



Erika L Freitas

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Erika L Freitas graduated in Pharmacy from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil, in 2002. She completed her Master's Degree at the same University, in 2005. After graduation, she worked for 7 years as a clinical pharmacist and as a professor in Brazil. In August, 2009, she joined the Social and Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program at the University of Minnesota/MN, USA, where she is currently pursuing her PhD degree.

Erika Freitas is an expert in Medication Therapy Management/ Pharmaceutical Care, practicing for many years as a clinical pharmacist and focusing in particular on areas of education and training of healthcare professionals for clinical practice.

She is now taking her PhD research as an opportunity to study different educational approaches (specifically critical pedagogies) in health care professions. She believes that the health field would benefit much from a critical perspective on education, creating critical thinkers who will find their place in society through an education rooted on social justice and change.

Her doctoral research focuses on the acquirement and institutionalization of cultural competence by health care professionals, when working with culturally, ethnically and racially diverse population. Central to her interest is the problem of how subjects – teachers, students and professionals – produce and reproduce meanings and myths through the teaching-learning process of theories, practices, discourses, and reflections on cultural competence, and how such meanings shape identities of health professionals towards the cultural diversity faced currently by them in the USA healthcare system.