



EAHN

EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE HISTORY
OF NURSING

Editorial

Completed by Karen Nolte



*Figure: Christmas at the Medical Clinic,
University of Heidelberg in the 1930s*

Dear colleagues,

another very challenging year lies behind us with the COVID 19 pandemic.

Despite the difficult conditions, a wide range of nursing history activities took place. I am pleased to present the reports to you.

I wish you all had a Merry Christmas and us all a happy and especially healthy new year 2022,

with best wishes

Karen Nolte

Belgium – The Belgian Association for the History of Nursing

by Luc De Munck

Organisation

After the delay in 2020 due to covid-19, also in 2021 it wasn't possible to organise an official start meeting 'live on the spot'. But like last year, this doesn't mean that there were no activities or contacts in the past year.

Communication

The Belgian Association for the History of Nursing has continued to post on regular basis short articles on its [Dutch-speaking Facebook-account](#). Our Facebook community grew from 108 to 141 followers. 16 articles were published this year: six announcements of lectures organised by the Royal College of Nursing in Great-Britain, three links to articles, two videos, two references to EAHN-activities (Coordinating Committee and Bulletin), a photo collage to celebrate the International Nurses Day, an announcement of a new publication, and a tribute to the first Belgian professor in nursing.



Our [Twitter account](#) grew from 38 to 80 followers. We mainly focus on retweeting interesting publications, conferences and funding opportunities for research in the history of nursing.



Very recently we also launched our association on [Instagram \(@histnursing_be\)](#). Focus will be on historical images of nursing practices and heritage material.

It was our plan to launch a [French-speaking Facebook page](#). Despite repeated calls, we didn't find a French-speaking communication officer/volunteer to manage this page.

It was also intended to launch a [website](#) (trilingual Dutch/French/English). Due to financial and practical reasons, it wasn't possible to realise it.

Advisory function

The Belgian Association had different advisory contacts with the [General Union of Belgian Nursing](#), the association who represents 43 professional nursing organisations in Belgium. In collaboration with the new project [Heritage of Care / Care for Heritage](#) of KADOC-KU Leuven and Museum Dr. Guislain, guidelines were launched on digital document and archives management for the union and its depending professional nursing associations.



Plans for 2022

If it should be allowed by the pandemic, the organisation of the ‘official’ [foundation meeting](#) of the association, together with the election of an [executive committee](#), will finally take place in 2022.

The efforts to find a responsible for a [French-speaking Facebook-page](#) and an active French-speaking contact person for the association will continue.

The plans for a [website](#) will continue, with hope to launch it on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale. When a French-speaking responsible for the content isn’t found, the site will be launched in Dutch and probably also in English.

The [advisory function](#) on digital document and archives management for the General Union of Belgian Nursing and its 43 organisations will also continue in 2022.

Croatia – Croatian Nursing History Society (HNS)

by Sanda Franković, Zvonimir Kralj

At the 8th annual assembly of CNA’s Society for the History of Nursing held on 25th March 2021. CNA’s Nursing History Collection was founded. The Collection is an organizational unit of the CAN that concerns itself with museum activity. The Collection is protected as a cultural heritage and it falls under the domain of regulations regarding protection and preservation of cultural heritage. The CNA’s Nursing History Collection was founded with a purpose of collection and preservation of archival material and historical facts about Croatian nursing. Currently, the collection does not have a publicly accessible

space; until it does, the collected materials are presented on CNA’s website (<https://hums.hr>). Sanda Franković is preparing a monograph on the Croatian Nurses Association (CNA) - Nursing History Society (2013-2021) which depicts Association’s activities. The Monograph will also be available on CNA’s website.

The Nursing History Society published on 18th March 2021 a position statement: The relevance of studying and teaching the history of nursing.

The 6th Symposium of the Society for History of Nursing was held in Opatija on June 17-20, 2021 as part of the 9th CNA Congress “Nursing without Borders”. As part of the 10th CNA Congress “Nursing without Borders”, the 7th Symposium of the Society for the History of Nursing was held virtually on November 12-13, 2021.

The last issue of the Nursing Journal (Sestrinski glasnik) for this year is thematically dedicated to the history of Croatian nursing, with the aim of teaching nurses methods of historical research using various materials and promoting broader inclusion of nursing history topics in curricula at all levels of nursing education.

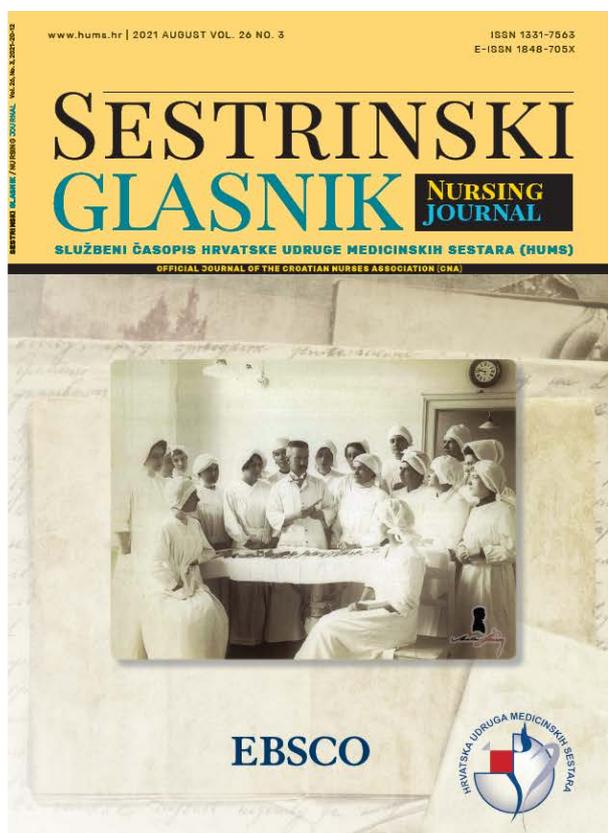


Figure 1. Nursing Journal 2021; 26(3) Thematic issue dedicated to Croatian nursing history

Croatian Nurses Association (CNA) Nursing History Society

Position statement: The relevance of studying and teaching the history of nursing

The Society for History of Nursing within the Croatian Nurses Association (CNA) is guided by the idea that the relevance of knowledge about the history of the nursing profession is reflected in four elements:

professional socialization, professional reevaluation, recognition in the public and in the scientific community.

The educational system has a major impact on the professional socialization of nurses. With the appropriation of history, those who enter the nursing profession learn scientific thinking, and they develop a positive attitude toward their professional identity. Content from national history helps build a professional identity based on positive role models and highlight important developments in nursing, develop pride and commitment to dedicated work, and promote critical thinking.

The historical perspective of the individual elements that define each profession is relevant to professional reevaluation. Analyzing the history of professionalisation of nursing in a particular field also helps to understand the present and also contributes to shaping the future.

Historical content can each be used with specific themes to show the contribution of nursing to the welfare of the community through constructive collaboration with the media through occasional broadcasts, articles, documentaries.

Encouraging students to choose topics from the national history of nursing for their master's thesis and/or dissertation helps to fill research gaps in nursing history and to critically reflect on the history of nursing with a scholarly perspective. Published articles and books contribute to the recognition of nursing in the larger scholarly community because the topics selected almost always address a broader perspective on socioeconomic circumstances of a particular era; therefore, nursing history research may be of interest to other scholars (1).

Responsibilities

Nurses should preserve their history. They should also create a professional culture that promotes knowledge of the history of the profession. They have a responsibility to increase their knowledge of the history of nursing.

Nurse teachers must be able to explain the historical development of nursing and its historical and current role in science and society (2). Teachers are responsible for instilling a sense of connection

between current generations and their predecessors, whose efforts will be their role models.

Nursing organizations are required to contribute to the collection and preservation of nursing-related materials. They are a gathering place for nurses' accumulation of experiences, knowledge, and valuable materials outside the workplace. Associations, the Chamber, and the Union communicate with numerous nurses. They are called upon to promote historical content so that nurses outside educational and scientific institutions also have access to such content (3).

