In Praise

As the reality of “the global village” approaches, nations of the Americas need to learn more about one another to foster cooperative movement toward a common good. This is as true in health care as in other areas of society. In attempting to further our understanding of the structure and substance of health care across the Americas, this book is truly unique in its scope and breadth of treatment. As such, it is a “must read” for health practitioners, policymakers, and researchers and students in nursing and other disciplines.

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In this day and age of national and international nursing and healthcare politics, the valuable information contained in this book is germane to social scientists and to all professionals in healthcare practice and education. Knowing the history of nursing’s past as well as the present milieu is extremely important for understanding its future, both nationally and internationally. Importantly, the text is international in scope and discusses nursing in each country from a political and historical perspective. There are few, if any, texts that compare and contrast nursing from this frame of reference. This text gives the reader an opportunity to appreciate each country’s history of nursing and the political impact on the educational process.

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Karen Lucas Breda, Associate Professor at the University of Hartford, holds a Ph.D. in anthropology (University of Connecticut) and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing (Boston University). As a Fulbright Scholar and Giovanni Agnelli Foundation Fellow, Breda studied the Italian National Health System, and for more than two decades, her scholarship and teaching have been enriched by her multidisciplinary specialization in cross-national health care, globalization, critical political economy, and cultural anthropology. Breda’s clinical background is in pediatrics, mental health, and culturally competent community nursing. As project director of Project Horizon, she links university students, faculty, and staff with community partners to co-create health and social advocacy initiatives. Breda is an advocate for urban families living in poverty.