

Master theses / abstracts

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EUROPEAN MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



University of Brighton



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Liefferinge Gaëlle (January 2026)

Fear of Falling Post-Stroke: Exploring the Feasibility of Immersive Technology in Occupational Therapy

Objective: This study aims to investigate the feasibility of Virtual Reality and Mixed Reality in reducing non-functional fear of falling post-stroke, to inform the optimisation of client-centred occupational therapy interventions.

Methods: A mixed-methods feasibility study was conducted, using a crossover research design and a qualitative descriptive design, among a sample of 10 participants from the rehabilitation centre of Ghent University Hospital, Belgium. Quantitative data were collected using the Falls Efficacy Scale (FES-I) and System Usability Scale (SUS) and analysed in SPSS using the Wilcoxon test. Semi-structured interviews were conducted and analysed through direct content analysis.

Results: The FES-I indicated an average concern regarding falling ($M = 22.90$, $SD = 5.3$). No significant difference in usability was observed between the MR ($M = 82$, $SD = 16.44$, $Mdn = 82.5$) and VR sub-intervention ($M = 80$, $SD = 10.4$, $Mdn = 80$). However, the interviews revealed a preference for VR due to a higher level of engagement and intrinsic motivation.

Conclusion: Both MR and VR are feasible for addressing FoF in people post-stroke, although the choice of technology depends on individual factors such as stimulus processing ability, physical and cognitive capacities, and preferences.

Keywords: Virtual reality, Mixed reality, Fear of falling, post-stroke

Tschimben, Nadia (January 2026)

Exploring the relationship between participation in health-promoting activities and resilience: A scoping review

Background: The concept of resilience, understood as an individual's ability to respond to adversity and achieve well-being, is connected to and underpins many aspects of occupational therapy practice and research. Occupational therapists work with clients who are often confronted with challenging life-situations and use participation in activities to enhance quality of life.

Aim: This scoping review explores the empirical literature to develop an understanding of the relationship between participation in health-promoting activities and resilience from an occupational perspective.

Methods: The literature search was conducted across three databases and ten occupational therapy and occupational science journals using the terms "resilienc*" and "activit*", guided by Arksey and O'Malley's scoping review framework. The data were first analysed descriptively, followed by a thematic analysis of the content to identify and map emerging concepts.

Results: 15 studies were identified and reviewed. The relationship between participation in health-promoting activities and resilience was exposed. Three themes emerged: (1) Promoting resilience through diverse activities, (2) Building resilience through psychological, social and emotional mechanisms from participation in activities and (3) Enhancing resilience through meaning mediated by occupational adaptation.

Conclusion: The findings emphasise the positive influence of individuals participation in activities on their own resilience. Additionally, paying attention to clients' subjective experience and the personal meaning they attach to participating in activities, in order to enhance resilience, is necessary.

Keywords: Resilience; activities; participation

den Boer Saskia

(October 2025)

The Occupation of Drag Performance: Exploring Freedom through Empowerment, Transformation, and Community.

A Qualitative Photo Elicitation Study Using a Socio-Constructivist Approach

Background: Drag is a unique, performative “LGBTQ occupation” embedded in personal identity, comedy, and society. Occupational science seeks to understand how people do meaningful activities and how this intersects with their gender and sexual identity. Yet research on LGBTQ occupations is limited, especially occupations like drag. This study explores what “drag” is as an occupation, based on French LGBTQ drag performers’ experiences and perceptions.

Method: Using a socio-constructivist paradigm and an interpretivist lens, qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews and photo-elicitation with six drag performers.

Findings: Reflexive thematic analysis revealed three major themes: (1) Drag as a Space for Identity Exploration and Personal Expression, (2) Drag as Political Stance and Social Critique, and (3) The Contradictions of the Drag Community. The findings illustrate that drag facilitates occupational transformation through doing, being, becoming, and belonging, contributing to individual well-being and collective resistance.

Conclusions: These insights emphasize the importance of advocating for diversity in an ever-changing society. This study promotes knowledge creation of a specific LGBTQ occupation to understand how sexual and gender identity intersect in occupational science. The study urges more recognition of non-traditional occupations in occupational science, particularly those supporting minority identities. Further research is recommended across diverse cultural and geographic contexts.

Keywords: LGBTQ, drag, occupational science, transformative occupation

Gex Zélie (October 2025)

Older Women Living Alone in a Rural Territory: A Critical Occupational Perspective

Background: The literature in occupation sciences calls for a broader understanding of the concept of territory, particularly beyond its theoretical roots in Latin America. From this critical perspective, this study explores the rural territory of a side valley in Switzerland through the experience of community mobility among older women living alone.

Aim: The aim is to highlight issues that are often taken for granted but which play a fundamental role in building links between people within a territory.

Method: A short-term critical ethnography was conducted to capture the complexity of the interactions between territory, social situation, and occupation. To this end, several complementary data collection methods were used: an initial interview with each participant in their home, a second mobile interview conducted in a meaningful place of their choice, systematic field notes, and photographs documenting the spaces explored. This accumulation of data highlighted the material, social, and symbolic dimensions of the territory, as well as how they influence and are influenced by the experience of community mobility.

Findings: The results reveal a dynamic relationship between territory, occupation, and social position, where inhabiting the territory, engaging in occupations, and community mobility are shaped by the intersection of rurality, gender, and aging. Care appears as a cross-cutting element, invested in by women due to their social situation, and provided by the territory, with its specific characteristics of rurality.

Keywords: rural territory, older women, mobility community, critical theory

Hehli Renia (October 2025)

‘Stay with it!’ Programme in Practice: Experiences of Older Adults (65+) in the Outpatient Occupational Therapy Setting. A qualitative descriptive study

Background: As the Swiss population ages, how to maintain and sustain independence among older adults becomes increasingly important. Physical inactivity is a major risk factor for loss of independence, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends promoting personalised, low-barrier programmes to support physical activity in older adults. The “Stay with it!” (“Bliib dra!”) programme was developed to help integrate physical activity into daily routines following rehabilitation. This study aimed to explore how older adults experience the “Stay with it!” in the outpatient occupational therapy setting.

Methods: The qualitative descriptive approach was used. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with six participants aged 65 or older who had completed the programme. Data were analysed using content analysis, following an inductive coding process.

Results: Three themes were identified: (1) Positive Experiences and Teaching Aid, (2) Negative Aspects and Challenges, (3) Role of Therapeutic Support and Suitability. The programme fostered motivation, self-reflection, and an understanding of physical activity; however, only if it was tailored to the participant's needs and implemented in a client-centred manner by the therapist. Flaws in the content, visual formatting, and extent of the programme were experienced as burdensome.

Conclusion: The study revealed that older adults experienced the programme differently: it was supportive when well explained, adapted, and seamlessly incorporated into daily routines, but felt burdensome when unclear or lacking adequate support. Success hinges on client-centred, context-aware delivery. The findings inform programme refinement and highlight the need for further feasibility testing before assessing effectiveness and broader implementation.

Keywords: older adults, programme evaluation, client-centred care, occupational therapy, physical activity, qualitative descriptive research

Jeddi Diana (October 2025)

Burnout Among Swiss Occupational Therapists: A Survey on Prevalence and Associated Demographic and Work-Related Factors

Background/Aim: Burnout is a growing concern in healthcare professions, including occupational therapy. It impacts not only individual health, well-being and job performance but also has broader implications that extend beyond the individual context. This study aimed to assess the levels and prevalence of burnout among German-speaking Swiss occupational therapists and to explore the relationship between burnout symptoms and selected demographic and work-related factors.

Method: The study employed a cross-sectional survey design and included questions on demographic variables (age, gender) and work-related factors (years of experience, employment percentage, area of practice, treatment setting). The German version of the Maslach Burnout Inventory measured burnout symptoms. The questionnaire was distributed online over a four-week period. Statistical analyses, including descriptive statistics, multiple linear regression, and ordinal logistic regression examined burnout levels among participants and associations between burnout symptoms and demographic and work-related variables.

Results: Among 340 participants, 4% reported burnout and 17% were at high risk, with high levels of emotional exhaustion (24%), depersonalisation (11%), and reduced personal accomplishment (36%). Professional experience was protective across all burnout dimensions, predicting lower emotional exhaustion, lower depersonalisation, higher personal accomplishment, and lower overall burnout (all $p \leq .006$). Greater working hours were linked to higher personal accomplishment and lower overall burnout (both $p \leq .001$). Working in paediatrics was associated with lower depersonalisation ($p = .047$). Other specialty areas, gender, and treatment settings showed no consistent associations.

Conclusion: This study provides initial insight into burnout among Swiss occupational therapists, highlighting a considerable proportion with moderate or emerging symptoms. The results underline the importance of early-career support, more differentiated diagnostic tools, and the development of holistic, personalised prevention strategies informed by occupational science.

Keywords: Mental health, Burnout, Occupational Therapists, Maslach Burnout Inventory

Schiwek Tim (October 2025)

Let us fight dragons together! An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Adult's Experiences of Community in Tabletop Role-Playing Games

Background and objectives: Playing a Tabletop Role-Playing Game (TTRPG) engages adults in collaborative storytelling within a structured yet imaginative role-play setting. While play is recognized as a meaningful occupation in children, adult play remains underexplored by occupational science (OS). Existing research highlights the potential of TTRPGs to enhance creativity, personal growth and social connectedness, yet adult play has not been sufficiently examined from an OS perspective. The objective of this study was to explore adult's experience and sense-making of a community through playing a TTRPG, from an occupational science perspective.

Research Design and Methods: An interpretative phenomenological design was utilized to gain insight into adult's lived experience of community through playing TTRPGs. Semi-Structured Interviews were conducted with six participants who regularly engaged into playing TTRPGs.

Results: Interpretative phenomenological analysis revealed three overarching themes: belonging and social connection, empowerment through community play, and being creative together.

Conclusion: Playing a TTRPG plays a meaningful role in adult life, offering more than leisure. Participants experienced community through emotional bonds, shared role-play stories, and identity exploration, while supporting each other in developing communication and coping skills.

Keywords: Adult Play, TTRPG, Community, interpretative phenomenological analysis

Andres Linda

(June 2025)

Making Occupational Transition Visible

Background: Burn injuries represent a traumatic event that disrupts daily life and initiates an occupational transition. This process begins in the acute phase, where people experience major changes in their ability to engage in daily occupations. While research often focuses on physical recovery, less is known about how people reconstruct everyday activities during hospitalisation and rehabilitation.

Introduction: This study retrospectively examines how people with mild to severe burn injuries in Switzerland experience occupational transitions during acute hospital care, transfer to rehabilitation, and the early rehabilitation phase.

Methods: Five male participants took part in two individual Body Mapping Storytelling (BMST) sessions. This qualitative, arts-based method combines narrative and visual expression to explore embodied experiences. Participants created life-sized body maps and shared personal recovery narratives. Interviews were recorded, transcribed verbatim, and managed with MAXQDA. Reflexive thematic analysis identified key themes across the multimodal data.

Findings: Three themes emerged. First, Returning to the Everyday describes the shift toward independence in daily tasks. Second, Doing Differently reflects emotional changes that alter the meaning of occupations. Third, Support and Beyond shows how family and friends facilitate engagement and identity. These themes reveal the complex nature of occupational transition after burn injury.

Conclusion: Occupational transitions involve more than physical recovery. They are shaped by changing environments, shifting personal values, and social relationships. Supporting meaningful activity can foster rehabilitation, well-being, and identity. These insights may inform a more responsive, person-centred burn rehabilitation.

Keywords: burn injury, occupational transitions, acute care, rehabilitation, body mapping, lived experience

Badstuber Nataša (June 2025)

'I wouldn't say "food insecurity". I would say that women are going hungry in the city of Mozart.' A Community Photovoice Study on Food (In)Security in Austria

Background: Food insecurity in high-income countries like Austria is not caused by food scarcity, but by poverty, rising living costs, and structural exclusion. It disproportionately affects women, children, single households, people with migration background yet its everyday implications remain underexplored. This thesis frames food insecurity as an issue of occupational justice and investigates how it shapes daily life, participation, and well-being.

Methods: Using a qualitative, community-based Photovoice approach, the study was conducted in collaboration with three co-researchers with lived experience of food insecurity. Through photography, group dialogue, and interviews, they shared insights into daily routines, coping strategies, and challenges. The data were collaboratively and thematically analysed.

Results: Food insecurity shaped co-researchers' daily decision-making, emotional well-being, and social participation. Their stories, structured around four themes, acknowledged and critically examined how everyday life is marked by constraint, adaptation, and emotional strain. Practices such as cross-border shopping, food rationing, intentional eating before sleep, and navigating fragmented aid systems emerged as forms of resource-seeking—survival-based occupational responses that reflect both resilience and ongoing negotiation under precarity. Despite their creativity and persistence, co-researchers faced recurring fatigue, shame, and social isolation. All co-researchers identified as women living alone, highlighting gendered patterns of vulnerability shaped by unpaid care work, low income, and long-term structural marginalisation.

Conclusion: The study calls for trauma-informed, user-centered, and multiprofessional responses that acknowledge the complexity of survival-based occupations. Occupational therapy and science can help make visible the lived realities of food insecurity and contribute to socially responsive research, advocacy, and service design. A key implication is that people directly affected by food insecurity must be included in the development of support systems through participatory processes. While change may be slow, such approaches can foster recognition, dialogue, and more inclusive understandings of those affected.

Keywords: food insecurity; occupational justice; resource seeking; occupational struggles; photovoice

Berkenbos Rhodé (June 2025)

Balancing the Unseen. Exploring Occupational Balance Among Significant Others of Persons with Chronic Pain: A Photovoice Study

Objectives: To explore how significant others of persons with chronic pain experience occupational balance in everyday life.

Methods: Using a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach, this qualitative study engaged four Dutch women (aged 21-32) as co-researchers. They participated in five group sessions using Photovoice, combining participant-generated photos with reflective dialogue. Data included photographs, group discussions, written reflections, and field notes. Reflexive Thematic Analysis (RTA) was conducted with active participant involvement.

Findings: Four themes emerged:

1. Ongoing Shift of Roles and Priorities: Participants adjusted routines and responsibilities, balancing support with their own needs, often expanding personal boundaries and reshaping goals.
2. The Comprehensive Toll No One Sees: Emotional, mental, and physical strains were often hidden, participants lived in constant alertness and experienced fatigue.
3. Strategies for Meaning Making and Balance: Participants employed coping strategies such as focusing on control, reframing limitations, and engaging in meaningful activities.
4. The Need to Be Seen and Supported: Participants expressed a strong desire for recognition and practical help, highlighting invisibility and unmet needs in social and healthcare systems.

Conclusion: This study contributes to an expanded understanding of occupational balance as a relational experience, showing chronic pain reshapes both individuals and their social networks. The often-invisible experiences of significant others call for inclusive healthcare that recognizes their emotional labor and supports their well-being alongside those with chronic pain.

Keywords: Occupational Balance, Chronic Pain, Significant Others, Everyday Life, Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), Photovoice

Franssen Veerle (June 2025)

Between Two Worlds: An Occupational Transition in the Shadow of Incarceration

Aim: This qualitative study used semi-structured interviews to examine how formerly incarcerated individuals in the Netherlands experience transitions in meaningful occupations from before incarceration to life in prison.

Results: It revealed significant restrictions on occupational choice and autonomy, and highlighted the personal meaning found in both sanctioned and non-sanctioned occupations. Participants faced occupational deprivation but also discovered new, meaningful activities within prison, indicating potential for occupational enrichment despite constraints.

Conclusions: The abrupt, involuntary nature of incarceration caused complex occupational transitions impacting identity and well-being. The study recommends integrating occupational therapy in prisons and calls for further research on non-sanctioned occupations, occupational transitions, and inclusive enrichment strategies.

Lindner Judith

(June 2025)

Shaping practice together. A Critical Participatory Action Research process to enhance Occupational Therapists' Engagement with Social Determinants of Health in Primary-Care-Centres in Austria

Background: Social determinants of health (SDH) significantly impact the health status of Austrian citizens. Primary-care-centres offer a setting where occupational therapists can address SDH and health inequities, but literature shows that they still face challenges to define their roles in addressing SDH. Cultural humility as a reflective practice may provide a foundation to address SDH in primary care.

Aim: This study aims to enhance occupational therapists' engagement with SDH in Austrian primary-care-centres by engaging in cultural humility.

Method: The study was guided by critical participatory research principles to co-create practical knowledge with occupational therapists in Austrian primary-care-centres. In an initial focus group, the participants defined a shared concern and action plan to address SDH in practice. After four weeks of enacting their plan, participants reflected on the process in individual interviews. Data collected during the focus group, interviews and action phase were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.

Results: Participants identified community resources and developed Community-Asset-Maps (CAM) to improve healthcare access for socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. The process led to increased awareness of strengths and healthcare gaps and fostered collaborations. The application of CAM was limited by financial and structural barriers in the setting.

Conclusion: Focusing on the broader social and structural context through CAM can be a first step to blend primary care with community services. The findings further underscore the importance of cultural humility and structural competence in addressing SDH. Future efforts should implement the perspectives of community members to ensure the relevance of the assets.

Keywords: Social determinants of health, primary care, action research, cultural humility, community asset mapping

Pinter Christina (June 2025)

Yoga as ecopation. From inner to social transformation for Planetary Health. An occupation-focused research using interpretative phenomenological analysis

Introduction: Environmental degradation and climate change are among the most serious global threats of the 21st century, largely driven by human occupation. Therefore, human occupation - and with it, occupational scientists and therapists - must be part of the solution to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote Planetary Health for human`s and planet`s well-being.

Aim: The study investigated how yoga practitioners experience the impact of yoga in relation to choosing eco-occupations and maintaining a sustainable lifestyle within their community.

Methodology/Method: Using interpretative phenomenological analysis, six yoga practitioners with birth origins in Europe, America, and Africa, currently residing in Europe, were interviewed.

Findings: The study revealed that yoga as ecopation, meaning the alignment of everyday occupations with eco-ethical values, may support sustainable lifestyles and eco-occupational choices within their community. This occurs especially when yoga is approached as a holistic philosophy fostering inner transformation that results in occupational and social transformation.

Conclusion: Yoga as ecopation may promote ecological, social and economic sustainability at individual, community and society levels, highlighting the need for further research on inner transformation as a catalyst for occupational and social transformation.

Keywords: yoga, sustainability, Planetary Health, occupational ecology, ecopation, transformative occupation

Seppälä Henriikka (June 2025)

“Nature, Language and Occupation Shaping Spousal Experiences in Transnational Relocation” - Finnish Expats’ Spouses’ View

Background: In occupational therapy and -science, human occupations are naturally related to cultural-, institutional-, social- and physical environment. Each environment potentially offers opportunities and resources, demands, and constraints. In the globalised world, people increasingly move for work. Employees posted abroad are usually referred to as expatriates. The phenomenon of expatriates’ transnational relocation has generated the researchers’ interest. The expatriates’ work-performance and willingness to relocate are influenced also by factors of personal life, e.g. whether families follow, engaging opportunities for the spouse and children, but little is known about the spousal experience and the factors affecting it.

Aim: This thesis aimed to understand the lived experiences of the spouses in relocating abroad. To gather nuanced information on spousal insights, five in-depth interviews were performed.

Method: In concurrence with the chosen phenomenological approach spouses reflected on what it was like to experience relocation to a new living environment including the possible shifts in their daily occupations?

Findings: The findings focus on the essences evolved from the data: courage, language, engaging occupations and nature. The thesis concludes the importance of having occupational choices and the courage to trust one’s capacities for occupational adjustments.

Keywords: relocation, accompanying spouses, expatriate, engaging occupations

Walter Sarah

(June 2025)

Enjoying health in everyday occupations. Occupational patterns and occupational experience of people at risk for stroke

Background: Stroke is a leading cause of disability in Europe, resulting in a societal and healthcare burden. Primary prevention strategies address modifiable stroke risk factors by lifestyle changes. Understanding occupational patterns and experiences of persons at risk may increase effectiveness of such interventions. Additionally, subjective health perception influences health-promoting behaviour and plays a key role in stroke prevention.

Aim: This study aims to describe the occupational pattern of people at risk of stroke, including associated occupational experiences and subjective health perceptions. Also, to present differences in subjective perceptions of health based on gender and whether the occupation is solitary or performed with others.

Methods: An explorative cross-sectional analysis of quantitative data from the Pleasure, Productivity, Restoration and Health Profile (PPR-H Profile) was conducted. Occupational patterns and related subjective health perceptions were examined descriptively. Spearman's rho was used to assess correlations between PPR-H dimensions, and Mann-Whitney U test to compare gender and social factor.

Results: Work, Eating, and Consuming Media were the most frequent occupations but rated low across all PPR-H Profile dimensions. Creative activities, Enriching/Learning, Gardening, and Walking were associated with the highest positive experiences across all dimensions. In terms of health benefits sport, gardening, sleep, and walking ranked highest. Health ratings were higher during social interactions and in women.

Conclusion: The study suggests integrating occupational pattern and associated experiences to stroke prevention programs. Most frequent occupations, such as work and media consumption require greater attention because of low experience and health levels, while occupations that foster high levels of positive experience should be promoted for stroke prevention.

Keywords: Stroke prevention; occupational pattern; occupational experience; subjective perception of health.

Derksen Kim

(January 2025)

Understanding Occupational Disruption after hand injury: A scoping review

Background: Hand injuries significantly impact daily activities and independence, often resulting in occupational disruption. Despite this, treatment often focuses on functional limitations, raising tension between the medical and occupational perspectives regarding rehabilitation and how individuals are understood as occupational beings. There is limited knowledge about occupational disruption related to hand injuries and what contributes to this disruption.

Research aim: Therefore, this literature review aimed to map how the literature describes what contributes to occupational disruption in adults following a hand injury.

Method: A scoping review was conducted to map current literature. Three researchers screened the literature and selected studies based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Data analysis involved thematic analysis and descriptive statistics.

Results: Fourteen articles were included in the final selection. Hand injuries led to significant occupational disruption lasting over a year, affecting mood and leading to a strong desire for participation. Furthermore, sense of coherence scores were linked to satisfaction in daily occupations and mental quality of life. The literature describes the realization of enduring limitations as a re-evaluation of occupational patterns, often accompanied by frustration and determination to overcome challenges.

Conclusion: Current literature describes hand injuries as significantly disrupting occupations, shifting perspectives and priorities. Recovery is slow, often causing frustration and feelings of inadequacy. Addressing personal resilience, support systems, and systemic barriers through holistic rehabilitation is crucial for reducing occupational disruption and improving outcomes, highlighting areas for further research.

Keywords: Occupational Disruption; Hand injury; Rehabilitation; Occupation

Stadler Birgit

(January 2025)

Listening to migrant “Mantelzorgers” in the Netherlands. Experiences in occupational identity formation of informal carers with migration background while caring for survivors of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) in the Netherlands: a secondary thematic analysis

Background: The objective of this research is to understand how informal carers with a migration background perceive their occupational identity (OI) while providing care for survivors of ABI in the Netherlands. It delves into key factors influencing occupational identity formation and examines how cultural experiences shape caregiving roles. It intends to comprehensively understand the intersection between migration, caregiving, and occupational identity.

Methods: A qualitative research design has been chosen. The study is informed by a phenomenological background and a constructivist framework, assuming multiple realities governed by social processes (Silverman, 2021). Thematic analysis is used with reference to a secondary analysis of 6 single interviews and two dialogue sessions.

Findings: Key themes are the interplay between informal care and culture, sacrifice and emotional toll of caregiving, struggles with the public healthcare system and long-term adaptation strategies. The study highlights the role of cultural expectations in caregiving decisions and the need for tailored resources. The complex interplay between personal resilience, cultural influences, and the availability of external support in shaping OI is revealed.

Conclusion: The need for more diverse and inclusive support frameworks that address the specific needs of caregivers from various backgrounds is emphasised. Essential is a broader understanding of informal caregiving in the context of migration and the interplay with OI. These insights can inform policymaking, healthcare practices, and support services to improve the quality of life for informal caregivers, care recipients and their environment.

Keywords: occupational identity, informal care, migrant informal carers

Vettukallel Anisha

(January 2025)

Community mobility of older women with migration background in Switzerland. Impact of ageing on community mobility, social participation & sense of belonging

Background: Older migrants remain underrepresented in research within Switzerland and Europe, despite their growing significance. Research highlighted that the existing knowledge base and findings on unmet community mobility needs are rendering unrepresentative of all older adults. Such unmet needs restrict access to meaningful activities and life spaces, reducing social participation, which is essential for health. This study explores how community mobility needs are connected to social participation of older women with migration background in Switzerland from an occupational perspective.

Methods: Semi structured interviews and participatory occupation sessions were conducted with four participants. Reflexive thematic analysis was employed to examine the impact of aging on community mobility, social participation, and sense of belonging to both home and host countries, synthesizing the data into main themes.

Results: Two main themes were identified: (1) the role of community mobility in navigating belonging and (2) aging in the host country. The second theme included two subthemes: (2a) managing age-related changes and (2b) navigating later-life events. These subthemes highlighted how individuals adapted their community mobility needs and relied on support from their social environment to sustain social participation and maintain a sense of belonging to both home and host countries.

Conclusion: Further occupational science research and practice from a public health perspective is needed to address potential injustices, such as unmet community mobility needs, and ensure equitable access to meaningful occupations, which support social participation and enhance health among older adults from diverse backgrounds.

Keywords: older women, migration, community mobility, social participation, occupational deprivation

Perrein Marthe (October 2024)

The lived experience of job satisfaction among occupational therapists practicing in rural areas in France

Background: The multifaceted concept of rural areas can pose challenges for occupational therapists such as professional isolation, heavy workloads, etc., and may impact their job satisfaction. This research aims to explore the phenomenon of job satisfaction among occupational therapists working in rural areas in France.

Method: Eight occupational therapists working in rural areas in France were individually interviewed using semi-structured interviews about their experience on job satisfaction. Data were analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenology Analysis of Smith et al. (2009).

Results: Four themes emerged from the analysis: practicing in rural area as meaningful, being on the road lived as an ambivalent experience, the diversity as a source of enrichment and the organization's structure experienced as nuanced.

Conclusion: Implications of this study suggest that the phenomenon of job satisfaction is important to consider in occupational therapists' work setting and measures should be taken by organizations.

Keywords: occupational therapy, job satisfaction, rural areas, lived experience

Paupelin Virgile (October 2024)

'I am a human being of the world, and I have the right to live'. Occupational opportunities for refugees in Switzerland

Previous research has shown that refugees are often victims of occupational injustices. As asylum applications continue to rise, it is necessary to examine the relevance of the system's answer to this population to critically explore how occupational opportunities are shaped for and by refugees in Switzerland.

To achieve this aim, I conducted a short critical ethnographical study to better understand the power dynamics and oppressions at the heart of the difficulties faced by refugees. A narrative analysis followed interviews and participant observations based on five individuals with refugee status in Switzerland. The constructed narratives focused on their experiences and the occupational opportunities they developed in Switzerland.

The findings revealed a dominance of the system in shaping their occupational opportunities. This resulted in a reproduction of the neoliberal logic through individualization. Participants having to deploy their personal resources and a lot of energy to obtain opportunities that were meaningful to them. Succeeding in getting occupational opportunities enabled some participants to feel a sense of belonging to Switzerland. The study also highlighted differential treatment based on individual profiles, referencing Mayblin's (2020) necropolitics.

In conclusion, it is crucial to advance research and practice in occupational therapy into individuals from forced migration backgrounds, aiming towards a just world where every individual has the same rights and opportunities to engage in meaningful occupations.

Keywords: Refugee – Occupational Opportunities – Occupational Justice – Critical Ethnography – Narrative

Dubowy Hannah

(October 2024)

Building bridges: a qualitative exploration of the teaching topics of Migration and Displacement related topics in German Occupational therapy Education. A State of the Art Focus Group Discussion

Background: The lack of standardized frameworks for teaching migration and displacement in the German OT (Occupational Therapy) Curriculum contrasts with the growing urgency of this issue.

Aim: This study aimed to explore the approaches and experiences of educators teaching migration and displacement within the German OT curriculum and provide an overview of the current approaches and insights applied in OT education.

Methods: A focus group of OT Educators and the analysis of 29 resources informed the study. Qualitative descriptive methodology and reflexive thematic analysis was applied.

Findings: Three themes emerged: (1) Adaptive teaching, where flexibility is key but leads to variability; (2) Co-creation of learning, emphasizing reflection, trust, and critical thinking; (3) OT in a changing world, with OT Education shifting from cultural competence to critical reflexivity, focusing on diversity, power dynamics, and political engagement.

Conclusion: Several aspects, closely tied to the principles of critical pedagogy, are considered essential for equipping OT-students to work in the field of migration and displacement.

Keywords: Focus group, Migration, Education, Germany

Delmée Céline (October 2024)

Purposeful Activities for Stress Regulation: Insights Into Cortisol, Oxytocin, and Their Relevance to Occupational Therapy and Science – A Scoping Review

Objective: This scoping review explores literature on purposeful activities regulating stress in healthy adults, focusing on effects on cortisol, oxytocin, and perceived stress, and identifying shared characteristics.

Introduction: Purposeful activities are structured, goal-directed actions (Pierce, 2001), aimed at regulating stress. Chronic stress affects health and occupational balance, highlighting the need for evidence-based interventions (Hogan et al., 2023; WHO, 2023). While occupational therapy emphasizes meaningful occupations (Fisher, 2013; Wilcock, 2015), purposeful activities may act as effective intermediaries (Pierce, 2001). Hormonal markers like cortisol and oxytocin provide objective measures of physiological effects (Pruessner & Ali, 2015).