The Ministry of Science and Education is obliged to provide support to civil society associations as partners in the implementation of projects related to the history of nursing (4). Proposals to supplement curricula at all levels of education with contents from the history of nursing should also be considered.

The Ministry of Culture and Media is obliged to act in order to protect the cultural heritage (5), which includes historical material in the field of nursing.

Museums and archives are obliged to ensure adequate storage of collected materials and enable their further use. Appropriate systematization and storage of collected historical materials is a necessary step for further research. The promotion of topics from the history of nursing in museums is a step in recognizing nursing in the general public.

The Society for the History of Nursing within Croatian Nurses Association was founded in 2013 and sets the following activities as the goals of its work: collecting historical material from the field of nursing (photographs, uniforms, badges, books, minutes, audiovisual records), archiving of collected data and materials, analysis of nursing journals, involvement of the Society in related international organizations, promoting the history of the Croatian nursing through exhibitions and lectures (institutions for the education of nurses, the greater community) and organizing professional meetings.

The Society for the History of Nursing also encouraged a broad discussion and activities related to the

collection and systematization of archival material. In addition to studying the archives, testimonies of historical witnesses will be collected by recording interviews.

Activities are currently being undertaken in order to officially protect the collected archives and to establish the Collection, which should form the basis for the establishment of a Nursing Museum in the future. The Museum of Nursing would be a place where all four functions of the study of nursing history could be combined: socialization through collaboration with the institutions where nurses are trained, valorization and visibility in the scientific community through the collection and analysis of historical material, visibility in the public sphere as an institution accessible to all citizens and offering cultural events(1).

References:

1. Franković S, Kralj Z, Glavaš T, Jurinec B. **History of Croatia nursing – undiscovered territory** Sestrinski glasnik. 2018; 23 (2): 99–103.
2. National council for upbringing and education. Framework for national standard qualification for teachers in primary and secondary schools. 24.2.2016. [in Croatian] Available https://www.ffri.uniri.hr/files/dokumenti/sjeka/CON/Okvir_nacionalnoga_standarda_kvalifikacija.pdf. retrieved at 20.12.2020.
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Approved by the CNA Board of Directors, March 18, 2021.

Denmark – The Danish Museum of Nursing History

by *Susanne Malchau Dietz*

The Danish Museum of Nursing History is still an important centre for the history of nursing. In 2021 the museum opened to the public again after the Covid 19 lock down. Three major events have been marked by the museum. The death of the museums founder Kirsten Stallknecht – and the 70s anniversary of the Danish hospital ship Jutlandia and the Danish nurses on strike in the past and very much at the present.

Obituary Kirsten Stallknecht - founder of the Danish Museum of Nursing History

Kirsten Stallknecht died on 4 May 2021 at the age 83. She was president of the Danish Nurses' Organization (DNO) 1968–1996 and president of the International Council of Nurses 1997–2001. She made a great effort to preserve and research the history of nursing, and the jewel of her crown was the Danish Museum of Nursing History.

It cannot be emphasised enough how important Kirsten Stallknecht has been in making the history of Danish nursing accessible and preserved for all. When she was president of the DNO, she had the ideas, visions, and dreams of a museum that she managed to transform into actions. The museum opened in 1999 the year of DNO's 100th anniversary.

The idea of establishing a nursing museum emerged in the late 1980s. In the years to come Kirsten Stallknecht proved to be right when she imagined the possibility of a place where the present can be put into perspective by the past and enrich the understanding of what nursing is today. In addition, Kirsten Stallknecht took the initiative in 1997 in founding the Danish Society of Nursing History, which from 1997-2015 supported the museum. Until her death Kirsten Stallknecht maintained a lively interest in the museum and always made her great knowledge of the history of nursing available to the museum and its staff.



Figure 1: ICN President Kirsten Stallknecht carries the Florence Nightingale lamp in Westminster Abbey on ICN's 100th anniversary 1999. (The Danish Museum of Nursing History)

Kirsten Stallknecht focus on research and the history of nursing was also expressed by the fact that she arranged for DNO to employ historians to research the history of Danish nursing, and in the 1980s and '90s a number of books on Danish nursing history were published.

Honoured be the memory of Kirsten Stallknecht.

Memorial words by Grete Christensen, president the Danish Nurses' Organization & chairman the Danish Museum of Nursing History

The Hospital Ship Jutlandia 70s Anniversary – Danish Nurses in the Korean War 1950–53

It is 70 years ago Denmark sent the hospital ship Jutlandia to Korea to help sick and wounded UN soldiers. On board were a hundred volunteer hospital people and among them 40 nurses.

Between January 23, 1951, and October 16, 1953, Jutlandia made three expeditions to Korea. The hospital performed 4,360 surgeries on nearly 5,000 wounded and sick soldiers. Of these, only 29 died. At full occupancy, the hospital housed 350 soldiers, but for much of the time, there was spare capacity to treat civilians as well. It is estimated that over 10,000 Korean civilians, both children and adults, were treated. It is especially this effort that makes the South Koreans to this day showing their gratitude of the Danish nurses.



Figure 2: Danish nurses on the ship's deck of Jutlandia (The Danish Museum of Nursing History)

It was the Danish Red Cross that hired the health personnel to be used. In the Danish Nurses' journal, the DNO mentioned the possibility of applying to become a Jutlandia nurse. A total of 40 nurses were sought and an additional 30 nurses had to be hired to assist them. In journal no. 2 1951, the DNO announced the names of the lucky nurses accepted by the Red Cross. There were between 3 and 4,000 applicants for the 40 positions. When the newly hired nurses went on board, the ship was fully assembled with 300 beds, 3 operating rooms, 1 emergency room, 1 X-ray department, laboratory, and pharmacy.

The exhibition provides a vivid insight into life on board the floating hospital and depicts the nurses' demanding work tasks in a war zone, their leisure and social life both on board and on land leave in exotic

regions. The sources are two diaries written by nurses on Jutlandia's 3rd expedition. Each quote is illustrated with pictures from the museum's large collection and together they tell the fantastic story about the nurses' work at Jutlandia. (The exhibition run until 1 May 2022)

Danish Nurses on strike – past and present

Danish nursing has had a most dramatic post corona year as on the 22nd of April 2021 the Danish Nurses' Organisation sent a notice of strike to achieve a better result of the collective agreement for 2021–2024. The goal was not a strike, but it became the reality by 21st of May as it was not possible to achieve a satisfying result prior to this date.

The strike made the museum put up an exhibition of strikes in Danish nursing in the past and very

much the present. The 2021 strike was number five since 1973.

The 2021 strike ended with legislative intervention August 27. However, the Danish Nurses Organization and the Danish nurses in general continue to make strong argument for two requirements to the employers, which are: A) Higher salaries for the nurses, and B) A joint appeal from the parties (employer and employees) to the Danish Parliament for tripartite negotiations, where the three parties jointly commit to finding a solution to the nurses' historical pay gap.

Reference: <https://dsr.dk/loen-og-ar-bejdsvilkaar/ok21/danish-nurses-organization-declares-a-strike>

Germany – German Association for the History of Nursing (GAHN)

by Pierre Pfüttsch

Report on the Workshop “Nursing under National Socialism”

Just as in medical history, the period of National Socialism has been a popular field of research in nursing history for many years. The workshop of the professional society of nursing history, which took place on October 22/23, 2021 at the memorial Pirna-Sonnenstein, aimed to bring together the currently ongoing research projects and to ask about the state of the art of research on the topic.

Of particular interest was the role that nursing generally played in the National Socialist era and what professional self-image was the basis for this? What was the role of nurses in the context of Nazi medical crimes in concentration camps, asylums and (psychiatric) clinics? Were they merely executive organs of the decisions made by doctors and politicians, or did they also have scope for action? And if so, how exactly did they act? In addition to these questions, the workshop also focused on the period after 1945 and asked what role a possible National Socialist past played for nurses after 1945.

