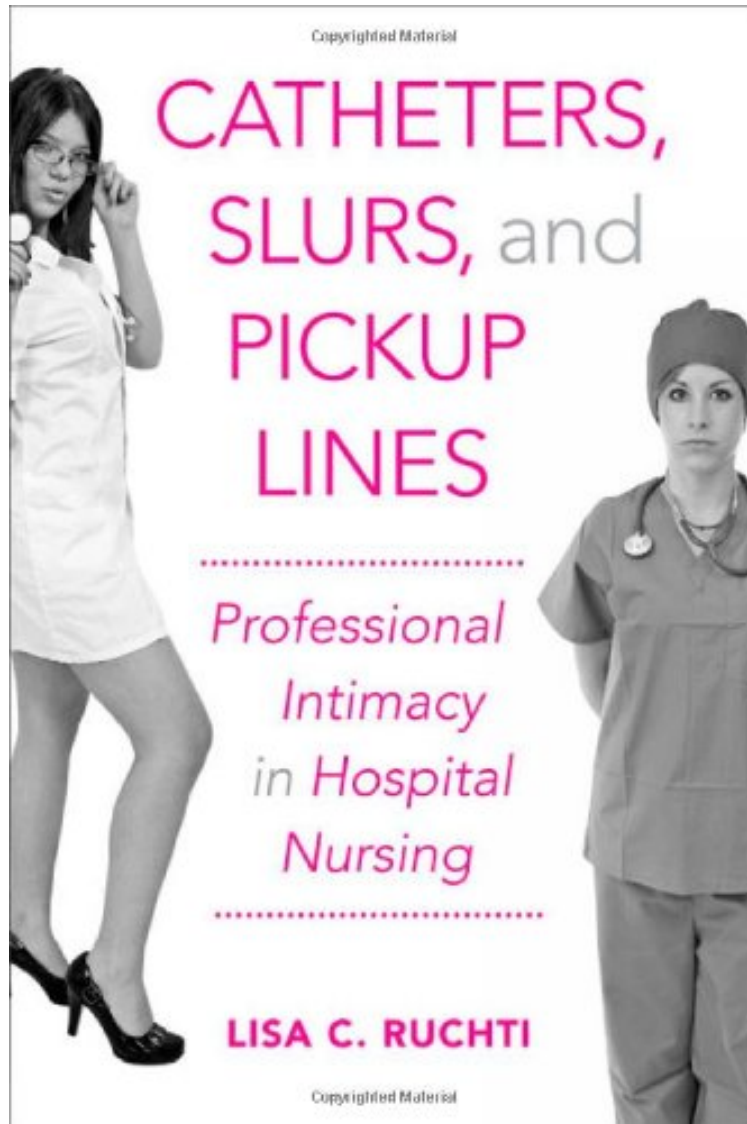


# Catheters, Slurs, and Pickup Lines: Professional Intimacy in Hospital Nursing

Lisa C. Ruchti

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**Lisa C. Ruchti : Catheters, Slurs, and Pickup Lines: Professional Intimacy in Hospital Nursing** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Catheters, Slurs, and Pickup Lines: Professional Intimacy in Hospital Nursing:

Every day, hospital nurses must negotiate intimate trust and intimate conflict in an effort to provide quality health care. However, interactions between nurses and patients - which often require issues of privacy - are sometimes made more uncomfortable with inappropriate behaviour, as when a patient has a racist and/or sexist outburst. Not all nurses are prepared to handle such intimacy, but they can all learn how to be caring. In *Catheters, Slurs, and Pickup Lines*, Lisa Ruchti carefully examines this fragile relationship between intimacy and professional care, and provides a language for patients, nurses, and administrators to teach, conduct, and advocate for knowledgeable and skilled intimate care in a hospital setting. She also recommends best training practices and practical and effective policy changes to handle conflicts. Ruchti shows that caring is not just a personality characteristic but is work that is structured by intersections of race, gender, and nationality.

"*Catheters, Slurs, and Pickup Lines* is an engaging text that offers readers a fresh context for thinking about the nursing profession and the implications of gendered work through an intersectional lens... Ruchti's study sets a precedent that challenges social workers to reflect on our subjectivity, power, and privilege to deconstruct altruistic notions of working in a 'helping' profession... Ruchti's study can be used as a motivation to recognize the skills of emotional labor that are used to do anti-oppressive and socially just work in the communities that we work with and as we navigate processes of systemic change." - *Affilia*, January 2013 "[R]ich and detailed... Ruchti's deep immersion in the field allows the reader a vantage point into the remarkable regularity of sexual behaviors, advances, commentary and conflict in hospitals... Ruchti's research is particularly timely as the United States approaches two emergent trends: nursing shortages and a quickly aging population... Ruchti's work is highly teachable and would be particularly useful to advanced undergraduates. She is clear in her prose and careful in her definition of terms. Scholars and students interested in medical sociology, labor, occupations and identity will find her work accessible and informative." - *Social Forces* "*Catheters, Slurs and Pickup Lines* is a compelling ethnography that skillfully explores the work of professional intimacy in hospital nursing. Drawing from 800 hours of ethnographic observation over an eight-month period and over 55 interviews with a diverse group of nurses, hospital administrators, and nursing professors, Ruchti ably achieves her stated goal... Our students will gain valuable insight into the day-to-day work of caring for patients, and our research will benefit from consideration of the many lessons contained in this richly documented exploration of professional intimacy."--*Gender Society*, March 2013 "*Catheters, Slurs, and Pickup Lines* provides a fascinating behind-the-scenes glimpse of nursing. Ruchti explores intriguing ideas and offers complex insights about how nurses manage intimate conflict. This book should be of scholarly interest to feminist, sociology, and medical students and professionals. It has the potential to influence the conditions under which nurses work, increase patient understanding of care, and create a framework for improved patient care. *Catheters, Slurs, and Pickup Lines* illuminates our understanding of little-seen and inadequately discussed elements of women's work. It is an impressive and excellent illustration of feminist sociology."--Bernadette Barton, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Morehead State University and author of *Stripped: Inside the Lives of Exotic Dancers* "[A] compelling ethnography that skillfully explores the work of professional intimacy in hospital nursing... The book is a major contribution to the newly burgeoning scholarship on care work, and Ruchti's findings pose numerous questions to anyone interested in bringing recognition to professionally intimate labor... This book is a must-have for those of us teaching and researching in medical worlds. Our students will gain valuable insight into the day-to-day work of caring for patients, and our research will benefit from consideration of the many lessons contained in this richly documented exploration of professional intimacy."--*Gender Society*, April 2013 "Ruchti's fascinating new ethnography asks us to imagine the selfless, moral calling of Florence Nightingale and consider the effects of this fantasy image on the work of nurses... Ruchti's interviews demonstrate the often contradictory joys and perils of doing intimate labor... Her book clearly shows how arduous and demanding the job can be; that is, caring is not natural or innate but a constellation of skills that one must learn... This book would be useful for anyone conducting research or teaching advanced undergraduate courses or graduate seminars on gender, work and occupations, globalization, care work, or qualitative research methods."--*American Journal of Sociology*, January 2013

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About the Author  
Lisa C. Ruchti is Assistant Professor in the Women's and Gender Studies Program and the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Her research and teaching focus on the sociology of gender, intersectionality, and transnational feminist theories.