Methods: Studies included were healthy adults engaging in purposeful activities, with at least one physiological (cortisol or oxytocin) and one psychosocial (perceived stress) measure, published in English or German between 2012 and 2024. A comprehensive search was conducted in MEDLINE Complete, CINAHL Complete, and APA PsychInfo. Source selection, data extraction, and analysis followed Joanna Briggs Institute guidelines (Peters et al., 2020).

Results: Fourteen studies were reviewed, covering activities like singing, walking, social interactions, mindfulness, nature activities, relaxation. These activities demonstrated potential for stress regulation through positive effects on physiological markers and/or perceived stress. Shared characteristics include solo vs. non-solo, sensory stimulation, physical activity, nature connection, mindfulness and mood influence.

Conclusions: Purposeful activities support stress regulation, enhancing physiological and psychosocial well-being. Understanding hormonal roles can guide occupational therapists and researchers in developing tailored interventions advancing holistic health. Further research is needed across diverse cultural contexts.

Keywords: Purposeful activities, stress regulation, cortisol, oxytocin, occupational therapy, holistic health

Chèvre Pauline (October 2024)

Occupational Performance in Digital- versus Paper-based Exercises after Surgery for Distal Radius Fractures in Switzerland. Feasibility and Preliminary Results of an Ongoing Randomized Controlled Trial

Purpose: Healthcare systems worldwide are increasingly focused on telehealth development, including smartphone applications. This approach could greatly influence rehabilitation outcomes after wrist fracture surgery. An ongoing randomized controlled trial is investigating this topic, and our study aims to explore its preliminary results to enhance scientific rigor and reliability.

Method: This multiple case study included participants (N=10) aged 18-65 post-distal radius fracture surgery at a single centre in Switzerland. A home exercise program was provided either (1) by a smartphone application, featuring videos, oral, and written instructions (intervention group), or (2) on paper with pictures and brief written explanations (control group). Feasibility and outcome measures were assessed under the scope of occupational performance at baseline, weeks 6 and 12. Data were stored on REDCap and analysed with SPSS 29.

Results: Although the preliminary analysis suggested that the study procedures appeared feasible and effective, additional measures might be required to meet the recruitment target on time. Similar outcomes among participants in terms of occupational performance, including return to work, performance skills and client factors were observed. However, participants showed more regularity in treatment adherence and greater satisfaction with treatment modality in the intervention group.

Conclusion: Data collection for the ongoing RCT must be completed to obtain significant and generalizable results. Smartphone applications, part of the ongoing global expansion of telehealth, might be considered as a useful, modern and alternative tool for future patient care and occupational therapy.

Keywords: Occupational therapy, hand rehabilitation, wrist fracture, occupational performance, telehealth, digital home exercise program

Bilke Nora (October 2024)

Cross-cultural validity of the German version of the Writing Readiness Inventory Tool in Context (WRITIC). Applicability of the normative values of the Dutch version of WRITIC for preschoolers in Germany

Background: To date, there is no feasible norm-referenced assessment in Germany that evaluates handwriting readiness in preschoolers in the kindergarten context. The German version of the Writing Readiness Inventory Tool In Context (German-WRITIC) now allows for the identification to identify of pre-handwriting difficulties. Early evaluation of handwriting readiness prevents negative effects on the children's further (academic) development and self-esteem.

Aim: The cross-sectional study investigated the applicability of the Dutch normative values of the WRITIC-Task-Performance (WRITIC-TP) sum score (sum-score-WTP) to the German-WRITIC for preschoolers living in Germany. In addition, it examined if there are statistically significant age and sex differences on WRITIC-TP scores the mean of the sum-score-WTP (mean sum-score-WTP) in the German sample.

Methods: 76 preschoolers (5.5 to 6.5 years old; 39 boys, 37 girls) from German mainstream kindergartens were assessed with the German-WRITIC in mainstream kindergartens in one federal state in Germany, excluding children with any known diagnosis to date. Parent and educator questionnaire gathered additional information about participants, including their socio-economic status. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied.

Results: There is a statistically significant country difference on the mean sum-score-WTP in handwriting readiness between both countries, in favour of Dutch preschoolers. Girls of the German sample scored achieved a considerably higher on mean sum-scores-WTP WRITIC-Task-Performance ($p=0.001$) than boys indicating a higher ability of handwriting readiness and no age group differences were found.

Conclusion: The results indicate that the normative scores values can be applied to the German-WRITIC with caution for evaluating handwriting readiness in German preschoolers until a larger-scale and representative follow-up study has taken place. Generalizability of the results is limited due to methodological limitations.

Keywords: Handwriting readiness, child, kindergarten, evaluation, assessment, occupational therapy

Andare Lizzie

(June 2024)

How do Somali refugees with disabilities living in the Dadaab refugee camp experience occupational disruption from an intersectional perspective; a Short-term Ethnography study

Refugees with disabilities experience challenges transitioning to life in the refugee camp affected by their intersecting identities of having refugee status, living with disabilities and often their gender.

The experiences of six refugees with disabilities were gathered mainly through interviews and participant observation for five weeks in the Dadaab refugee camp, to understand their participation in meaningful activities.

This study uses an intersectional lens to highlight how multiple identities of refugees living with disabilities intersect with each other to create a compounded nature of occupational disruptions created by the conditions of a refugee camp and migration trajectories experienced.

By developing a nuanced understanding of occupational disruptions experienced by refugees with disabilities, occupational therapists and occupational scientists can enable meaningful participation, and improve the quality of the lives of refugees with disabilities.

Keywords: Occupational disruption, intersectionality, refugee status, disability status

Brezovar Tina (June 2024)

An Interpretative Phenomenological study of Professional Identity Development among Slovenian Occupational Therapists practicing in Healthcare Institutions

Background: Occupational therapy has evolved into an acknowledged health profession globally. However, it still faces social recognition challenges in Slovenia, affecting employment and reimbursement policies, and consequently service accessibility. Recognizing the relationship between external recognition of occupational therapy and professional identity, this study aimed to explore how Slovenian occupational therapists practicing in healthcare institutions experience professional identity development.

Methods: Data were collected through nine semi-structured interviews and analyzed using interpretative phenomenological analysis, through which four themes with subthemes were developed to answer the research question.

Findings: Four themes emerged, capturing the lived experiences of professional identity development among Slovenian occupational therapists: 1) The ambiguous evolution of professional identity development; 2) Relationship between professional and personal identity; 3) Challenges in professional identity development arising from contextual barriers; 4) Maintaining a connection to occupational therapy through professional values, continuing education, and self-reflection.

Conclusions: Experiences of professional identity development by Slovenian occupational therapists practicing in healthcare institutions align with previous research describing it as a complex process occurring in phases. Challenges are contextual and inherent to this process but can be mitigated through deliberate efforts by occupational therapists. The findings underscore the importance of practical experiences and personal proactivity in professional identity development, providing a basis for future research to develop strategies for overcoming professional identity challenges and enhancing the development and social recognition of occupational therapy in Slovenia.

Keywords: occupational therapy, professional identity, contextual challenges, interpretative phenomenological analysis

do Carmo Ólason Erica

(June 2024)

“Work gives me a purpose”: an interpretative phenomenological analysis of the employment experience of four Icelandic adults diagnosed with Parkinson disease

Background: People with Parkinson Disease (PwPD) face difficulties in holding employment and are more likely to be retired long before healthy people of similar age. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that disability due to PD is growing faster than predicted. There is a need for each country to find ways to help people with Parkinson Disease to stay employed.

Aim: The aim of this study was to understand how people with Parkinson in Iceland experience participation in work after the onset of PD.

Method: Using an Interpretive Phenomenological Approach, four interviews were conducted in Iceland in March and April 2024. The interviews were taken with two males and two females working professionals diagnosed with Parkinson disease.

Findings: Three themes emerged from the data analysis: (i) Accommodating PD, (ii) participating in work, (iii) Dealing with the enemy.

Discussion: PD symptoms affect occupational skills and occupational performance causing PwPD to have difficulties in participating in occupations. The participants reported adopting different strategies to support them in their work after the onset of PD. This study suggested that work pace can influence the experience PwPD have of work, but this idea needs further study.

Conclusion: The participants of this study expressed positive experience of participating in work after the onset of PD. It is possible that their experience was associated with the fact that they were needed professionals in their work fields and met more flexibility when working. There is a need to explore how Icelanders of othersocial classes experience their participation in work after the onset of PD.

Keywords: Parkinson’s disease, occupation participation, occupation performance, occupational skills, employment

Clinker Emma (June 2024)

NHS, A Culture of Belonging?

Background: The contemporary NHS represents a complex mix of socio-political structures and ideologies which influence staff behaviour towards each other. Some NHS staff feel like ‘outsiders’ in their multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs). Focusing on the MDT meeting as a micro society where the operation of power can be observed, the concept of belonging was investigated.

Purpose: Critical analysis of dominant discourses on staff belonging within the NHS to construct insights around how power relations in MDT meetings influence staff’s ‘doing’, to provide alternative formulations for them to enact change.

Methods: This study adopted a qualitative, critical participatory approach. Seven participants were recruited from across the UK. In Round 1 open-ended questionnaires were used to generate vignettes. In Round 2, three critical dialogical interviews were completed. The data from both rounds were used to generate vignettes which authentically captured their intersubjective dialogue, in participants’ own words. These were analysed in the context of hierarchical MDT power dynamics, occupational identity and performance.

Findings: Participants felt silenced in MDT meetings, their involvement limited and prescribed by others. Participants saw themselves as “isolated”, and their sense of belonging tenuous, which impacted their contributions to the MDT meetings, and broader team.

Implications: The data presented here reveal how belonging impacts participants’ occupational identity and the occupations they feel authorised to do by their team. This study has added insights to the occupational science literature around the links between ‘belonging’ and ‘doing’.

Keywords: Belonging, hierarchy, occupational identity.

Cnudde Kelly

(June 2024)

The opinions of Belgian occupational therapists on the current reimbursement system for occupational therapy in Belgium – a survey study

Background: Limited knowledge exists regarding the opinions of occupational therapists on the current reimbursement system for occupational therapy in Belgium. Currently, reimbursement is only provided for rehabilitation, under specific criteria, and post-COVID-19 nomenclature. This situation poses challenges for occupational therapists, including independent practitioners, as clients often cannot afford their services. Additionally, the Belgian population faces difficulties in accessing necessary therapy due to economic constraints.

Methods: A cross-sectional study design was conducted using an online survey, sent to occupational therapists in Belgium. The survey was developed after a pilot study with ten occupational therapists from various work fields, ages, and races. It included (socio)demographic, work-related, and opinion questions about the current reimbursement system and was available in the three national languages. Descriptive and inferential analyses were applied.

Results: A total of five hundred and thirteen responses were analysed. The majority of participants (73.9%) expressed dissatisfaction with the current reimbursement system for occupational therapy. A statistical significance difference in satisfaction was found between all the three work experience groups ($p = 0.033$) and specifically between work experience groups 2 and 3 ($p = 0.010$).

Conclusion: This is the first study addressing this specific topic in Belgium, highlighting significant implications for policy-making and practice. The results underscore the need for future research on occupational therapists in Belgium and the reimbursement system for occupational therapy.

Keywords: Cross-Sectional Studies – Health inequities – Online survey – Personal Satisfaction – Pilot Projects – Policy

Davelaar Esther (June 2024)

Occupational therapists perspectives' on and needs to be able to address issues of occupational injustice in the nursing home

Background: Occupational injustices exist within the nursing home. However, occupational injustices within nursing homes often receive little professional attention. It can be challenging to advance occupational injustices and daily occupational therapy practice often fails to confront those issues. A start would be raising consciousness of occupational justice within the context of the nursing home. Therefore, the aim of this study is to explore the occupational therapists' perspectives of occupational injustice in the nursing home and secondly, to explore and prioritize ideas on what occupational therapists need to be able to address issues of occupational injustice in the nursing home.

Methods: A Participatory Health Research was used for this study. Through purposive sampling, five occupational therapists were recruited. After obtaining consent, a focus group discussion and Metaplan were conducted.

Findings: (Participatory) thematic analysis yielded five themes: (1) Hard to find words to describe, (2) Road to the OT with all the barriers and the narrow view of the OT, (3) The influence of nursing home culture on residents' occupational status, (4) The need to get to know the nursing home resident and (5) Action for change.

Conclusion: Even though experiences, the occupational therapists are not familiar with the concept of occupational injustice and do not have the language to name these situations. To address issues of occupational injustice, the occupational therapists need to get to know the resident and nursing home better, a better collaboration with other professionals and inspiration.

Keywords: Occupational injustice. Nursing home. Occupational therapy. Occupational Science concepts

Heffernan Ciara (June 2024)

Occupational Therapists and the future National Health Insurance in South Africa: A study of practice and preparedness for the incoming system change

Background: South Africa (SA) has a healthcare system consisting of private and public sectors, characterised by disparities. A new government - run healthcare system is proposed, the National Health Insurance (NHI) offering universal health coverage for all. To support the role of occupational therapists (OTs) in this process, it is necessary to describe practice contexts, and investigate OT's preparedness for change towards the transition. The capability approach and change theory are utilised as theoretical lenses to frame these investigations, allowing a universal language across professions.

Methods: Cross-sectional study design using an online questionnaire sent to OTs in SA. The questionnaire mainly consisted of multiple-choice questions on demographics, working environment, ability to perform and satisfaction with performing tasks, and lastly how informed and prepared OTs are regarding the NHI. The questionnaire was piloted by a committee of nine OTs from SA. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied.

Results: One hundred and five responses were analysed. Participants showed reluctance towards the new system but expressed eagerness to engage in informative tasks. OTs in the public sector reported lower rates of satisfaction in terms of resources and work environment, and lower rated ability to perform work tasks.

Conclusion: This study provides preliminary information on the current OT practices in SA. It evaluates the preparedness of OTs regarding the change and conveys the need for further training and research into this matter.

Keywords: Healthcare system transformation, capability approach, change management, practice profile, intersectionality

Meijboom Teddy (June 2024)

Sports Participation as Intervention or Goal in Occupational Therapy Practice. The Experiences of Dutch Occupational Therapists

Introduction: Participating in sports, physical activity, or exercise can prevent and manage mental health conditions, improve sleep, enhance quality of life, and increase social participation. Occupational therapy views sports as leisure, often used as a means rather than an end goal. The inability to participate in chosen activities can cause occupational imbalance and is a form of occupational injustice. Occupational therapists focus on enabling and promoting participation in occupations to improve overall well-being by broadening their range of practice and tackling social and occupational inequalities that individuals with disabilities often encounter. This study explores the experiences of Dutch occupational therapists in using sports participation as an intervention or goal in their practice.

Methods: This qualitative study adopted a critical realist methodology, using semi-structured interviews and inductive and deductive thematic analysis to explore six occupational therapists' experiences of enabling people to participate in sports.

Findings: The findings resulted in three main themes and several subthemes: 1. The role of occupational therapy in sports; 2. The meaning and definition of sports, and 3. Reasons for prioritising or deprioritising sports in occupational therapy.

Conclusion: This study illustrated occupational therapists' supporting role in enabling sports and sports participation, suggesting added value to the field of sports due to occupational therapists' occupation-centred approach and holistic view of integrating sports into daily life. Finally, this study explained reasons for prioritising or deprioritising sports by clients, workplace characteristics, and practitioners' values and professional experiences.

Keywords: sports, sports participation, occupational therapy, occupational science

Quaaden Kinga (June 2024)

Using Artificial Intelligence to Support Participation-Focused Interventions in Home and Community Settings: A Scoping Review

Background: Artificial intelligence offers promising solutions for promoting participation in occupations in home and community settings. To expand our understanding of how artificial intelligence can be leveraged in occupational therapy interventions in these settings, this scoping review aimed to identify and synthesize the current state of research on the use of artificial intelligence in interventions in a community- and home-based setting promoting the participation of adults with disabilities in occupations.

Methods: A comprehensive literature search was conducted using Applied Health and Computer Science databases. Inclusion criteria were: participation was an aim, outcome, or focus of the study; AI was applied in the intervention; designed for adults (18-65) with disabilities in home or community-based settings; studies obtained ethical approval; and were published from 2014 onwards in peer-reviewed venues.

Results: 21 studies were included, mostly originating from high-income countries (n=18/21; 86%) with limited sociodemographic data collected. Computer vision was the most common artificial intelligence application (n=11/21; 52%). A total of 43% (n=9/21) studies personalised interventions to individual needs and 10% of interventions (n=2/21;) incorporated personalised goal-setting. Participation was mostly (n=14/21; 67%) targeted as a secondary outcome and operationalised inconsistently among the studies.

Conclusions: Three main gaps were identified; (1) a lack of diversity in the origin of studies and limited data collection for sociodemographic information; (2) limited use of client-centred approaches incorporating individual personalisation and goal-setting; and (3) a lack of interventions targeting participation as their primary aim and operationalising participation in a way that aligns with occupational therapy's conceptualisation of participation.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Disability; Participation; Occupational therapy

Teufelhart Malena

(June 2024)

Let them eat Burgers! A Critical Discourse Analysis on Occupational Possibilities of Children in Poverty in Austria

Background: Poverty is on the rise globally and a group that is proportionately more often affected in Austria are children. Their occupational possibilities are shaped by societal discourses about them, in means such as the media. This study aims to problematise the way children in poverty are portrayed in Austrian newspapers and how this representation shapes the children's occupational possibilities.

Methods: A critical discourse analysis was used. Data included newspaper articles published in 2023 and 2024 in four nation-wide, daily newspapers. An analysis sheet was applied, informed by critical theory and the 'what's the problem represented to be?' approach (Bacchi, 2009).

Findings: The analysis revealed three major discursive strands: the construction of the child in poverty, where a child eating good foods and studying well is idealised. A child not in education and unable to participate in certain social activities is deemed non-ideal. The same dichotomy is apparent in the construction of the parent of a child in poverty. The third strand are the idealised contexts the children are expected to navigate, such as public spaces tied to consumerism or educational institutions.

Conclusions: The results revealed an individualisation of child poverty and the framing of certain behaviours, aims and occupations as normalised and desirable and others as problematic or unfavourable. This study provides a complex understanding of occupation to inform occupational science and occupational therapy. It calls for diverse approaches and understandings of occupations to foster a just future for children in poverty.

Keywords: Child poverty, occupational possibilities, discourse

Turel Aleks (June 2024)

Cross-cultural validation of the Family Life Impact Questionnaire for use in Middle Europe

Introduction: The Family Life Impact Questionnaire (FLIQ) is a recently developed, occupation-focused assessment in pediatrics. It enables occupational therapists to adopt a top-down approach to evaluation and obtain caregivers' perceptions on the ease with which family members engage in interrelated occupations. The purpose of this cross-cultural study was to evaluate validity evidence of the FLIQ based on the internal structures across the world regions of Middle Europe (ME) and North America (NA).

Methods: This cross-sectional study analysed responses from caregivers of typically developing children, collected by occupational therapists in eight countries. We performed generic Rasch analyses to estimate person and item measures. We proceeded with performing differential item functioning (DIF) analysis to evaluate the stability of the FLIQ items across the two world regions.

Results: Generic Rasch analysis indicated a good fit for both items and persons after excluding two underfitting persons. The DIF analysis demonstrated that 32 out of 38 FLIQ items (84.21%) had stable item difficulty calibration measures across both groups. We detected three items being relatively less difficult for the NA group. Those items were related to the ease of the child's social interactions. Three items being less difficult for the ME group were related to the ease of engagement in interrelated occupations.

Conclusion: This study provides validity evidence for the use of the FLIQ in ME and NA. Additional studies are needed to support valid interpretation of its scores in other world regions.

Keywords: occupational therapy, differential item functioning, Rasch analysis, proxy Report

Zgonc Ema

(June 2024)

Translation and cross-cultural adaptation of the Slovenian version of the Utrecht Scale for Evaluation of Rehabilitation-Participation. A face validity study

Background: Rehabilitation is essential for improving an individual's quality of life, with participation representing the highest level of functioning. There is a lack of participation-level instruments in Slovenian occupational therapy in rehabilitation. The aim of this study was to translate and culturally adapt the Utrecht Scale for Evaluation of Rehabilitation-Participation into the Slovene language and context and assess its face validity.

Methods: The study was conducted at the University Rehabilitation Institute, Republic of Slovenia. The translation and cross-cultural adaptation followed Beaton's guidelines. Face validity was evaluated through 12 cognitive interviews with diverse participants.

Findings: Identified challenges were categorized into five groups: comprehension, cognitive complexity, temporal component, rehabilitation context, and other considerations. These challenges highlighted areas that needed modifications to enhance the clarity and cultural appropriateness of the Slovenian version.

Conclusion: This study successfully translated and cross-culturally adapted the Utrecht Scale for Evaluation of Rehabilitation-Participation for the Slovene language and context, identifying key areas for improvement. The questionnaire may be a valuable tool in rehabilitation. Continued research to establish evidence of validity and reliability in clinical practice is needed.

Keywords: participation, occupational therapy, rehabilitation, cognitive interviewing

Arends Danée (October 2023)

*Exploring the lived experience of dissatisfied clients: goals achieved, yet lacking satisfaction
Understanding unhappiness after achieving goals*

Introduction: Satisfaction with treatment results addresses a client's experience with the clinical outcomes of treatment. Several factors influence satisfaction with treatment results, goal setting being one. Not all clients who achieve their personal treatment goals are satisfied with their treatment results. The aim of this study is to explore the lived experiences of clients who self-reported being dissatisfied with their treatment results, considering they achieved their personal treatment goals.

Methods: The researcher performed a qualitative study, using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis to collect and examine the data. In this study six clients, four females and two males, were interviewed in semi-structured interviews. All clients reported to be very or extremely dissatisfied with their treatment results and had reached their personal treatment goals.

Results: Engaging in activities is an important yet sometimes unstated treatment goal for patients. The ability to do activities again results in more satisfaction with treatment outcomes. Furthermore, the impact of adverse medical events, the treatment journey, and the patient's personal needs and traits influence satisfaction with treatment results.

Conclusion: Despite achieving personal treatment goals, some clients remain dissatisfied, often due to shifting priorities post-treatment. This study shows that the ability to do activities is an unspoken yet crucial treatment objective which influences satisfaction. Therefore, occupational hand therapists need to minimise the disruption of activities for their clients. The client's treatment experience and personality traits are other key factors influencing satisfaction with treatment results and must be addressed during treatment.

Claessens Ellen (October 2023)

*The development of professional identity of occupational therapists in Flanders (Belgium):
A narrative approach*

Background: International literature indicates various reasons for occupational therapists (OTs) having low professional identity (PI) levels. As this negatively influences their mental well-being, it affects the provided quality of care which may negatively affect their clients' well-being. Therefore, a high level of professional identity is important and the aspects that underpin its development. Within the context of Flanders, this has not been researched.

Aim: This study aims to gain an understanding of the professional identity development (PID) of OTs in Flanders throughout education and professional life. Specifically, how events were important in their PID, and what role did self-efficacy play in the process?

Method: To answer the research question five Flemish OTs were interviewed twice. The semi-structured interviews and open follow-up interviews were all conducted online. Data was analysed by using a narrative- and narrative slopes analysis.

Results: Each participant experienced a unique path of PID. There were some similarities such as getting to know the profession by chance, wanting to quit the education program during challenging placements, perceiving the first placement as important, feeling insecure after finishing the bachelor's degree, experiencing role conflict with other healthcare professionals at work, and continued professional development solely being intrinsically motivated.

Conclusion: This research shows the unique narratives of the PID of five Flemish OTs. These results may encourage reflection on how PID can be supported and raise awareness for everyone involved in the profession and the education of its students.

Keywords: Professional identity development, professional identity, self-efficacy, occupational therapy, Flanders (Belgium)

Craver Tessa (October 2023)

'Eye Opening': An interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of International Occupational Therapists' Experience Working in the British National Health Service

Background: In the United Kingdom, the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) has a steadily growing number of registered international occupational therapists whose professional training and cultural backgrounds differ from their colleagues, clients and health care system. However, evidence-based literature of non-British educated and trained therapists' perspectives while working in the National Health Service (NHS) and the impact on their professional identity is limited. The purpose of this study is to explore the lived experience of international occupational therapists working in the NHS, their perceptions of preparedness to work abroad, challenges and opportunities they have faced, and how they have adapted.

Method: In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with six practicing occupational therapists who were trained internationally. An interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) approach was taken whilst two researchers completed a high level of interpretation of the data generated to develop themes and discussion points.

Findings: The narrative of participants' experiences generated three themes namely: 'difference of perspectives of challenges versus opportunities', 'professional communication discrepancies', and 'cultural integration and adaptation'. Their experiences highlight reduced preparation for work, leading to varying perspectives of role expectations and career development opportunities. A phase of cultural integration and adaptation followed through their communication style, professional resiliency and appreciation of service.

Discussion: After initial feelings of anxiety, therapists' experience was influenced by varying perceptions of the challenges and opportunities they face. Their professional development from overcoming challenges and extended opportunities outweighed the difficulties endured, encouraging them to continue working in the NHS.

Keywords: International Occupational Therapists, Migration, Phenomenology, Communication, Cultural Integration, Cultural Humility

Decker Alexandra (October 2023)

Exploring the flowerbed full of meaning. A qualitative single-case study on finding meaning in occupation(s)

Introduction: This study explores how Gia, a 41-year-old woman, finds personal meaning in her everyday occupations, with a particular focus on the process of exploring and talking about meaning.

Method: Multiple methods, including interviews, photovoice, photointerview, go-along method and journaling were used to understand meaning in occupations. Narrative analysis was then applied to analyse the data, leading to the development of the metaphor of a 'flowerbed full of meaning' to illustrate the participant's journey of finding meaning.

Findings: During 8-weeks Gia explored her garden filled with all her everyday occupations and identified those with most meaning. Each occupation has its own shape of meaning that unfolds over time. As Gia studies her meaningful occupations more closely, deeper and hidden (negative) meanings come to light. She believes the study has helped her to be more honest with herself and her daily life, including learning a lot about her occupations, herself, her life and needed changes.

Conclusion: The findings support previous research underlining the complexity, individuality and interconnectedness of finding meaning in occupations and that meaning appears to be fluid, changing with time and experiences. The narrative illustrates that it takes time to understand the full picture of finding meaning as it enables to truthfully evaluate experiences, including the positive and sometimes co-habiting negative side of meaning. The experiences of others may align or differ depending on the number of meaningful occupations, gender, nationality, and culture. Gia's experiences highlight the situatedness of occupations and their power to create meaningful moments.

Keywords: Meaning in everyday occupations; over time; metaphor; self-discovery; personal and fluid meaning

Grütter Anna Lena

(October 2023)

Let's play on Playgrounds – Family Perspectives on Facilitators and Barriers of Play of Children with ADHD

Introduction: Inclusive play on playgrounds gained importance. After having focused on playground design, several studies recommend investigating social factors for inclusion on playgrounds. This is at risk for children with ADHD due to challenges related to environment and social skills. Thus, the aim of this study was to investigate facilitators and barriers of play on playgrounds for children with ADHD from family member's perspective.

Method: For this qualitative descriptive study, photo elicitation interviews were conducted with one family with a seven-year-old child with ADHD in Switzerland. Interview transcripts were analysed with thematic analysis resulting in three themes.

Results: The first theme was "He really is all in". The second theme was "We have to learn how to handle" with the subthemes "Don't say no, it will get sad" and "They don't understand us". "More places to climb were nice" was the third theme. Participants described various facilitators and barriers within social skills, environment and characteristics of the child.

Conclusion: Play for all should be supported, where the social environment plays a major role. To prevent social exclusion, awareness must be raised among society highlighting the unconditional right for play for all. Not the changes on individual and communal level should be in focus, but rather policies that support occupational justice on playgrounds.

Keywords: Playground, children with ADHD, inclusive play, facilitators, barriers, family perspective

Orain Clémence (October 2023)

Empowering children's voices for occupational justice around school playgrounds.

Children with disabilities' play participation in mainstream elementary school playgrounds

Background: Play is essential during childhood facilitating engagement, choice-making, and meaningful goal achievement. However, the recognition of children's right to play is often overlooked and children with disabilities' wishes are often misunderstood, resulting in inappropriate provisions of school playgrounds impacting inclusion. There is a need for inclusive design approaches, considering children's perspectives and involving them in decision-making processes. This study explores and brings a better understanding of children with disabilities' play participation in mainstream elementary school playgrounds.

Methods: Walking and talking tours were conducted with thirteen children with different disabilities involving six mainstream schools in western France. Discussions were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim and analysed following thematic analysis principles.

Findings: Three themes emerged from participants' experiences: (1) 'I cannot play': Children's Environmental Challenges and Limited Play Opportunities in School Playgrounds; (2) 'I have an idea': Reimagining Play at School to Foster Playful and Inclusive Playgrounds; (3) 'Learn to hear me out': Empowering Children's Voices to Redesign the School Playground.

Conclusion: This study reveals occupational deprivation for children with disabilities around mainstream elementary school playgrounds. Children with disabilities raised practical issues such as physical challenges, the need for teachers' and peers' awareness and the importance of considering their voices. Active listening and collaboration between stakeholders may be key to improving play participation and therefore implementing children's rights. Findings show practical recommendations for occupational science, inclusive education, and school-based occupational therapy. Implications for future research are considered.

