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TRIBUTE

Professor Angie Titchen's contribution to practice development

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I was delighted to be asked to write this tribute to Professor Angie Titchen, focusing on her contribution to practice development, as I consider Angie to be one of my closest friends and colleagues and someone who has been a critical companion since we first met in 1991.

Angie is well known in the world of nursing, but most of the people who know her and her work probably don't either realise or think about the fact that she is a physiotherapist – not that the specific professional orientation matters, but it is a reflection of the respect in which she is held among nurses that she is awarded the status of 'honorary nurse'!

Angie's commitment to emancipatory and transformational approaches to learning and development began in her physiotherapy days, when she transformed the teaching and learning programmes in her role as education officer in the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists. This experience is what led to her being recruited by Dr Sue Pembrey to the Institute of Nursing, Oxford, to lead the research into 'patient-centred nursing' that was being developed by Alison Binnie at the city's John Radcliffe Hospital. Alison's work was considered to be transformational, but it needed an evidence base. Angie partnered her in an integrated transformational journey of learning, development and evaluation through the lens of action research and phenomenology. Angie's evaluation was complex, creative, rigorous, systematic, detailed and groundbreaking. The key output of the programme, *Freedom to practise: the development of patient-centred nursing* (Binnie and Titchen, 1999) is generally considered to be a seminal text and in many ways was ahead of its time, as it is truly a text about person-centred nursing in all its glory! The phenomenological analysis also resulted in the development of the Critical Companionship and Skilled Companionship frameworks and I had the pleasure of accompanying Angie on that journey while we studied together for our doctorates at the University of Oxford. Many an evening over many glasses of wine was spent debating and unpacking those frameworks!

The work at the Institute of Nursing in Oxford and subsequently the Royal College of Nursing Institute propelled Angie into a significant leadership position in practice development. *Freedom to Practise* provided a detailed overview of the everydayness of practice development and acted as a platform for various programmes and projects that Angie led or contributed to, while her 'companionship frameworks' provided an alternative perspective to what was then a dominant behaviourist approach to clinical supervision. Since then, the Critical Companionship framework has been adopted and adapted as a practice development methodology, while Skilled Companionship articulates the essences of person-centred relationships with patients and families.

Throughout all these developments, Angie grew her knowledge, skills, expertise and confidence in

using creative approaches to participatory action-oriented research and practice development. At a recent TEDx event at Queen Margaret University, Angie talked about her experience in transformational work and rightly acknowledged that, to her friends and colleagues, she 'lives critical creativity'. As one of those colleagues and friends, I can vouch for that! The attention to detail in her approach to critical and creative approaches is consistent, confident and highly respected, and has heavily influenced practice development methodologies.

It is hard to summarise Angie's contribution to practice development, so it is best to use a haiku to do so; this is the Haiku I used to introduce her at the TEDx event:

*Wild woman dancing
Critical and creative
Transformational changes*

Reference

Binnie, A. and Titchen, A. (1999) *Freedom to Practise: The Development of Patient-centred Nursing*. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann.

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