

MARTHA E. ROGERS' SCIENCE OF UNITARY HUMAN BEINGS

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INTRODUCTION



Martha E. Rogers in her teens

E.A.M. Barrett & V.M. Malinski (1994).
Martha E. Rogers 80 Years of Excellence.
New York, NY: Society of Rogerian
Scholars, Inc., Press.
Retrieved from:
<https://pressbooks.uiowa.edu/rogeriannursingscience/chapter/chapter-1-2/>

- Martha E. Rogers was a nurse, researcher, and theorist.
- Born on May 12, 1914 and died on March 13, 1994.
- Developed the Science of Unitary Human Beings

(Alligood, 2013).

EDUCATION

- Diploma: Knoxville General Hospital School of Nursing (1936)
- BSN in Public Health Nursing: George Peabody College, TN, (1937)
- MSN in Public Health Nursing Supervision: Teachers College, Columbia University (1945)
- MPH: Johns Hopkins University (1952)
- Sc.D: Johns Hopkins University (1954)
- Appointed head of the Division of Nursing at New York University (1954-1975)
- Professor Emerita (1979-1994)

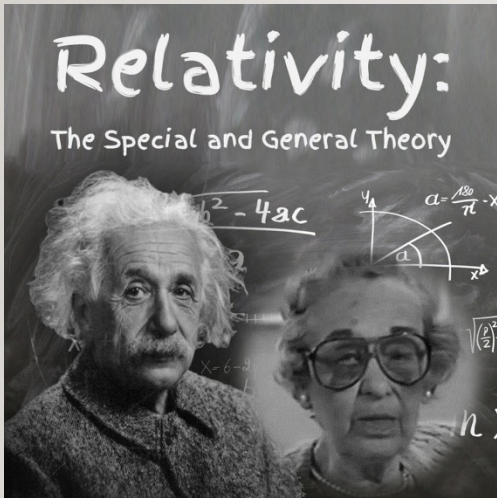


Martha E. Rogers, 1976

Photo credit: Howard K. Butcher
Retrieved from:
<https://pressbooks.uiowa.edu/rogeriannursingscience/chapter/chapter-1-2/>

(American Association for the History of Nursing, 2018)

INFLUENCES



Albert Einstein Photo retrieved from:
<https://www.kobo.com/us/en/audiobook/relativity-the-special-and-general-theory-29>

Martha Rogers Photo retrieved from:
<https://thoughtsonreiki.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/martha-rogers-image.jpg>

- Rogers credited scientists from multiple disciplines for their influence on the development of Science of Unitary Human Beings (Alligood, 2013).
- Symmetry between Einstein's principle of relativity and Rogers' principle of integrality (Reed, 2016).

OVERVIEW OF ROGERS' THEORY AND MAJOR CONCEPTS

"The purpose of nurses is to promote health and well-being for all persons wherever they are." - Martha Rogers

- Abstract worldview of the science and art of nursing.
- Focus on unitary human being and environment
- Human beings do not HAVE energy fields...human beings ARE energy fields.
- Fundamental terms: Energy fields, Openness, Pattern and Pandimensionality

(Smith, 2020)