Keywords: Occupational therapy; School playground; Play participation; Occupational deprivation; Children voices; Inclusive education

Wildhaber-Phillips Chantal Eirlys (October 2023)

The Mini Activity Approach: strengthen your resilience!

Exploring and prioritising ideas to develop the Mini Activity Approach, a resilience building approach for occupational therapists: an exploratory mixed-methods study using nominal group technique

Background: Long-term negative stress increases risk of mental and physical illness. Occupational Therapists (OTs) are in a good position to coach their clients in developing skills to manage the stressors of daily life. The Mini Activity Approach (MAA) provides a resilience-building protocol for therapists but needs to be developed further.

Method: This study aimed to explore and prioritise ideas to develop the MAA using the nominal group technique (NGT) in a single online meeting with a group of five occupational therapists. Participants generated ten ideas for developing the MAA and ranked them by order of relevance.

Results: The four highest-ranking ideas were 1) create an instruction manual 2) create a keyring set 3) visualise mini activities with illustrations, and 4) create an information sheet for clients. The content analysis of the data revealed that there is a need to revise the mini activities, develop new working materials and improve accessibility to the approach.

Conclusion: This study highlights certain aspects of the approach that should be developed to provide better benefits to therapists and clients alike. These developments have the potential to make the MAA more accessible to OTs and therefore more widely used.

Keywords: negative stress, Mini Activity Approach, resilience

Zwijgers Miranda (October 2023)

How Acquired Deafblindness is Changing Someone's Life.

The Experiences of Three Adults in Occupational Transitions with Usher Syndrome Type II in the Netherlands; a Qualitative Study with the Use of Body Mapping StoryTelling Methodology.

Background: This study aims to explore the experiences of adults with Usher Syndrome Type II (USH2) in the Netherlands regarding their occupational transitions.

Method: In a qualitative study following the Body Mapping StoryTelling Methodology, three women with USH2 have created Body Maps (BMs), aged 45–70 years. An inductive thematic analysis was done on the verbatim transcripts of the testimonio, the conversation in the meetings, and an explanation of the key elements of the BMs.

Findings: Four themes emerged from the analysis, showing that it costs a lot of energy to keep up with everyone else and that they are always being 'on' to miss nothing. They must stay 'on' because all sensory information completes the picture. In the end, they have more possibilities in occupations with the support of others.

Conclusion: Keeping up with everyone else and always being on to miss nothing can undermine someone's long-term balance in occupational participation and overall health. Individuals with USH2 emphasize the significance of visual and auditory information next to information from their remaining intact senses for occupational participation. A new finding is the use of mental images and how they help to understand the surrounding. Further, adapting to evolving circumstances lead to unplanned occupational transitions. However, they learned to modify or find new occupations to regain a good balance in their occupational participation and as a result their health and well-being

Keywords: Body Mapping StoryTelling, Usher Syndrome, occupations, participation, occupational transitions, deafblindness

Ziswiler Michelle (Sept 2023)

P-Drive Assessment for German-speaking Switzerland. Applying a two-phase approach to develop a valid and culturally appropriate translation and adaptation process for the P-Drive into German appropriate for Swiss roads

Background: The deprivation of a driver's license can have adverse effects on an individual's health and overall wellbeing. Consequently, it is essential to accurately assess the driving ability of neurological patients as part of their rehabilitation process, of which the field of occupational therapy is a vital element. Unfortunately, there is presently no standardized assessment for Swiss occupational therapists to directly evaluate driving performance on the road. To address this lack, in this study, the P-Drive (Performance Analysis of Driving Ability) was translated from English into German and culturally adapted for use in Switzerland.

Method: The study comprised a two-phase approach, namely translation and pretest, according to the Beaton et al. (2000) guidelines. The pretest phase focused on a small sample (n=6) of occupational therapists who either work or have experience working with neurological patients, all representative of the target population.

Results: Findings from the pretest analysis indicated that several factors were responsible for changes made to the P-Drive. These included language and cultural differences, as well as confusion among participants in interpreting some sections of the manual. Only minor adjustments, mainly in the manual, were necessary, while the 25 items for assessing driving ability could be retained.

Conclusion: The P-Drive was successfully translated into German and culturally adapted to the conditions in Switzerland. Future research should focus on exploring its psychometric properties in larger samples to ensure its performance and quality within the new population.

Keywords: Translation, cultural adaptation, P-Drive, occupational therapy

Zamarrón Sánchez Esther (Sept 2023)

Observed and perceived usability of individually adapted devices for playing video games in children and adolescents with spastic cerebral palsy and different manual abilities: A pilot study using usability testing

Background: Youths with spastic cerebral palsy (CP) can experience limited bimanual performance, which makes it challenging to play with a mainstream video game controller. This can impact their participation in this activity. This study aims to develop and evaluate a systematic approach to personalize video game controllers for youths with CP so they can successfully play.

Methods: Six participants with spastic CP aged 10–18 were recruited at Swiss Children's Rehab. We used a task list with each item needed to play a video game. To perform the tasks of this list, the participants used an Xbox controller and, later on, an Xbox Adaptive Controller with personalized adaptations. We assessed each task's effectiveness, efficiency, and satisfaction and recorded participants' performance using the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) with each controller option. Besides, participants responded to two open-ended questions about the experience of playing with a personalized controller. We applied non-parametric tests and content analysis to analyze the results.

Results: We identified two categories, "Fun and ease playing with a customized setting" and "Fairness in video games." The participants who completed all sessions had fewer and less severe errors and were more satisfied when playing with the personalized controller. Participants also perceived their performance when playing with the personalized controller better.

Conclusion: Our approach seems appropriate to provide personalized video game controllers for users with CP and different MACS levels so they can play more effectively, efficiently, and satisfactorily.

Keywords: Video games, cerebral palsy, usability testing, participation, play

Sribagthalingam Sikanneya (Sept 2023)

The influences of grandparents' dementia on occupational identity and well-being of their adult grandchildren

Background: Worldwide the number of dementia cases increases which impacts families. The third generation observes and experiences the changing family dynamic when family members take over the role of caregiver to support the dementia affected grandparent. The aim of this study is to explore how the dementia of the grandparents influences the occupational identity and well-being of their adult grandchildren.

Method: A qualitative study design was chosen with phenomenology as the methodology. To gain a deep understanding of the phenomenon seven in-depth interviews were carried out. The reflexive thematic analysis was used for the data analysis.

Result: After the data analysis three main themes emerged: "Experiences in role changes and everyday life", "Experiences in increased family solidarity", and "Influence in well-being". These experiences they made with their dementia affected grandparents influenced their attitude, behaviour, role, values, habit, family relationship, decision-making and their well-being.

Conclusion: To know how to handle the situation with the increasing number of new dementia cases it is highly important to have more knowledge of how the third generation is involved in this entire process and how their perception towards dementia is.

Keywords: dementia, grandchildren, grandparents, occupational identity, well-being

Schmelz Birgit (Sept 2023)

Baking as a meaningful occupation Experiences of baking as a leisure activity and its connection to health and well-being

Despite a range of anecdotal evidence suggesting that baking has health-promoting effects, there is a lack of research regarding the therapeutic benefits of culinary activities.

This phenomenological study aims to contribute to an understanding of how the everyday occupation of baking is experienced in relation to health and well-being, adding further insight into experiences of meaning towards a particular craft, which has been understudied.

In-depth interviews were conducted with five participants living in Austria, who regularly engage in baking. The research question focused on how leisure baking is experienced in relation to health and well-being.

Following a hermeneutic phenomenological approach, individual attributions of meaningfulness toward baking were linked to a range of influences on health and well-being, demonstrating a clear connection between these factors. The findings further suggested that baking was primarily used to meet various personal needs, which validates the core principle of occupational therapy by asserting that a chosen occupation can effectively be used to achieve therapeutic change. The meanings of engaging in baking were seen to go beyond the activity itself, emphasizing the importance of adopting a meaning-inclusive approach in therapeutic practice. Moreover, envisioning ideas and baking outcomes were identified as integral parts of baking, challenging conventional views on the scope of engagement in baking and suggesting implications for how this occupation could further be used therapeutically. Continued research on leisure engagement in culinary crafts within diverse cultural settings is recommended to further deepen an encompassing and diversified understanding of how these are experienced as meaningful.

Keywords: occupational science; baking; health and well-being; meaningfulness; dimensions of occupation;

Sadowska-Gruzd Aleksandra (Sept 2023)

Able to play? Facilitation of play activities for children with multiple disabilities in the Polish preschool context- an observational case study

The Case Study Observational Research was conducted in a special preschool context in Poland. The research was aiming to explore the phenomenon of facilitating play for the sake of play for children with multiple disabilities by a special education team. 10 teachers from one preschool environment participated in observations of play facilitation and in-depth interviews. Observational data analysis was leading the conceptual framework of the design.

Qualitative data analysis was performed using varied approaches, both inductive and deductive. Three themes have been revealed and discussed: preschool philosophy of developmental support and personal working style of teachers, teaching children to play and allowing oneself to play with them, play for the sake of play.

Based on the findings the hypothesis was proposed: In a special preschool context, there is a risk of marginalization of P4Play. To minimize this risk, it is crucial to implement P4Play in educational plans and focus on supporting human relations both within the therapeutic team and during play facilitation for children with multiple disabilities.

Keywords: play, children, multiple disabilities, special education, case study, play observation

Pierron Camille (Sept 2023)

*Evolution of the roles of an expert in occupational therapy during his stroke rehabilitation:
A thematic analysis based on interviews*

Background: One's identity is altered by the changes due to stroke, which also impacts occupational roles. Occupational identity, through roles, is a focus of occupational therapists, as is a holistic approach to help patients. The perspective of therapists on their own rehabilitation as patients after a stroke could bring an insider insight that is currently lacking in the literature, even though the one concerning stroke survivors is well-developed.

Methods: This qualitative study uses the hermeneutic phenomenology approach to gain knowledge of one participant's roles' evolution during his stroke rehabilitation. The participant, which is a professor in occupational therapy, has experienced a stroke and the following rehabilitation. Two online interviews were held and were analyzed through interpretive thematic analysis.

Results: The participant's roles were interrupted by his stroke but gradually restored during his rehabilitation pathway via his interactions with others. The themes of this study are I) His personal roles, through his independence, II) his professional roles became goals, motivation, and concrete exercises, and III) the involvement of others.

Conclusions: By analyzing the evolution of the roles of the participant during his stroke rehabilitation, it is seen that the disruption and recovery of his roles made him reassess his occupational identity leading led him to reinvent his personal and professional life.

Keywords: Stroke, roles, rehabilitation process, thematic analysis, interview, qualitative

Pfann Renate (Sept 2023)

Early Childhood Play on the Edge of Survival

Occupational development of infants and toddlers with congenital heart disease on a pediatric intensive care unit

Background: The age-appropriate development of infants/toddlers with congenital heart defects in a neonatal or paediatric intensive care unit may be impaired for various reasons. These include their vulnerable and critical condition and the hectic, noisy surroundings of an intensive care unit, the limitations on playful explorations of the physical and social environment combined with the emotional strain on parents and their endeavours to fulfil their parental roles. The multiple interwoven influences on the occupational development of these children are considered in this study from an occupational science perspective.

Methods: Ten studies were included in a meta-ethnographic systematic review to gain multi-perspective insight into parents' lived experiences in such an intensive care unit.

Findings: Six metaphors emerged from the synthesis: Parent's alienation, parenting roles and occupations, parental bonding, communication, occupational development, and injustice. A seventh finding revealed limitations across all ten studies, which are relevant for further research.

Conclusion: The findings highlight arguments that underline the pivotal role of parents of critically ill infants/toddlers in intensive care units: The significance of co-occupations to early childhood development and, thus, the need for occupational therapists to empower parents in their occupational roles and to advocate for an environment that promotes parental bonding and thus occupational development of this vulnerable patient group. The findings further indicate the utmost importance of a nuanced understanding of the impact of family diversity on the quality of a family-centred approach.

Keywords: Infant/toddler, occupational development, NICU/PICU, parents, co-occupation, occupational therapy

Martins Dias Cavalcanti dos Santos Gabriela (Sept 2023)

Occupational therapist involvement in perinatal maternal health: a scoping review

Background: Perinatal maternal health (PMH) is an emerging area for occupational therapists. This research aims to identify the evidence available and provide a comprehensive overview of occupational therapists' involvement in PMH from a global perspective.

Method: The PRISMA-ScR was conducted. The search was done in eight electronic databases for published literature in three languages exploring occupational therapists' involvement in PMH within the first year post-partum. Three independent reviewers screened titles, abstracts and index terms for inclusion. One reviewer performed data extraction. Quantitative (frequency) synthesis was conducted.

Findings: Of the 81 articles reached, 56 were included and published between 1986 and 2022, with most (73%) after 2010. 41% of the studies were conducted in Brazil, while 23% were in the United States. Most studies explored postnatal care (56%) and pregnancy (23%). 16% of the studies occurred in neonatal intensive care units (NICU). There is significant diversity in occupational therapy research, reports, practices, and goals within this field, revealing that occupational therapists have played a diverse involvement in PMH to enhance role preparation, occupational performance and promote the well-being of mothers.

Conclusion: Occupational therapists have a versatile involvement in PMH. The amount of information gathered can empower occupational therapists in this emerging field, providing them with the necessary knowledge to comprehend their involvement in PMH, offer valuable insights for their growth, and facilitate their participation.

Keywords: occupational therapist, perinatal maternal health, scoping review

Marais Simoné (Sept 2023)

The use of Assessment Tools for Executive Functioning in Adults with Acquired Brain Injuries within Occupational Therapy: A Scoping Review

Purpose: literature regarding executive functioning lacks consensus, with limited information from an occupational therapy perspective. Neurological disorders are the main cause of disability, and are often associated with executive dysfunction, which indicates a need for occupational therapy in this area. The aim was to identify assessment tools that can be used by occupational therapists to assess executive functioning in adults with an acquired brain injury.

Methods: a scoping review was conducted, which identified 303 peer-reviewed studies, yielding 134 assessment tools. After qualitative content analysis the tools were charted according to conceptual categories.

Results: the four categories of assessment tools identified from the literature are 1) those focused on a primary executive function (n=50), 2) those that are compound batteries of various executive functions and broader cognitive functioning (n=72), 3) those specifically developed by/for speech-language therapy (n=6) and 4) those specifically developed by/for occupational therapy (n=6). Based on their characteristics, 20 assessment tools were identified and reviewed according to the occupation-related taxonomy of Fischer (2014), to comment on the tools that are: occupation-based (n=6), occupation-focused (n=1), both occupation-based and occupation-focused (n=5), or neither occupation-based nor occupation-focused (n=8).

Conclusion: use and appropriateness of the assessment tools require critical reasoning to comment on executive functioning and occupational performance in adults with acquired brain injury.

Keywords: assessment, executive functioning, neurological disorders, occupational therapy perspective

Lüthi Karin (Sept 2023)

*Orthotic Practice in Occupational Therapy
A Cross-Sectional Survey in Switzerland*

Objective: This study obtains a comprehensive picture of the current practice of orthotic intervention (OI) in occupational therapy (OT) in Switzerland, exploring associations and differences in orthotic practice between various groups of occupational therapists (OTs).

Methods: Following a cross-sectional design, a web survey was distributed to participants via Swiss OT associations and other professional contacts. 287 questionnaires were analysed descriptively and with non-parametric statistics.

Results: A high proportion (94%) of OTs considered OI to be an effective intervention method for their clients, and they most frequently used functional orthoses (95%) and thermoplastic materials (78%). Less than half of the OTs relied on OT theories or occupation-based assessments for OI, and more experienced therapists applied significantly more theories. The application of OT theories or assessments was not significantly associated with OT fields (hand therapy/neurology) or the type of OT degree. In hand therapy, the primary goal was to maintain or improve range of motion, and in neurology, to prevent contractures. Clients' occupational goals or needs were in the lower range of frequently pursued goals in both fields.

Conclusion: OIs are considered effective, and clients are frequently provided with orthoses. The results highlight the need for formal education and training on OT theories or assessments related to OIs. Education and training can better prepare professionals to incorporate occupational goals or needs into OI practice and optimise time expenditure and benefits. Current orthotic practice might be improved by identifying how theory application and the expertise of experienced OTs can be better shared.

Keywords: hand orthosis, therapy intervention, clinical expertise

Le Moniès de Sagazan Noémie

(Sept 2023)

The negotiation of the daily organisation of household-related occupations within feminist heterosexual couples

An occupation-focused research using a critical narrative methodology

Despite a rise of feminists values, the organisation of household-related occupations remains unequal. This research aims to understand the way heterosexual couples, who consider themselves as feminists, negotiate their daily organisation of household-related occupations.

Narrative data were collected through individual and joint interviews of two couples. Individual's and couple's storylines were studied through a narrative analysis. Each participant reproduced and challenged gendered roles they observed through their parents' organisation.

The negotiation of household-related occupations organisation was implicit and embedded in daily life. Rationales were related to the relationship to the environment, which is influenced by the socio-cultural context. They were also related to occupational preferences and notion of couple. The concept of a joint occupational balance emerges and could be prioritised by women over their individual occupational balance. It could be a key to understand the still unequal organisation of household-related occupations among heterosexual couples.

Keywords: household-related occupations; heterosexual couples; occupational science; occupational justice; feminism; narrative methodology

Kusche Nina (Sept 2023)

Lived experiences of occupational disruption in relation to masculine identity among a sample of German men with burnout syndrome: A phenomenological study

Introduction: The prevalence of stress-related diseases such as burnout syndrome is increasing among German men. Previous research has shown that burnout results in disruptions in a person's everyday life, for example a loss of recreational activities or social withdrawal. As there is evidence for gender-related differences in health and the majority of qualitative research on burnout has been conducted among women, the following study explored the lived experience of occupational disruption in relation to the self-perception of masculine identity among a sample of German men with burnout syndrome.

Methodology: A phenomenological study with five individual in-depth interviews was conducted. An interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) for both data collection and data analysis added an interpretative aspect.

Findings: All participants experienced a breakdown representing the turning point in their burnout experience. The findings were presented in the three themes (1) Before the collapse: experiencing a "function mode" and pushing the limits, (2) Being burnt out: experiencing a loss of recreational activities and social withdrawal and (3) Personal growth: experiencing one's true needs and emotions.

Conclusion: The experience of occupational disruption among German men with burnout included a loss of recreational activities, social withdrawal, the disruptive impact of a breakdown and the subsequent reconnection to oneself. Masculine norms did not prevent men from seeking help after their breakdown but seemed to pose a challenge in recognizing their first burnout symptoms. Further research on the period preceding the breakdown and on burnout in relation to non-work roles is recommended.

Keywords: Burnout, Occupational disruption, Masculinity

Kolek Viola (Sept 2023)

Occupational Therapists Professional reasoning in Addressing Sexuality of Spinal Cord Injury Patients in Finnish Subacute Rehabilitation

Background: Sexuality, widely acknowledged as a significant aspect of life, is predominantly compromised following spinal cord injury. However, the neglect of sexuality-related discussions among occupational therapists persists.

Aim: This study explores occupational therapists' professional reasoning when addressing sexuality in the context of subacute rehabilitation for individuals with spinal cord injuries in Finland.

Method: Using a constructivist grounded theory approach, semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven occupational therapists. The data were analyzed using the constant comparison method.

Findings: The study findings include three core categories: recognizing sexuality as an occupation in occupational therapy, defining the possibilities and limits of occupational therapy in addressing sexuality, and addressing sexuality in occupational therapy: exploring opportunities and challenges.

Conclusion: Overall, this study contributes to the understanding of occupational therapists' professional reasoning in addressing sexuality in SCI subacute rehabilitation. It emphasizes the need for further education and support to enhance therapists' awareness of their own biases and decision-making, as well as to improve their effectiveness in addressing this critical aspect of client care.

Keywords: occupational therapy, professional reasoning, sexuality, spinal cord injury, Finland

Kalafati Effrosyni (Sept 2023)

Exploring meaningful occupations of individuals diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, who have completed dialectical behavioral skills training (DBT), use in periods of crisis

Background: Occupational Therapy for clients with borderline personality disorder (BPD) is developing. Although, a lot of work needs to be done to make it visible to this population. Meaningful occupations are vital, mainly when dealing with crises (Gaerke et al. 2019).

Methods: This qualitative research used a narrative-in-action methodology. Three women diagnosed with BPD who have completed dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) skills training participated in this study. Observations on each participant's meaningful occupation were used in crisis-supplemented and semi-structured in-depth interviews. An interpretative analysis approach was used to analyze data.

Aim: This study aims to explore how meaningful occupations support individuals with BPD in stress-related periods and crises and which occupational strategies individuals use to overcome a crisis.

Discussion: Findings supported that meaningful occupations support emotional regulation and reduced BPD symptomatology. Occupations strengthen occupational identity, and occupational roles enable individuals' meanings while enhancing the creation of short-term and long-term goals. Meaningful occupations were used as an occupational strategy to overcome the crisis. Occupational adaptations were made relating to the intensity of emotions. Meaningful occupation is described as the embodiment of DBT skills in real life, as through meaningful occupations, DBT skills became more meaningful and easier to apply during a crisis.

Conclusion: The occupational experiences provided vital information to support occupational therapists in developing an occupational therapy approach to crisis management of individuals diagnosed with BPD.

Keywords: Borderline Personality Disorder, Crisis management, Occupational therapy, occupational strategies, meaningful occupations, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy

Hubschmid Andrea Verena (Sept 2023)

Factors that Correlate with Recruitment Difficulties in the Swiss Occupational Therapy Workforce

A Cross-Sectional Study Using Secondary Data

Objectives: Occupational therapists contribute to Switzerland's health policy strategy and play a vital role in healthcare coverage. Unfilled job vacancies and difficulties in recruiting occupational therapists pose the risk of health inequalities for the Swiss population. The study's purpose was to explore recruitment difficulties and factors that contribute to these challenges. The hypothesis that the difficulties depend on specific workfields was tested.

Participants: The sample consists of 326 team leaders, predominantly female (78%) and primarily German-speaking (64%), who lead teams that include occupational therapists.

Study Method: Secondary data was analyzed using SPSS within a cross-sectional study design. Data was collected from October 2021 to April 2022 through a questionnaire developed by a project team from three Swiss universities ZHAW, SUPSI, HES-SO and representatives of the EVS, and the Stiftung für Ergotherapie.

Findings: The lack of applications represented the most common difficulty. Calculations revealed significant correlations in the field of orthopedics in relation to recruitment difficulties due to language and title. In neurology, recruitment difficulties correlated significantly to no applications and language. Work languages and health care at distance were also found to correlate significantly with recruitment difficulties. With a Confidence Interval of 95%, the effect sizes of the significant findings were mostly small to medium.

Conclusions: Follow-up studies and context-sensitive research, including applicants' perspectives on recruitment are needed, to improve recruitment strategies, ensure adequate coverage of occupational therapy services and minimize health disparities in Switzerland.

Keywords: Switzerland, health policy, healthcare coverage, human resources for health

Herndlhofer Lisa (Sept 2023)

Occupation-Centered vs Non-Occupational Interventions in chronic stroke upper limb deficit: a scoping literature review 2018-2023

Background: What types of occupational therapy and physiotherapy interventions are described in the literature on improving upper limb recovery following chronic stroke? Are these interventions implemented in line with their respective professional reasoning. This scoping review examines intervention types, occupation-centeredness of the interventions, and the distinction between the two professions.

Methods: A scoping review is conducted. Searches are performed between January and February 2023. 746 articles are screened, 45 are included and 143 interventions identified. The interventions are categorized and scored using the Occupational Therapy Intervention Assessment.

Results: There is an imbalance between interventions that use occupations and non-occupational tasks, in physio- and occupational therapy. Although, occupational therapy favors the use of occupation as interventions over physiotherapy. Interventions providing occupations score higher in the Occupational Therapy Intervention Assessment, indicating a higher standard of occupation-centered reasoning compared to exercises and rote practice.

Conclusion: Both professions utilize a considerable amount of non-occupational tasks. This is expected for physiotherapy, but surprising for occupational therapy. Signifying a shift away from using occupations as a means to an end and from the disciplines core occupational identity.

Keywords: occupation-based, occupation-focused, exercises, recovery, occupational therapy, upper extremity

Gassmann Fanny (Sept 2023)

Occupational therapists' understanding of their professional roles and competencies after the implementation of the TARPSY reimbursement system in inpatient psychiatric hospitals in Switzerland

A thematic analysis

Background: With rising costs, Switzerland has introduced new cost-containment policies. In 2018, a new tariff structure for reimbursement of inpatient psychiatric services (TARPSY) has been implemented in psychiatric inpatient hospitals. Literature about healthcare reforms in other countries suggest that it can impact practice and use of competencies in healthcare professions such as occupational therapy. No research has investigated this topic in relation to TARPSY. This study aimed to investigate occupational therapists' understandings of their roles and competencies in the TARPSY reimbursement system.

Methods: A qualitative descriptive methodology and thematic analysis were used. Six occupational therapists that had experienced the introduction of the TARPSY reimbursement system at their workplace were interviewed. Findings: Two themes with each two subthemes were developed. 1) Roles under time pressure: "competencies that are difficult to implement" and "key competencies to handle time pressure." 2) New responsibilities: "offering bridging measures" and "offer activities on weekends".

Conclusion: The findings of this study suggest that reimbursement systems such as TARPSY have created new work environments that influence how and what competencies occupational therapist apply in daily practice. Time constraints and a fast-paced work environment limit the feasibility to apply theoretical knowledge and maintain client-centeredness. However, interdisciplinary and documentation skills were perceived as an important tool to manage time pressure. Furthermore, TARPSY has created new responsibilities for occupational therapists such offering activities on weekends and being part of bridging measures after inpatient discharge.

Keywords: reimbursement system, occupational therapy, psychiatry, TARPSY, Switzerland, competencies

Clementi Giulia (Sept 2023)

Occupational Therapists' experience of the Developmental Individual Differences Relationship-based/Floortime (DIR) Model

A qualitative descriptive study exploring occupational therapists' perspective and clinical reasoning

Background: Children with neurodevelopmental disorders and their families experience challenges in quality of life and nowadays, increasing knowledge about interventions is necessary to support children and families' well-being. The DIR/Floortime model, propose an intervention based on individual differences and relationship, with a holistic point of view on emotional development and interdependence of the developmental areas. However, at date the DIR/Floortime body research is limited, and experts' point of view has never been explored. Occupational therapists' perspective can support knowledge about the model implementation, critical variables that influence the outcomes and clinical reasoning.

Methods: This study uses a qualitative descriptive research design. Occupational therapists between 27 and 35 years old have been interviewed to collect data by using semi-structured in-depth interviews. The study included 5 participants.

Findings: Participants described their experience of implementing the DIR/Floortime as positive and complicated. Analysis of the data resulted in 4 themes and associated subthemes (1) DIR/Floortime has a general positive impact. (2) DIR/Floortime outcome is influenced by different factors, (3) Experiencing the model's limits, (4) Personal involvement.

Conclusion: Although participants experienced a positive impact on the child and family quality of life, they also perceived the model as complicated. Future research is required to deeply understand how to support future training and critical variable of implementation.

Keywords: DIR/Floortime, Neurodevelopmental disorders, developmental models, autism, qualitative descriptive, occupational therapists' experience, occupational therapy, participation, well-being.

Brun Elise (Sept 2023)

A phenomenographic study exploring the perspectives of stakeholders on barriers and facilitators in accessing alternative and augmentative communication for adults with autism spectrum disorders

Background: For autistic individuals with complex communication needs, accessing alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) is essential to facilitate occupational engagement and enable social participation. There are several actors involved in helping autistic adults to access AAC, yet their experiences have not been studied to highlight potential differences in their conceptions and perspectives. Therefore, this study aimed at exploring stakeholders' differences in experiences and viewpoints regarding supporting autistic adults in accessing AAC from an occupational perspective.

Method: A phenomenographic approach was selected to address this topic. Data were collected through interviews with eight participants including occupational therapists, professional and informal caregivers. Data collected during individual semi-structured interviews were analysed following a phenomenographic approach.

Findings: Two main categories and five subcategories illustrate facilitators and barriers in accessing AAC: (a) awareness about different ways to communicate, through (1) the use or not of AAC and (2) preconceived ideas of 'by whom and how' AAC should be used, and (b) involvement and coordination of stakeholders through (3) the enablement of autistic adults to use AAC, (4) difficulties in affording AAC, and (5) the collaborative teaming to provide access to AAC.

Conclusion: This study contributes to a growing understanding of challenges in accessing AAC for autistic adults and offers an innovative occupational perspective of this phenomenon. Further research is needed to deepen knowledge regarding the access to AAC, develop action, and initiate change to break down barriers.

Keywords: alternative and augmentative communication; autism; social participation; phenomenography; occupational perspective; occupational therapy

Bertschi Felicia (Sept 2023)

*Effectiveness of the Bern Ambulatory Interprofessional Rehabilitation (BAI-Reha) on Occupational Performance of Clients with Chronic Pain
A Registry-based Longitudinal Cohort Study*

Introduction: Chronic pain (CP) results in decreased occupational performance. The Bern Ambulatory Interprofessional Rehabilitation (BAI-Rehabilitation) is a biopsychosocial intervention for clients with chronic musculoskeletal pain. This study aims to examine to what extent the BAI-Rehabilitation results in statistically significant and clinically meaningful changes in self-rated quality of and satisfaction with occupational performance, health-related quality of life, pain intensity, and burden of suffering of clients with chronic musculoskeletal pain.