Petra Betzien (Düsseldorf) presented in the first lecture the scope of action of Nazi nurses in different women's concentration camps. Irina Rebrova (Berlin) dealt with the role of local nursing staff in the occupied territories of Russia, for which she also evaluated Russian sources. The nursing staff of the Heil- und Pflegeanstalt Erlangen (asylum in Erlangen, Bavaria) was the focus of the contribution by Marion Voggenreiter (Erlangen). Bettina Klockow (Berlin) chose a literary approach by comparing normative body concepts of the National Socialists on the basis of the novel “Sünde wider das Blut”.

Stefan Kiefer (Wiesloch) dealt with the story of Amalie Widmann, who was a nurse in the Wiesloch asylum near Heidelberg, questioning her self-perception as a resistance fighter.



Figure: Administration building of the Wiesloch institution in 1943, ©<https://www.gedenkort-t4.eu>

Fruzsina Müller (Leipzig) portrayed some deaconesses of the Leipzig Deaconess House during National Socialism. After an impressive guided tour of the Pirna-Sonnenstein Memorial, Elena Marie Elisabeth Kiesel (Erfurt) addressed the question of the voluntary nature of the actions of diaconal actors under National Socialism. In the two concluding contributions, the speakers focused on another medical professional group, midwives. Elisabeth Dittmann (Friedrichshafen) examined obstetric practices in Bethel and Sophia König (Leipzig) focused on the midwives' involvement in antenatal care.

The wide range of topics impressively demonstrated that the history of nursing under National Socialism continues to be a sought-after area of research in nursing history.

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Germany – The Historical Nursing Section of the German Society for Nursing Science

by Mathilde Hackmann

Thirty years is a long time – more than one generation of nurse historians celebrated the first official meeting of the Historical Nursing Research Section which took place in 1991. As you can see in the photos technology has changed during this period. When in 1992 German new postcodes were introduced typewriters and handwritten corrections were normal. In 2009 a new logo and texts written by word processor are evidence that computers were now state of the art.



Figure 1: letter head invitation in 1992

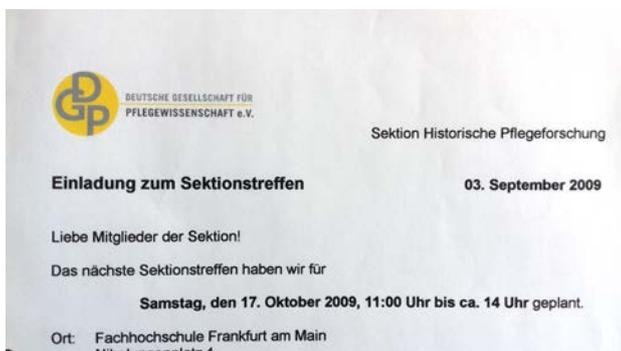


Figure 2: letter head invitation in 2009

We met on 26th June 2021 to celebrate these thirty years unfortunately online while the personal meeting was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this format allowed people to participate who otherwise may not have been able to join the meeting.

Dr Anja Katharina Peters, speaker of the Section since February 2021 welcomed the participants from all parts of Germany. Prof Dr Inge Eberl, chair of the German Association for Nursing Science, appreciated the activities of the Section in the national and international context. In her view nursing history must remain a part in all levels of nurse education and the research the members of the Section are involved in has to be strengthened. Heinrich Recken, one of the first members of the Section remembered the early years of activities with its first speaker and unforgotten Hilde Steppe (1947–1999). His paper was followed by memories of Prof Dr Andrea Thiekötter who was speaker of the Section before Anja took over.

The meeting ended with sharing memories, stories and inviting some of the guests to join the Section. Although everybody had their drink at their own desk we were in a good mood. Hopefully for the next celebration we might be able to meet personally.

Israel – The Israeli Society for the History of Nursing (ISHN)

by Nira Bartal

The ISHN continued to adjust to the COVID-19 restrictions in 2021 and held its fifth meeting on Zoom on February 24. The meeting, centering on “The Art of Historical Investigation,” was moderated by Dr. Ronen Segev. The encounter included two topics: “The Historical Research Toolkit” by Assaf Galai, curator and director of documentary films, and “The Challenges of Historico-Medical Research: The History of Schneider Hospital [one of Israel’s leading pediatric hospitals] as a Case Study,” by the author, researcher, and publisher Itai Bahur.

On November 23, 2021, the Center for the History of the Legal and Medical Professions, part of Peres Academic Center, will be hosting on Zoom the ISHN workshop on “Nursing, Documentation, and Epidemics—About Profession and History.” Professor Eyal Katvan, the founder of the Historical Center, is cooperating with us in organizing the project. The topic of the first session will be “Profession and Practice: Nursing and the Struggle against Epidemics,” and that of the second will be “Nursing and Documentation.” At the present writing, more than 120 people have signed up for the event.

As part of the Historical Center’s activities, Professor Katvan created a Web site with various sections focusing on women in the professions of law and medicine during the British Mandate era (1918–1948). The segment on nurses is comprised of two lists. The first, of certified nurses in Mandate Palestine, includes more than 1,000 nurses, the schools they attended, and the dates of their certification by the Mandatory Government’s Health Department. The second, a list of graduates of the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing in Jerusalem, also provides the nurses’ countries of birth.

Two members of the ISHN Coordinating Committee presented their studies at scholarly conferences:

1. Dorit Weiss, RN, PhD, CNS, former national head nurse for Clalit Health Services; lecturer, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, Ono Academic College, and Netanya Academic College. She lectured on “Nurses from Here—Epidemics from There, Nurses in Detention Camps and Im-

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migrant Camps”, at the 21st Nahariya Conference on Medicine and the Holocaust, Nahariya, Israel, May 5, 2021.

2. Professor (Emerita) Hava Golander, RN, PhD—Department of Nursing and the Herczeg Institute for the Study of Age and Aging, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv. Her lecture, titled “The Tale of Israeli Nurses Caring for Holocaust Survivors in European Countries (1945–1948),” was delivered at the EAHN workshop “Nursing Care in Times of Epidemics and Pandemics—Historical and Ethical Issues”, September 3, 2021, Heidelberg, Germany (on Zoom).



Figure: The Infant Welfare Station that operated in the Old City of Jerusalem in the 1920s.

©The historical collection of photographs of the Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing (which has not yet been cataloged), in the Central Zionist Archive in Jerusalem

For the ICN conference (November 2–4, 2021), the theme of which is “Nursing around the World,” the EAHN organised a session on “Teaching Nursing History through Photographs: between Realities, Cultural Constructions, and social Idealizations.” The session included a video featuring representatives of the organization’s five member countries, each speaking about one photograph. Dr. Nira Bartal represented the ISHN in this video.

Our member Dr. Ronen Segev will have his book launching event in the gallery of the Ruppin Academic Center library on November 8. The book, titled *A Two Layered Uniform: History of Nursing in the Israeli Military 1948–1983*, deals with the unique military service of Israeli

nurses, which combines national civilian tasks and military emergency demands.

The 18th newsletter of the ISHN has been distributed on our internet network. The 19th issue will be sent out by the end of 2021

Italy – Italian Nurses’ Association with a Nursing History Group, CNAI (Consociazione nazionale delle Associazioni infermiere/i)

A picture is worth ten thousand words: Teaching nursing history through photographs

by Anna La Torre

An often-quoted old Chinese adage said: “A picture is worth ten thousand words” and nothing is so real in these days. We all know that photographs allowed us to preserve the present for further contemplation, to collect evidence for detailed research, to compare cultures in ways never imagined, to count more thoroughly than any written census, to illustrate with less prejudice, to describe things for which we had no words, and to measure change in our environment and even in our own appearance. The new challenge could be to use the photograph, as cultural artifact and as primary source document, as a new tool that could enhance and help the written text to explain nursing history.

In November 2021, the Nursing History Group of Italian Nurses’ Association (CNAI) attended ICN 2021 Virtual Congress, providing important contributors to the historical debate. Thanks to a fruitful cooperation between our association, the European Association for the History of Nursing, the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry, UBC-V School of Nursing, we were able to propose a Symposium titled: Teaching nursing history through photographs: between realities, cultural constructions and social idealisations.



