



Patterns of



Rogerian



Knowing

Mary Madrid, Editor

Patterns of Rogerian Knowing

Edited by
Mary Madrid

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To the living presence of Martha E. Rogers.

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Foreword

*T*he evolution of the Rogers' Conferences at New York University mirrors the growth of the Science of Unitary Human Beings in many ways. The first conference, held in the early 1980s, grew from the efforts of a small determined group of doctoral students and faculty members who desired a forum where some of their newest thinking and research might be shared more broadly with a group of like-minded nurse scholars. Rogers herself often suggested speakers and topics that usually featured newly completed dissertation research augmented by discussion. In the audience were nurses studying for advance degrees in the New York metropolitan area with some attenders from the deep south and the southwest. Recent conference presenters have included scholars from Brazil, Germany, and the United Kingdom while contributors to this volume live and work in diverse areas throughout the United States.

The early conferences were held every three or four years, and attenders often audiotaped proceedings. Those "pirated tapes" are rare archival resources today. Participants in those early conferences went home with new ideas and insights into this complex, divergent conceptual system; that tradition continues at conferences that are now held every two years.

The intellectual challenges first posed by Rogers in her classes and writings, and taken up by her students and colleagues, have nurtured the development of other thinker/theoreticians like Newman and Parse who regularly attend and participate in the Rogerian Conferences. This book opens with a chapter by Newman in an imaginative creation of a dialogue between Rogers and Bohm that extends the Rogerian legacy (the theme of the most recent conference) of intellectual challenge to the professional discipline of Nursing. Parse, who is one of the most loyal critics of Rogerian Science, has helped Rogerian scholars learn the art of thoughtful critique in the conferences and in her own writing, which has contributed substantially to the development of the science. Chapters toward the end of the book describe ways in which Rogers' seminal thinking is relevant to our consumers and colleagues; a real demonstration of integrality and of power, and certainly consistent with Rogers' own stated belief that the Science of Unitary Human Beings was relevant to all people, not only nurses.

A science is "healthy" as long as it is alive, useful, and developing. The Rogerian Conferences and this book (and previous volumes edited by

Barrett and Madrid & Barrett) are concrete evidence of that fact. Conference presentations and chapters within this volume give ample evidence of the continued lively growth of both the science and the art of nursing within the context of the Science of Unitary Human Beings. Phillips traces the evolution of the science, while Barrett, Leddy, and Fawcett, Cowling, and Reed define and describe, with more precision, conceptual building blocks like power, healthiness, pattern appreciation, and transcendence which clarify and extend understanding of the science. Hanchett, Sarter and Reeder provide further information about and insights into mysticism, suggesting another dimension for exploration within the Science. Researchers like Malinski, Watson, Hastings-Tolsma, Johnston, Gueldner, Carboni, Butcher, and Bultemeier contribute to the methodology and measurement tools consistent with the conceptual system. Younger scholars share their research applications of the conceptual system to timely, real world issues: McNiff examines well-being and life satisfaction among people with long-term healthcare needs. Ireland describes hope among children with AIDS, Watson contributes to understanding of sleep-wake in older women, and Andersen and her colleagues share their findings about practice with an inner city population of substance abusers. While these are certainly not “ivory tower” topics, the nitty-gritty world of daily nursing practice is also addressed by Woodward and Heggie, Horvath, Matas, Poullos and Gold, all of whom can be described as “white shoe” nurses who deliver care to patients/consumers every day, and share their very artful applications of the Science of Unitary Human Beings with readers in this volume.

This treasure chest does offer something for everyone: teacher, practitioner, researcher, consumer, colleague. What else could one expect? Although Rogers’ physical body has died, the energy field which is Martha E. Rogers continues to prod, provoke, stimulate, and challenge (and occasionally scold) those nurses and other scholars who know her and listen to what she continues to write, albeit with their collaboration and powerful cooperation.

JOANNE GRIFFIN, RN, PhD

Preface

Let knowledge grow from more to more.

Alfred Tennyson

I have known and loved Martha E. Rogers as a teacher, a mentor, a colleague, and a friend. I first met her in September 1980, at New York University when, as a graduate student, I took the course entitled Science of Man. At that time, she autographed her book *An Introduction to the Theoretical Basis of Nursing* for me with these words, "Best wishes for a very creative future." On October 30, 1993, she wrote her last autograph on the premiere issue of *Visions: The Journal of Rogerian Nursing Science*. It said, "What a wonderful time to be around. Keep going!"

But what did Martha mean when she spoke of a "very creative future" and when she encouraged me and many others to "keep going"? I searched for the answer in writing this preface and was amazed to discover that the answer has been before me from the very first day I met Martha. It was right there in her class handout entitled "Overview of Course:"

Many cherished beliefs are becoming obsolete as new knowledge about man and the world pours forth. A universe of open systems, multidimensional energy fields, and dramatic evolutionary innovations presage a future of startling magnitude. The impossible becomes probable. Established laws of nature give way to fresh views. Change is continuous. Sophocles, in ancient Greek literature, has Antigone say, "Is it so difficult, is it shameful to give up positions which, by tomorrow at the latest will no longer be tenable?" Around the turn of the century Sir William Crooks (1832-1910), eminent physicist and chemist, lecturing on the then incredible theories of the composition of matter, introduced his lecture with: "Gentlemen, I know what I am going to tell you is an impossibility according to the established laws of nature. Nevertheless it is true."