Method: This registry-based cohort study includes 172 participants with a CP diagnosis. The Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) measures occupational performance; the Pictorial Representation of Illness and Self Measure (PRISM) the burden of suffering, the European Quality of Life and Health measure visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS) the health-related quality of life, and the visual analogue scale (VAS) the pain intensity. The structure of the data led to the choice of a linear mixed model for data analysis.

Results: Changes over time were statistically significant and clinically meaningful for COPM performance (posttreatment $p=.000$, $d=.8$); follow-up $p<.001$, $d=.7$), COPM satisfaction (posttreatment $p=.000$, $d=0.95$; follow-up $p=.000$, $d=.87$), PRISM (posttreatment $p=.000$, $d=.61$; follow-up $p<.001$, $d=.55$), and EQ-VAS (posttreatment $p<.001$, $d=.43$; follow-up $p<.001$, $d=.36$), while changes for VAS pain intensity were not statistically significant or clinically meaningful (posttreatment $p=.676$, $d=.03$; follow-up $p=.243$, $d=-.09$).

Conclusion: This study confirms the short- and mid-term effectiveness of the BAI-Rehabilitation on quality and satisfaction with occupational performance, burden of suffering and health-related quality of life in clients with chronic musculoskeletal pain. These findings support and add to previous research on the BAI-Rehabilitation.

Keywords: occupational therapy, multimodal rehabilitation, biopsychosocial, pain management

Weymann Aninka (Jan 2023)

Enacting occupation-based social transformative practices working with displaced persons in Europe: A critical dialogical study

Background: In response to increasing forced migration across the globe, occupational therapists in Europe are returning to the profession's roots in confronting social and health injustices through occupation-based practices with social transformation as a focus. Different contextual influences determine how occupational therapies in different places are enacted. A lack of theory in supporting such development has been acknowledged by scholars.

Methods: Three participants working with displaced persons in Europe took part on a voluntarily basis. Three dialogical interviews were conducted with each participant. Critical reflexivity was implemented through the exchange of transcripts and critical reflections with participants. A critical realist approach to reflexive thematic analysis was used to analyse how these practices are shaped within the European context.

Aim: To explore how occupation-based have been used to enact social transformation with displaced persons in the European context.

Findings: Three dominant themes developed; connecting through cultural and social sensitive communication as social support, recognition through the occupational perspective as professional justification and concerned involvement through personal values as a serious commitment.

Conclusion: Dialogue strived to increase the awareness of how powers exist which bind the practices with displaced persons. Occupational therapists are using their power base as educators to expose occupational therapy students to the client population through which personal change as well as social change on a small scale may be achieved. Reflexivity and collaboration is recommended for these practices.

Keywords: Displaced persons, social transformation, Europe, critical reflexivity

Sokolich Lauren (Jan 2023)

*The Meanings Found in Focused Interests by Autistic Adults
A Narrative Study*

Background: There is a significant worldwide prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) which has been steadily increasing over the last few decades. With a lack of research done with, and on, autistic adults, there is a crucial need for a broadened and more robust understanding of focused interests for autistic adults. The meaning behind the engagement in this occupation and understanding the real-life contextual consequences for participation could help occupational therapists and scientists approach this subject in a more sensitized manner, therefore serving and representing this overlooked group more effectively and ethically.

Methods: A narrative design was used with three participants including open qualitative interviews with participant observations. Data analysis was done using a narrative analysis method following Ricoeur's three-fold mimesis.

Findings: The findings, presented as short story summaries and vignettes, show how the participants enact meanings in their engagement in their focused interests in various, complex ways in their daily lives.

Conclusion: The findings suggest that meaning is embedded in focused interest activities and that the meanings are enacted by the participants in various intense and complex ways. The use of either a symptomatic or strength-based approach appears to the researcher as an oversimplification. It could be suggested that there is value in first using a narrative approach to gain more information about the focused interests of autistic adults. Spending time to ask questions, observing, participating, and creating safe spaces to adequately understand and respect focused interests not only as symptoms or solutions/ therapy tools but as meaningful parts of autistic people's lives.

Keywords: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Focused Interests, Narrative

Marion Gecaj (Jan 2023)

Occupational balance in young adults with cancer in Switzerland

Aim: Explore and describe the lived experience of occupational balance among young adults with cancer in a sample from Switzerland.

Background: In a life period characterized by self-determination and independence, cancer influences adolescents and young adults (AYA) in several aspects. An occupational disruption is observable due to multiple factors. As they face changes in roles and activities, the occupational balance concept is relevant to explore their experience.

Methods: An interpretative phenomenological analysis was used. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with a convenient homogeneous sample of 3 young adults. An inductive analysis was undertaken to build themes and meanings.

Findings: Three main themes emerged from the analysis 1) The perceived consequences of cancer influencing occupational balance 2) Engaging in occupations to find balance 3) Experiencing imbalance.

Discussion / Conclusion: Consequences of cancer influence occupational balance. Changes appear in daily activities through a process of prioritization related to the significance attached to occupations. Engagement in occupations helps to navigate through cancer and reach a satisfying occupational balance. However, imbalance is experienced when participants compare themselves to peers. Their rhythm is incompatible with normal life. They need to provide extra energy to reach norms. An interpersonal/societal perspective of occupational balance could provide a wider understanding of the experience of occupational balance.

Keywords: young adults - cancer- activities - occupational balance

Achahbar Hanifa (Jan 2023)

Educators' and students' perceptions of how cultural diversity is represented in texts used in an occupational therapy programme in the Netherlands: A collaborative critical discourse analysis

Background: Due to the trends associated with globalization, discussions regarding increasing diversity are taking place in societies as well as at institutions of higher education. However, there is limited knowledge of how cultural diversity is portrayed and perceived by educators and students in occupational therapy (OT) education, and this knowledge is important to inclusive education.

Aim: This study seeks to analyse how cultural diversity is portrayed in texts used in the first academic year of an OT undergraduate programme in the Netherlands and how diversity is perceived by students and educators.

Methods: Compulsory documents and books used in the first academic year were selected based on semi-structured interviews. A qualitative study was conducted inspired by collaborative critical discourse analysis. The analysis conducted with students and educators was inspired by Bacchi's 'what's the problem represented to be?' (WPR) approach to analyse the texts. The analysis was carried out through two focus groups.

Findings: 'Problematizations' were identified and are divided into three themes: 1) cultural discourse: black–white, 2) stereotyping: the Dutchman and 'the other' and 3) representation of cultural diversity in case studies and the classroom.

Conclusion: Individuals who do not belong to the dominant culture within a society are presented as 'the other', while a superiority is ascribed to the dominant culture. Furthermore, the other is framed as inferior or racialized. In 6 case studies, there is no representation of cultural diversity. To conclude, texts are designed for 'the white student'.

Keywords: Higher education, collaborative critical discourse analysis, cultural diversity

Weber Sascha (October 2022)

Occupational identity of students during the COVID-19 pandemic

Exploring the experiences of students living on university campus regarding occupational identity and occupational disruption

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic led countries to adopt restrictive measures to mitigate the spread of the virus which disrupted students' daily life. Such unexpected change in occupational engagement has significant potential to affect students' occupational identity. The study aims to explore the experiences of students living on campus, regarding their occupational identity, while facing restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: Interviews from six university students living on campus were analysed using a constant comparative approach, following constructivist grounded theory.

Findings: The analysis resulted in one overarching core category named "From missing out to greater confidence in identity" and in the following five categories: Influence of the centrality of the missed occupation on identity, Not feeling like a student, Live life as normally as possible, Slower life rhythm inducing introspection and better knowledge of oneself and Coming out stronger.

Conclusion: The study suggests that responses to occupational disruption can be positive in terms of occupational identity. Moreover, the disruption from a central occupation to the sense of self is more likely to cause occupational identity disruption, than the disruption from a secondary occupation, which can be "paused" and replaced with other occupations, without generating an occupational identity crisis.

Keywords: occupational identity, university students, occupational disruption, COVID-19 pandemic

Velama Milla (October 2022)

Professional Identity of Occupational Therapists Working in The Field of Hand Therapy in Finland: An Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis

Introduction: Occupational therapy has been challenged with its professional identity throughout its history due to the complicated relationship between holistic and medical perspectives on health. The professional identity of OTs working in the field of hand therapy has not been explored before, although this field has been criticized for focusing too much on the biomechanical factors, leaving occupational perspective aside. The aim of this study was to explore how OTs working in the field of hand therapy in Finland give meaning to their professional identity.

Methods: An interpretive phenomenological analysis was chosen as an approach. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews from nine participants and three themes were developed during the data analysis.

Findings: The findings highlighted following themes: 1) occupational therapist in hand therapy – strong but unclear professional identity, 2) developing professional identity as an occupational therapist in hand therapy – a challenging process and 3) Identity of a “hard worker” – part of being an occupational therapist in hand therapy.

Conclusion: Although the participants reported a sense of a strong OT identity, occupational perspective stayed in the background instead of being the center of their practice, revealing unclarity in their professional identity. To support the professional identity of OTs working in hand therapy in Finland, attention should be paid to integrating occupational perspective to hand therapy practice, improving introduction protocols, and functioning of interprofessional teamwork and consider appropriate targeting of OT services in hand therapy.

Keywords: occupational therapy, hand therapy, professional identity, interpretive phenomenological analysis

Schohl Philipp (October 2022)

*Cross-Cultural Validity of the PEDI-CAT in Germany and Switzerland:
Comparison of Item Hierarchies in a sample of 4-8 old children*

Background: The Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory – Computer Adaptive Test (PEDI-CAT) is a parent-reported assessment addressing activities of daily life for children and adolescents from 6 months to 21 years. Based on Item Response Theory, it yields many advantages for occupation-centred practice. The German and other translated versions use the original US-American normative data. Similar functioning though cannot be guaranteed. This project examines the PEDI-CAT's cross-cultural validity, investigating differences in item hierarchies per domain.

Method: A cross-sectional design was incorporated, collecting data (n=112) from parents of children aged 4-8 years in Germany and Switzerland. A Rasch Analysis generated measures for item difficulties. Correlation coefficients, scatter plots and comparisons of item hierarchies were created for each domain, comparing US with German-Speaking difficulties.

Results/ Findings: The Social/ Cognitive domain provided both the highest correlation between German and US, as well as the least changes in the item hierarchy. The Daily Activities and Responsibility domain showed similar correlation, the Daily Activities domain had more hierarchical changes. The Mobility Domain showed both a lower correlation coefficient and high number of fluctuations in the item hierarchy.

Conclusion: The project yielded first insights into the cross-cultural use of the PEDI-CAT. Differences in areas like traffic, nutrition or the use of digital devices could be detected across domains. A larger sample with a broader age range are needed for further research.

Keywords: Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory, PEDI-CAT, Activities of Daily life, Item Response Theory, Cross-Cultural Validity, Item Hierarchy

Revazishvili Ana (October 2022)

Relevance of Professional Occupational Therapy Education Program to the Local Context in Georgia: Critical Participatory Action Research

Background: Today's fast-paced life puts health-promoting professions in a challenging position, especially after a broader definition of health. Wilcock argues that social issues affect more people than we realize and cannot be medically "cured" in the way some physical illnesses can. Scholars have tried to define the constantly developing role of the occupational therapy profession. Acknowledgment of the impact of various factors and localization in education helps the profession become more accommodating to the local context. To start the localization process first appraisal of the professional education program is suggested.

Research Question: How does occupational therapy education program prepare professionals for local community needs in the context of Georgian society?

Study Design and Methodology: Co-researchers have explored local professional educational occupational therapy program through critical participatory action research design with a critical constructivism lens. Action and data collection methods used with different learning community members were: photovoice, semi-structured interviews and World Café.

Findings and discussion: Three main themes and four categories emerged from collected data: 1. Learning by doing – ready for the pediatric field a) Learning by doing – ready for the real-world b) Preparing pediatric OT practitioners 2. Making learning attainable [to students] and supported [by teachers] a) Lack of accessible and applicable literature b) Support on and off the field 3. Belonging to the supportive community. CPAR showed that collaboration between current and former students and educators could be the reflective process that leads to a fruitful discussion on important and relevant topics for all parties involved. The process led to creating a shared knowledge that can be a stepping stone toward future problem-solving processes in academia.

Keywords: Critical Participatory Action Research, Localization, professional Education

Groves Jordyn (October 2022)

Exploring the experience of diabetic peripheral neuropathy in the hands on occupational engagement: a qualitative systematic review

Background: Research into the experience of occupational engagement in persons with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) is needed due to the growing population diagnosed with diabetes worldwide. Occupational engagement is imperative to maintaining well-being, however little is known about the experience of engagement in persons with DPN, with limited research available.

Method: A qualitative systematic review was conducted and a thematic analysis of the data completed in order to explore the experience of engagement in occupations through existing data.

Results: The findings showed persons suffering with DPN reported issues with sleep, feelings of isolation, difficulties in relationships, and distraction from responsibilities. The most significant finding was that pain was reportedly a distraction from engaging in occupations. This is in contrast to occupational therapy literature that encourages occupational engagement as a treatment modality in order to maintain well-being and health.

Conclusion: This new finding is significant as it challenges current understandings and thinking around occupational engagement. If pain causes a distraction from being able to engage in occupations, then occupational therapy approaches to treatment need to be reconsidered.

Keywords: diabetic peripheral neuropathy, occupational engagement, pain, qualitative systematic review

Burkart Aline (October 2022)

Measuring Participation and Environment in Children and Adolescents with CP in Switzerland

Known-Groups and Convergent Validity of the German Participation and Environment Measure for Children and Youth in Children with Cerebral Palsy in Switzerland

Introduction: Participation is the most important outcome in the rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy (CP). It is closely interrelated with environment and can be measured with the Participation and Environment Measure for Children and Youth (PEM-CY). No studies about the measurement properties of the German Version of the PEM-CY have been carried out to date with Children with Cerebral Palsy. The construct validity of newly translated measurement should be analysed.

Aim: This study researched the construct validity of the German PEM-CY in Children with CP between 5 and 17 years in Switzerland.

Method: Parents of children with CP and of children without disability aged 5-17 years living in the German part of Switzerland answered the PEM-CY, Child and Adolescent Scale of Environment (CASE), Child and Adolescent Scale of Participation (CASP) and demographic questions. We analysed construct validity statistically through hypothesis testing on known-groups and convergent validity.

Results: The PEM-CY can detect differences between children with CP and without disabilities. The PEM-CY could not measure differences in age groups or MACS levels. Correlations between PEM-CY and the CASP, and the PEM-CY and the CASE suggest that the measures assess similar constructs.

Conclusion: Hypotheses concerning diagnostic groups and convergent validity could partly be confirmed. Methodological issues make it necessary to make cautious interpretations of the results. Further studies with bigger and more balanced samples are needed to make more valid, reliable, and generalizable statements about the construct validity of the German PEM-CY.

Keywords: PEM-CY, Participation, Environment, Validity, Cerebral Palsy, Switzerland

Amacher Michael (October 2022)

Participation in a Swiss classroom from a pupil's perspective:

Experiences of shared occupations in relation to inclusive education – through the lens of doing, being, becoming and belonging

Background: In Switzerland, there is a strong push for more inclusive education. However, since the discussion mainly revolves around pupils with a disability, it is not acknowledged that pupils face barriers to participation in school life for many other reasons. Furthermore, pupils' voices on this issue are underrepresented, and it is therefore unclear what their actual needs are.

Aim: This study aims to explore pupils' experiences in a mainstream Swiss classroom on participation and inclusive education.

Methods: An interpretive case study design was used with alternative approaches from the positivist embedded case study design. Nine pupils aged nine to ten (four female, five male) from a Swiss fourth-grade regular class participated in the study. To capture the pupils' experiences, a quantitative screening questionnaire was first used, which was then analysed using descriptive statistics. Further, a qualitative drawing and writing session, semi-structured interview and member reflection were used, which were then analysed using reflective thematic analysis.

Results and conclusion: The pupils described several aspects that promote and hinder participation in shared occupations. Their perception of belonging plays a central role in their active participation in school life and well-being. Participating in shared occupations in the school context is vital for pupils' well-being. While teachers are essential for implementing shared occupations, occupational therapists play an important supportive role for pupils and teachers in facilitating inclusive learning opportunities.

Keywords: Children's voice, school class, well-being, health

Aeberhard Renate (June 2022)

Making Transitions between Daily Occupations

A Working Theory from the Viewpoint of People on the Autism Spectrum

Background, aim and Methods: People on the autism spectrum often struggle to transition smoothly between occupations in daily life. Using constructivist grounded theory, this exploratory study aims to understand the factors influencing occupational transitions. Cultural historical activity theory supports the data collection and analysis as a framework. The study involves a purposive sample of eight adults on the autism spectrum sharing their viewpoint in interviews and written documents. In an iterative process of constant comparative analysis six categories are constructed and presented in an illustration.

Results and conclusion: Participants do and use things to prepare for the transitions and use strategies at the moment of making transitions. Further influences on making transitions are the attributes of the previous or subsequent occupations and the impact of other people on the process. Additionally, stress cumulated during the day makes transitions more difficult. Two possibilities stand at the end of the transition process: either the subsequent occupation is initiated smoothly or is refrained. These findings can be of use for occupational therapists to analyse the process of making transitions in close collaboration with clients and also beyond individual level.

Keywords: autism, transition, occupation, constructivist grounded theory, cultural historical activity theory, daily life

Chrifou Mariam

(June 2022)

Visibility and Leadership

Challenges and visions of Occupational Therapy leaders in the Dutch Context

Background: The occupational therapy profession struggles with visibility all over the world. The Netherlands is no exception. Many authors have called for the need for increased leadership in order to enhance the visibility. However, no study is conducted in the European context.

Aim: This study serves as an initial step to explore the perceptions of Dutch occupational therapy leaders in the Netherlands on leadership and its relation to the enhancement of the professions' visibility.

Methods: A qualitative study design with a constructivist grounded theory approach was chosen, 13 semi-structured interviews and a literature review was conducted. Three major themes were identified from the data.

Results: Results show that leadership is needed to increase the visibility of the profession and improve access to its services. Further, it is found to be essential to drive innovation and increase professionalization. A few challenges towards enhancing leadership stood out from the participants' statement, including: [1] personality traits and professional identity of occupational therapists, [2] lack of formal leadership training and [3] differences in vision related to the professional paradigm.

Conclusions: A significant relation between quality of leadership and visibility has been found. Challenges towards leadership are identified and are found to be related to tension between the medical, social and occupational perspective on health, that results in a poor professional identity and lack of a clear professional view by occupational therapists and its representatives.

Keywords: leadership, occupational therapy, professional identity, qualitative research, Netherlands

Elbaghdady Aya

(June 2022)

Lend Them an Ear: The Experience of Children with Disabilities in Inclusive Education in Jordan: a descriptive phenomenological study

Background: Improving students' participation is the key factor of inclusive education. However, children with disabilities are at risk of restricted participation, which can have significant long-term consequences on their health and wellbeing.

Aim: The purpose of this study is to gain an in-depth understanding of the experience of participation in inclusive education for children with disabilities, using the Occupational Perspectives of Health (OPH) by Wilcock (2007) as a framework.

Methods: A qualitative descriptive phenomenology design was chosen. Ten children, age 12-17, were interviewed about their experience in inclusive education. Interviews were analyzed using inductive thematic analysis, with an additional layer of analysis using OPH framework to further explore the children's health and wellbeing in inclusive education. The analysis revealed three main themes: 'just like the others', 'sense of community and sociability', and 'I've become stronger'.

Results: Findings suggest that considering children with disability as being just like the other students can restrict their participation, additionally, findings highlight the positive experience of children's belonging in the school community and ability to form good friendships. Further, students are exhibiting stronger personalities and becoming more resilient to help them in overcoming stressful situations. Analysis from the OPH framework revealed that children with disabilities are restricted from experiencing their occupations due to external factors, placing them at risk of occupational injustice which can have a negative influence on their health and wellbeing.

Conclusion: To improve participation in inclusive education, children need to be heard and included in the decision-making process.

Keywords: participation, children with disabilities, inclusive education, health and wellbeing

Feller Lea (June 2022)

Return to Work after Flexor Tendon Injury

Experiences from Occupational Therapists Working with Clients after Flexor Tendon Injury

Aim: To explore perceptions of occupational therapists (OTs) in Switzerland working with clients who return to work (RTW) after a flexor tendon injury (FTI).

Background: FTIs usually lead to an at least temporary work inability. Therefore, a rapid RTW is essential to ensure optimal health promotion. OTs play a key role in facilitating and supporting a successful RTW after FTI. However, knowledge about therapists' experience in working with clients towards RTW after FTI is lacking.

Design: The methodology of Qualitative Description was applied while following a post-positivistic stance. OTs were interviewed using a semi-structured interview format. Afterwards, the interviews were transcribed verbatim and thematically analysed.

Findings: Three themes and four subthemes were identified. They entail the experiences of being an OT in the RTW process including influencing factors that shape this role, the importance to identify the individual needs of the client, the importance of collaboration and communication as well as external factors which can complicate the process.

Conclusion: This study contributes to the understanding of RTW after FTI in Switzerland as its findings can inform OTs working in hand therapy. Further research is needed to explore the process of RTW more in-depth.

Keywords: return to work, flexor tendon injury, occupational therapists, Switzerland

Friedrich Leonie

(June 2022)

“I have become more human again – at least for a while”

Lived experiences of daily life of people with Parkinson’s Disease with Subthalamic-Nucleus Deep Brain Stimulation: a descriptive phenomenology

Background: People with Parkinson’s Disease (PD) are hindered from participating in daily life and experiencing well-being as they were used to, due to motor and non-motor impairments and fluctuations between On – and Off-phases. Subthalamic-nucleus Deep Brain Stimulation (STN-DBS) has become an established treatment when the response to pharmaceutical therapy decreases. STN-DBS has shown efficacy on measurable daily functioning, whereas little is known about lived experiences beyond measurable outcomes. This study explores and describes the lived experiences of persons with PD in daily life with STN-DBS.

Methods: A descriptive phenomenological study was conducted, analyzing semi-structured interviews following Giorgi’s descriptive phenomenological analysis. Ten participants were included.

Findings: Findings demonstrated gratitude and relief to manage their life easier as a result of having received STN-DBS although PD impairments remain and will increase again in the future. Participants experienced a new sense of normality through being able to enjoy basic daily activities once again. STN-DBS transformed them from being a PD-patient to feeling ‘human’ again and participants experienced the ability to direct their own life. Challenges to making STN-DBS part of one’s body were also portrayed.

Conclusion: Re-engagements in daily life supported participants’ well-being and participation. Thereby, self-management of body functions, role-related functioning and independence constituted essential elements to normality. Future research should focus on longitudinal experiences of daily life with STN-DBS adapting functions to understand what matters in experiencing participation and well-being since the working of the device is likely to decrease in future.

Keywords: Subthalamic-nucleus-Deep-Brain-Stimulation, Parkinson’s Disease, daily life, occupational perspective, phenomenology

Häfner Anna

(June 2022)

Addiction in relation to occupation through the lens of the human subsystems

The exploration of addiction in the occupational science and occupational therapy literature: a scoping review

Background: Research about the dark side of occupations is needed to conceptualise the complex and multidimensional nature of occupation. Addiction, as a worldwide phenomenon, has been investigated through occupational perspectives. However, there is limited research about how far occupational science and occupational therapy have considered addiction in relation to occupation.

Methods: A critical realist scoping review of the current occupational science and occupational therapy literature was conducted. The study applied the methodological framework from Arksey and O'Malley (2005). The human subsystems were used as a lens to evaluate the findings. 25 articles were identified, and the data could be allocated to all subsystems. The findings revealed that negative and positive aspects of addiction occur simultaneously but with negative impacts tending to dominate where addiction grows. As research has proved before, addiction can be labelled as an occupation (Kiepek & Magalhães, 2011; Wasmuth et al., 2014).

Results and conclusion: The analysis through the subsystems has shown that over time, addiction can become an 'overtaking occupation' consuming all time, energy and resources. The subsystems were appropriate for analysing addiction and have revealed new insights. Further research about its usability in research for exploring occupation is recommended. An investigation of the scope of every subsystem is needed to improve its applicability. Labelling occupation as neither solely positive nor negative is central to opening the view for non-western perspectives and investigating occupations' complex relation to health. This study proposed that the newly identified concept of an 'overtaking occupation' can help occupational therapist to work with clients on occupational balance.

Keywords: addiction, occupation, human subsystems, occupational science, scoping review

Hidalgo del Rio Irene

(June 2022)

*The lived experience of occupational performance in their natural environments
by children with sensory processing difficulties*

A phenomenological study using photo-elicitation interview

Background: Children with sensory processing difficulties (SPD) present occupational performance limitations across environments. However, little is known about children's perspectives. Client-centred paediatric occupational therapy must be informed by a child-focused approach in research to incorporate children's views in practice. This study explores the lived experience of school-age children with SPD in performing occupations in a real-life context.

Methods: This research employed a qualitative study design, with interpretive phenomenology as its methodological framework. Five children with SPD (aged 7-12 years) participated in photo-elicitation interviews. An inductive, iterative analysis of data was conducted.

Findings: The data analysis identified five themes: The (hidden) struggle in doing; The (ephemeral) persistence in doing; Doing with others, doing and belonging: Can they belong?; Needing extra support in their school learning; and Making, building, creating: when they are in charge.

Conclusion: Children with SPD experience a hidden struggle in doing. Key aspects to consider while supporting these children are: societal barriers, learning processes towards occupational competence, social aspects of doing, play participation, and school support that is meaningful to the child. Clinical and research implications are discussed.

Keywords: occupational performance, children, sensory processing, interpretive phenomenology

Nussbaumer Léa (June 2022)

***Addressing the construction of gender difference in occupation-based research:
A critical discourse analysis***

Background and aim: The aim of this study was to examine the discursive construction of gender difference in occupation-based research to further understand how it contributes or not to reproduce an unequal, gendered social order. Although a critical stance is emerging in occupational-based research regarding the use of gender as a category of analysis, a critical exploration of the construction of gender difference in existing scholarly work and its potential oppressive effects is still not available.

Methods: Through a systematic process of literature searching, 22 gender-specific articles were selected. A critical discourse analysis approach and queer, intersectional feminist theories were used to analyze the construction of difference between women and men.

Results: Six major discursive patterns emerged from the analysis: 1) Women's problematic emotionality, 2) men's normalized aggressivity, 3) threatening femininity impacts women's sexuality 4) proving masculinity contributes to social acceptance, 5) reproductive labor constrains women and 6) productive labor supports men. Findings revealed discourses on women and men that are mostly constructed in opposition to each other, which effectively supports the reproduction of a hierarchical gendered order based on men's privileges and women's oppression.

Conclusion: This study contributes to raising awareness on the unequal gendered social organization and the impact on women's occupational possibilities.

Keywords: Gender, Discourses, Feminism, Occupational possibilities, Patriarchal capitalism

Mali Myrthe

(June 2022)

Cross-cultural validity of the German version of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory - Computer Adaptive Test (PEDI-CAT)

*Applicability of the normative standard scores for children from Switzerland and Germany
An explorative descriptive, cross-sectional study*

Background: The Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory Computer Adaptive Test (PEDI-CAT) is an assessment of daily functioning for children and adolescents with a variety of disabilities aged 0-20 years. This parent-report measure is a revised and extended computer adaptive version of the PEDI.

Aims: This study investigated the applicability of the normative standard scores of the PEDI-CAT to the German version for children living in Switzerland and Germany and whether there are differences in the applicability between the two countries.

Methods: The normative scores of children with typical development of Switzerland (n = 51) and Germany (n = 61) were compared with the American normative sample. Descriptive statistics and independent samples t-tests were applied.

Results: Significant differences with moderate to strong effect were found in all domains. For the German-speaking sample, a tendency towards lower abilities in the Social-Cognitive domain was found, while showing higher levels of performance in the other domains. Nevertheless, >95% of the scores lay within the norm range. The subsequent comparison of the scaled scores revealed no significant differences. Deviating fit scores, indicating unexpected response patterns, were found in all domains with a maximum of 14.3% in the ADL domain.

Conclusion: The results indicate that the normative scores can be applied to the German version of the PEDI-CAT with caution. Further studies are needed to investigate the equivalence of scores, person fit, item fit and item discrimination to investigate the somewhat increased number of fit scores. Generalizability of the results is limited due to methodological limitations.

Keywords: child, developmental disability, assessment, activities of daily living, reference values

Meier Rahel

(June 2022)

Return to Work in Surgically Treated Distal Intra-Articular Radius Fracture Clients in Switzerland

A Retrospective Cohort Study on the Relationship of Self-Perceived Performance, Pain as well as Contextual and Personal Factors on Partial and Full Return to Work

Background: Work inability following a distal intra-articular radius fracture can cause occupational disruption. Hence, return to work (RTW) is of importance. Although numerous factors associated with RTW were proposed, no consensus exists yet. Thus, this study investigated to what extent self-perceived performance, pain, personal and contextual factors relate to the time needed for partial RTW (pRTW) and full RTW (fRTW) in surgically treated distal intra-articular radius fracture clients.