Figure 1: Male Nurse, 1891. From: Historical Archive, IRCCS Fondazione Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan. Italy.

This symposium was designed to examine historic photographs of nurses at various periods in history and from a range of social and national contexts, but with a transcultural point of view. After a 5 minutes intro on the topic, made by Cecilia Sironi (Italy) and Geertje Boschma (Canada), several presenters showed and discussed one or two photographs selected from historical research projects. In particular Helen Vandenberg (Canada) presented some interesting pictures about the role of male nurses in early 20th century hospitals whereas Lydia Wytenbroek (Canada) explored race and diversity in images of mission nurses in international contexts.

Through the realisation of a short video, Maria Eugenia Galliana (Spain) and I had the honor to present a small sweep of image history, made thanks to the collaboration of the European Association for the History of Nursing. The video presented five historical photographs in five dif-

ferent contexts of the history of our profession, presented by five different experts from five different countries. (Italy, Spain, Israel, Ireland and The Netherlands). Sandra Harrison (Canada) concluded the panel emphasising the importance of implementing innovative ways of teaching nursing history.

It was a great and enthusiastic experience and a cooperation full of ideas and new possibilities. We all understood

how to efficiently use this new tool, take advantage of it and share conclusions with others. Knowing how or why a photograph was taken can help tell us many unexpressed situations in nursing history.

To sum up, I would like to personally thank Nina Bartal (Israel), Gerard Fealy (Ireland), Maria Eugenia Galliana (Spain), Hugo Schalkwijk (Holland) and all those who made this wonderful experience possible.



Figure 2: Staff group photo, 1935 From: Historical Archive, IRCCS Fondazione Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan. Italy

The Netherlands: The Historical College FNI (FNI.nl)

by Hugo Schalkwijk

About us

In 2020 the Florence Nightingale Institute (FNI) merged with the Dutch Nurses Association *Verpleegkundigen en Verzorgenden Nederland* (V&VN) to form the Historical College FNI. It consists of nurses, historians and heritage professionals. The Historical College manages the online museum for nursing www.fni.nl and function as an advisory board to the board of V&VN. As part of Dutch nurse association, the Historical College FNI aspires to be the center of a growing network for the history of nursing in the Netherlands.

COVID-19

In 2021 FNI made great effort to collect and present stories and experiences of nursing work during the COVID-19 pandemic. We further developed our story database on the website and sought contact with organizations and individuals who were willing to contribute to our COVID-19 archive. One major contribution to this archive is the project 'Corona and us' by [Leyden Academy on Vitality and Healthy Ageing](#). This project features over 350 experiences on the COVID-19 pandemic in Dutch elderly care, ranging from nurses and clients to CEO's and other staff-members. Their accounts are now archived and available for future research. Highlights of this archive are displayed on our [website](#).

Highlights 2021

This year marked the 100-year anniversary of the Dutch nursing diploma in the Netherlands. Building on the research of our colleagues from the *Stichting Historisch Verpleegkundig Bezit* (SHVB), FNI designed and hosted a [timeline](#) that maps the turbulent run-up to the first-ever law on nursing in the Netherlands. During International Nurses Day we highlighted historical examples of nurse leadership through oral history accounts with three modern-day

nurses. The interviews were published on film on [the website of the Dutch Nurse Association](#). As Young historian of the Year 2020, Hugo Schalkwijk recorded the podcast series 'We Care about your History'. A podcast on the history and future of nursing in which Schalkwijk spoke with nurses and young historians on modern day healthcare issues, such as COVID-19 and psychiatry. The podcasts are available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#). The podcasts were well-received and will be continued next year.

Media and publications

At the start of 2021 the Historical College published its first article on the collection and archive of FNI in [Verpleegkunde](#) a Dutch scientific nursing journal. Chair of the Historical College Pieterbas Lalleman and Hugo Schalkwijk also published on the history of Dutch nursing during times of crisis in [Impact Magazine](#), a magazine on psychosocial impact of disasters on society. The Historical College was also consulted by Dutch national media on current issues in nursing. In a [major newspaper](#), Hugo Schalkwijk shed his light on the debate whether or not care institutions should have the right to register which nurses have been vaccinated. Pieterbas Lalleman was invited to talk about the nurse strikes on [Dutch national radio](#). Finally, during the national History Month, we contributed to an [article](#) in a Dutch national media magazine on the value of nursing history for nurses nowadays.

Plans for 2022

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Bachelor of Nursing in the Netherlands. Together with the two founding Universities of Applied Sciences, we will contribute to the festivities with a creative presentation on the history of the BN. Nurse leadership and influence will be high on our agenda, so expect more interesting projects from us in that area next year!



Figure 1: A still from the interview with nurse Marieke Wouters about her historical role model: sister Heleen Melk



Figure 2: First episode of the Podcastseries 'We Care about your History'

The Netherlands – International Conference in Leiden: 'Suicide and its Prevention. Contemporary and Historical Perspectives in Nursing, 1880–2020'

19 May 2022–21 May 2022

Venue: Rijksmuseum Boerhaave, Lange St. Agnietenstraat 10, 2312 WC Leiden, The Netherlands

Organisers: Cecile aan de Stegge & Manon Parry

in Cooperation with the EAHN

and



DAY 1: THURSDAY 19 MAY

Morning:	Conference attendees are welcome to visit the Rijksmuseum Boerhaave exhibitions for free
13.00–13.30:	Registration with coffee/tea.
SESSION 1:	<i>Welcome and Introduction to the Conference</i> Chair Dr. Cecile aan de Stegge
13.00–13.10:	<i>Words of Welcome</i> Executive Board Academy of Applied Sciences Leiden

13.10–13.30:	<i>Introductory remarks on the purpose of this conference and the significance of the focus on the role of nurses with regard to suicidal patients and their relatives.</i> Dr. Cecile aan de Stegge, psychiatric nurse and historian, researcher and lecturer at the Faculty of Health Care of the University of Applied Sciences in Leiden
13.30–13.45:	<i>Welcome to the international nursing audience of the conference</i> Prof. Dr. Bianca Buurman, Chairwoman of the Dutch National Association for Nurses V&VN

- 13:45–14:15: *Keynote Lecture: Incidence of suicide over time – How to turn the tide.*
Prof. Dr. Bert van Hemert, psychiatrist in Leiden University Medical Center
- 14.15–14.40: *The History of the Suicide Hotline*
Dr. Hannah Zeavin, Lecturer in the Departments of English and History at the University of California, Berkeley
- 14.40 – 15.00: *Historic and latest developments in the field of suicide prevention in the Netherlands*
Dr. Renske Gilissen, senior researcher at 113 Suicideprevention
- 15.00–15.15 Q&A
- 15.15–15.45 **COFFEE BREAK**
- SESSION 2: *Chair: Prof. Dr. Manon Parry, Pulse Network, University of Amsterdam/VU Amsterdam*
- 15.45–16.15: *Keynote Lecture: Describing and Redefining Suicide: From Pathology to Questions of Social Justice?*
Dr. Ian Marsh, Suicide-Safer Project Lead, Reader, School of Allied and Public Health Professions, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Social Care, Canterbury Christ Church University
- 16.15–16.30: *Comment* by Dr. Georgina Laragy, Glasnevin Trust Assistant Professor in Public History and Cultural Heritage, Trinity College Dublin.
- 16.30–17.00: *Keynote Lecture: A model for differentiation of suicidality: a historical comparison*
Dr. Marieke H. de Groot is nurse and senior researcher in mental health institute Lentis in Groningen
Corine Paauw, psychologist at Rivierduinen
Dr. Remco de Winter, psychiatrist and Chief Medical Doctor, Rivierduinen of Parnassia, Leiden.
- 17.00–17.15: *Comment* by Dr. Chris Millard, Lecturer in the History of Medicine and Medical Humanities, University of Sheffield
- 17.15 – 17.45: Questions from the audience, for all the afternoon's speakers

- 17.45–19.30: *Annual Meeting for Members of the EAHN*
with soup and bread, followed by a guided tour of exhibitions by
NB: All other visitors are asked to take a meal in the city of Leiden

