



CAMILLA GÖRAS (1969) is a registered nurse since 2006 and a registered nurse anesthetist since 2008. In 2012 she completed a Master of Science in Healthcare Sciences at Dalarna University, Falun and has been registered as a doctoral student at Örebro University since 2013. During her PhD studies she has worked part-time as a patient safety coordinator at the Department of Anesthesia and Intensive care Unit at Falu hospital.

A complex adaptive system such as the operating room, consists of different safety cultures, sub-cultures and ways of working. Complex work processes including multitasking and interruptions are challenges with potential impact on patient safety. However, multitasking and interruptions may have positive impact on patient safety, but is not well understood in clinical work. Despite described challenges a lot of things go well in the operating room. This thesis evaluates an instrument for assessing safety climate, describes and compares perceptions of safety climate, and explores the complexity of work processes in the operating room. From the perspective of complexity, knowledge of how work is done by operating room professionals the findings will contribute to understanding for the development patient safety work.

In adaptive systems, yesterday's solutions produce today's surprises that become tomorrow's challenge

- Woods, D. David (2009)

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Open the door to complexity – safety climate and work processes in the operating room

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Medical Science with a specialisation in Healthcare Sciences



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