

WOMEN'S HEALTH

My interest in women's health extended directly from my two dissertations in Fiji. The programs in women's health that followed in subsequent years, were the patterns and context of breast feeding and adolescent response to menarche.

The Context of Pain During Childbirth

Pain and pain behavior during childbirth, is culturally consistent. My research compared the responses of Fijian mothers and Fiji-Indian mothers. Understanding of the cultural values and normative behaviors was obtained from interviews with Fijian wise ladies and Fiji Indian dai. Observations were conducted during labor and delivery, and interviews were conducted with mothers following labor. Differences between the two cultural groups were documented. Pain expectation and attribution was measured in each group using paired comparison—a technique that compares pain attribution with other painful events in each culture.

Publications

Morse JM *Descriptive analysis of cultural coping mechanisms for the reduction of parturition pain and anxiety in Fiji*. PhD Dissertation, University of Utah, 1981

Morse, J. M. (1989). Cultural responses to parturition: Childbirth in Fiji. *Medical Anthropology*, 12 (1), 35-44.

Morse, J. M., & Park, C. (1988). Differences in cultural expectations of the perceived painfulness of parturition. In K. Michaelson (Ed.), *Childbirth in America: Anthropological perspectives* (pp. 121-129). South Hadley, MA: Bergin & Garvey.

Morse, J. M., & Park, C. (1988). Hospital births and home deliveries: Comparison of the perceived painfulness of parturition. *Research in Nursing and Health*, 11, 175-181.

This program then moved to the perception of painful events generally:

Publication

Morse, J. M., & Morse, R. M. (1988). Evaluation of the pain experience of others: Cultural variation in the perception of painful events. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 19(2), 232-242.