Suggestions for other attendees:

- Visit a pub in Leiden
- A sound sleep in one of the Leiden Hotels or B&B's

DAY 2: FRIDAY 20 MAY, 2022

- 9.00–9.30: Arrival and tea/coffee
- SESSION 3: *Psychiatric Nurses, Suicide and Suicide Prevention in History.*
Chair: Dr. Sabine Braunschweig (Basel, Switzerland)
- 09.30–09.50: *Suicide Beyond Mental Illness: The Role of Nurses in Suicide Prevention at the End of the 19th Century in France*
Dr. Eva Yampolsky (Lausanne, Switzerland)
- 09.50–10.10: *Under the constant charge of a special attendant: Managing suicidal behaviour in the era of non-restraint, 1850–1890*
Dr. Sarah Chaney, Research Fellow, Queen Mary University of London and RCN Events and Exhibition Manager
- 10.10–10.30: *Suicide in the eyes of the fellow patient*
Dr. Catharina Th. Bakker, Haarlem, The Netherlands, freelance medical historian and publicist, also Member of the Board of Stichting Zuster Vernède
- 10.30–11.00: Q&A
- 11.00–11.30: **COFFEE BREAK**
- SESSION 4: *Contemporary Nursing Care for Suicidal Patients.*

	Chair: Marja Fuchs, 113 Suicide Prevention		
11.30–11.50:	<i>Challenges faced by nurses and physicians in acute care for patients who attempted suicide.</i> Dr. Saskia Mérelle, senior researcher at 113 Suicide Prevention, Amsterdam, The Netherlands	15.00–15.30:	<i>On Accidental and Essential Suicides. Some reflections on philosophy, madness and the act of suicide</i> Dr. Wouter Kusters, philosopher and writer, The Netherlands
11.50–12.10:	<i>Nurses in General Hospitals: What Knowledge and Skills Do They Need?</i> Dr. Janet Been-Dahmen, senior researcher, Erasmus University of Applied Sciences in Rotterdam	15.30–16.00:	Q&A for Igor van Laere and Wouter Kusters
12.10–12.30:	<i>Keep an Eye on Suicidality: An Intervention to Do this Better</i> Lotte Luijendijk, nurse practitioner, working at the First Episode Psychosis team of Mentrum/Arkin, a major mental health facility in Amsterdam, The Netherlands	16.00 –16.30:	TEA BREAK
12.30–12.50:	Leiden Academy for Applied Sciences, studentpsychologist Nadia Lubbers (Title forthcoming)	SESSION 6:	Nursing History Collections and Sources: Show and Tell Session
12.50-13.00:	Q&A	16.30–16.55:	<i>Suicide in the collection of the Museum of the Mind in Haarlem</i> Carine Neefjes, Associate director of the Museum of the Mind (Haarlem) and Jantiene de Bruijn
13.00–14.00:	LUNCH BREAK	16.55–17.05:	<i>Nursing History in the Collections of the Rijksmuseum Boerhaave</i> Dr. Mieneke te Hennepe
SESSION 5:	<i>A Different Perspective</i> Chair Dr. Cecile aan de Stegge	17.05–17.20:	Dr. C. Th. Bakker, Chairman of Stichting Zuster Vernède, proclaiming the prize for the best historic master-thesis on ‘history in nursing’ of the Netherlands.
14.00–14.30:	<i>Keynote Lecture: Caught in the Firing Line: Nurse Prescribers as Human Shields</i> Prof. Dr. David Healy, psychiatrist from the UK, who functions as MD FRC Psych, Professor Dept of Family Medicine, McMaster University. Hamilton, Canada	17.20-17.30:	<i>On Collections and Projects</i> Hugo Schalkwijk and Dr. Cecile aan de Stegge: The Historical College FNI and Foundation for Dutch Nursing Heritage
14.30 –14.40:	Q&A for David Healy	17.30–18.00:	<i>The Passing Bell - Sources for those Unspoken</i> Dr. Teresa Doherty, Joint Head of the Royal College of Nursing Library and Archive Service, and RCN Professional Lead for History of Nursing
14.40–15.00:	<i>Homelessness, Ill Health and Death: Street Medicine Lessons from a Personal Perspective</i> Dr. Igor van Laere, Medical doctor, initiator and founder of the Netherlands Streetdoctors Group	18.00–18.10:	Q&A
		18.10–18.30:	Drinks
		19.00–21.30:	SOCIAL DINNER IN LAB071, Leiden

DAY 3: SATURDAY MAY 21, 2022

9.00–9.30: Opening with tea/coffee and welcome

SESSION 7: *Better Care for Suicidal Persons*
Chair: Dr. Cecile aan de Stegge

9.30–09.55: *Shifting between hope and uncertainty. Expectations of family members and nurses' experiences supporting inpatients with suicidal ideation*
Dr. Bart Debyser and Dr. Annelies Verkest (representing dr. Joeri Vandewalle)

09.55–10.20: *Engagement between Adults Living through Suicidal Crisis and Nurses in Mental Health Wards*
Caressa van Hoe

10.20–10.30: *Comments* by Dr. Ian Marsh

10.30–11.00: Q&A

11.00–11.30: **COFFEE BREAK**

SESSION 8: *Caring for the Caregivers: Suicide and Nurses*
Chair: Professor Sarah Waters, University of Leeds

11.30–11.50: Dr. Sarah Waters: title forthcoming
11.50–12.10: *Balancing between Care for Suicidal Patients and Prevention of Impact of Service User's Suicides on Mental Health Professionals*

Alison van Laar, psychiatric nurse and nurse manager, Somerset NHS UK

Peter T. Murphy (psychologist, Galway University Hospitals, Ireland),

12.10–12.30: *Suicide and Times of Crisis: Lessons of History for the Covid Pandemic*
Julie Gottlieb

12.30–13.00: Q&A

13.00– 13.30: *Brief concluding Remarks*
Prof. Dr. Manon S. Parry and Dr. Cecile aan de Stegge

13.30–14.00 **CONCLUDING LUNCH**



Figure : Children's Clinic , University Heidelberg, 1965

Norway – The Norwegian Association for the History of Nursing

by Åshild Fause

Doctoral dissertation

On 23rd of April 2021 Jan-Thore Lockertsen defended his doctoral dissertation “We Ran a Hospital” a qualitative study of Norwegian nurses and theatre nurses efforts during the Korean War (1950–1953) and the impact of their experiences on Norwegian nursing and theatre nursing (<https://munin.uit.no/handle/10037/20752>). Because of the Covid situation in Norway, the dissertation was made digital with Jan-Thore Lockertsen in Tromsø, Norway, and first opponent Professor Gerard M. Fealy (Ph.D.) in Dublin and with second opponent Asc. Professor Kristin Kavli Adriansen (Ph.D.) in Stavanger, Norway.



Figure: Jan-Thore Lockertsen, April 2021

The Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (NOR-MASH) were an active unit from July 1951 to October 1954 and were staffed with 111 nurses, mainly theatre nurses, and 22 deacons (male nurses). This dissertation is the first study of the Norwegian nurses’ efforts during the Korean war ever made. Main supervisor has been

Asc. Professor Ashild Fause (Ph.D.) from The Norwegian Arctic University – UiT, Tromsø, and co-supervisor has been Professor Christine E. Hallett, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield.

The historical project: Narratives from Norwegian psychiatric nursing 1960–2020

With the establishment of further educations for nurses within the psychiatric area, in Oslo by 1954, psychiatric nursing became one of the first formalised further educations for nurses in Norway. The education provided a nursing specialization and education for leadership in psychiatric hospitals. The period of education was one year with both weeks of theory and practical training in psychiatric hospitals. The specialization put great emphasis on creating an identity as a psychiatric nurse. Nurses from all over the country went to Oslo to obtain the education and in 1960, an equivalent education was established in Bodø and later in Tromsø, Bergen and Stavanger.