Design: Explanatory cohort study with secondary data

Methods: The medical records of one Swiss hospital were reviewed retrospectively. Correlation and regression analyses were performed to examine relationships with pRTW and fRTW. In total, 11 participants were included.

Results: A negative strong correlation between self-perceived performance 12-weeks post-surgery and fRTW ($\rho(7) = -.67, p = .049$) and positive strong correlations between pain and fRTW 8-weeks post-surgery ($\rho(9) = .76, p = .006$) and 12-weeks post-surgery ($\rho(7) = .70, p = .038$) were demonstrated. With fRTW, age ($\rho(9) = .60, p = .050$) and amount of hand therapy ($\rho(9) = .68, p = .021$) demonstrated strong positive correlations. The regression model for pRTW including sex, dominant hand injury, work type and work amount demonstrated significance ($F(5.50) = 5.726, p = .018$) with a strong effect size ($f^2 = 3.72$).

Conclusion: This study contributes to identifying factors associated with RTW. Moreover, recommendations on how to enhance occupational therapy practice to minimise occupational disruption are proposed, while the need for further investigation is highlighted.

Keywords: Distal radius fracture, return to work, occupational disruption, hand therapy

Mohr Sara (June 2022)

Living with disabilities and flow – A meta-study review of the literature

Background: Engagement in flow, an optimal psychological state, supports health and well-being. However, persons with disabilities experience restrictions in participation and fewer flow opportunities. A developmental perspective on flow examines its negotiation in daily life and strategies allowing for successful re-engagement. Contributions to this perspective should be based on experiences of persons living with disabilities. Therefore, this meta-study synthesises qualitative research literature to determine the contribution to a developmental perspective on flow theory in people living with disabilities.

Methods: Following a systematic literature search in four databases 10 qualitative, peer-reviewed studies were included. Studies were critically appraised, and findings, as well as methodologies, and underlying theories analysed and synthesised.

Findings: Various methodologies were used to explore flow experiences of persons with disabilities. Incongruencies between underlying theories and chosen methods, as well as lack of researcher reflexivity impacted the trustworthiness of some studies. All studies originated within occupational therapy research and were located in the global North, introducing assumptions about occupation and well-being and a rehabilitation framework. The individuals' choice and control, and adaptation of environment and occupation emerged from the meta-synthesis as important factors expanding the existing developmental perspective on flow theory.

Conclusion: To enhance opportunities for flow in the lives of people with disabilities occupational therapists should shift their focus from individual impairments towards issues of accessibility and occupational justice. Based on this meta-study critical disability theory and participatory frameworks are recommended for future research to explore strategies for engagement in flow outside therapeutic contexts.

Keywords: Disability, flow theory, occupational therapy, positive psychology, qualitative meta-study

Messer Moira (June 2022)

Being an autistic woman at work – Intersecting occupational identities in the workplace

Background and aim: Research has shown a gender bias in autism resulting in the under-diagnosis of women. Currently, there is a lack of literature among this population in the workplace and their occupational identity at work. Therefore, this study aims to broaden understanding of the relationship between occupational identity and work of autistic women. It draws on critical narrative inquiry to explore the intersecting identities of being an autistic woman in employment.

Results: The results highlight three narratives of occupational identity construction at work. Common dimensions across narratives include the impact of the workplace culture as well as the reconciliation of intersecting identities, such as being an autistic mother and having psychiatric comorbidity. In conclusion, adopting an intersectional perspective emphasizes the mutual relationship between gender and autism and how intersecting identities interact with systems embedded in the workplace.

Keywords: Autistic women · Employment · Occupational identity · Intersectionality

Pessoa Pedro

(June 2022)

*The use of ICT in low vision rehabilitation among older adults visually impaired:
A scoping review*

Background: Visual impairment considerably affects people's everyday life. Unfortunately, in the future years it seems that the number of visually impaired will increase especially among older adults. To combat visual impairments impact in this population low vision rehabilitation can play a major role notably using information and communication technologies (ICT). Despite, occupational therapists using ICT in field of practice few literature is describes the use of ICT assistive devices to enhance participation among older adults visually impaired. Therefore, the aim of this article is to provide an overview and disseminate the findings for occupational therapists and other health professionals on using ICT among older adults visually impaired.

Methods: A systematic review methodology was used to identify relevant studies to answer the study's aim through databases as CINAHL, PubMed and Social PROQUEST. All studies were screened and accessed for inclusion.

Results: Eight studies were included in the review. Using ICT seems to improve occupational performances and social participation. However, several barriers were identified by older adults to access ICT and enable participation with these assistive devices.

Conclusion: This scoping review shows an improvement in certain activities of daily living as well as in social participation by enhancing communication possibilities with ICT. It also raises awareness on barriers that impede older adults visually impaired to access ICT and consequently benefit from social participation. Further studies focused on the effectiveness of ICT training in older adults visually impaired should be encouraged with an emphasis on occupation.

Keywords: Occupational therapy, Low vision, Older adults, ICT, rehabilitation

Reinhold Laura (June 2022)

Giving young-system-survivors a real chance

Envisioning Possibilities: a critical dialogue study about Occupational Therapists promoting young-system-survivors participation in society

Background: Despite current inclusion discourses in Germany, specific groups of children and adolescents with mental health problems are addressed by health care services as “too difficult to manage”, creating varied exclusion processes. Local social policies limit occupational therapists from engaging with young-system-survivors outside of Germany's inpatient and outpatient individual health care settings. Therefore, this study critically explores how occupational therapists envision inclusive practices promoting young-system-survivors participation in Germany.

Methods: Driven from a critical dialogical stance, dialogical eight individual interviews and two focus groups with eight German occupational therapists were performed and analyzed with reflective thematic analysis.

Findings: One overarching theme: Giving young-system-survivors a real chance to participate in society, and three themes were built:

- a) Affirming a client-centred stance and continuity,
- b) Enhancing participation and possibilities by addressing needs within the context,
- c) reflecting the profession's unique holistic occupational perspective and advocacy.

Conclusion: The current biomedical healthcare paradigm hinders occupational therapists from enacting inclusive practices. Affirming a humanistic stance and reflecting on their unique occupational lense, the participants argue for widening the field of social occupational therapy, making it possible to enact outside the medical treatment field. The dialogical perspective shed light on the participants pioneering roles and visions and demands for a call of action on giving young-system-survivors a voice in future research.

Keywords: Community-based approaches, inclusive practices, dialogical approach, youth

Rufino Pereira Camila (June 2022)

“How do disabled persons perceive their lived experience as artists?” – an exploratory investigation through the lens of Instagram posts

Background: Disabled artists have been trying to ensure their right to participate in the arts and often face barriers that can affect their quality of life and consequently health. Multiple art forms have been used in the occupational therapy practice as interventions seeking diverse outcomes. However, not many studies can be found describing the lived experience of disabled persons in the arts whether therapeutically, leisurely, or professionally.

Methods: Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis is the framework selected to elucidate the lived experience of disabled persons in the arts. The data used was collected from Instagram posts of five participants, chosen purposively. The data was analyzed following the IPA guidelines. Four themes emerged from the analysis: the disabled body (subthemes: feelings and coping strategies; body image; different and unwanted body), the disabled experience and narratives, the disabled representation, and the disabled in an ableist context.

Conclusion: The lived experiences of the participants elucidated occupational injustices that were faced as disabled artists. It showed how art as an occupation could be used in favor of a more equitable and just world and promote social changes. It emphasizes how important it is to understand their clients' context through their voices and understand their needs supports clients in whichever occupation they give meaning and want to engage. It also highlights the need for a constant auto-reflection towards our assumptions as occupational therapists.

Keywords: Disabled artists, disabilities representation, ableism, body image, occupational justice, disabled narrative

Sperl Lisa (June 2022)

Translation and Cross-Cultural Adaptation of the COVID-19 Yorkshire Rehabilitation Screening Tool (Self-reported version) into German (Austria)

A cross-sectional study with cognitive interviewing

Background: Occupational therapists have already proven to be essential members of COVID-19 rehabilitation teams. Yet, the standard of care they and other health professionals provide for people with persistent symptoms (post/long-COVID-19) is far from established. The aim of this study is to create a German (Austrian) version of the COVID-19 Yorkshire Rehabilitation Screening Tool (C19-YRS), which has already proven its usefulness in managing post/long-COVID-19. This is intended to support the establishment of standardized care in Austria, which will then be delivered by a multi-professional team including occupational therapy.

Methods: This cross-sectional study involved the translation and cross-cultural adaptation of the C19-YRS into German (Austria) and the evaluation of its face validity. The use of cognitive interviewing methods ensured that the content of items was comprehensible. The framework method, a matrix-based approach to managing qualitative data, guided the data analysis.

Findings: After producing a preliminary version of the C19-YRS, twenty-six individuals participated in cognitive interviews (January 2022 to March 2022). Participants were still suffering from persistent symptoms at this time (14 women [53.8%]). They indicated comprehension problems with individual questions, but stated that the C19-YRS was practicable and face validity was rated as good. After incorporating both their and peer feedback, a final version was created.

Conclusion: This study resulted in a German (Austria) version of the C19-YRS. It is expected to support establishment of standardized care in Austria, provided by occupational therapists and other health professionals. However, psychometric properties need further investigation before its implementation in practice and research.

Keywords: long-covid, post-covid-syndrome, long-term consequences, post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 (PASC), occupational therapy, assessment

Krämer Diana (March 2022)

Meaning in Survival: The impact of childhood sexual abuse on engagement in meaningful occupations - A narrative study

Background: Survivors of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) are dealing with severe consequences for life. The adverse effects of CSA, such as dissociations, anxieties, or flashbacks, have been researched from the perspectives of various disciplines within the Humanities. However, in occupational science, focusing on analysing meaningful occupations, only a little research has been done on this topic. Engagement in meaningful occupations is the core concern of occupational therapy treatment and the object of this research.

Method: Within this specific framework, this study uses a narrative approach to examine how CSA impacts the engagement in meaningful occupations of three German women between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five who experienced childhood sexual abuse.

Results: What becomes visible in their representation from childhood to this day is the enduring influence of CSA on their engagement and the enormous importance of occupations for coping with the abuse and developing strategies of survival and self-care.

Keywords: Childhood sexual abuse (CSA); occupational perspective, occupational science; engaging in meaningful occupations, narrative

Schmidt Theresa (Feb 2022)

Striving for connectedness when living apart

A case study of a couple's shared occupational engagement after one partner with cognitive impairment has moved to a nursing home

Background: Engaging in occupations with others promotes a feeling of connectedness. This applies to elderly couples affected by dementia whose occupations become increasingly intertwined. Most persons with dementia move to a long-term care institution as the disease progresses. From a transactional perspective, occupations are inherently connected with the context and might change when partners live apart from each other. This study aimed to understand changes in one couple's shared occupational engagement after the partner with cognitive impairment had moved to a nursing home.

Method: Employing a narrative methodology, data was generated through open interviews, an observation of the couple going for a walk as well as photo-elicitation and analysed through narrative analysis.

Findings: The couple's story was organised around the plot "striving for connectedness when living apart". The findings revealed some continuity in the couple's shared occupational engagement post transition, it was important for them to remain connected. Joining nursing home group activities together helped them to cope with the challenging transition. Although the wife now lived alone, she seemed to hold on to her husband's presence at home through occupations. The covid-19 restrictions limited their possibilities for shared occupational engagement in the facility.

Conclusion: Inviting spouses of new residents with cognitive impairment to nursing home group activities might support couples to cope with the care transition. Further research on shared occupational engagement in elderly couples who live apart is needed.

Keywords: Occupational engagement, cognitive impairment, long-term care, transition, couple, narrative

Kemperman Chris (Jan 2022)

Elements of Occupational Therapy Practice in Supported Housing in the Netherlands

A nominal group technique study

Background: Persons with severe mental illness (SMI) are supported by sheltered- and supported housing organisations (SH) to manage activities of daily life. Only few occupational therapists in the Netherlands currently work in this area of practice. There is limited knowledge on what occupational therapists do in SH, which is a barrier to guide evidence-based decision making.

Aim: This study aims to obtain consensus from a group of occupational therapists working in mental health on what essential elements are in occupational therapy practice in a SH setting.

Material and methods: Nine practitioners participated in a three-hour nominal group technique (NGT) meeting, which is a well established and highly structured consensus method. Four stages were conducted: (1) silent generation of ideas, (2) round robin, (3) discussion and (4) voting and ranking. The meeting was recorded and transcribed verbatim to provide detail on the NGT-process.

Results: Out of 55 elements, a total of 12 achieved consensus, of which occupational performance analysis received the highest score. Other elements mostly discussed by the participants were: involve needs of service user and key support worker, compensatory strategy training and recovery oriented approach.

Conclusions and Significance: Future research is needed to establish evidence-based occupational therapy practice in supported housing for persons with SMI. Compensatory strategy training principles are used in the Cognitive Adaptation Training intervention (CAT), therefore CAT may be applicable for occupational therapists working in SH. The use of recovery oriented approach in supported housing fits the paradigm of occupational therapy.

Keywords: Occupational therapy, supported housing, severe mental illness, nominal group technique

Waldby Lucy (Nov 2021)

The parent experience of occupational balance and neuroprotective developmental care during their child's infancy: An interpretive description study

Introduction: This study explores how Australian parents experience occupational balance during their child's infancy when using neuroprotective developmental care (NDC).

Methods: A qualitative, interpretive description methodology was employed for the study. Data was collected using one-to-one, semi-structured interviews with ten caregivers who had accessed NDC resources (book or online resources) or services (appointment with clinician or shared medical appointment with clinician and other caregivers) in Australia within the first year of their child's life. Combined inductive and deductive thematic analysis was used to analyse the data with a theoretical focus on occupational balance, supported by NVIVO 12 software for data management.

Findings: Thematic analysis of the data revealed three primary themes outlining the experience of parents using neuroprotective developmental care and how they developed occupational balance as new parents: (1) Managing initial experiences of occupational disruption - 'I think my baby is broken', (2) Finding new patterns of daily occupation - 'Experiment with what works for your family', (3) Supporting occupational variation and meaningful engagement - 'I am not just a mum'.

Conclusion: Findings contribute to occupational therapy and occupational science knowledge as the first study outlining occupational balance for parents of infants. Results indicate that occupational balance is supported through engagement in care practices that align with the mothers' values and provide autonomy in the pattern of engagement. NDC care practices appear to support this experience through enabling mothers to orchestrate theirs and their family's day based on practices that align with their values.

Keywords: interpretive description, occupational balance, infant, neuroprotective developmental care

Poget Noémie (Nov 2021)

Supporting school inclusion with interprofessionalism

The collaboration between occupational therapists and teachers during the implementation of technology as an assistive device.

Background: Children experiencing handwriting or reading difficulties, in Switzerland, might be suggested to use technology as an assistive device to facilitate school tasks. The implementation of such devices has been addressed to occupational therapists for many years. However, indications are, that collaboration with teachers is necessary for implementing the device in school.

Purpose: This explorative study addresses the research question how occupational therapists and teachers collaborate to support the implementation of computers as an assistive device in Swiss mainstream schools? This research aims to identify facets that surrounds the collaboration of those professionals during this project.

Methods: This research applied a qualitative method. Focus group interviews of teachers and occupational therapists were conducted. There was no ethical approval needed as the participants are professionals and all sensitive information was coded. The analysis and theme were coded with the software Atlas, where 4 themes and 7 sub-themes emerged from the results.

Findings demonstrates great disparities within the state participants. Lack of harmonization creates gaps in the learning equality for children in need of technology as an assistive device in Swiss mainstream class.

In **conclusion**, analysis identify a tentative theory that the participants, with experience with technology as assistive devices, saw a collaboration, specified from a regional viewpoint, as important to enable equal opportunity.

Keywords: Interprofessionalism, pediatrics occupational therapy, assistive technology, education.

König Simon (Nov 2021)

Professional reasoning in forensic occupational therapy: extending the boundaries with creative thinking

Background: Professional reasoning has been acknowledged as main part of occupational therapy. In challenging contexts like forensic care professional reasoning has not been acknowledged with the same importance. The aim of this qualitative study was to explore how occupational therapists reasoning in such a special context and what demands and challenges occupational therapists face while doing so.

Methods: Six occupational therapy practitioners working in forensics participated in this study. The sampling method was purposeful and data collection was conducted using mini focus groups. All the focus groups were recorded and transcribed. The data was analyzed by the content structuring content analysis method.

Results: Four main themes for the reasoning process could be found.

- 1) building a base for therapy
- 2) intensifying the clients' image by shared occupation
- 3) developing a perspective within boundaries
- 4) Using creativity to expand the boundaries

The themes included all defined forms of professional reasoning. The additional form of situational reasoning was needed in order to apply professional reasoning to the forensic context.

Conclusion: In this study challenges and demands to professional reasoning of occupational therapists working in forensics were explored clearly. The reasoning process in forensics was elaborated and brought in relation to situational reasoning. The found challenges are present in other studies regarding occupational therapy in the forensic setting. The connections and interdependencies in the reasoning process and the systematic usage of situational reasoning requires more extensive qualitative and quantitative research.

Keywords: Occupational therapy, professional reasoning, Forensics, Qualitative research.

Hollinger Tanja (Nov 2021)

How occupational therapists in Switzerland experienced their process of professional identity formation and made sense of their professional identity: An interpretative phenomenological analysis

“to be an occupational therapist is fantastic”

Introduction: Worldwide, the phenomenon of professional identity among occupational therapists has not been clearly defined. The literature shows a poor understanding of the professional roles of occupational therapists, making it difficult to clarify professional identity, separating it from the existing associations of the professional group. However, the need to establish some cohesion and identity within the profession of occupational therapy has long been recognized. Professional identity is seen as an important cognitive mechanism affecting professionals’ attitudes and behaviour in work settings and beyond. Therefore, the aim of this study is to explore the process and understand the lived experience of professional identity among occupational therapists in Switzerland.

Method: The data was collected through six semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions with occupational therapists in Switzerland. An interpretative phenomenological analysis method was used to analyse the gathered data within a hermeneutic circle analysis.

Results: The data revealed five patterns: (1) education as the start of professional growth; (2) interaction of professional and personal identity; (3) strengths and challenging factors for professional identity; (4) noticeable feeling of external pressure; and (5) defining and evaluation the occupational therapy profession.

Conclusion: A good formed professional identity, which is influenced by a variety of factors and starts their formation and strengthening during the occupational therapy education, prevents from misleading definitions of the identity itself and is helping to avert an unfulfilled need of occupational therapists in Switzerland by staying in the profession.

Keywords: professional identity, Switzerland, occupational therapy

Caillet Bastien (Nov 2021)

Perceived Occupational Gaps in Individuals With Stroke Undergoing Rehabilitation in Hospital

Preliminary Results of an Observational Longitudinal Study

Purpose: In rehabilitation hospitals, stroke inpatients exhibit a particularly high level of sedentary behaviour, express a sense of boredom, and encounter a lack of opportunities for meaningful occupations. This study aimed to describe and compare occupational gaps, defined as the discrepancy between what individuals want to do and what they actually do, in the context of the hospital and after discharge.

Methods: In this observational longitudinal study, data was collected by means of the Occupational Gaps Questionnaire – Swiss French version. The questionnaire was completed during the participants' last week in hospital and again four weeks after discharge.

Results: This paper displays preliminary results of an ongoing research project, based on a smaller sample ($n = 26$). The overall level of occupational gaps remained similar before and after discharge (respectively, $Mdn = 7$; $IQR = 3-12.25$ and $Mdn = 7$; $IQR = 2.75-10$), despite a lower level of performance among inpatients (respectively, $Mdn = 7$; $IQR = 5-10.25$ and $Mdn = 11.5$; $IQR = 8-17$), as fewer occupations were desired while in hospital (respectively, $Mdn = 15.5$; $IQR = 11.5-19.75$ and $Mdn = 19$; $IQR = 14.75-23$). However, the findings revealed gaps were more frequent among inpatients with regards to participating in activities with immediate family, having a hobby, reading newspapers, news, or magazines, shopping, and transporting oneself.

Conclusions: Preliminary results of this study indicate trends in the perception of occupational gaps while in hospital.

Keywords: Occupational gaps; occupational performance; hospital; stroke; rehabilitation.

Siqueira Layara (Sept 2021)

“We aim for social transformation”: Experiences of social occupational therapists in Brazil

Background: Recently, a call to embrace a critical and transformative approach in occupational therapy and occupational science has been raised. In Brazil, social occupational therapy professionals, grounded in critical and ethical-political standpoints have been working with groups and populations to enable justice and rights.

Purpose: In order to contribute to the recent discussions about transformative practices in occupational science and occupational therapy, this study aims to better understand critical and key aspects of social occupational therapy through professional experiences of social occupational therapists in Brazil.

Methods: This study utilized Polkinghorne's interpretive, narrative approach to interview 5 social occupational therapists from different regions and working settings in Brazil.

Findings: The narratives of the participants revealed how social occupational therapists have their focus centered on the social dimension, while embracing a critical perspective towards dominant epistemologies as well as social structures, and the socio-political context of the communities and groups in situation of vulnerability. These findings can facilitate an intercultural dialogue with other frameworks that also advocate for a social transformative work and collective action.

Keywords: social occupational therapy, social transformation, Southern, critical

Mellerick Niamh (Sept 2021)

How autistic children with SLD are taught to write in the UK. A Cross-Sectional Survey Design Study

Purpose: Occupational therapists are both commonly referred to for handwriting concerns, and commonly working with autistic children. However, there is a dearth of knowledge on how autistic children with severe learning difficulty (SLD) in the United Kingdom are taught to write, and how this evolves as the child ages. This study aimed to describe how this population is taught how to write, and how this differs across age groups.

Methods: In this quantitative descriptive study, data was collected from teachers (n=93) of autistic children with SLD, by means of an online survey. Responses were analysed through descriptive statistics and content analysis. Inferential statistics were used to describe differences between age groups.

Results: Autistic children with SLD were reported as being taught to write using similar methods to those used to teach typically developing children. Nearly all teachers reported collaborating with an occupational therapist regarding handwriting. Teachers reported similar focus, methods, and desired outcomes of instruction across all age groups. Learning to write for autistic children with SLD appeared to be a passive experience that is primarily teacher-led.

Conclusions: There is a need for occupational therapists and teachers to reflect on this population's experience of learning to write, and its purpose and meaning. Caution must be taken in generalising handwriting interventions that are established as effective for populations with different communication and cognition needs to autistic children with SLD.

Keywords: Autism; severe learning difficulty; handwriting; teacher; occupational therapy.

Haan Michael (Sept 2021)

The experience of occupational transitions among Western retiree migrants living in Thailand

A Grounded Theory study on co-occurring transitions from an occupational perspective

Background: Retirement is well described as a major occupational transition, as a main long-term occupation has ended. Ageing societies, globalisation and the expectations of retirement, increase retirement migration. Migration has a multidimensional effect on occupation. Little is known how migration affects how people manage a transition from an occupational perspective into a sufficient pattern of retirement. This project aims to add to the knowledge on occupational transitions and how occupational transitions are experienced once they are co-occurring when Western retirees migrate to Thailand.

Methods: A qualitative design with grounded theory methodology was used. Data is collected through in-depth interviews in Thailand with 21 Western retiree migrants. The interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim and analysed according to the grounded theory strategies.

Findings: This study presents the experiences of Western retirees who migrated to Thailand for their retirement from an occupational perspective. This co-occurring transition of retirement and migration is a dynamic process where retirees went back and forth between both transitions. The process of the co-occurring transition is described in four phases: 1) an initial period where the transition of migration is dominant, 2) becoming established and connected, 3) establishing a plateau in the transition, 4) and thoughts on the future. In the process, the transition of migration is more dominant. Once this transition reaches a plateau of establishment, the transition of retirement is more dominant.

Conclusion: Transitions of migration and retirement are intertwined when co-occurring in a process, where the ascendance alternates until both transitions reached a plateau of establishment over time.

Keywords: Occupational Engagement, Retirement, Migration, Occupational Transitions

Van der Veen, Robert (Aug 2021)

The Experience of Sleep: A Descriptive Phenomenological Study Among Dutch Adults

Purpose: Sleep is a frequent topic in current occupational therapy and science literature, indicating an increasing interest in this occupation. However, the literature demonstrates a lack of understanding of the experience of sleep. In this study, the researcher sought to explore the lived experience of the phenomenon of sleep among a sample of adults living in the Netherlands.

Methods: The researcher used a qualitative research design following descriptive phenomenology methodology. He collected data via semi-structured interviews with 13 adults. He transcribed interviews verbatim and analyzed them following descriptive phenomenology.

Findings: The researcher identified five themes describing the experience of sleep as an occupation: 1) sleep as an intertwined experience, 2) dreaming: a party or a total nightmare?, 3) feeling safe and secure, and 4) sleep as a sense of transition.

Conclusion: In this study, sleep is described as a personal experience on physical, mental, and emotional levels under unique temporal, spatial, and sociocultural conditions. A core element of sleep is making a transition between 2 days, during which recovery and processing occur. Fundamental to this occupation are the feelings of safety and security.

Keywords: Sleep, descriptive phenomenology, lived experience, occupational therapy, occupational science

Schulz Nadine (Aug 2021)

Occupational performance and health-related quality of life in people with chronic musculoskeletal pain

A quantitative analysis of the relationship between self-rated and observed occupational performance and health-related quality of life among people living with chronic musculoskeletal pain

Background: Around the world, people with chronic musculoskeletal pain experience limitations in all areas of activities of daily living and have a poor health-related quality of Life. Although literature states the impact of chronic musculoskeletal pain on occupational performance and health-related quality of life, there is no evidence that the variables relate to each other. This is therefore the first study investigating the underlying relationship between occupational performance and health-related quality of life.

Methods: This secondary analysis was a cross-sectional, correlational design, using data from the chronic pain registry of registry of the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology of the University Hospital of Bern. 399 participants were included in the study and analysed by performing eight Spearman's rank correlation. In order to measure occupational performance, the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (observed occupational performance) and the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (self-rated occupational performance) were used. To assess health-related quality of life, the German version of the generic measurement EQ-5D-5L was chosen.

Results: In all eight correlations coefficients, occupational performance positively correlated with health-related quality of life and were found to be significant, representing a small to medium effect.

Conclusion: The study shows the evidence that occupational performance positively relates to health-related quality of life in people living with CMP and therefore adds new knowledge to occupational therapy theory. However, further research is needed in order to get deeper insights into the relationship, for example, to investigate the relationship longitudinally.

Keywords: chronic musculoskeletal pain, occupational performance, health-related quality of life, relationship

Röck Vanessa (Aug 2021)

Meaning-Making whilst Engaging in Everyday Occupations during Settlement as a Refugee in Austria

Background: Displaced people encounter difficulties and changes in their everyday occupations. Engaging in occupations serves as source for meaning, and previous research lacks focus on this process when settling down in a new country as a refugee. A multi-layered and in-depth understanding of how meaning is negotiated through this engagement is the object of this study.

Methods: This study applied a narrative-in-action approach to access the meaning-making process from three individuals through participatory observations and interviews. Narrative analysis was applied by identifying significant events, testing, and interpreting plots, as well as linking them to theoretical resources.

Findings: An overarching narrative of the transactional process of connectedness and freedom through occupation was identified based on three individual stories.

Conclusion: A transactional perspective assists in the further understanding of meaning-making processes when engaging in everyday occupation. Implications for occupational therapy and policy making should be based on the potential of engagement in occupation to make meaning through experiencing agency and connectedness.

Keywords: Narrative-in-action, occupational engagement, forced displacement, transactional perspective

Müllenmeister Christina

(Aug 2021)

Doing Activism. An occupational perspective on activism as a means for political expression and social transformation among civilians living in Germany

Background: As a global and situated phenomenon in Europe, activism as an individual and collective activity has been used to address power structures proactively. The doing behind activism and its shaping of everyday life have scarcely been explored from an occupational perspective. Understanding activism as a product of individuals' doing contributes to recent debates about the political nature of occupation and occupation-based social transformation processes.

Methods: This study adopted a phenomenological approach to better understand the meaning of day-to-day activities related to 'doing activism' of six German activists. Data was collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews. An interpretative phenomenological analysis was used to uncover and understand the meaning of the phenomenon of 'doing activism'.

Findings: The findings illustrate how 'doing' activism influence participants' everyday life in diverse ways that creates tensions with other people's priorities while promoting collective occupations for social transformation.

Conclusion: The findings reveal the importance of further exploration of non-traditional occupations related to political expression. They illuminate the potential of occupation for individual and society's social transformation and the situated nature of occupation within diverse socio-political contexts. The study argues that occupations can be a site for resistance, increasing collective awareness, and social responsibility.

Keywords: Activism, social transformation, occupational consciousness, collective occupation

Linimayr Johanna (Aug 2021)

Research circles on enabling peer play between autistic and non-autistic children – A qualitative study exploring teachers’ perspectives on barriers and facilitators in Austrian inclusive kindergarten groups

Background: In early childhood, engagement in peer play is essential for general development and social inclusion but found to be more difficult for autistic children. Their specific needs are hardly met within mainstream education. In Austria, specific practical challenges in early education are not captured yet. A transactional perspective is proposed to explore teachers’ perspectives on the barriers and facilitators of enabling peer play between autistic and non-autistic children in inclusive kindergarten groups.

Method: This qualitative study used research circles methodology. Data were collected at four research circle meetings involving 8 kindergarten teachers from an urban area in Austria. Discussions were audio-taped, transcribed verbatim and analysed following qualitative content analysis strategies.

