

TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCY AS CARING IN NURSING: A MODEL FOR PRACTICE

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Assumptions

Technological Competency as Caring in Nursing is a middle range theory grounded in *Nursing as Caring* (Boykin & Schoenhofer, 2001). It is illustrated in the practice of nursing grounded in the harmonious coexistence between technology and caring in nursing. The assumptions of the theory are:

- Persons are caring by virtue of their humanness (Boykin & Schoenhofer, 2001).
- Persons are whole or complete in the moment (Boykin & Schoenhofer, 2001).
- Knowing persons is a process of nursing that allows for continuous appreciation of persons moment to moment (Locsin, 2005).
- Technology is used to know wholeness of persons moment to moment (Locsin, 2004).
- Nursing is a discipline and a professional practice (Boykin & Schoenhofer, 2001).

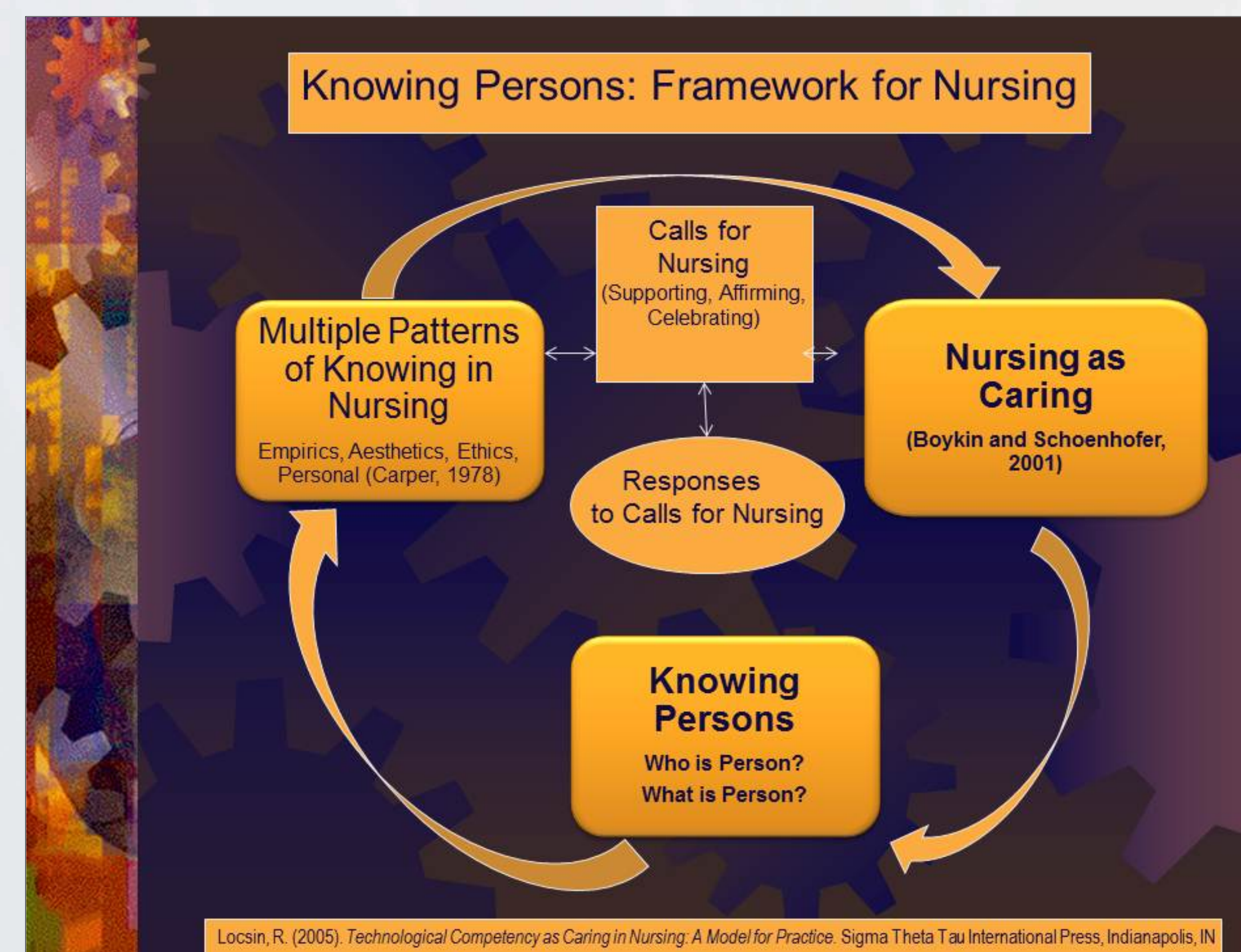
Dimensions of Technological Value in the Theory

- **Technology as completing human beings** to re-formulate the ideal human being such as in replacement parts, both mechanical (prostheses) or organic (transplantation of organs.)
- **Technology as machine technologies**, e.g. computers and gadgets enhancing nursing activities to provide quality patient care such as Penelope or Da Vinci in the Operating Theatres;
- **Technologies that mimic human beings and human activities** to meet the demands of nursing care practices, e.g. cyborgs (cybernetic organisms) or anthropomorphic machines and robots such as 'nursebots' (Locsin & Barnard, 2007).

Technological Competency as Caring in Nursing

- Technological competency as caring in nursing is the harmonious coexistence between technologies and caring in nursing.
- The harmonization of these concepts places the practice of nursing within the context of modern healthcare and acknowledges that these concepts can co-exist.
- Technology brings the patient closer to the nurse. Conversely, technology can also increase the gap between the nurse and nursed.
- When technology is used to know persons continuously in the moment, the process of nursing is lived.

Model



The Process of Nursing

A. Knowing: The process of knowing person is guided by technological knowing in which persons are appreciated as participants in their care rather than as objects of care. The nurse enters the world of the other. In this process, technology is used to magnify the aspect of the person that requires revealing - a representation of the real person. The person's state change moment to moment - person is dynamic, living, and can not be predicted.

B. Designing: Both the nurse and the one nursed (patient) plan a mutual care process from which the nurse can organize a rewarding nursing practice that is responsive to the patient's desire for care.

C. Participation in appreciation: The simultaneous practice of conjoined activities which are crucial to knowing persons. In this stage of the process is the alternating rhythm of implementation and evaluation. The evidence of continuous knowing, implementation and participation is reflective of the cyclical process of knowing persons.

D. Verifying knowledge: The continuous, circular process demonstrates the ever-changing, dynamic nature of knowing in nursing. Knowledge about the person that is derived from knowing, designing, and implementing further informs the nurse and the one nursed.