the observation period (Gold, 1958). Field notes were recorded and used to formulate topics for the interviews that were to follow.

After the period of observation the researcher conducted semi-structured interviews with key informants from the DID to explore issues uncovered from the observation in further depth. Ten key informants were purposefully sampled from the DID to provide a cross section of opinion from the staff.

The data collected were analysed so that key themes were identified.

This paper is a reflection on the research process.

This paper
The purpose of this paper is to reflect on the study, the use of ethnography in this setting, what it was like to do participant observation and the ‘self’ in the research.

As diagnostic radiography is normally perceived as a scientific profession qualitative research is not all that common. The researcher will reflect on the usefulness of ethnography as a methodology within radiographic practice and how she felt during the participant observation when observing her own profession.

The researcher will also reflect on how she felt when presenting negative findings from the study and the power struggles she experienced during and after the research study.

The researcher will also briefly touch on the implications of her findings for her own profession.
References


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