

VIRTUOUS PRACTICE IN NURSING

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *Virtuous Practice in Nursing* project is one of three projects exploring the ethics of professionals in the second phase of work in the Jubilee Centre, 2015–2017 (the others being the Army and Business/Finance), following on the heels of three similar projects in the first phase of work, 2012–2015, involving [medical doctors](#), [lawyers](#) and [teachers](#).

Despite some recent interest in virtue ethics in the field of nursing, the actual moral practice of nurses has more typically been studied through a rule-and-code focused lens than a virtue ethical one. With this interdisciplinary project, taking on board insights from nursing, philosophy and social science, we aim to ameliorate this shortcoming in the literature and shed an important new light on the state of nursing ethics in the UK.

The project explores a variety of questions:

- *Which virtues are prized and upheld by the nurses themselves, according to self-reports?*
- *Which virtues do they associate with the ideal professional?*
- *How do those and other virtues and values shape current practice and the professional education of nurses?*
- *Does virtue ethics provide a suitable theoretical foundation for nursing ethics and education?*
- *What hinders or helps nurses in exhibiting virtuous practice?*
- *What recommendations can we give to nursing educators about improving the teaching of professional ethics in the field?*

We will conduct a thorough review of the literature. Subsequently, we will survey aspiring nurses at the beginning of their study and those finishing their degree in up to four UK nursing departments. We will also survey experienced practising nurses. Those surveys will be followed-up by in-depth interviews with a sub-sample of respondents.

The data obtained will provide opportunities to compare responses across the three career stages, as well as comparing responses to those from our concurrent or previous studies, for example the study of the professional ethics of medical doctors. In this way, we aim to achieve a better understanding of how virtues inform, shape and enhance good nursing practice.

PROJECT STAFF

PROFESSOR KRISTJÁN KRISTJÁNSSON
Principal Investigator

Deputy Director, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues

PROFESSOR JAMES ARTHUR
Principal Investigator

Director, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues

Deputy-Pro-Vice Chancellor for Staffing, University of Birmingham

JINU VARGHESE

Research Fellow, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues

j.varghese@bham.ac.uk

RICHARD HUGHES

Research Administrator, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues

R.J.Hughes@bham.ac.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT PLEASE GO TO WWW.JUBILEECENTRE.AC.UK