

Lydia Wytenbroek

“Globalizing Nursing: Diplomatic Initiatives to Internationalize Nursing Science”

It was an honour to receive a AAHN H-15 Research Grant for my project: “Globalizing Nursing: Diplomatic Initiatives to Internationalize Nursing Science.” This project explores the internationalization of nursing science in relation to larger geopolitics. I am interested in how nursing science was promoted globally. I am interested in how nursing leaders and scholars from the Global North sought to promote nursing science in the Global South. I discovered that WHO and ICN nurses were using international nursing conferences held in the Global South in the 1960s and 1970s to promote science as the only way that nurses could answer their questions. I used this fellowship to explore archival documents and proceedings related to these conferences and USAID (PHCO) records at the US National Archives in Washington DC. I spent three weeks in August 2024 in the US National Archives in Washington DC and the Rockefeller Archives in New York. I looked through the extensive collections of USAID which supported more than 77 nurses from Iran to come to the United States for education purposes. I also found Persian newspapers on microfilm at the University of Maryland, and I paid an American doctoral student to copy them for me (paid from separate funds). I then hired one of my MSN students who speaks Persian to translate the documents into English. The documents speak to the significance of nursing leadership in Iran. I have written a conference paper and presented on this work, and I am now preparing a chapter that will be published in a book on the history of international nursing. I very much appreciate AAHN support for this project, and look forward to sharing my publication in future!

Thanks,
Lydia