In the period from 1954 to 1998, several hundred nurses received special competence in the area, and many of them obtained central positions in the psychiatric hospitals. Many of them also gradually became a strong driving force in developing the mental health work service in the municipalities. from the 1980s. In 1998 the further education in psychiatric nursing was discontinued in favor of an interdisciplinary further education program for health and social workers. In the same period, the occupational identity and the knowledge base of nursing, gradually became unclear and indistinct. Not until recently (2021) nurses have regained their specialization in the area. Many of the nurses educated in the psychiatric program mentioned, have retired and are pensioners, but some are still working.

The purpose of the project is to shed light on the development and change in professional knowledge and practice in psychiatric and mental health nursing from the 1960s until today. Nurses have left few written sources and the purpose is to explore the nurses’ expe-

periences in psychiatric institutions and municipal mental health services. Nurses from all parts of Norway, a total of hundred, who have worked in the area at least 30 years and have left traces behind, are to be interviewed.

The project is affiliated with UiT Norwegian Arctic University and Lovisenberg Diaconal College in Oslo

with Ashild Fause as project leader. The project will result in a book publication, scientific articles, one or two master theses, and is an important contribution to the development of knowledge within the field of psychiatric and mental health nursing.

The project started in 2020 and will be completed during 2022.



Figure: Red Cross Nurses, Medical Clinic Heidelberg, 1930s

Poland - Central Historical Commission in Cooperation with The Main Board of Polish Nurses Association

by Krystyna Wolska-Lipiec and Małgorzata Marcysiak

The year 2021 was important for the history of nursing in Poland. The Museum of the History of Nursing in Poland has been operating for almost three years. It enjoys sustained interest and is visited by numerous spectators. This year, the exhibition was expanded by room devoted to the history of obstetrics. The room presents office equipment, a midwife's uniform and historical didactic models. We also notice a great interest in the collections of the Central Archives of Polish Nursing and the Virtual Museum of Polish Nursing. This shows that history is important to the profession. It strengthens its identity and raises its rank.

Another important event took place on October 21, 2021. It was a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Warsaw School of Nursing. Warsaw School of Nurses was founded in 1921. The first headmaster of the school was American Helen Bridge and then Sophia Szlenkierówna (Polish) and Jadwiga Romanowska (Polish). The Warsaw School of Nursing was the first of its kind to be established after Poland regained its independence. It was established as a foundation from private donations on the initiative of Ignacy and Helena Paderewski and Henryk Sienkiewicz. His sponsors were: Dorothea Hughes – an American nurse of Polish origin – the American Red Cross, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Polish Red Cross, the Ministry of Health, and the Medical Faculty of the University of Warsaw.

The ceremony was very solemn and contemplative. In keeping with the school's tradition, the ceremony consisted of two parts – first a Thanksgiving Mass at St. Jack's Dominican Church – and then a memorial celebration at the Museum of Nursing History. During the ceremony, flowers were laid under the memorial plaque for the school and at Ignacy Paderewski's grave. Numerous invited guests participated in the ceremony, including representatives of institutions historically associated with the school. In attendance were representatives from the U.S. Embassy, the Polish Red Cross, the Ministry of Health, local authorities, and the Medical University of Warsaw. The celebration was also joined by the families of the school's graduates. Unfortunately, the few graduates still alive could not attend the ceremony due to health and age reasons.

The ceremony was hosted by Krystyna Wolska-Lipiec, Chair of the History Commission of the Main Board of the Polish Nurses Association. She recalled the history of the school and the people associated with it. The culmination of the ceremony was the recording of Mrs. Anna Jabłkowska-Sochańska, a deceased graduate of WSP, which was strongly remembered by all.



Figure 1: Obstetrics history exhibition, photo by Dorota Jacyna

With her words, she acknowledged the importance of history and conveyed the following message to today's nurses: "Nurses should have the courage to study the past of the profession and the need to research history. This is where they will find answers to moral problems and existential challenges. Through history, they will understand

the causes of different behaviors. I would like the nurses to have as much of the past as possible – what we did, what we experienced, what we were. Maintaining the elements of memory about people is very important to us, nurses".



Figure 2: 100th anniversary of the WSN - Holy Mass, photo by Dorota Jacyna



Serbia – Nursing History in the Association of Medical Nurses-Technicians

From Kovid Hospital Kruševac – Hospital of Serbian Citizens

by *Dobrila Pejovic*

Kovid Hospital Kruševac is a hospital for Serbian citizens. Here, we take care of all the citizens of our country. It is an integral part of the University Clinical Center Niš. It was built with the aim of providing patients with the infectious disease Covid-19 with comprehensive intensive and semi-intensive treatment.

Spatial capacities of the hospital, with the most modern medical equipment and inventory, are fully adapted to accommodate patients with the most complex conditions, which are sent from all parts of Serbia, and which are cared for by health workers from all over Serbia.

Kovid Hospital Kruševac has a capacity of 500 beds, hemodialysis department, sterilisation operating room, modern radiological and biochemical diagnostic center.

This hospital is currently employing 354 nurses – technicians, 15 radiological technicians, 18 physiotherapeutic technicians, 25 laboratory technicians, two nutritionists – dieticians and three pharmaceutical technicians. To be at the service for patients, place of residence from all parts of Serbia they replaced with address in Kruševac.

Words of respect and esteem of health workers are heard through wards and sections full of patients; and the former dissatisfaction of patients is replaced by the words: “please, sorry, rest, slowly my dear child, slowly son”. The Serbian nursing has a bright future.

Youth, determination, desire to learn, primordial urge for fighting the virus and caring for the sick are basic qualities of newly hired nurses and health technicians, in front of which are placed unrealistically large and demanding tasks. Although they know it, they do not give up and fight against viruses and diseases as well as they fight against personal fears and doubts, but for all of them surrender is not a choice, because they know they are needed to humanity today. Heroes of today. Only nineteen nurses and anesthetists of the University Clinical Center Niš, in the first place of the Clinic for Anesthesia and Intensive Care,

ware given, at this time, a completely ungrateful task to be educators, organisers and work coordinators to newly recruited nurses and health technicians. It is these educators, coordinators and organizers who have been involved in the operation of Covid from the very beginning and have been working in the intensive care units of the Nis University Hospital for the past year.



Figure 1: © Kovid Hospital Kruševac

Like real soldiers of the profession, they left their family, their home, friends and their city, moved to Parunovac, where the “Kovid Hospital Kruševac” was built and they have been living there for the fourth month, without knowing how long it will be like that. Nurses-anesthetists from the “General Hospital Kruševac”, from Vranje, Paracin, Cuprije, Jagodina, Prokuplje, Bor they have joined

the nurses since March, technicians and anesthetists of the University Clinical Center Nis and work together at Kovid Hospital Krusevac.

Master MS Gordana Dragošev, Chief Medical Officer nurse of the Clinic for Anesthesia and Intensive Care University Clinical Center Nis, head nurse of Kovid Hospital Kruševac, president of the “Association Nurses – Technicians Intensive Care, Anesthesia and Resuscitation of Serbia”, he points out: “It took some time for people to understand the contribution of nurses to all of humanity. We care, we suffer, we love, we fight, we wait, we hope... We run in front of death, eternally with raised shields and we listen to every beat, every heartbeat, every moan, every call. It may sound like a cliché, but all of us who deal with

this business and who love this job we fear that death will overtake us and cunningly take us away a life we dread, a life we fight for.”

The time we are in proves that nursing is profession of special national importance and nurses are a key part of health system. We have pointed out many years ago that the education and training of nurses is necessary and not knowing how many we will have the need exactly that knowledge and skills today in time of pandemics.

Fight against incomparably bigger and stronger opponent, which is capable of killing tens of thousands of people in a short time, has definitely brought systemic changes both globally and locally level, but also changes in ourselves.