Findings: Participants described peer play between autistic and non-autistic children as complex, influenced by several hindering and facilitating factors. Analysis of the data led to five categories: (1) Teacher involvement & attitudes, (2) Peer behaviours & abilities, (3) Specific autistic needs & behaviour management, (4) Contextual influences, and (5) Parent involvement & collaboration.

Conclusion: This is the first study that explored teachers’ perspectives on enabling peer play between autistic and non-autistic children in Austrian inclusive kindergarten groups. Barriers and facilitators could be identified in five different areas incorporating teachers’ practical strategies. Kindergarten-based occupational therapy could support teachers and inclusive kindergarten institutions in enabling and improving peer play situations between children with diverse abilities

Keywords: peer play, autism, teacher perspective, research circles, transactional perspective, kindergarten-based occupational therapy

Habermehl Marion (Aug 2021)

Cultural Safety in Occupational Therapy: Considerations for Practice with Families in Poverty

Background: Cultural safety originated as a concept in health care practice within indigenous communities and brings attention to the quality of personal interactions in health services. Ensuring equitable partnerships where power disparities have historically existed is a goal of culturally safe practice. The occupational therapist-client relationship is one such partnership. The profession's commitment to occupational justice provides a springboard for extending beyond cultural competency to embrace the more actively anti-oppressive practice of cultural safety.

Purpose: The aim of this study is to determine pediatric occupational therapists' considerations to practicing culturally safe occupational therapy with families experiencing persistent poverty in Canada.

Method: The nominal group technique was utilized to identify and rank therapists' considerations to practicing cultural safety. Five participants, recruited by purposive sampling, joined the facilitator and the researcher in an online focus group.

Findings: Four areas to consider for culturally safe occupational therapy practice with families in poverty are: the family's context, the occupational therapist's context, the occupational therapist - family relationship, and systemic constraints. These broad themes are further unpacked into specific areas.

Conclusion: Culturally safe occupational therapy practice with children and families living in poverty involves respecting the family's experience; taking accountability for one's limitations; centering the relationship as a power-sharing setting; and addressing upstream structural causes of oppression.

Keywords: cultural safety, families in poverty, occupational therapy, power disparity, nominal group technique

Gätz Natalie (Aug 2021)

The Forbidden Fruit. An exploration of meaning construction of tobacco smoking of people living with Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease in Germany from an occupational science perspective

Background: Smoking is an avoidable risk factor for diseases, impacting socio-economic and health care systems globally. The meanings, purposes, and underlying values related to continued smoking after a COPD diagnosis have not yet been sufficiently explored from an occupational perspective. Meanings related to occupations that are yet underexplored, health-compromising, deviant, or illegal should be investigated to gain an understanding of why people (continue to) engage in them.

Methods: An Interpretative phenomenology analysis (IPA) methodology was chosen to enable an in-depth exploration of the lived experience of people living with COPD who continue to smoke. Semi-structured interviews were conducted, transcribed, and analysed.

Findings: Three themes emerged from the data: Set in Stone – Impacting Daily Life, The Forbidden Fruit – Vices and Virtues, and To Wear Sackcloth and Ashes – Social Dynamics. The experiences the participants in this study shared illustrate how the smoking habit is part of the individual daily structure. It contributes to the sense of identity and it both influences and is influenced by the social environment.

Conclusion: Smoking is a meaningful occupation to the participants of this study, especially valued for structuring the day, the familiar habit, supporting subjective emotional, physical, and cognitive well-being, and being an important part of the identity. The findings of this study contribute to the current discussion of the concept of the dark side of occupations by supporting the claim that occupations do not need to be health-promoting or positive for people to find meaning in them.

Key Words: Meaning Construction, Dark Side of Occupation, Smoking, COPD

Favre Magaly (Aug 2021)

Perspectives on the Clinical Reasoning of Occupational Therapists Working with Patients Suffering from Complex Regional Pain Syndrome in Switzerland

Background: Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) is a painful complication that can affect different parts of the body. Like CRPS symptoms, there are different ways to treat it in occupational therapy. It is therefore of interest to know the clinical reasoning of occupational therapists (OTs) working with this group of patients to find out which techniques and means of treatment are relevant.

Methods: The narrative methodology was chosen to carry out the data collection and analysis. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with six occupational therapists.

Results: OTs reported that the basis of their reasoning was mainly based on their practical experience, use of guidelines, medical history, and prioritisation. They presented the key elements of interventions and the importance of working as a team with the patient.

Conclusion: Occupational therapists' perspectives on clinical reasoning demonstrate practical elements that can be used by or inspire other OTs in the treatment of patients with upper limb CRPS.

Keywords: CRPS, Occupational Therapist, Clinical Reasoning, Narratives.

Caspa Brigida Carolina (Aug 2021)

The use of serious games in occupational therapy. A European survey

Background: Serious games (SG) are virtual reality, simulations, tablet or computer games used for educational or therapeutic purposes beyond pure entertainment. Evidence on the use of SG in occupational therapy has been increasing however, it is still limited to specific geographic and practice areas.

Aim: This study proposed to explore the current knowledge, practices and applications of SG by occupational therapists in Europe, and to identify factors that hinder or support their implementation.

Methods: Following a cross-sectional study design, an online survey was shared with country associations, research networks, and professional contacts. A total of 135 questionnaires from 26 countries (mostly southern European) were analysed using descriptive statistics, and associations assessed using a chi-square test of independence.

Results: Results indicated significant differences between knowledge of SG, technology used and geographic or practice areas. Commercial and custom-made games were used in practice for the purposes of training, developing skills, and increasing motivation. Different areas of occupation were targeted when using gaming technology, and many therapists used SG in the context of individual intervention. Concerns regarding financial cost and age appropriateness of SG were raised. However, responses suggested that formal training and the development of SG for occupational therapy, by occupational therapists, could present key factors in their successful implementation.

Conclusion: SG present an emerging technology in occupational therapy practice areas such as paediatrics, neurorehabilitation, and gerontology, however further research and clarification of terminology are required.

Keywords: occupational therapy, serious games, digital games, gaming technology

Alvarez Cabezas, Marlene (Aug 2021)

Smartphone Use, Smartphone Addiction & Occupational Balance among University Students in Switzerland

An exploratory correlational study about self-reported smartphone use, smartphone addiction and occupational balance among University students in Switzerland

Background: Smartphone use is increasing worldwide. Especially for young people, smartphones have become an important part of daily life. However, there are raising concerns regarding adverse effects of excessive or addictive engagement in smartphone use and relationships to the conduct of daily activities in a balanced way are unclear. Yet, occupational balance is considered to be of importance for health. However, smartphone use and smartphone addiction among students has not been explored from an occupational perspective

Objective: The study aimed to describe and explore smartphone use, smartphone addiction and occupational balance among University students in Switzerland.

Methods: A sample of n=193 students participated in the study and administered an online survey about smartphone use, smartphone addiction evaluated by the Smartphone Addiction Scale- Short Version (SAS-SA) and occupational balance evaluated by the Occupational Balance Questionnaire (OB-Quest). Data were explored with non-parametric statistics, using a nonexperimental, cross-sectional, explorative correlational design.

Results: Smartphone use and smartphone addiction were described. A high risk of smartphone addiction occurred among 16.06% of all participants. Statistical significant correlations with small to moderate effect sizes were found between smartphone use, smartphone addiction, occupational balance items and satisfaction with smartphone use.

Conclusion: The findings suggest that smartphone use, smartphone addiction and occupational balance are multifaceted constructs and suggest, that there are different types and qualities of smartphone use. Further studies with objective measures are needed to determine the causality of the identified correlations.

Keywords: Smartphone Use, Smartphone Addiction, Occupational Balance, Smartphone-Addiction Scale (SAS-SV), Occupational Balance Questionnaire (OB-Quest)

ten Rouwelaar Bianca

Stress among young professionals in occupational therapy: Change your mindset! A grounded theory study

Background: In health care professions, young professionals in the age of 25 to 35 experience major stress and burnout. Stress reduction has not been completely investigated and are often seen as individual based. The aim of this study is to identify insights about how young professionals in occupational therapy handle stress experience in their everyday life.

Method: in this thesis the qualitative method grounded theory is used. Eight semi-structured interviews were held with young professionals in occupational therapy. All participants are between the age from 25 till 35, working as occupational therapist and experience stress which influences their daily life.

Results: The core category 'change your mindset' is identified. Change your mindset is divided into three categories: create awareness of stress, balancing out the possibilities and keeping the positive flow. Participants state that creating awareness is about recognition of body signals and finding causes of the stress experience. After this awareness the participants were able to balance out their possibilities by making the right choices and create overview. Lastly, the positive flow will maintain this balance and the experience of stress reduces back to a no stress experience.

Conclusion: Young professionals in occupational therapy can handle their experience of stress by changing their mindset. Their mindset can be changed by being aware of stress, balancing out the possibilities and keeping the positive flow. This ongoing process will eventually lead to a balance in the everyday life of young professionals in occupational therapy.

Keywords: Stress, young professional, occupational therapy, mindset, awareness

Nogueira Joana (Feb. 2021)

Portuguese Occupational Therapists and research. A cross-sectional study about their perceptions, attitudes, intentions and engagement

Background: EBP is a process that includes systematic search and critical appraisal of the most relevant evidence, combining one's own clinical expertise with clients' values. Research utilization is a very important concept when adopting an EBP approach. Thus, exists a huge gap between research and practice. To better understand the reasons behind this gap, the aim of the study is to explore Portuguese OT's perceptions and attitudes towards research activities, as well as present engagement and future plans within research.

Method: A quantitative cross-sectional design was undertaken to answer the research question, and a questionnaire originally created by Eckerling, Bergaman and Bart-al (1988) was used as data collection method.

Results: Portuguese OT's have a positive perspective and attitude in relation to the use of research activities in a daily practice. The activity that OT's showed to have more difficulty in engaging and consequently they least liked was "initiate research". High workload, lack of time and lack of incentive from the employer were the most mentioned barriers for participation in research activities.

Conclusion: OT's have positive attitudes towards research-related activities and recognized the importance and need of research for the development of the profession, despite identified barriers. From these results emerge the need for small changes to be made so that research in Portugal increases and becomes more valued.

Keywords: occupational therapy, evidence-based practice, research utilization, research activities, attitudes, perceptions

Hofstra Marloes (Feb 2021)

Psychometric evaluation of the 'Return To Work Questionnaire' (RTWQ) amongst patients surgically treated for Trigger Finger, Dupuytren's contracture, and CMC-1 Osteoarthritis

Background: Work is an essential part of our lives, an occupational therapist (OT) needs to be able to objectively measure a patient's return to work after hand surgery. For this, an evidence-based questionnaire is required as an appropriate instrument to guide OT. This study aimed to explore the psychometric properties of the RTWQ among patients after hand surgery for Dupuytren's contracture, Trigger Fingers, or CMC-1 osteoarthritis by addressing the internal consistency and construct validity.

Methods: The RTWQ was sent to patients of Xpert Clinic who underwent surgical treatment and occupational therapy for Dupuytren's disease, Trigger Fingers, or CMC-1 Osteoarthritis. The internal consistency was statistically analysed by using Cronbach's Alpha. For construct validity, hypotheses were analysed by using Pearson's r , Spearman's r , one-way t-test, and ANOVA. In this study, the Michigan Hand outcomes Questionnaire (MHQ) item 'work' was used as the golden standard.

Results: The Cronbach Alpha of the RTWQ does not score higher than a questionable interpretation, in some diagnostic groups, even poor. All seven hypotheses were partially or fully conformed.

Conclusion: As it stands, the RTWQ should not be used in OT practice, if the questionnaire is revised and re-examined for validity and the other four psychometric property domains are researched and validated, only then the RTWQ can supplement the existing validated questionnaires and support the re-entry phase in patients who have undergone a TFR, Weilby procedure, or a PF.

Keywords: Hand injuries, Employment, Return To Work Questionnaire (RTWQ), psychometric study

Hovhannisyan Gayane

(October 2020)

Effects of “Noomee” mobile application on development of self-care activities of children with autism spectrum disorder

Objective: To investigate the impact of "Noomee" mobile application on development of self-care activities of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Method: Quantitative research was completed with pre-test and post-test design to better understand and determine effects resulting from the intervention. Participants of the study are: children with autism spectrum disorder (n=42) and their parents (n=42). Parents were interviewed via the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure to assess their child’s perceived ability and independence to perform various self-care activities. The children were observed for the level of assistance needed to participate in self-care activities. These were assessed before and after the intervention with the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure. The period of using the “Noomee” mobile application was one month.

Results: The study showed that using the “Noomee” mobile application had a positive effect on participation in self-care activities. Children with higher functioning had a greater impact on participation, than children with lower functioning.

Conclusion: Using the mobile application as a therapeutic tool for children with autism spectrum has a positive effect. Occupational therapists could potentially improve the quality of life of children and their parents, by continuing the therapists’ work at home with the help of new technologies.

Keywords: Autism Spectrum disorder /ASD/, activities of daily living /ADL/, mobile application & education, participation, self-care.

Saunders Elaine

(October 2020)

'What is the consensus of opinion among Occupational Therapists working in Perinatal Mental Health, about what assessments and interventions should be the focus of occupational therapy in this practice area?: working towards best practice'

Perinatal Mental Health Occupational Therapy an Emerging Area of Clinical Practice

Aim: This study sought to gain a consensus of opinion among occupational therapists working in perinatal mental health on what assessments and interventions should be the focus of occupational therapy.

Method: A quantitative survey design utilising the Delphi Survey Technique was undertaken to answer the research question. The Delphi Survey Technique is described by McKenna (1994) as a multi-staged survey which attempts to achieve a consensus of opinion on an important issue.

Results: The results of this study conclude that consensus of opinion among occupational therapists working in perinatal mental health, there are no standardised assessments that capture the needs of mother and baby during the perinatal period. Occupational focused interventions focusing on activities of daily living/baby care, co-occupations, supporting mothers to develop skills to enhance their baby's emotional and physical development as well as motivation for occupation and establishing effective routines.

Conclusion: Further research is needed to establish evidenced based practice in perinatal mental health occupational therapy, in order to demonstrate the value occupational therapy can contribute to enable women to fulfil their mother role, which enhances outcomes for their babies.

Keywords: Perinatal mental health; occupational therapy; interventions

Longrée Anna

(October 2020)

No strings attached. The occupation of travelling in retirement

In the context of demographic change, the needs of the older population must be taken into account in order to maintain their health and well-being for as long as possible. Previously, travelling as an activity with proven positive effects has not been the major focus of occupational therapists and scientists.

In this post-intentional phenomenological study the phenomenon of travelling for older adults who recently retired in Germany or Switzerland was explored.

The results show that travelling is experienced intensified by positive emotions and through the reduction of the obligation work more time can be available and used for travelling. If and how retirees can benefit from these advantages in terms of travel depends on their personal context. Restrictive factors, which mainly come from the social environment, and personal concerns occur also in retirement and lead to the need of adapting travel plans or even prevent travelling.

This means that travelling as a meaningful occupation has the potential to promote an active lifestyle and maintain quality of life, a social network, physical and cognitive functions and well-being, which maintenance should be supported.

Keywords: Leisure Occupations, Travelling, Retirement, Active Ageing, Demographic Change

Dreyer Leanne

(October 2020)

An occupational justice analysis of England's play policy

Background: Play is a human right and central occupation of childhood. England's The Play Strategy (2008) aimed to improve children's equality in play; however, it was abandoned after two years. While policy seeks to remedy injustices, the language within policies can introduce discourse and shape occupational justice, participation, and inclusion. Therefore, this study explored how The Play Strategy (2008) is understood from an occupational justice perspective?

Method: The Play Strategy (2008) was analysed using the six questions of the "What's the Problem Represented to Be?" (Bacchi, 2009) policy-as-discourse methodology in combination with the 2010 Participatory Occupational Justice Framework (Whiteford & Townsend, 2011).

Findings: The Play Strategy (2008) found representations of some occupational injustices in child play in England. Discourse in The Play Strategy (2008) appeared to reflect adult perspectives on childhood and play predominantly valuing it for its developmental outcomes essential for children to become productive adults. A consciousness of the need for greater inclusion within play was strong in the strategy; however, diverse representation of participation, disability, capacity and play spaces was not. Specific play-spaces were promoted as the place for ideal play.

Conclusion: The Play Strategy (2008) was found to raise the consciousness of play in England and to reflect adult perspectives on the form, function and meaning of play. The discourse has the potential to shape the possibilities for play, inclusion, and occupational justice by shaping how adults an general society value and create play opportunities and play-environments for children.

Keywords: Play, children, occupational justice, inclusion

Berger Michelle

(October 2020)

The socio-cultural shaping of mothers' doing, being, becoming and belonging after returning to work

Background and aim: The literature within occupational science has provided an individualistic focus on motherhood that often neglects the complex and multifaceted societal influence on mothers. Therefore, this study aims to examine the influence of socio-cultural ideologies on mothers' doing, being, becoming, and belonging after returning to work within the first 18 months after giving birth.

Method: A narrative approach with an analysis of narrative was used to collect and analyse data from seven mothers who have returned to work.

Findings: The framework of Hitch et al. (2014a, 2014b) was employed to interpret how socio-cultural ideologies shape working mothers' doing, being, becoming, and belonging. The findings are presented through themes that illustrate women's negotiations while becoming a working mother. Three themes are presented: Balancing being a mother and work: The aspect of doing; "I don't want to be seen as 'the mother only'": the aspect of being a mother and belonging at work; and "As a mother you get criticised a lot": the aspect of doing and belonging to society.

Conclusion: This study enriches current understandings of how socio-cultural ideologies pervade the context in which occupations are performed and how working mothers are influenced by them in their doing, being, becoming, and belonging.

Keywords: working mothers, socio-cultural ideologies, doing, being, becoming and belonging

Pinlac-Abad Brenda

(October 2020)

Emigrating overseas and no longer working in your profession: The lived experience of some Filipino occupational therapists.

An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)

Introduction: The global shortage of healthcare professionals necessitated the need to import from other countries. The Philippines, being a job-scarce environment, motivates occupational therapists to seek employment overseas even if it means moving to a foreign place or securing a job lower than what they previously held, a phenomenon called “underemployment.” Studies, specifically on lived experiences of underemployed Occupational therapist in the United Kingdom, were non-existent hence arriving at the research question: How do Filipino OTs who have emigrated overseas but are not working in their profession make sense of their migration experiences.

Method: The sampling method used was purposive sampling which garnered 5 participants that met the inclusion criteria. Data collection was done in four sessions through Phone Interviews. Data gathered were analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis.

Findings: Upon Data Analysis, a total of five themes were identified: 1. Aspirations for Greener Pasture, 2. Underemployment & Underutilization, 3. Devalued & Disappointment, 4. Well-being, 5. The value of coping and resilience

Conclusion: Five themes were found significant and similar to all the participants that greatly affected them as an individual and how they function within society. Aside from that, Occupational Injustice and deprivation is evident and existing conversion programs are of little help in attaining profession-specific roles.

Keywords: Occupation, Occupational Science, Occupational Justice, Underemployment, Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)

Frey Sara

(August 2020)

Occupational performance and the use of coping strategies among people with chronic musculoskeletal pain

A quantitative analysis of the relationship between self-rated and observed occupational performance and the use of coping strategies in people living with chronic musculoskeletal pain

Background: People living with chronic musculoskeletal pain face occupational performance problems in all categories of activities of daily living (ADL). The use of coping strategies has proven to be enhancing individuals' occupational performance after pain rehabilitation. But the underlying relationship was not addressed by the time and therefore is described in the current paper.

Methods: The correlational study was a secondary data analysis, accessing data from the chronic pain registry of the Department of Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergology of the University Hospital of Bern. With a sample of 330 participants, four Spearman's rank correlations were performed. Occupational performance was assessed by the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (evaluating self-rated occupational performance and corresponding satisfaction with) and the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (evaluating observed ADL motor and process abilities), and the use of coping strategies by the Coping Strategies Questionnaire (German version).

Results: Results showed that occupational performance is mostly negatively or not related to the use of coping strategies, whereof only the negative relationship between ADL motor abilities and the use of coping strategies was found to be significant, representing a weak to moderate relation.

Conclusion: Findings revealed an opposite and new perspective on the underlying relation between occupational performance and the use of coping strategies. More research is needed investigating this complex relationship, addressing potential factors such as pain acceptance that may interfere with the relation between occupational performance and the use of coping strategies in people with chronic musculoskeletal pain.

Keywords: Chronic pain, occupational therapy, Assessment of Motor and Process Skills, Canadian Occupational Performance Measure, Coping Strategies Questionnaire

Heim Romana

(August 2020)

“Standing alone” – understanding the self-management of family caregivers of stroke survivors at the time of acute care

Background: Family caregivers play a vital role in the care of stroke survivors but are currently receiving inadequate support. Self-management reflects the idea of supporting patients but also family caregivers after a disease. Previous research concerning self-management of family caregivers of stroke survivors has focused on the time of rehabilitation or after discharged home. However, research has revealed that family caregivers need help developing self-management skills earlier poststroke. Therefore, this research aims to identify and describe how family caregivers of stroke survivors perceive acute care and their development of self-management.

Methods: Eleven family caregivers of stroke survivors participated in individual interviews. Transcripts were analysed using thematic analysis.

Findings: Four themes emerged from the data: (1) being in survival mode, (2) feeling backed up by family and friends, (3) feeling left alone by the treatment team and (4) insisting on information.

Conclusions: This study provides knowledge of family caregivers’ development of self-management skills at the time of acute care. Information-sharing, foundational for developing self-management, is essential and should be supported proactively by health professionals from the beginning. However, during acute care family caregivers are often in survival mode, which may limit their capacity to take in information. Family caregivers’ reduced health and well-being caused by role changes and imbalance of activities begins in acute care. Therefore, occupational therapists with their broad knowledge about this topic should raise awareness among family caregivers from the start to prevent negative influences on health.

Keywords: family caregivers, stroke, self-management, acute care, thematic analysis

Hoedemakers Céline

(August 2020)

*Defining Challenges for Establishing a Client-Centered Working Environment:
a Participatory Action Research. Talking the talk is easier than walking the walk*

Background: Key features of client-centered practice in rehabilitation are the involvement of the client in goal setting and the multidisciplinary collaboration among healthcare professionals. Research has shown that the working environment of healthcare professionals can impede client-centered practice. Obstacles can be various, and no clear solution on how to improve a working environment to be more client-centered can be found in literature. Prior to this study, the stakeholders experienced challenges for implementing a client-centered practice. Their shared willingness for a change was recognized by the researcher, which led up to the initiation of this study.

Methods: This study is based on the participatory action research method. Two occupational therapists and four physical therapists participated in three focus group meetings. Together with the researcher they constitute 'the core team' for this study. The project manager and project lead of the broader visionary project 'Fokus 21', which also includes this study, participated in three advisory board meetings. Data was collected and analyzed by the constant comparative method.

Findings: The first finding comprises the process of creating awareness of client-centered practice among the participants. This is followed by the second finding of how this increased awareness has influenced their current understanding of goal setting. Finally, the core team formulated several vision points for optimizing client-centered practice in their current working environment.

Conclusion: A permissive client-centered working environment which supports multidisciplinary exchanges can increase the awareness of client-centered practice among healthcare professionals. Furthermore, it emerged that multidisciplinary goal setting improves a client-centered practice but needs a client-centered working environment.

Keywords: client-centered practice, client-centered working environment, goal setting, participatory action research, rehabilitation

Kammerer Marly

(August 2020)

Occupational engagement, occupational performance, and occupational wellbeing in Value-Based Health Care. A scoping review on how occupation is addressed in Value-Based Health Care

Introduction: In the Netherlands, there is a continuous growth of healthcare costs. One of the causes of the rising costs, is the increase in non-communicable diseases, impacting people's well-being. In occupational science, occupation is core to wellbeing. The current Dutch healthcare system aims to focus on prevention and wellbeing, and also changes to a new healthcare system, called Value-Based Health Care (VBHC). Therefore, the aim of this study is to investigate how occupation is addressed in VBHC to consider if VBHC could support the Dutch healthcare system to increase prevention and wellbeing.

Method: This scoping review selected sixteen articles. A deductive thematic analysis was conducted on how occupational engagement, occupational performance and occupational wellbeing are addressed in VBHC.

Findings: Twelve articles outlining the theoretical concept of VBHC and four describing the Dutch integration of VBHC. Occupational performance, occupational engagement, and occupational wellbeing appear to be addressed in the theoretical background of VBHC, however this seems to not be as strong in the reported implementation of VBHC in the Netherlands. VBHC may encourage to have a positive lifestyle, as well as support increasing engagement in treatment, and investigates what is relevant for the patient.

Conclusion: Although there is no strong evidence, the findings may indicate that VBHC could support to focus on prevention and wellbeing. Further research could investigate how VBHC may support within (Dutch) primary care for prevention of non-communicable diseases.

Keywords: Value-Based Health Care, occupational engagement, occupational performance, occupational wellbeing, healthcare transition

Blichfeldt (Marchner) Melanie

(August 2020)

Occupational Performance and Prioritised Everyday Occupations for People Living at Home with Advanced Cancer. Living Alone versus Living with Someone

Introduction: People living at home with advanced cancer wish to maintain and preserve domestic life, but they experience several barriers in their occupational performance. There is little knowledge of the barriers experienced by people living alone versus people living with someone.

Objective: To investigate differences in self-perceived occupational performance and prioritisation of problematic everyday occupations among people living at home with advanced cancer, taking living status into consideration.

Method: A cross-sectional study through secondary analysis was undertaken with a sample of 174 participants, who live at home with advanced cancer. The Individually Prioritised Problem Assessment (IPPA) was conducted in the home setting and the reported everyday occupations were categorised according to the IPPA.

Results: In total, 731 problematic everyday occupations were reported, mainly related to the categories of housework, self-care and leisure. Cleaning the floor was reported most frequently by both groups, followed by doing laundry for people living alone and gardening for people living with someone.

Conclusion: People with advanced cancer living alone and living with someone did not seem to differ greatly. People living alone perceived more difficulties in showering/bathing and doing laundry than people living with someone. Moreover, doing laundry was more frequently prioritised by people living alone, whereas home maintenance and social interaction were prioritised more frequently by people living with someone.

Keywords: advanced cancer, living at home, everyday occupation, occupational performance, living alone, living with someone

Morgenthaler Thomas

(August 2020)

Environmental Adjustment Needs of Children with Special Educational Needs in Austrian Mainstream Schools. The Child and Teacher Perspective

Objective: Children with disabilities included in Austrian mainstream schools are provided with special educational support, which aim to create learning environments, that meet the child on an individual level. Little is known about what adjustments children with special educational needs (SEN) in mainstream school classes require in order to promote participation in school occupations. This is the first study in Austria exploring the student-environment fit from self-perceived children's perspective comparing to observed teachers' perspective by using the School Setting Interview.

Method: Twenty-five children (mean age 12.5 ± 1.4) with SEN and twenty-one teachers from six Austrian secondary schools participated in this cross-sectional matched pair study. Participants' ratings were analysed descriptively and statistically. Deductive content analysis used occupational, social and physical environmental dimensions from the Model of Human Occupation to describe reported adjustments from both perspectives.

Results: The perceived student-environment fit differs from school activity to school activity as well as between children and teachers. Three out of 16 school activities showed a statistically significant difference between children and teacher groups. Most adjustments are reported in the occupational environment dimension.

Conclusion: Both children's and teacher's perspectives provide valuable information and should be considered. Children at this age are able to identify needs for adjustments and describe solutions. In order to increase participation in school occupations, children need to be included in decision making when it comes to individual adjustments. The School Setting Interview in its client-centred nature can be used to identify needs for adjustments in the school context.

Key words: participation, environment, special educational needs, children perspective, teacher perspective, mainstream school

Schwab Elisabeth

(August 2020)

Unemployment and its influence on occupational engagement for people with Multiple Sclerosis

Background: Unemployment as an occupational issue has been arousing little awareness within occupational science among people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This study, therefore, investigates the lived experiences of unemployment and their influences on engagement in everyday occupation among people with MS.

Method and Findings: The Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) was chosen to explore, investigate and interpret people with MS's experiences of unemployment. The data was gathered from semi-structured interviews with six unemployed persons diagnosed with MS in Austria. Data analysis revealed three themes: unemployment as an enabler; maintaining occupational engagement within unemployment; unemployment as a step-down. The findings outline unemployment as a potential enabler for occupational engagement while concurrently recognising challenges of unemployment among people with MS.

Conclusion: This study indicates that unemployment and its possibilities of having positive and negative influences have been underestimated in health sciences in the past. Occupational therapists and allied health professionals should recognise unemployment with its multifaceted impacts on occupational engagement in everyday life while implementing client-centred approaches to empower people with MS or other diagnoses.

Keywords: unemployment, Multiple Sclerosis, occupational engagement, interpretative phenomenological analysis

Schweizer Tarah

(August 2020)

The transition of first-time father's occupations and roles Experiences from Switzerland

Introduction. For a man, a firstborn is one of the most profound and major developmental changes in life, and it requires a change in his roles within the family and the societal context. From an occupational perspective, a transition is exposed to various effects, including the social and societal context, as well as each individual's expectations. As a consequence of these transitions, roles and occupations are changing; however, little is known about factors that influence the experiences of a first-time father. Therefore, this research aims to explore first-time father's experiences in their occupational and role changes.