OVERVIEW OF ROGERS' THEORY, MAJOR CONCEPTS, AND ASSUMPTIONS

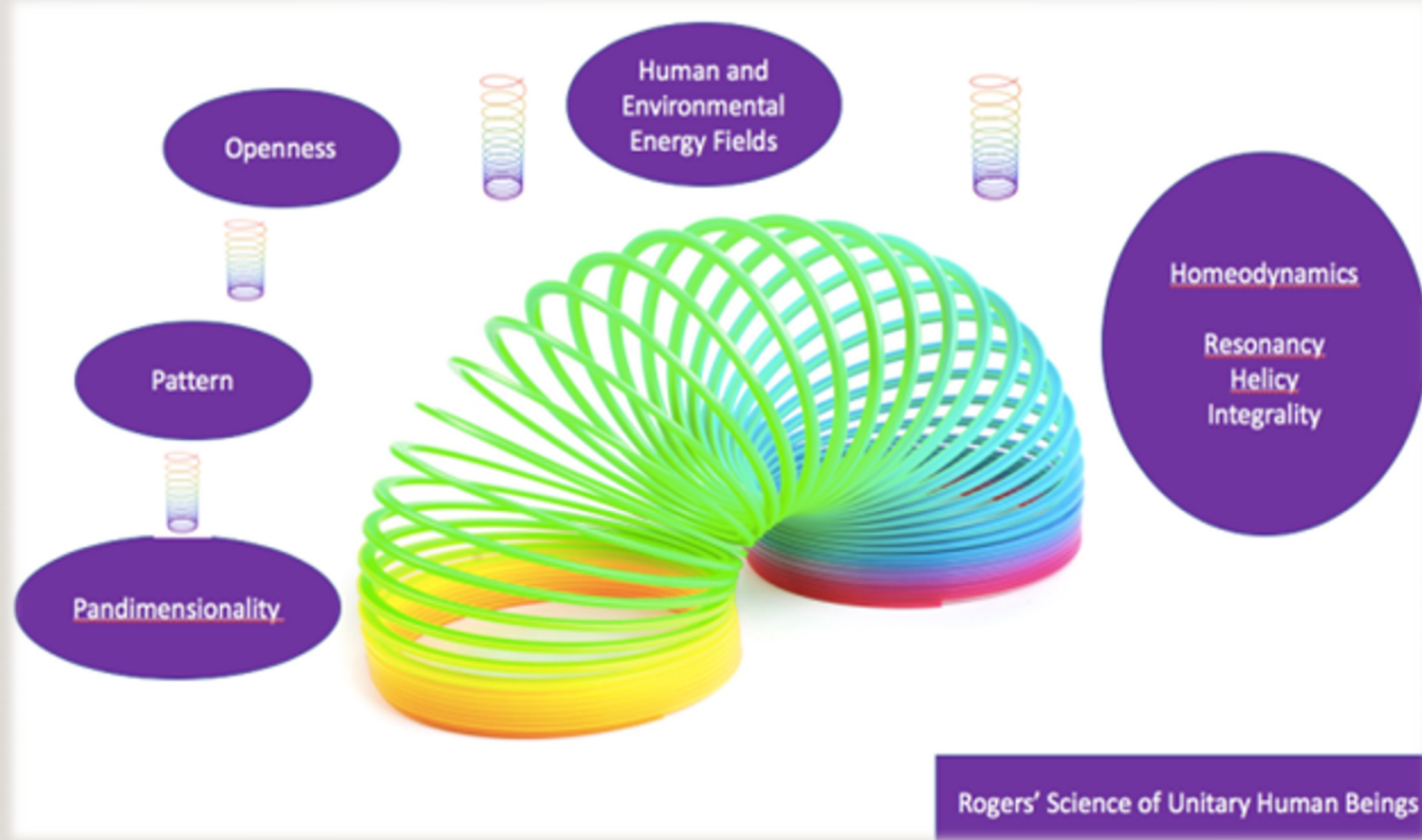


Image retrieved from: <https://nursology.net/nurse-theories/rogers-science-of-unitary-human-beings/>

METAPARADIGM: PATIENT

- Human being
- Invisible wholes (person as a whole and not the sum of parts)
- People or human beings and their environments as unitary,
- Human and environment are integral with one another (Roger, 1992)
- A person or human beings are open systems and constantly interact with the environment, therefore must be studied together.
- Human beings and the environment evolve, change and move ahead together and after the change occurs, both humans and their environment cannot return to their former stage.

METAPARADIGM: ENVIRONMENT

- Patients and the environment have energy fields, when a patient is ill or injured their energy is disturbed.
- Patient and environment are just one unit and must be study together.
- Part of healing is realigning the patients and their environmental energy field.

Examples:

- A patient is feeling overwhelmed with a new diagnosis - a nurse offers a healing touch and listens to the patients fears and gives the patient hope.
- During Covid-19 pandemic, social isolation caused depression in many people. Connecting them to nature and having animal companion created healing effect on their wellbeing

METAPARADIGM: HEALTH

- Health defined by the culture or the individual (Alligood, 1998)
- Health is an activity in the life process which leads to the optimum fulfilment of a person's potential.
- Health is a rhythmic patterning of energy.
- Health and well-being to well-becoming (Phillips, 2015)
- Health as a participating in one's changing pattern for betterment of living and transcending as energy spirit. (Malinski, 2022)

(Aranha, 2018)

METAPARADIGM: NURSE'S ROLE

- Nursing is science and art. The art is the creative use of the science of nursing for human and environment betterment.
- Nursing role is promotion of symphonic interaction between man and environment. i.e., animal companion for anxious patient, importance of fresh air or nature for depressed/isolated patients
- Nurses apply theories in nursing practice
- Promotion of awareness integral presence.
- Application of knowing participation in change.

APPLICATION TO ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING

Direct Patient Care and Education

- Voluntary Mutual Patterning: Non-invasive pattern modalities.
 - Aromatherapy, therapeutic touch, music, massage, and humor
- Promotes well-becoming

Research

- Non-invasive patterning source for Rogerian science-based research.

CLINICAL APPLICATION SCENARIO

Clinical Application Scenario

Case study

Application of Rogers' system model in nursing care of a client with cerebrovascular accident

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Abstract

Rogers' system model is commonly known as Science of Unitary Human Beings. It views human beings as integral with their environment. As per the concepts of the Rogers system model, nursing focuses on human beings and the manifestations that emerge from the mutual interaction of human and environmental field. It is said that the change in the pattern and organization of man and his environment is transmitted by waves; this pattern emerges as observable event in the life of man. Thus, better understanding of human experience is made possible. In this paper, the author has described the nursing care of a client with cerebrovascular accident based on Rogers' system model where the author has described how a client, who was initially diagnosed to have hypertension and diabetes leads a life, and then develops complications and how her life pattern changes. It shows how the client, in spite of frequent hospitalization, strives hard to move unidirectional towards maximum health within her limits.

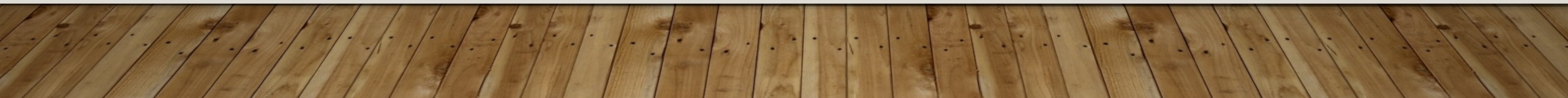
Key words: Cerebrovascular accident, Helicy, nursing care, Rogers' system model, resonancy, unidirectional

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

Strengths

- Offers a broad worldview
- Knowledge-generating models
- Scientific method applied to phenomena
- Contributes to an emerging paradigm for nursing

Limitations

- Concepts are not measurable
 - Theory is not specific. No definitive answers to practice questions.
 - Concepts such as health, healing, comfort, and safety are all abstract and there is no consensus on which is most important for nursing.
 - Roger's does not clearly define what 'health' is
 - Selecting the correct method for examining the person and environment is challenging because all researchers do not agree that qualitative and quantitative research approaches are appropriate.
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