



Healthcare Organisation and Systems: That's Interesting!

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I recently shared a short car journey with a leading Danish Professor of Healthcare Management and Organisation, a few months before he retired after more than 30 years researching healthcare organisations. He was a great man by all accounts, who will be a loss to his field, and in keeping with his character has since marked retirement by cycling from Copenhagen to the South of France!

I took the opportunity, while I still could, to ask him a simple question. “What article would you recommend to someone interested in researching healthcare organisations?” He was slightly amused by my question and smiled, then for a few moments was thoughtfully silent in a laid-back Scandinavian way. Then he spoke. “That’s interesting”, he said. “What is?” I asked. “It’s a paper by Murray Davies, called That’s Interesting”, he answered.

So I read the paper (Davis, 1971)¹, which makes a simple point that I would like to encourage in articles submitted to the journal. Good papers say something that makes the reader stop and think, “That’s interesting”, and understand the world in a slightly new and different way.

As the Editor of the Organisational and Systems section of the journal, I would like to receive papers on this topic that will be interesting to our readers. Organisation, systems and indeed management should be of interest every healthcare professional not just managers. I believe that they are inseparable from the provision clinical care. I am therefore keen to engage health professionals in discussions about these issues, not simply to lambaste today’s healthcare organisations and systems and hark back to some golden era in the past, but to suggest ways in which they could be improved to benefit patient care.

Papers may be about London or anywhere in the world as long as they have some relevance to healthcare in London. More importantly they should also be short (our readers are busy people), grounded in appropriate experience of practice and/or theory (informed), clearly written (the best writers say complicated things in a way that makes them seem simple) and interesting.

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Reference List

1. Davis, M. 1971. That's Interesting! Towards a Phenomenology of Sociology and a Sociology and Phenomenology. *Phil. Soc. Sci.* 1: 309-344.