Comparison of Theory-Practice Link in US and UK Student Nurses

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**OBJECTIVES**
- To attempt to capture participants’ (student nurses and professors) view of the influence Link Lecturers* at a university in England and academic professors at a southern university in the United States have on their theory-practice link. The study also investigated the Link Lecturers’ and academic professors’ perspectives of their influence on the theory-practice link with their students.
- *Link Lecturers is the term given to nursing professors in England.

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**
- As a student nurse, what do you feel your Clinical Professor / Link Lecturer does with you in the practice setting?
- + influence on learning, support & encouragement when needed, increases my confidence
- How do you see your role as a Clinical Professor / Link Lecturer with your student nurses in the practice setting?
- Help them race TM against the clock
- Help them connect dots/help lightbulb go off in their heads/encourage
- Helps put pieces of puzzle together
- Helps with mounds of paperwork
- Learning may hands-on skills
- Jungle many things wear many hats
- Problem-solver support
- Nothing-email and telephone conversation
- Who is my LL?
- Check progress and practice documentation

**RESULTS**
- **Findings of UK Student Nurses:**
  - Bridge between no influence/heavy theory and practice workload
- **Findings of Link Lecturers in the UK:**
  - + influence on learning, support & encouragement when needed, increases my confidence

**REFERENCES**