Figure 2: © Nurses of the Kovid Hospital Kruševac

Spain- Febe Association for the History of Nursing in Catalan Language

by Gloria Gallego

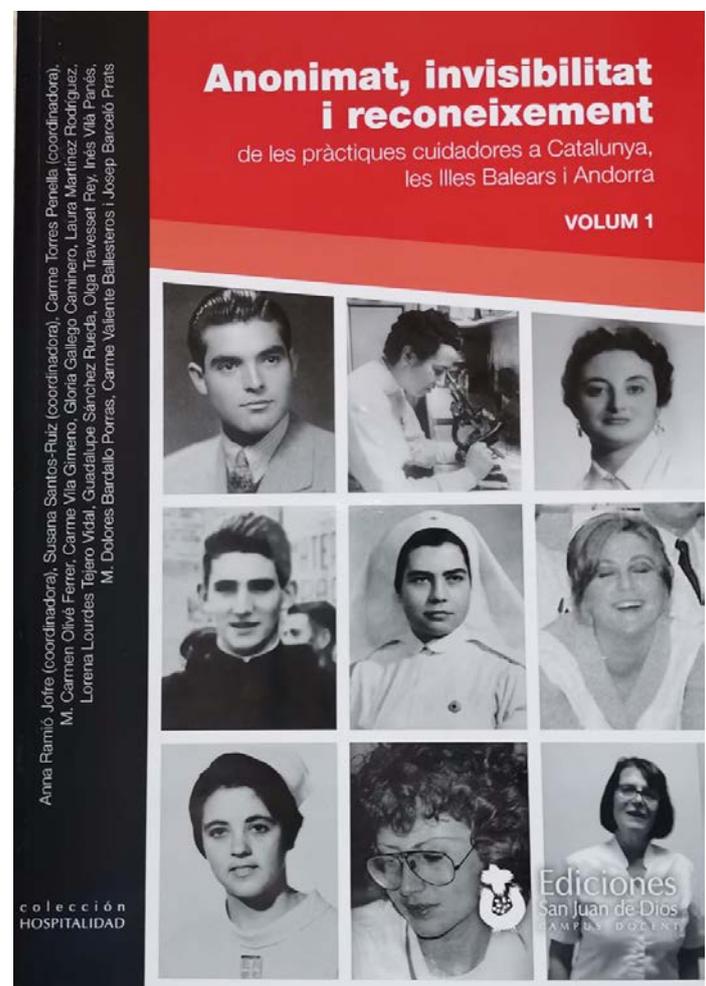
After the forced parenthesis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic during the year 2020, a certain normality has been returning to the teaching and research activity of Febe's members. The association, chaired by Anna Ramio, held its general assembly in October 2021 at the Sant Joan de Deu campus. At this meeting, important future projects were discussed, with the aim of further deepening the scientific and teaching activity of the association. On this occasion, it was also agreed to develop strategies that provide greater visibility to our work, establishing mechanisms for transferring research to society. In this line, we are working on the development of a web page, the organization of events and videos for the presentation of published books, contact with other organizations and groups such as the Catalan Health Heritage Commission and other research groups, and the presentation of traveling exhibitions. The idea of organizing the First Febe Scientific Conference, to be held in 2022, has also been taken up.

The celebration of the XVII National and XII International Congress of Nursing History on October 6, 7 and 8, has also been an event of great impact in which Febe members have actively participated presenting plenary papers (Gloria Gallego, Carmen Domínguez and Rosa M. Alberdi) and communications on various topics:

- Torres C, Ramió A. Tribulations and opportunities for nurses during the Civil War in Barcelona.
- Torres C, Tejero L, Palau R. Doña Rosa Lluch, nurse and midwife in the postwar period.
- Calderó M, Torres C, Blanco J. Pilar Campo, nurse of the Women's Section at the General Moscardó Health Care Residence in the city of Lleida.
- Galiana ME, Martínez R and Bernabeu J. The contribution of midwives and visiting nurses to the decrease of maternal mortality in Spain.
- Martínez R, Galiana ME and Bernabeu J. Nurses and mothers: women involved and silenced in the improvement of child health in the first half of the 20th century in Valencia.
- Sadurní C, Gallego G and Galbany P. Brigade Nurses of Jewish origin in the Spanish Civil War

(prize for the best communication).

Also, at the congress the book "Anonymity, invisibility and recognition of caregiving practices in Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Andorra" by Ramió A, Santos S, Torres C et al.) was presented. This is a choral work of nursing biographies from 1942 to 2018. There was also an explicit recognition to the work of Febe who received the award for her work in the study and dissemination of the history of nursing.



Another relevant scientific event was the congress on the History of Catalan Medicine held on September 17 and 18, with important participation of Febe:

- Torres C, Ramió, Nursing contingencies in the health centers of Barcelona during the Civil War.
- Galiana ME, Cuenca C, Gallego G, Bernabeu J,

Four nurses in Catalonia financed by the Rockefeller Foundation.

- Gallego G, Cuxart N, The special school of auxiliary medical nurses of the Mancomunitat de Catalunya (1917-1924).
- Comelles JM, Barceló J, Documentary sources for the study of rural medicine during Franco's regime.
- Olivé MC, Venturas M, Zabalegui A, Galiana ME, Obstetric care at the Hospital Clínic de Barcelona from 1945 to 1980, based on a biographical account.
- Sadurni C, Gallego G, Galbany P, The Vic Military Clinic: an example of the health policy of the International Health System.
- Vila C, The Municipal Institute of Health Care and the evolution of nursing care at the Hospital

del Mar.

- We have also participated in International Congresses such as the European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC) held from March 24 to 27 in Leiden (The Netherlands) and the ICN Congress held from November 2 to 4.

As for publications, some works are summarised below:

Anna Ramió and Carme Torres, Florence Nightingale. In Memoriam in times of pandemic, *Temperamentvm*, 2021; v17.

Gallego i Caminero, G., & Cuxart i Ainaud, N. (2021) The special school of auxiliary medical nurses of the Mancomunitat de Catalunya (1917-1924). *Gimbernat*, 75, 101-123.

Galiana ME, Nursing and public health in Spain in the first third of the 20th century, In: Otero L, De Miguel S, *Urban Society and Public Health, Spain 1860-1936*.

Switzerland – Swiss Society for the History of Health and Nursing

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Gesundheits- und Pflegegeschichte – Société suisse d'histoire de la santé et des soins infirmiers

GPG  HSS

by *Véronique Hasler*

Given the still very active pandemic situation, 2021 was another very quiet year in terms of GPG-HSS activities. The committee gave up organizing its annual workshop and the General Assembly is currently being held at a distance and in writing. We hope that 2022 will see a return to public activities.

In order to collect up-to-date data, our member Sabine Braunschweig repeated her questionnaire survey on the teaching of nursing history in educational programmes (all levels, academic and non-academic), which was first conducted in 2004. She received responses from about half of the institutions contacted. The analysis shows little or no progress in this area. There is no specific university chair in Switzerland devoted to the history of non-medical health professions or directed by a non-physician health professional that could encourage significant develop

ment. What is done today relies heavily on the commitment and initiatives of individual professors and teachers.

On the national politics front, a popular initiative concerning nursing is to be put to the vote on 28 November. The text seeks to “strengthen” nursing by acting on several levels (education, attractiveness of the profession and quality of care). It aims to address the already existing shortage of care workers in Switzerland, which is likely to worsen if nothing is done. The GPG-HSS supports this initiative. Sabine Braunschweig published several articles on this occasion to contribute to the debate and to put it in its historical context.

The ordinary General Assembly, which has taken a particular form this year, is still in progress. The results of the votes will be known at the end of December. The current committee members – Kristin Hammer (treasurer), Sabine Braunschweig (member) and Véronique Hasler (president) – stand for re-election.

Switzerland – Success for the nursing initiative

by Sabine Braunschweig

It seems that, for the first time in the world, citizens of a country had the opportunity to express their opinion on nursing care in a referendum. On 28 November 2021, the Swiss people entitled to vote accepted an initiative to strengthen care and nursing, the “nursing initiative”, with 61 percent in favour. All cantons – except one – said yes. The direct democracy in Switzerland means, that citizens have a final say on political issues. On the one hand, the people can make proposals for the revision of constitutional and legal provisions with initiatives, and on the other hand, they can vote on parliamentary decisions afterwards with referenda. Voting on different issues take place four times a year. Initiatives require 100'000 signatures and referenda 50'000 signatures of Swiss citizens.

