Maastricht University

A cutting culture: gender and identification in the figured world of surgery

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Stellingen

A cutting culture: gender and identification in the figured world of surgery

1. The strongly gendered nature of female medical students' experiences of surgery during medical school makes a surgical career a difficult trajectory to imagine for themselves.*

2. Differential access to the hidden curriculum of surgery means many, notably women, are excluded from participation in and development of a surgical career.*

3. Medical students hold uniformly strong stereotypes of surgery and surgeons; those unwilling or feeling unable to fit these stereotypes disengage with surgery as a possible career.*

4. Surgery is discursively masculine: it is challenging to be a female surgeon because the characteristics of a good woman and a good surgeon exist in competition.*

5. "No matter what is said, taught, prescribed, recommended, or tested, newcomers are no fools; once they have actual access to the practice, they soon find out what counts."
   Wenger E, *Communities of Practice* 1998

6. "And when habitus encounters a social world of which it is the product, it is like a 'fish in water': it does not feel the weight of the water and it takes the world about itself for granted."
   Bourdieu P, *Towards a Reflexive Sociology* 1989

7. "Accounts of culture that ignore the importance of social position surreptitiously participate in the silencing of those who lack privilege and power."
   Holland D et al., *Identity and Agency in Cultural Worlds* 1998

8. "The word in language is half someone else's… it exists in other people's mouths, in other people's concrete contexts, serving other people's intentions: it is from there that one must take the word, and make it one's own."
   Bakhtin M, *The Dialogic Imagination* 1981

9. Understanding surgical culture, and the way people identify (and are excluded from identifying) therein, may facilitate policy and on-the-ground interactions to encourage and support diversity in surgical careers.*

10. "What if there were a world called academia, where books were so significant that people would sit for hours on end, away from friends and family, writing them?"
    Holland D et al., *Identity and Agency in Cultural Worlds* 1998

11. "I knew who I was this morning, but I've changed a few times since then."
    Carroll L, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* 1865

*proposition drawn from this thesis