Method. The data was collected through six semi-structured interviews with first-time fathers living in Switzerland who had one child aged between seven and 39 months. Data analyses were conducted using a paradigmatic analysis of narrative.

Findings. Four themes emerged from the data: (1) Flexibility before having a child compared to the structured day after having a child, (2) mirroring the different influences, (3) changes of occupations and their meaning since having a child, and (4) compatibility of family and work.

Conclusion. Analyses of the study results suggest that a suitable environment for first-time fathers enables them to perform their occupations as they wish and thus to fulfil their different occupational roles. However, this is highly dependent on rule-bound restrictions and society's structures, such as what a father is supposed or expected to do. In this respect, and with the existing resources and knowledge, occupational therapists could advocate a health-promotion role.

Keywords. Occupation, role, transition, first-time father, Switzerland

Stobbe Tara

(August 2020)

The impact of applying an immobilising orthosis on activities of daily living in people with De Quervain's Disease. An explorative quantitative study, using a one-group pretest-posttest design

Background: For people with De Quervain's Disease (DQD), an immobilising orthosis is often used for treatment. Background research shows no empirical evidence on the impact of applying an orthosis on performance of activities of daily living (ADL). Linkages between performance of ADL, quality of life and independence are described. Therefore, the aim of this study is to identify the impact of applying an immobilising thumb-spica orthosis on the performance of ADL in people with DQD, with considerations for quality of life and independence.

Method: In a one-group pretest-posttest design, the Patient-Rated Wrist/Hand Evaluation (PRWHE) and World Health Organization Quality of Life Questionnaire (WHOQOL) are used. The PRWHE is used before and after application of the orthosis by clients with DQD in a private practise in the Netherlands.

Results: The Wilcoxon signed-rank test showed no significant difference in performance of ADL before and after the application of the orthosis, $T = 112.50$, $p = .178$, $r = -.18$. However, pain scores did show a significant difference, $T = 23.50$, $p = <.001$, $r = -.55$. A negative correlation was found between pain and quality of life, $r = -.50$, $p = .006$.

Conclusion: This study shows a significant decrease in pain and no major impact on performance of ADL after application of an immobilising orthosis in people with DQD. A negative correlation was found between pain and quality of life. Occupational therapists could use these results to predict and educate their clients on the impact of applying an orthosis for DQD.

Keywords: De Quervain Disease, Orthotic Devices, Activities of Daily Living, Quality of Life, Independence

Schaap Rolf

(January 2020)

Occupational hand therapists' practice experiences regarding the incorporation of occupation in their treatment: an exploratory qualitative study in the Netherlands

Introduction: Hand therapy concerns rehabilitation of upper extremity conditions and injuries. It is a specialization of occupational therapy. However, there is a paucity of literature concerning occupation-based approaches used by occupational hand therapists (OHTs). This study aims to explore practice experiences of OHTs regarding incorporation of occupation in their treatment.

Method: An exploratory qualitative study was conducted. Five OHTs were interviewed using semi-structured interviews. Inductive thematic analysis was applied.

Findings: Three themes were found: (1) client-centred practice: getting the treatment plan, (2) exercises and occupations: the link to recovery and use of the hand, and (3) measuring within hand therapy.

Conclusion: OHTs seem to struggle with biomedical and occupational approaches. Occupation seems to be incorporated in every aspect of their treatment and is considered the link between theory and practical use of the hand. More research is needed regarding effectiveness of occupation-based hand therapy, as well as occupational measurements, from both a patient and therapist perspective to be more evidence-based.

Keywords: occupation, occupational therapy, hand therapy, treatment, practice

Borda, Alison

(December 2019)

Swiss occupational therapists' professional reasoning of their evaluation process and use of assessment tools with children: An exploratory study

Background: Facing an increase in health expenditure, Swiss healthcare services including occupational therapy, are under strong pressure to provide efficient and low-cost care. Relationships between professional reasoning and healthcare effectiveness have been demonstrated, therefore adopting evidence-based interventions is essential. In pediatric practice, the need to identify and evaluate children is crucial to prevent them from being restricted in their social participation that could negatively impact their health and well-being. To date, few studies exist on the current practices of occupational therapists in the evaluation process and their professional reasoning. Consequently, this study aimed to explore occupational therapists' professional reasoning when working with children and living in the French speaking region of Switzerland regarding the initial evaluation process and use of assessment tools.

Methods: A descriptive qualitative design was used with three semi-structured interviews of occupational therapists. A thematic analysis was used to develop themes and subthemes.

Findings: Three themes were identified: the creation of a preliminary image of the child, taking clear or intuitive decisions and ambivalence in the use of assessment tools.

Conclusion: This study contributed to the knowledge of occupational therapy and occupational science, improving profession's development and enhancing effectiveness in the evaluation process by exploring professional reasoning.

Keywords: occupational therapy, professional reasoning, evaluation, assessment tools, children, qualitative research

Van der Merwe, Suné (December 2019)

Shaping parallel worlds:

The ways local governance constructs the occupational possibilities of a migrant sex worker

In response to the global phenomenon of social inequalities and injustices, the political dimension of occupation focused to uncover the ways in which socio-political systems shape and perpetuate occupational injustices for marginalised populations. This enabled occupational science to contribute to important social debates, such as the labour exploitation of migrant sex workers.

A critical mini-ethnographic case study served to uncover how local and self-governance structures shape and impact the occupational possibilities of a migrant sex worker. This study was guided by Laliberte Rudman's term Governing through occupation, which encompasses the theoretical concept of occupational possibilities. The study incorporated Carspecken's five levels of inquiry, whereby the participant engaged in multiple sessions, including a narrative interview and participatory methods using photography and occupational mapping.

This case study reveals an ironic journey across parallel worlds, the self-governed sex industry and state-governed jobcentre, created by the Prostitution Act. By presenting the lived experience of a migrant sex worker, alongside the perspective of the support organisation, the occupational possibilities within everyday life are examined. This highlighted the coercive techniques used by street-level bureaucrats to shape occupations in everyday life.

This study contributes to occupational science, by examining socially non-sanctioned occupations related to sex work, thereby illuminating the ways in which the socio-political system enables and constrains occupation.

Keywords: local governance; street-level bureaucrats; migrant sex worker; occupational possibilities; non-sanctioned occupations

Lau, Malena (October 2019)

Working with transgender clients: Experiences from German occupational therapists

Background: Transgender people are still facing occupational injustices today. With the number of people who are identifying as transgender rising consistently, the need for evidence-based research for health care providers will increase as well. Working with transgender clients is still a new field for occupational therapists. A lack of knowledge and literature concerning this topic hinder the further development for therapy interventions catering to this client group. The aim of this study therefore was to explore the experiences of German occupational therapists from working with transgender client, in order to get an insight of their current practice.

Methods: A qualitative methodology was employed for this study. Five occupational therapists were interviewed individually, using a semi-structured interview guideline. Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data.

Results: Five themes emerged from the thematic data analysis: desire for more knowledge, experiencing insecurities, unique aspects of working with transgender clients, difficulties to provide interventions for gender identity specific issues and opportunities and resources for transgender clients in occupational therapy.

Conclusion: The findings of this study indicate that there are challenges for occupational therapists in Germany that have to be overcome in regards to supporting transgender clients. There appears to be a need to keep expanding the available literature and spreading awareness about this topic. Nevertheless, a wide range of resources and opportunities that occupational therapy can and should offer to transgender clients were identified.

Keywords: transgender, gender dysphoria, occupational therapy, thematic analysis, Germany

Décastel, Laure (October 2019)

Experiences of drug-addicted mothers in Switzerland: an occupational perspective

Background: Substance abuse is one of the main issues related to mental disability in the world. Women might use drugs in concealed ways as it is seen as inconceivable in western societies to be a mother and use drugs. The drug use is often criminalized and questioned from moral standpoints, even more when the user is a mother. Existing knowledge on drug use from related fields informs how drug use affects psychological, social well-being and other health-related issues. From an occupational perspective several gaps of knowledge exist in relation to drug use activities.

Aim: To explore the personal past experiences three mothers' drug use in Switzerland in order to develop knowledge and understanding about how they experienced their daily routines through their personal life stories.

Methods: A narrative approach using photo elicitation and analysis of narratives were used. Data was gathered from three drug-addicted mothers in a French city in Switzerland.

Results: The analysis identified being a mother and a drug user as complex and a challenge to social norms. The metaphor of the crutch was developed in the analysis to demonstrate how the drug enabled participants to continue carrying out some activities.

Conclusion: The complex situation of these mothers and the dilemmas they faced might thus be understood according to several perspectives as the activity of drug use in itself and through a more social perspective. Thereby, different avenues in occupational therapy and occupational science might be reflected in the way of social transformation.

Keywords: Drug use, addiction, daily routines, motherhood, occupational perspective

Albuquerque, Sophie (October 2019)

A transformative perspective for promoting occupations in collective living: designing occupational therapy services for a reforming healthcare in France

Introduction: France's public health shift in health promotion delivery requires occupational therapists to consider collective approaches to address health and social inequalities. The aim was to gather preliminary knowledge on the needs occupational therapists identify to practice community development in relation to health promotion.

Methods: A participatory action research was conducted by the author and five professionals, using occupational justice-based frameworks and public health reports for a continuous dialogue over 4 months. Kemmis' practice architecture theory was used to understand how practices are shaped by discursive, economic and socio-political circumstances. A qualitative content analysis was conducted and a dialogical reflexive approach clarified underlying assumptions.

Findings: Six themes situated needs for practicing health promotion toward collective living, enacting and enabling community development in health promotion, reaching a political reasoning about occupations, enacting mediation between public health accountability and social responsibility, promoting occupation-focused interventions toward collective living, and articulating an occupational perspective over body and functions in occupational therapy education.

Discussion: Natural contexts of living offer unmatched perspectives on everyday occupations. A political reasoning based on occupational justice grants an understanding to abate conditions of ill-health and promote occupation-focused collective living for citizens. Relatedness between social and medical professional activities appears to facilitate partnerships to promote health among populations. In occupational therapy education, students need to reason the complexity of occupations in ordinary life.

Keywords: health promotion, occupational therapy, community development, occupational justice, collective living

Nicolajsen, Mette (October 2019)

Post-stroke adults experience of occupational disruption – Three narratives

Background: Stroke is the third most common cause of death in developed countries and almost 6 million people die from stroke worldwide every year. Two-thirds of individuals who survive are left to live with ongoing and permanent disabilities. Occupational disruption is a reality at onset of stroke. The study is exploring when and why they become occupational disrupted and how they experience performing activities of daily life, up to two years post-stroke.

Methods: Qualitative in-depth interviews using a narrative method. Purposive sampling of 3 post-stroke participants, living at home. Time from onset varied from 9 months to 18 months after stroke. A five step narrative analysis was applied to create three new narrative stories.

Findings: Real life experience of occupational disruption in activities of daily living. Accounts of how the individual experience of occupational disruption lead to change in the individual. As a result this caused change in the immediate and close family relationships, identity and roles. There was findings that “time” was both a facilitator and a burden.

Conclusion: This study has explored some of the occupational disruptions post-stroke adults, living at home, experiences in the duration up to two years post-stroke. It concludes that the disruptions can be highly complex, especially the roles within family and the close relationships with a child. The plots in the life story from the past, together with the present ability to accept, participate and reconstruct the occupational identity determines the outcome and duration of experienced occupational disruption.

Keywords: Stroke, Occupational disruption, Living at home, Roles

Douma, Gerbrich (October 2019)

Supporting community-dwelling people with dementia, a qualitative study

Background: The increasing number of people with dementia (PWD) and the higher demand placed on their self-reliance, autonomy, and participation in meaningful occupations calls for support for these clients and their care system. The aim of this study is to gain perspectives about the needs and wishes of professionals and informal caregivers of community-dwelling PWD in relation to self-reliance, autonomy, and participation in meaningful daily activities. Furthermore, the relationship between the decreased ability to engage in meaningful occupations and occupational identity is explored.

Methods: A qualitative descriptive approach was used, and two focus groups and five individual interviews were conducted. A thematic analysis was used for data analysis.

Results: Four themes emerged from the analysis: the need for knowledge, the need for familiar faces and sufficient time, the threat to the occupational identity, and the possibility for applying interventions.

Conclusions: The findings indicated that professional and informal caregivers have a need to learn how to help PWD participate in meaningful daily activities. There is a wish for support under informal caregivers, which can be conducted by professional caregivers from different disciplines. Participation in meaningful daily activities positively influences the perceived occupational identity of PWD. Dementia does not only affect the occupational identity of PWD, but also the informal caregiver's occupational identity.

Keywords: Participation, self-reliance, autonomy, dementia, qualitative descriptive

Ekwan Francis Uzu (October 2019)

How to Implement the Ugandan Version of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI-UG) in Occupational Therapy

Introduction: The Occupational therapy practitioners working in Uganda are often asked by their employers to explain about their assessment practices. When faced with this kind of question, the Occupational therapy practitioners often explain about their use of different non standardized assessments. However, the Ugandan version of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI-UG) which is a standardized assessment tool is available for use in Occupational therapy. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to explore how PEDI-UG can be implemented in Occupational therapy.

Methods: A qualitative descriptive study design was used. Three different focus group sessions were conducted with 18 Occupational therapy practitioners who had previous training on PEDI-UG administration. A thematic analysis was then used to code and organize the data into different themes.

Results: Following the analysis, two main themes were produced:

- (1) Training focusing on ways to minimize queries when using PEDI-UG assessment.
- (2) Communication in relation to the child's functional skill scale and caregivers' assistance scale.

Conclusion: This study findings suggest that in order to implement PEDI-UG in Occupational therapy, practitioners need to value the tool & demonstrate capability of working as evaluators and capability of engaging respondents of the PEDI-UG assessment.

Implications: The findings from this study will support the Uganda Association of Occupational Therapists in the development of Occupational therapy scope of practice policy on pediatric assessment services in Uganda.

Keywords: Occupational Therapy, Occupational Therapy Practitioners, PEDI-UG, Implementation

Di Patrizio-Rokai Shiwa (September 2019)

ENERGETIC, testing the impact of the multidisciplinary self-management group program on activity engagement for people with neuromuscular disease using the activity card sort-NL as an outcome measure

Introduction: Muscle weakness, involuntary muscle activity and sensory loss are the major symptoms for patients with neuromuscular disease (NMD). These symptoms cause chronic fatigue, which has a profound impact on social engagement.

Aim: The purpose of this study is to investigate improvements in activity engagement on the Activity Card Sort (ACS) over time, for patients with NMD receiving Energetic, a multidisciplinary self-management group program and patients who received usual care.

Methods: The sample consist of 53 participants (N=53), >18 yr. old, with diverse neuromuscular diseases. Data is previously collected during a randomized controlled trial. There was a 1:1 randomization ratio with the following minimization factors: sex, diagnosis (FSHD, IBM, MM, other NMD) and work status (work/no work). The ACS-NL is used to measure the level of activity engagement over time. Statistical analysis is performed using multiple linear regression analysis to investigate improvement in activity engagement, with control for possible confounders: sex, diagnosis, work status and age.

Results: A statistically significant intervention effect was found for the social activities at 3 months follow up and at 11 months follow up ($p = 0.04$). Sex had an effect on the intervention outcome ($p = 0.04$). For the low-physical activities time 1 presented a significant negative change in activity engagement ($p = 0.01$). The Energetic group presents a significant less negative difference in comparison the control group ($p = 0.01$). Age seems to have an impact on intervention outcome ($p = 0.04$).

Conclusion: The results support that Energetic improves social engagement and physical engagement.

Keywords: Activity Card Sort, Energetic, Occupational Therapy

Firshman ho (September 2019)

Exploring the Experience of Occupation for Patients who were Discharged from Critical Care. Looking Back: Survivors' Experience of Occupation throughout their Critical Illness.

Background: People with life-threatening conditions are admitted to critical care units. Traditionally, they remain in bed; however, bedrest can lead to acute and chronic consequences such as pressure sores, muscle atrophy, sleep deprivation, delirium and post-intensive care syndrome. Patients report feeling distressed by their reduced autonomy over their daily lives. No studies have explored the experience of occupation during admission to critical care.

Aim: To explore the experiences of occupation within critical care environments for people who have been critically ill and have returned home within the last month.

Method: A purposive sample of four participants who had a critical care stay ≥ 7 days, completed semi-structured narrative interviews using photo-elicitation. Narrative analysis was used to emplot a single narrative.

Findings: The overarching narrative discusses the shock of sudden illness and the recovery pathway. For recovery the participants needed time to take stock; to adjust to loss of self, but also to adjust their occupations due to changes in expected competence. They did not describe any boredom. They needed support to gradually complete occupations and a safety net to try things out. Self-care tasks were important for wellbeing, to regain their humanity, sense of self and meet social expectations.

Conclusion: Critical care was not occupationally depriving due to the need to think and recalibrate. Occupational therapists can provide information, education and early future-orientated rehabilitation. Gradual return to occupations is an important part of recovery. Further research is needed into the occupational role in early rehabilitation.

Keywords: intensive/ critical care • occupation • experience • bedrest • rehab

Hoerder Roswitha (September 2019)

“Justice becomes our agency.”

Occupational therapists in Germany reflect on the understanding of their practice in and with communities

Introduction: Growing literature is describing the development of occupational therapy into community practice. The German Occupational Therapy Association calls for an active role of occupational therapy in creating living environments that support participation and social inclusion. To date no research has been conducted on how occupational therapists in Germany address individual and community needs in community practice. This study explored the practice processes of occupational therapists across various new practice settings to provide for an understanding how community practice is conceptualised within the German context.

Method: Qualitative interpretive description (Thorne, 2016) was used as a methodological framework. Individual interviews with five occupational therapists from different geographical areas and practice settings and one focus group were performed for data collection. Template analysis using a priori themes identified from relevant literature served as a structure for understanding the data.

Findings: Processes are characterised by a complexity deriving from the broadness of contexts for a single issue. Occupational therapists must navigate parallel processes to move from an individual to a community approach. Professional understanding and identity informed by occupational science concepts is essential for the practitioners to be able to work on a broader level of community.

Conclusion: The findings inform disciplinary thought and understanding of practice processes in community practice in Germany and elsewhere. Occupational science provides an additional theory base to the occupational therapy profession in strengthening its position and guiding practice on community level.

Keywords: community practice, practice processes, interpretive description, occupational science

Indermühle Yvonne (September 2019)

Swiss Generation Y occupational therapists' perceptions of their choice of workplace

Objectives: To explore the workplace choice of Swiss occupational therapists of Generation Y.

Background: A current health care shortage exists, which is expected to increase in the future. The WHO suggested among existing health workers to improve recruitment. The issue of recruitment is a key topic for the occupational therapy profession already. As more than a third of the future working population are employees of Generation Y, there is a need to gain more knowledge about employees' choices.

Design: A qualitative descriptive study was conducted with subjectivist epistemology and relativist ontology.

Methods: Ten occupational therapists born after 1982 participated in interviews. Transcripts were analysed using thematic analysis, taking an inductive approach.

Findings: Out of the dataset, three themes on how Generation Y occupational therapists choose their workplace emerged. "Belonging to a workplace which fits personal beliefs, and needs", "balancing work and private life" and "personal growth and development" were identified as themes in the data, which are considered when choosing a workplace.

Conclusions: This study has provided updated insights into the workplace choice of occupational therapists of Generation Y. The findings support in some aspects previous work on Generation Y and other generations but also relieve some differences. The choice of the workplace is a complex process, which highlights unique needs, and beliefs.

Keywords: occupational therapists, choice, workplace, Generation Y, Switzerland

Luthringer Kauffmann Noémie (September 2019)

Exploring the meaning of Occupational Balance for mothers with a high demanding job: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis among Female Physicians with Children

Balancing between occupations related to a high demanding job like being physician and a family life, is a growing phenomenon among French women and little is known about it from an occupational perspective in a French context. Occupational Balance is a core concept in Occupational Science and Therapy but despite an increasing interest for it, its definition is still discussed. This study aimed to explore how do female physicians with children gave meaning to their experience of balancing between their everyday occupations.

Based on an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis, individual semi structured in-depth interviews were conducted among three French female physicians with children.

Three themes emerged from the analysis: Needing reciprocity between two meaningful roles, Navigating between being occupied and pre-occupied at the same time, Struggling against time to perform activities with meaning.

Balance was related to reciprocity meaning that each role should contribute to answer complementary and specific needs. Imbalance was experienced when participants could not be fully engaged in an occupation due to pre-occupations related to another occupation. Lacking time in terms of quality but also in terms of quantity was perceived as influencing balance since occupation could not be performed with meaning.

Findings provides new insights about Occupational Balance especially regarding conception of time from a subjective and qualitative point of view.

Keywords: Occupational Balance, IPA, mothers, High demanding job, Well-being

Michael Danielle (September 2019)

Health in the Workplace

Quantitative comparison of work characteristics rated by employees with and without a mental illness in South Africa

There is limited research available on the perception that people without a mental illness have on people with a mental illness in the workplace. Inadequate information may impact the way in which people without a mental illness perceive people with a mental illness, which may influence the accommodations they are willing to create for them in the workplace. Thus, this study aims to explore how employees with and without a mental illness and from different work sectors in South Africa, rate the likelihood of people with a mental illness, displaying specified characteristics at work.

Method: A quantitative, descriptive cross-sectional design was used. An online questionnaire was completed by participants with and without a mental illness, across South Africa, in the public, business, retail, manufacturing and construction working sectors. T-tests were performed to find the difference between the ratings of the PWOMI and the PWMI, as well as see if the work sector, gender and age impacts the difference.

Results: T-test results show that there is a significant difference ($p < 0.05$), for all 38 work characteristics. The participant's work sector, age and gender impacted the significant difference of the means with the construction sector having 19 questions with $p > 0.05$, males having 5 questions with $p > 0.05$ and 35-46 year olds having 16 questions with $p > 0.05$.

Conclusion: PWOMI are unable to rate the challenges that PWMI face in the workplace, thus rejecting the null hypothesis. However, the age, gender and work sector may have an impact on the rating accuracy.

Keywords: Mental illness, workplace, work characteristics, challenges

Nolan Victoria (September 2019)

“Food for the soul”

Experiences of young adults with developmental co-ordination disorder and/or dyspraxia engaging in meaningful occupations.

Introduction: DCD is an impairment of motor co-ordination that affects around 5-6% of school age children worldwide. Motor difficulties continue throughout adolescence and adulthood affecting activities of daily living and quality of life. Little research has been completed from a qualitative perspective with young adults. This study focuses on young adult’s experiences of engaging in meaningful occupation.

Method: A qualitative narrative approach was used. Five young adults aged between 18-25 years were interviewed using 1:1 unstructured narrative interviews. Data from the interviews was transcribed verbatim and analysed using the narrative analysis method.

Findings: Three themes emerged – overcoming barriers to occupation, escapism and connecting with people through occupation. Participants faced occupational disruption in their early years but within adolescence started to make personal choices. Occupation was seen as a way to socialise with others, experience flow and escape from reality.

Conclusion: Whilst participants had challenges to overcome, they continued to enjoy occupations and found strategies to overcome barriers. An earlier diagnosis of DCD would provide valuable support from healthcare professionals and the school system for children, adolescents and adults to engage in meaningful occupations.

Keywords: DCD, meaningful occupation, young adults, narrative

Uldry Rebeaud Floriane (September 2019)

Chronic Low Back Pain and Life Balance

A Way to Recovery

Background: Chronic low back pain has become one of the biggest problems for public health in the western world during the last half century. It affects a lot of areas of life of the individuals concerned, life balance included. Multidisciplinary programs have been developed to manage the intervention.

Purpose: the aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of a multidisciplinary program on the life balance of people with chronic low back pain.

Methods: a before and after study was applied to 31 subjects with chronic low back pain following a multidisciplinary program (the RACHIS Program). Life balance, impact of pain on daily life and quality of life were measured at baseline and study end.

Results: a major improvement in life balance was shown, as well as a reduction of the impact of pain on daily life and an improvement in quality of life for people with chronic low back pain after the RACHIS program.

Practice Implications: health professionals could choose such program to treat people with chronic low back pain. Life balance seems to be a relevant issue to take into account in occupational therapy practice.

Keywords: Lower back pain - Life balance - Impact of pain – Quality of life - Occupational Sciences

Schuhmacher Tanya (September 2019)

Clinical Reasonings of Occupational Therapist in Selecting Activities to Delay Cognitive Decline Among Older Adults in Switzerland: A Qualitative Study

Background: Older adults are likely to develop cognitive decline and/or dementia, being age its strongest risk factor. The socio-economic arena of Switzerland's society is burdened with the effects of dementia. There is a lack of preventive studies in Switzerland and despite evidences that participation in activities influences delaying dementia, this remains unexplored within occupational therapy.

Aim: To describe the clinical reasonings of occupational therapists in selecting activities to delay further cognitive decline and/or dementia among older adults in Switzerland.

Methods: A constructivist grounded theory approach was adopted in this research. Data collection was achieved through six in-depth, semi-structured interviews of occupational therapists working in dementia care in the German part of Switzerland. Theoretical sampling informed succeeding stages of data collection. Collected data were coded through initial, focused and categorization methods. A constant comparison analysis of data, codes, memos and categories were applied.

Results: A core category pursuing participation through meaningful and chosen activities emerged. This study highlights the importance of client's subjective experiences of activities in participation. Other categories linked to core category were, accepting occupational therapists as individual and weighing-in client's abilities.

Conclusion: This is the first empirical study on clinical reasonings of occupational therapists in dementia care in Switzerland. Occupational therapists select activities with personal value to clients as a medium to positively influence delay in cognitive decline and dementia. Findings provide occupational therapist knowledge in incorporating appropriate activities for intervention. Moreover, there is a further need to take client's subjective experiences of activities when developing a research program.

Keywords: occupational therapy, prevention, activities, participation, clinical reasoning

Stoffel Anika (September 2019)

The Usability of Playgrounds for Children with Developmental Coordination Disorder

Outdoor play is a fundamental component of children's health and wellbeing. However, environmental factors can influence children's play, culminating in play barriers and restrictions in the use of playgrounds by children with developmental coordination disorder (DCD).

This study describes the usability of playgrounds, focusing on the environmental characteristics of playgrounds, the children's performance in play activities and the occupational wellbeing for children with DCD on playgrounds.

A cross-sectional design was applied and parents of children (4–7 years) with DCD answered a self-administered questionnaire. The results present public playgrounds as valuable play space that can contribute to the occupational wellbeing of children with DCD. Parents (n=35) reported that their children showed a great variability in play activities on playgrounds. However, preliminary evidence indicates that reduced usability of playgrounds is related to limitations in play performance and constraints in the occupational needs for affirmation, accomplishment and coherence for some children with DCD. Limitations in play performance are found in specific play occupations, including play occupations of children's preferences due to the environmental characteristics of the playgrounds.

This increased understanding about the usability of playgrounds for children with DCD leads to important implications in the clinical practice of addressing children's play performance, occupational wellbeing and environmental barriers.

Keywords: Child, Outdoor Play, Playgrounds, Inclusion, Disability,

Strempl Carmen (September 2019)

“Finding meaning in life came through volunteering”:

Voluntary work as an engaging occupation for people with mental illness

The meanings of occupations, which are generated through the subjective experiences of participating in occupations, are rarely explored for people with mental illness.

This study aimed to investigate the experiences and meanings of people with mental illness participating in voluntary work in Austria.

Five volunteers with a mental illness were interviewed and interpretative phenomenological analysis was adopted for data analysis. The results showed that participating in voluntary work was meaningful to the participants, because they experienced well-being through doing. Furthermore, they perceived themselves as being part of the community and could express and strengthen their identity through volunteering and the participants expressed experiences and meanings about volunteering with mental illness.

These findings were discussed in relation to the concept of meaning, occupational identity and occupational engagement. It was highlighted, that the phenomenon of participating in voluntary work can be experienced as a meaningful occupation with influence on health and well-being by people with mental illness.

From the experienced challenges can be derived, that services to support people with mental illness who are volunteering should be offered, to enable them to engage in this occupation and to enhance their mental health and well-being by that.

Keywords: Voluntary work, Mental illness, Meaning, Occupational engagement

Strub Pascale (September 2019)

Occupational roles and Chronic musculoskeletal pain

A qualitative, narrative exploration of changes in occupational roles and participation within of people with chronic musculoskeletal pain over time

Objectives: The purpose of this article was to explore the possible changes of occupational roles and the participation within these roles among people with chronic musculoskeletal pain (CMP), who participated in a multidisciplinary pain program, over time.

Background: CMP affects a large part of the population in Switzerland, causing a large amount of employees to go on sick leave and unemployment – thus effective interventions are needed to address this problem. Because more will be affected by CMP in the future.

Design: A qualitative, narrative methodology was adopted. Data analysis was conducted using a narrative analysis form called emplotment.

Methods: Five people with CMP were included in the study. They participated in a single life story interview coupled with timeline drawings.

Findings: The life experience of the participants revealed that their participation in occupational roles changed over time. The most important occupation identified by the participants was work. Consequently, they tried to maintain their respective roles as a employee. Some succeeded with sacrifices in occupations besides their employment as for example leisure activities. Their engagement in occupations besides work changed from active into passive occupations. Moreover, pain caused some to loose their work, and some to adapt to their new roles and new bodily needs.