How did the nursing initiative come about? There has been a nursing crisis in Switzerland for some time. Nevertheless, politicians had done nothing about it. That is why the nursing association together with the trade union and other organisations launched the initiative, they collected 120'000 signatures and submitted the initiative in November 2017. The initiative demanded that the Confederation and the cantons provide sufficient high-quality care that is accessible to all. A training offensive should ensure that enough qualified nursing staff are available to meet the increasing needs of an ageing society. Working conditions are to be improved in order to prevent people from leaving the profession and to increase the length of time they stay in the profession. In order to ensure the quality of care, sufficient nurses are to be guaranteed.

The members of parliament subsequently recognised the problem, but they considered the initiative as too radical, so they passed a counter-proposal in March 2021, after years of rope-pulling. However, this was far from sufficient for the nursing organisations to solve the actual and com-

ing challenges. That's why they stuck to the initiative and it was put to the vote. This was courageous, because initiatives are rarely successful in Switzerland. If they had withdrawn the initiative, the counter-proposal would have automatically come into force.

Obviously, the Corona pandemic had made the people realise how important sufficient and good care is. Applauding, as had been done here and in other countries for health workers in spring 2020, was no longer enough as recognition for nurses. Concrete measures were needed.

With the acceptance of the nursing initiative, the federal parliament in Bern now has the mandate to take up the demands and cast them into law.

More information about this successful event is available on the website <https://www.pflegeinitiative.ch/>.



Figure: “Because applause is not enough”

United Kingdom – The UK Association for the History of Nursing (UKAHN)

by Amanda Gwinnup, Janet Hargreaves and Sue Hawkins

2021 has been a difficult year for the UK Association for the History of Nursing (as we suspect for everyone). How naive we were in 2020 to think everything would be back to normal in 2021. But of course, it wasn't and this meant for the second year running all our committee meetings have taken place by Zoom and our annual conference didn't take place - again. But we have used the time wisely (we hope). Having lost our source of articles for our annual journal - which traditionally relies heavily on the Colloquium for content - the UKAHN Committee took an impressive initiative: The Bulletin, Volume 9, 2021 (published on 30th October 2021) was to be a Special Issue, focused on the history of race and nursing. It contains three original articles, eight reproductions, six book reviews. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, UKAHN wanted to show our support for the Black Lives Matters movement by producing a journal which foregrounds the historical challenges faced by women of colour when trying to join the overpoweringly white nursing profession in English-speaking countries across the globe. Recognising the need for expert advice on such a monumental task we invited Dr Karen Flynn, at the University

of Illinois, to be our guest editor, as she could bring her extensive expertise and weight to such an important topic. As Karen explained in her editorial, 'nursing historians must be attentive to the structural inequalities embedded in nursing...nursing conferences, academic associations, and journals whether unconsciously or not generally centre white subjects and whiteness as the norm.'¹ In addition to focussing exclusively on the history of race in nursing, we ensured this issue of the Bulletin was primarily written by historians who identify as 'Indigenous, Black, African, and Indian women from several continents...at different stages in their careers.'² This experience has shown us that the whole subject of race and nursing in the colonial and post-colonial period is woefully under-researched and we hope 'Volume 9' of the Bulletin will inspire historians (particularly young historians of colour) to pursue the topic further. We would like to encourage all members of the EAHN to read our Bulletin and promote it using social media and any other contacts you have, far and wide! <https://bulletin.ukahn.org/volume-9-1-2021/>



Figure: Nurses 1960s, © <https://ukahn.org/>

¹ Karen Flynn, Oct 2021. Guest Editorial: Why we need more racialized nursing history; or how did nursing become a global occupation which privileges and reifies whiteness as the norm? *The Bulletin*, Volume 9 (1), 2021. [https://bulletin.ukahn.org/guest-](https://bulletin.ukahn.org/guest-EAHN Bulletin 11/2021)

[editorial-why-we-need-more-racialized-nursing-history-or-how-did-nursing-become-a-global-occupation-which-privileges-and-reifies-whiteness-as-the-norm/](https://bulletin.ukahn.org/guest-EAHN Bulletin 11/2021)

² Ibid.



The European Association for the History of Nursing (EAHN)

The European Association for the History of Nursing (EAHN) was established 2012 to promote development and advancement of Nursing History through scholarly work and public outreach. The Association brings individuals and associations together in order to provide mutual support and opportunities for collaboration.

The purpose of the Association is to provide a European focus for the development of the discipline of Nursing History. It has three aims:

- To promote scholarly work in the Nursing History, by providing a mutually supportive network of individuals working in the field and by creating opportunities for direct collaboration on significant research projects.
- To promote the public understanding of Nursing History, by supporting initiatives for public engagement.
- To gain recognition for the discipline of Nursing History throughout the European region.

The Association has a federal structure. Constituent member associations are autonomous and self-governing. A constituent association may be administered through an academic centre, a scholarly society or an interest group. Each constituent association will be eligible to send at least one member to a European Coordinating Committee.

The membership comprises individuals who are members of a constituent association. The membership is intended to be inclusive. Members may be nurses or non-nurses, and might or might not hold an appointment in a recognised academic institution. An individual from any part of the world may join any of the constituent associations, and thereby become a member of the EAHN.

EAHN member associations

(contact email addresses see: <http://eahn.net/member-organizations/>)

Austria: *Historical nursing research in Austria*)

Croatia: *Croatian Nursing History Society*

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Denmark: *The Danish Museum of Nursing*

Finland: *Finnish Association for History of Nursing Science*

Germany: *German Association for the History of Nursing (GAHN)*

Germany: *The Historical Nursing Research Section of the German Society for Nursing Science*

Ireland: *The Irish Association for the History of Nursing and Midwifery*

Israel: *The Israeli Society for the History of Nursing (ISHN)*

Italy: *Italian Nurses' Association with a Nursing History Group, CNAI (Consociazione nazionale delle Associazioni infermiere/i)*

Netherlands: *Historical College Florence Nightingale Institute*

Netherlands: *Stichting Historisch Verpleegkundig Bezit (SHVB)*

Norway: *The Norwegian Association for the History of Nursing*

Poland: *Museum and Archive for Polish Nursing History at the Polish Nurses Association*

Portugal: *Sociedade Portuguesa de História da Enfermagem*

Serbia: *Association of Medical Nurses-Technicians*

Slovenia: *Nurses and Midwives Association of Slovenia*

Spain: *Associació Febe d'Historia de la Infermeria de llengua catalana*

Spain: *Qalat Chábir. Asociación Cultural para el Estudio de las Humanidades*

Sweden: *The Swedish Society of Nursing (Svensk sjuksköterskeförening)*

Switzerland: *Swiss Society for the History of Health and Nursing*

United Kingdom: *The UK Association for the History of Nursing*

EAHN Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee consists of delegates from the member association. The committee meet at least once per year.

EAHN Coordinating Committee elected officers

President Anna La Torre, Italy

Deputy President Maria Eugenia Galliana, Spain

Secretary Dr Gerard Fealy, Ireland

Communications Officer Prof Dr Karen Nolte, Germany

EAHN Bulletin

The annually EAHN Bulletin is published on the EAHN web page. Editor of the Bulletin is Prof Dr Karen Nolte, Germany (<http://eahn.net/contact/>)

EAHN webpage

The EAHN webpage <http://www.eahn.net> is managed by webmaster Keiron Spires, UK: (<http://eahn.net/contact/>)

EAHN Twitter account

The EAHN Twitter account EAHN@HistNursingEU is edited by Dr Anja Peters, Germany

Membership

If your association would like to affiliate with the EAHN please contact EAHN president Anna La Torre, Italy (<http://eahn.net/contact/>). There are no fees for membership.

EAHN meeting 2022

The Stichting Historisch Verpleegkundig Bezit (SHVB) is hosting the EAHN Coordinating Committees annual meeting in Leiden, The Netherlands, Thursday 19th of May 2022, 17.45 to 19.30 the Annual Meeting for Members of the EAHN. Further information will be provided via email.



Figure: Red Cross Nurses, Medical Clinic, University of Heidelberg, 1930s