In this course—Science of Man—you will be introduced to new ways of perceiving man and his environment. (New York University, September 1980)

Martha knew that the Science of Man, now the Science of Unitary Human Beings, would evolve through a continuous process of increasing knowledge and change. It could never be firmly fixed. She coined new words and discarded former ones. Some took on new meanings. Theories

were developed within this framework, research findings shed new light on human/environmental phenomena, and nursing practice was revolutionized.

I believe that what Martha meant by a “very creative future” and to “keep going” was that we should continue to discover new ways to perceive human beings and their environment and contribute to the evolutionary process of growth and change concerning the Science of Unitary Human Beings. Our infinite potential should be used to inspire research, create new theories, new methods of research, and innovative ways to practice the art of nursing in our ever-changing universe.

This book is an attestation that Martha’s words, “be creative” and “keep going,” were heard and taken to heart by many Rogerian scholars, some of whom presented their work at the Fifth (1994) or Sixth Rogerian Conference (1996) at New York University. Papers submitted from these conferences were selected and revised for inclusion in this publication. Other papers included were submitted by health professionals other than nurses and one by a consumer of healthcare.

This book is organized into five parts. Part One addresses the legacy of Martha E. Rogers and her evolving Science of Unitary Human Beings. Part Two identifies issues of methodology, measurement, and theory testing. Unique, creative methods of research are presented. The development and description of Rogerian tools and their validity and reliability are discussed. The chapter addressing “insights and ideas from 10 years of research” on Barrett’s theory of power as knowing participation in change is a valuable resource for researchers. Part Three captures and explores the traditional spirit of the mysticism of the Aborigines of Australia and of Buddhist and Hindu philosophy. Beliefs are compared and contrasted to Rogerian science. Part Four contains a rich repository of Rogerian science-based nursing research from a variety of settings, presenting new ways to perceive human beings and their environment. Part Five demonstrates the innovative and creative application of Rogerian science to practice and to our lives. Physicians speak out on the relevance of the Science of Unitary Human Beings in our 20th-century healthcare system. A client tells us about her experience with Rogerian nursing and a mother shares her experience of childbirth from a Rogerian perspective.

Martha forged a new path in science. Her visionary spirit inspired us to have a never-ending quest for knowledge; she continues to light the way for us to discover new meanings within the Science of Unitary Human Beings. Each contributor in this book presented a creative expression of their research, theory testing, practice, or life experience. It is this creative expression that has great value. As editor, I made every attempt to

support this freedom of expression while at the same time maintaining consistency within the framework of Rogerian science.

I thank Elizabeth Ann Manhart Barrett, my dear friend and colleague, for giving me the title for this publication and for her support and valuable editorial assistance. I also thank Allan Graubard, Director of NLN Press for his encouragement and guidance.

Some papers will raise issues that are put forth for scholarly inquiry. We learn and grow from our experience and the scholarly endeavors of others. Martha E. Rogers had a creative vision. Her living presence is with us and her legacy will remain to inspire us to "Keep Going!"

MARY MADRID

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Part One

The Legacy of Martha E. Rogers

A Dialogue with Martha Rogers and David Bohm About the Science of Unitary Human Beings

Margaret A. Newman

PREAMBLE

Since I have incorporated David Bohm's theory in much of my writing (Newman, 1986, 1994) and speaking, some people have gotten the impression that my theory of health as expanding consciousness emanated from Bohm's (and other physical scientists') theories. This is not the case, and I would like to set the record straight. My theory evolved from the new paradigm set forth by Martha Rogers. It was first presented in 1978 and published in 1979 (Newman, 1979). When I became familiar with Bohm's work after the publication of his book in 1930, I was delighted that his theory of implicate order, coming from a different disciplinary focus, supported the ideas explicated in my theory regarding disease as a manifestation of the whole and suggested in Rogers' work when she referred to health and illness as a unitary process. I was particularly

pleased to hear of Martha's interest in revisiting Bohm's theory and her intuition that the future of nursing science would be enhanced by his work.

In the spring of 1994, shortly before her death, Martha Rogers recorded a message to all of us. One of the things she said was:

This . . . brings a message for the future that you are going to have to implement.

And then an aside:

One book I've got to re-read is David Bohm's Implicate Order.

Martha thought that Bohm was still *adding on* consciousness rather than seeing it as a pattern emerging from the field. Based on her energy field model, it was clear to her that consciousness was emerging from the field (Malinski & Barrett, 1994). Bohm died in the fall of 1993, without their having an opportunity to discuss this phenomenon, but Martha was speculating that maybe he was sending us a message about it from beyond. I will revisit the thoughts of David Bohm as they relate to Martha's thoughts on the Science of Unitary Human Beings.

In introducing his theory of implicate order, Bohm (1980) said:

My main concern has been with understanding the nature of reality in general and of consciousness in particular as a coherent whole, which is never static or complete, but which is in an unending process of movement and unfoldment. (p. ix)

He described the problem of *thinking* about movement, that it somehow comes out seeming static or like a series of static images. So he pursued the question of *what is the relationship of thinking to reality*. If thought itself is a part of reality as a whole, how could one part of reality know another? Would this be possible? It is firmly embedded in our tradition that the one who thinks is separate from the reality that he or she thinks about.

How are we to think coherently of a single, unbroken, flowing actuality of existence as a whole, containing both thought . . . and external reality as we experience it? (Bohm, 1980, p. x)

In order to understand, we must attend first to what he had to say about theory. He emphasized that *a world view is the most important*