Conclusion: CMP has the ability to disrupt a person's life, demanding a change in all occupational roles. The participants responded by loosing an entire role, finding a new role gentler to their body, or learned how to adapt an already existing role to fit their new needs.

Keywords: Chronic musculoskeletal pain, participation, occupational roles

Anja Christopher (September 2018)

The meaning of motorcycling – an interpretative phenomenological analysis

The heartbeat of motorcycling revealed through the experience of motorcycle travellers

Keywords: meaning of occupation, motorcycling, serious leisure activity, spirituality

This qualitative study aims to contribute to the understanding of the meaning of occupation by investigating the occupation of motorcycling through the experience of motorcycle travelers in Germany. Motorcycling is a serious leisure activity for the participants as defined by Stebbins (1982). Through interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) and the author being an insider of the motorcycle travelling community, the findings of this study present a new facet of the meaning of occupation.

Semi-structured interviews with seven participants revealed two main themes. First “connectedness” with the sub themes of connectedness to “the inner self”, “the motorcycle”, “nature” and “the community of motorcycle travelers”. The second theme presents motorcycling being more than riding as “motorcycling is a whole package”, “development of competencies” and is an “essential part of life”. The author presents “spirituality” being a facet of meaning of motorcycling and contributes to the discussion of other authors on developing a universal definition of “meaning of occupation”.

Jacqueline Coppers (September 2018)

A narrative study on the interplay between occupation and identity of young adults with adolescent-onset first episode psychosis

Keywords: Occupation, identity, first episode psychosis, narrative analysis

Background: From an occupational perspective maintaining identity is viewed as hindered by psychosis but important in recovery. This qualitative research aims to explore how young adults with adolescent-onset first episode psychosis experiences make sense of their identity in relation to their occupations.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were used to collect data from four participants. Polkinghorne's narrative analysis facilitated construction of four individual narratives.

Results: Narratives illustrated a process of exploration, construction and negotiation of identities, consisting of continuity and multiplicity. Own and others' expectations and experiencing togetherness propelled occupational choices, highlighting 'the importance of others'. By 'finding an own way', identity was constructed and expressed through occupations.

Conclusion: These findings contribute to occupational therapy practice regarding how occupation-and-identity-interplay can be supported, and to occupational science considering the area of mental health and occupation-and-identity-interplay

Elisa Fabrizi (September 2018)

Changes over time in the use of everyday technology within different contexts and their relation to cognitive decline in Swedish older adults with mild cognitive impairment

Background: Monitoring Everyday technology (ET) is of major relevance in older adults with cognitive impairment, as decreased ability to use ET and downsizing of ET used appear to be sensitive markers of cognitive decline. However, no study has analysed these changes in relation to the context in which ET is integrated.

Aim: To explore change in the ET use and its relation to change in cognitive status over five years among older adults with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), evaluating the use of ETs with respect to the context they belong (home-based ET, community-based ET, home and community based ET).

Methods: A retrospective longitudinal study was conducted in twenty-one participants with MCI at inclusion, assessed in six occasions over 5 years. Data regarding ET use and cognitive status were collected through the Everyday Technology Use Questionnaire (ETUQ) and Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) respectively. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse ET use within and between the different contexts; regression analysis was applied to analyse the relation between changes in ET use and in cognitive status.

Results: The use of ET differently changed over time depending on the context. The change in the amount of ETs used appeared to be a predictor of change in the cognitive status for the home-based ET and for the home and community based ET. Variations in the use of technologies belonging to the home environment as a whole were more likely to predict cognitive decline, even though variations in specific ETs belonging to other contexts could be relevant indicators of cognitive decline.

Conclusion: This study underlines the relevance of monitoring the use of ET in patients with cognitive impairment within occupational therapy and clinical diagnosis assessment, adding new insight on the necessity to evaluate the use of ETs as integral part of the context whose they belong.

Tanja Joho (Zulauf) (September 2018)

Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time

Time-use among Danish people living with COPD in terms of domains of occupation and perceived competence, value and enjoyment, reflected in everyday occupations

Key words: Time-use, COPD, Meaningfulness, Occupational Balance, Occupational Science

Aim: The aim of this study is to describe time-use among Danish people living with COPD in terms of different domains of occupation and perceived competence, value and enjoyment, reflected in everyday occupations.

Methods: A cross-sectional secondary data analysis on an existing dataset was done for the present study. 87 participants filled in the Occupational Questionnaire (OQ), a time-use diary based on the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO). Descriptive statistics, distribution of time-use and group comparison, based on the variables living situation and level of COPD severity, were done.

Results: A majority of the waking hours were spent on daily living tasks (6.5 hours) and recreational occupations (5 hours). Three hours were spent on rest and 1.5 hours on work. The average of sleeping hours was 7.5 hours. The participants spent around 80% of their time on occupations they valued, enjoyed and in which they felt competent. The results show that the participants living alone scored significantly lower in enjoyment in restful occupations compared to the participants cohabitating. No statistically significant difference could be detected between the different groups of COPD severity in terms of perceived level of competence, value and enjoyment.

Conclusion: The participants used two hours more time on daily living tasks and two hours less time for recreational occupations, compared to literature about the healthy population. Reasons for this could be inefficiency in task performance in daily living tasks because of functional limitations, or fatigue, and therefore lower priorities on recreational occupations. By analysing the data of the OQ and looking at the reported occupations in relation to a certain time frame, no assumptions according to the OB of the participants could be made in the present study. It is crucial when working with time diaries to include the explanation and comments of the client in the analysis in order to be able to relate the time-use to OB. Besides that, the aspect of time is highly relative which implies that time-use should not be overestimated when evaluating OB. More qualitative research on the individual perception of time-use in people with COPD should be taken into consideration.

Hyub Kim (September 2018)

Time Use of People with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

Keywords: Occupational balance, Spinal cord injury, Time use

Purpose: The aim of the study is to investigate the time use of people with spinal cord injury and to explore the perceptions of their time use through occupational balance.

Methods: The study used survey questionnaire that has been used by Statistic Korea to collect data from 120 participants with spinal cord injury and compared the data with the disclosed data from Statistics Korea.

Results: Difference in time use was found for various activities in both groups. Social participation and self-care activities were higher in the SCI group, but a lower percentage was feeling insufficient time and less fatigue.

Conclusion: The SCI group showed discrepancies in the use of time in various activities compared to no SCI group. The differences may imply issues in occupational balance and suggests consideration in welfare policies.

Joseph Ndiwalana (September 2018)

An international placement and its role in the professional development of Occupational Therapists

Introduction: The purpose of this study was to explore the phenomenon “international placement and its role in professional development” as described by occupational therapists.

Method: Six occupational therapists from developing and developed countries with the experience of an international placement were interviewed using semi-structured interview format and data analysed using descriptive phenomenology psychology.

Results: The general structure revealed the phenomenon was experienced as; ‘being a confident professional in communication with others and clinical roles as a practitioner, who by uplifting their creativity for clinical reasons and looking at challenging situations in a different way, is resourceful in practice. At the same time the professional keeps on maintaining continuous professional learning through continuous reflection on their international placement experiences and collaborative professional relationships with colleagues from the international placement. The professional also maintains a critical look at the approach to practice by considering social environment aspects in clinical situations.’

Conclusion: The study described the general structure of ‘an international placement and its role in professional development’. Future research with occupational therapists who had an international placement and those who had different placements in their countries could provide insight into how such placements comparatively influenced their subsequent professional development.

Vanja Rutten (September 2018)

The experience of technology use by elderly at home

A qualitative study about the experience of elderly people living in Amsterdam.

Keywords: Technology, independent living, elderly, everyday activities

Introduction: Elders above the age of 75 have a higher risk of disabilities, which influence their capability to perform everyday activities. Therefore different types of technologies are used to help elderly (75+) to perform these everyday activities and stay independent. In this study the researcher explores the lived experiences of home technology use by elderly people (75+) who live independently in the Netherlands.

Methods: Four elderly people above the age of 75 participated; semi-structured interviews were used to capture the experience of the participants with an underlying interpretive phenomenological approach.

Findings: Four themes emerged from the data: Technology used as a tool in everyday activities, Technology creates a link to the (outside) world, Feeling safe and satisfied due to technology use, Difference in the meaning of technology use over time.

Conclusion: The main finding of this study was that the elderly 75+ experience technology use inside their home as a tool and a window to the outside world. It enables them to keep in touch and gives them the possibility to keep informed about the events that happen in the world. This makes them feel that their family and friends are closer and that they are included in the world.

Katja Sigrist (September 2018)

An occupational perspective on the relationship between upper limb apraxia and the ability to perform personal and instrumental activities of daily living in clients after a left-hemisphere stroke

Keywords: upper limb apraxia (ULA), stroke, rehabilitation, activities of daily living (ADL), aphasia

Background: Upper limb apraxia (ULA) in clients after a left-hemisphere stroke is defined as a cognitive-motor disorder and identified as negatively influencing the performance of activities of daily living (ADL).

Objective: To explore the relationship between ULA and the ability to perform personal ADL (PADL) and instrumental ADL (IADL) assessed with the Lucerne ICF-based Multidisciplinary Observation Scale (LIMOS) in clients in the acute to subacute phase after a left-hemisphere stroke.

Methods: This cross-sectional study is a secondary data analysis. The performance of PADL and IADL is assessed with the LIMOS, the presence of ULA with the Apraxia Screen of Tulia (AST) and the presence of aphasia with the Language Screening Test (LAST). Descriptive statistics were applied to explore the distribution of the data and the characteristics of the sample. Correlation coefficients were calculated to investigate the relationship between ULA and the performance of PADL and IADL.

Results: A moderate and significant relationship ($r_s = .38$; $p < .001$) between the AST and the LIMOS total scale in the total sample ($N = 120$) was identified. The subgroup of clients with ULA was found to perform IADL worse than the subgroup of clients without ULA.

Conclusions: The focus in occupational therapy practice should implicitly be on enabling clients after a left-hemisphere stroke with ULA to perform IADL. Since there is only little evidence available focussing on treatment approaches in these clients, further research should investigate evidence-based occupational therapy approaches.

Nathalie Boppart (January 2018)

Occupational Therapists' Experiences in Using the German Version of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI-G) - an exploratory study

Keywords: occupational therapist, PEDI-G, occupation-focused, assessment, experiences

Aim: Explore occupational therapists' experiences with the German Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI-G) to better understand the use of assessments in practice.

Methods: Six occupational therapists were interviewed using a qualitative descriptive design. The verbatim transcriptions were thematically analyzed.

Results: Four themes were generated: (1) using the PEDI-G in daily practice; (2) facing the challenges in using the PEDI-G, (3) building partnerships with parents through the PEDI-G, (4) learning to draw the best out of the PEDI-G.

Conclusion: The findings indicate the potential that assessments focusing on occupation have for the profession. The challenges involved aspects of implementation processes.

Phebe Das (January 2018)

The risk of falling and the influence on the occupational identity of Dutch elderly: a qualitative study

Keywords: Elderly, falls, descriptive phenomenology, occupational identity, occupational losses

Objective and aim: As the average age of the population is increasing worldwide, the number of fall incidents among elderly are increasing as well. In the Netherlands, a fall is placed as the fourth largest cause of death in 2016. Being at risk of falling has an influence on the autonomy and identity of the elderly and cause occupational losses. This study aimed to examine how the risk of falling has an influence on the occupational identity of elderly.

Method: The study used a descriptive phenomenological design from Giorgi. Semi-structured interviews were conducted among five participants aged 65 years or older, who are at risk of falling. The five-step method of Giorgi guided the analysis.

Results: Four themes emerged from the data analysis: 1) adaptation is part of the character, 2) the consequences after a fall incident, 3) change in identity, getting older and weaker, 4) my first reaction to the given advice is: no.

Conclusion: Falls are causing occupational losses and leads to fear of falling. The risk of falling is not influencing the occupational identity directly. However, the consequences of a fall can have a big impact on the occupational identity of the elderly.

Magdalena Eichenberger (January 2018)

Occupations in the acute setting—is it possible?

Occupational therapists' experiences with the use of occupations in the acute neurology setting in Switzerland

Keywords: qualitative descriptive, occupational therapy, occupation, acute neurology

Aim: The aim of this study was to explore the experiences of occupational therapists' use of occupation within the acute neurology setting in the German-speaking part of Switzerland.

Methods: A qualitative descriptive approach was used for this study. Six individual, semi-structured interviews were conducted with occupational therapists in the acute neurology setting. MAXQDA software was used for the coding. Thematic analysis followed according to Braun and Clarke (2006).

Findings: Four main themes were developed: "the understanding of occupation-based and occupational therapy", "the different impacts on patients and OTs when using occupation", "focus on function or activity – different reflections" and "conflicts that influence the choice of employing occupation". The study highlights that the OTs experience benefits when using occupations but are also limited in its application. But, also impairment-based interventions are believed to be important. The practice in this setting is shaped by a more holistic aim and by a more biomedical purpose. Further, a need for an occupation-based and short to administer assessment for the acute neurology setting is stressed.

Conclusions: The use of occupation in the acute neurology setting is experienced as beneficial for patients but is difficult to apply because of different boundaries this setting brings along.

Mathilde George (January 2018)

Following MOHO training, an IPA study about the professional identity experienced by French Occupational Therapists working in Mental Health

Keywords: Professional Identity; Occupational Therapy; MOHO; Mental Health; occupational integrity

Introduction: Occupational Therapists have questioned their professional identity since the beginning of the profession. Research has shown that Occupational Therapists could overcome role issues by strengthen their professional identity upon occupational perspective. The use of occupation-focused conceptual models as Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) has showed as helpful to keep focus on occupational perspective.

Methods: This study aims to contribute to new theoretical understanding of the process of constructing and nurturing professional identity. A qualitative study has been conducted toward French Occupational Therapists working in Mental Health about what they have experienced after MOHO training. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) has been used. 5 French Occupational Therapists have participated to semi-structured interviews.

Results: The results have shown that MOHO has nurtured professional confidence of Occupational Therapists; that the role of Occupational Therapist has been put in a new light; that the Occupational Therapists felt a new belonging; and that the Occupational Therapists still have to deal with the work context.

Conclusion: This research contributes to the understanding of the process of constructing and nurturing professional identity of Occupational Therapists. The access to occupation-focused knowledge has helped the participants reconsider their professional identity, but they have faced personal and environmental challenges. Further research, especially longitudinal studies, is needed.

Tamara Hauri (January 2018)

Return to work after flexor tendon injury. Early passive motion versus controlled active motion - a cross-sectional study

Keywords: Flexor tendon injury, rehabilitation, early passive motion protocol, controlled active motion protocol, hand therapy, return to work

Study design: Cross sectional study with retrospective data analysis

Background: The discussion about the best rehabilitation protocol for flexor tendon injuries is ongoing in the literature. Early active motion protocols (EAM) e.g. the controlled active motion (CAM) protocol are more popular, but there is recent literature including early passive motion protocols (EPM) with good results and low rupture rates.

Purpose: To compare the two rehabilitation protocols EPM and CAM after flexor tendon injury regarding the time to return to work (TTRTW), the total active motion (TAM), grip strength, rupture rate and the number of therapy sessions.

Methods: To compare the two groups treating with EPM or CAM protocol regarding the outcome measurements, the t-test or the Mann-Whitney U test were used. The significance level was set to less than .05.

Results: There were 79 patients with 88 injured fingers in the EPM group, and 72 patients with 80 injured fingers in the CAM group. Nostatistically significant difference was found in TTRTW between the two groups EPM and CAM (95.4 days versus 89.2 days, $p = .74$). White-collar workers have a significant earlier return to part-time work with 23.8 days compared to 42.3 days ($p = .028$) if treated with the CAM. With regards to TAM, the CAM group was significantly better ($p = .001$) with 205 compared to 183 in the EPM group.

Conclusions: The white-collar workers benefit from the CAM protocol with an earlier return to part-time work, higher TAM score and fewer required therapy sessions. Overall, the patients treated with the CAM had a higher TAM score.

Alice Pellichero (January 2018)

*Community mobility and occupation following driving cessation:
A retrospective longitudinal study of seniors living in France*

Keywords: occupational science, community mobility, seniors, driving cessation, engagement in occupation

Introduction: Driving cessation in seniors leads to decreased community mobility, which is source of poor health, increased depressive symptoms and decline in social and physical activities.

Purpose: The aim was to describe community mobility among seniors who stopped driving, compare their community mobility before and after driving cessation, and identify factors that influence engagement in occupations after driving cessation.

Method: A retrospective longitudinal study was conducted with 48 retired drivers (mean age 80.7 years old). Surveys were used to collect sociodemographic, community mobility, health, occupational, functional and cognitive data at baseline and two and half years later while still driving and had stopped driving, respectively.

Results: Most participants (71.1%) reported that their engagement in occupations was affected after driving cessation. Concomitantly, the use of public transport significantly decreased ($p=0.002$) that depended on the frequency of use before driving cessation ($p<0.001$), and walking distance to public transport ($p=0.006$). Nevertheless, using public transport or getting help with transport has no effect on the engagement in occupations of retired drivers. Interestingly, only the retired drivers who had considered driving cessation at baseline were not affected in their engagement in occupations after driving cessation ($p=0.019$).

Conclusion: This research highlights the crucial need to improve community mobility among retired drivers, and be able to provide prevention programs to seniors so they can learn how to anticipate and adapt for driving cessation and preserve their occupations after driving cessation. This is crucial to seniors' quality of life and to concurrently maintain them in better health condition. It would be helpful if occupational therapists could implement accurate to limit these reduced occupations.

Margot Salomon (January 2018)

A survey on the current occupational therapy practice for persons with cognitive impairment post-acquired brain injury in France

Keywords: Acquired Brain Injury, Cognitive rehabilitation, Theoretical approach, Occupational therapy France

Background: Cognitive impairment is a common and often occurring consequence of acquired brain injuries. The current practice patterns of French occupational therapists who work in this area are not clearly known.

Purpose: The aim of this study was to investigate the theoretical approach, conceptual models, assessments and interventions used by French occupational therapists who work in this field.

Methods: A self-administered, purpose-designed online survey was used.

Findings: Survey responses were received from 94 occupational therapists. More than half of the participants (64.52%) admitted having a compensatory approach of cognitive rehabilitation. Conceptual models that were most frequently used were the Disability Creation Process (27.2%) and the Canadian Model of occupational performance (25.3%). Assessments that were most frequently used were the Non-validated, Non-standardized homemade ADL performance analysis (22.22%) and the rapid evaluation of cognitive functions (ERFC) (13.28%).

Implications: French occupational therapists seem to follow both the 2nd and the 3rd paradigm (Kielhofner, 2002) of occupational therapy. Further research is needed to develop recommendations for best practice in cognitive rehabilitation with ABI clients

Anita Willi (January 2018)

Professional Identity under constant Negotiation

Professional Identity of Occupational Therapists working in Hand Therapy in Switzerland

Keywords: Professional Identity; Occupational Therapy; Hand Therapy; Hand Rehabilitation; Switzerland; Constructivist Grounded Theory, Focus Group

Background: Explaining the profession seems to be difficult for many occupational therapists. These issues can relate with their own professional identity. Especially occupational therapists working in hand therapy are facing special challenges regarding their professional identity. Further Switzerland offers special conditions to occupational therapists in regard to their professional identity.

Aim: The aim of this study was to explore how occupational therapists working in hand therapy in Switzerland experience their professional identity.

Method: A constructivist Grounded Theory approach based on Charmaz (2014) was followed and four focus groups were conducted.

Findings: The findings show a continuously changing professional identity based on the` current emergent situations. This process can be seen as constant negotiation of the professional identity of the participants. Therefore, the main theme was described as: Professional identity under constant negotiation. Four subthemes were described: Influence of the professional core, influence of the personal identity, influence of the environmental demands, ambivalence and dialogue of the influencing factors.

Conclusions: The findings of this study imply a flexible, changeable and adaptable professional identity of occupational therapists, which allows them to react on the different social environments they are in.

Sussi Assander (September 2017)

Measuring self-reported and observed ability to use everyday technology in persons with cognitive impairment and dementia: A correlation study

Keywords: Correlation coefficient, Discriminating validity, Occupational Therapy, Observation tool

Background: Everyday Technology (ET) is included in several instrumental activities in daily life (IADL). To assess how the ability to perform IADL is affected by ET, two assessment tools were developed, the self-perceived tool "Everyday Technology Use Questionnaire" (S-ETUQ) and the performance-based tool "Management of Everyday Technology Assessment" (META). However, there are contradicting opinions regarding the need to combine self-reports and performance-based assessments to gain rich and substantial information about a person's ability.

Aim: The aim of this study is to explore if there is a relationship between perceived and observed ability to use ET in a sample of people with Cognitive Impairment (n=35) and Dementia (n=30) when using S-ETUQ and META.

Material and Methods: A cross-sectional, non-experimental design was applied. Data was transformed with Rasch-analysis, followed by independent t-test, Pearson Chi-square and Pearson Correlation tests.

Results: A small significant correlation (.251, $p=0.044$) was found between self-reported and observed ability to use ET.

Conclusions: The results indicate that S-ETUQ and META do not provide similar outcomes. Hence, it is recommended to use both tools when assessing patients with cognitive impairments and dementia to gain rich data about their ability to use ET in everyday life.

Katrin Kugler (September 2017)

Occupational Balance in mothers and fathers of preterm infants

The gender-specific meaning of occupational balance for mothers and fathers of preterm infants

Keywords: Balance of occupations, parents, premature infants, EPP, focus group

Aim: This study investigates the lived experience of mothers' and fathers' occupational balance in the situation of having a preterm infant. It is part of a bigger project the "Occupational balance in informal care givers study" (OBI-care) (Dür, Brückner, Mattner, Kugler, & Berger, 2015).

Method: This study uses pre-collected focus group data and the Empirical Phenomenological Psychological Method for the analysis. The purpose is to describe and understand the mothers' and fathers' lived experience of balancing daily occupations after the birth of a preterm infant in more depth and to investigate their gender specific meaning of occupational balance.

Results: The following five main components emerged from the analysis: 1) change of occupations 2) being actively involved in occupations 3) being a parent 4) living and experiencing the phenomenon together with loved ones 5) finding a new rhythm. This study did not detect clear gender-specific components of occupational balance, however differences in the specific meaning of single occupations and in the way the parents went through the phases of the process of re-establishing an occupational balance.

Conclusions: The results emphasise the importance of being able to make self-determined occupational choices opposed to being other-directed in order to develop an occupational balance. The findings suggest that being other-directed in the choice of one's occupations hinders and delays the process of finding a new occupational balance after a life transition, such as becoming a parent of a preterm infant.

Ulrike Rathauscher (September 2017)

***A Survey about school-based occupational therapy in the Austrian education system
Current state of provision and financing***

Keywords: occupational therapy, school-based, Austria, education system, survey

Aim: The aim of the study was to explore provision and financing of school-based interventions in Austria.

Method: Data was collected by means of a web-based survey among Austrian occupational therapists (n=72) applying descriptive statistics.

Results: Outcomes demonstrated that more therapists offered contact to schools rather than to providing direct interventions and that there were differences between school types. Occupation-based interventions were mainly provided through consultation. The majority of interventions are financed by health insurance and one fifth of the occupational therapy interventions are not financed at all.

Conclusion: This leads to the conclusion that the current financial situation does not give all children access to school-based occupational therapy.

Ines Wenger (September 2017)

Applicability of the German Version of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI-G) in German-Speaking Countries in Europe

Keywords: Activities of daily living, child, child preschool, caregivers, reference values

Aims: The study investigated if the normative standard scores of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI) are applicable to the German version of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI-G) in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and whether there are differences in the applicability of the PEDI-G between the three countries.

Methods: 75 normally developing children (35 girls, 40 boys) from Germany (n=17), Austria (n=16), and Switzerland (n=42) aged between 0.9 month and 7.3 years (SD 2.03) participated in the study. Descriptive statistics, independent samples t-tests and chi-square tests were applied.

Results: No significant differences between the normative scores of the German-speaking children and the normative standard scores were identified. Even though the German-speaking sample showed higher scores for the domain social functions in both scales and in the Caregiver Assistance Scale self-care. Lower scores were identified in the Functional Skills Scale mobility.

Conclusions: The results support that the normative standard scores of the PEDI are applicable to the PEDI-G and for Austria, Germany and Switzerland, as no significant differences between the countries were identified. However the generalizability of the results is limited due to sample size and recruitment procedures.

Ylona Zumbrunn (September 2017)

Exploring the psychometric properties of the Danish version of Management of Everyday Technology Assessment

Keywords: everyday technology (ET), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Management of Everyday Technology Assessment (META), validity

Background: The management of everyday technology assessment (META) has been developed and evaluated in Sweden, but there is scarce evidence regarding the psychometric properties of the Danish META.

Aim: The aim of this study was to explore the psychometric properties of the 11 performance skill items of the Danish version of the META. Furthermore, the item hierarchy of the Danish META version was compared with that of the Swedish META version.

Methods: Within a cross-sectional design, data of 47 community-dwelling older adults with and without chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) were collected and analysed with the Rasch rating scale model.

Results: One of the 11 performance skill items demonstrated unacceptable goodness-of-fit to the Rasch model. Of the total sample, 14% showed misfitting response patterns. The separation index did not allow identification of different ability levels within this sample. The 4-category rating scale worked consistently across the items and the assessment was recognised as unidimensional. The item hierarchy of the Danish and the Swedish META version is similar.

Conclusion: The results provide mixed evidence of validity of the META when applied to the present sample. Further research is needed in order to provide better evidence of the Danish META for this population and context.

Marielle André (January 2017)

An experience of occupational therapists using the Mini-Activities Approach to empower patients' resilience in their daily life

Background: Resilience is becoming an important concept to understand the new definition of health in western-societies. Research has shown that a high resilience positively influence particular diseases or symptoms. However, there is less research about intervention aiming to strengthen patient's resilience in the rehabilitation fields. Therefore, a group of Swiss occupational therapists developed the Mini-Activities Approach (MAA) which aims to strengthen the patients' resilience.

Method: The aim of this study is to gain a better understanding of the experience of occupational therapists using the MAA in their clinical practice. A qualitative descriptive research has been be conducted through focus groups including occupational therapists who use the MAA in their clinical practice.

Results: The results have shown that occupational therapists integrate the MAA in their clinical practice in different contexts; that the MAA influences them to work more occupation-focused while paying more attention on patients' resources; and that it needs to be better adapted for occupational therapy practice.

Conclusion: Occupational therapists using an approach aiming to strengthen their patients' resilience develop an occupation-focused approach of the therapeutic process focussing on patients' resources.

Kim Bakker (January 2017)

The lived experiences of balancing daily activities by adults with a visual impairment experiencing fatigue

Keywords: fatigue

Background: Currently little research is available on fatigue experienced by adults with a visual impairment and the role of fatigue on performing daily activities.

This study used interpretative phenomenological analysis to explore the lived experiences of balancing daily activities by adults with a visual impairment who experience fatigue. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with five adults with a visual impairment experiencing fatigue. The analyses generated three superordinate themes: characteristics of fatigue; fatigue in daily life, and managing activities of daily living.

Findings suggest that although fatigue poses challenges for the performance of activities and roles, and thus the occupational balance, the participants successfully applied strategies to manage and adapt to fatigue, limiting the consequences of fatigue for occupational balance. The causes, expressions and perceptions of fatigue described by the participants varied considerably, emphasizing the subjective and individual experience of fatigue.

The findings have implications for occupational therapists to apply a client-centred approach in which they explore the individual experiences of fatigue with their clients and search for a composition of interventions and strategies that matches the person, the experienced fatigue and the situation.

Thomas Ballmer (January 2017)

Test-retest and inter-rater reliability of the Danish version of the Management of Everyday Technology Assessment for use with well older adults and older adults living with COPD

Keywords: occupational therapy, technology, assessment, COPD, reliability

Background: The trend towards telemedicine increasingly requires clients to manage everyday technology in order to access health services. The Management of Everyday Technology Assessment (META) is a new observation-based instrument developed to assess competence managing everyday technology.

Aim: To examine test-retest (TRR) and inter-rater reliability (IRR) of the Danish version of the META for well older adults and older adults living with COPD.

Method and Materials: 47 participants with ($n = 23$) and without COPD ($n = 24$) were recruited. IRR was examined by six raters paired across 30 participants. TRR was examined for 30 participants by the same rater administering the META twice within four weeks. A rank-based method for paired ordinal data was used to calculate percentage agreement (PA) and measures of systematic disagreement and individual variability. Mann Whitney U tests were used to compare PA in relation to health status.

Results: Inter-rater PA was acceptable across 10 of 11 items and test-retest PA across 8 of 11 items. Systematic disagreement was present for one item in TRR. No significant differences in PA were found regarding health status.

Conclusions: Generally, the META generates reliable scores for this sample. However, conclusive statements cannot be made for all items

Romain Bertrand (January 2017)

How is driving cessation experienced by older people?

An occupational perspective on the transition from driving to driving cessation

Keywords: Older people, driving cessation, occupational transition

In Western countries, driving is the main vector of mobility for older people. Because of the decline of numerous abilities in aging, the risk of driving cessation increases. By using an occupational perspective, it is accepted that driving cessation triggers an occupational transition. Changes in the opportunities to engage in occupations are experienced. Driving can also be itself an occupation for individuals, supporting their identity and their social role. Driving cessation can so be considered as a dual loss. The way it is experienced as a process by older individuals is relatively unknown. Knowledge is particularly lacking about how this process is related to the meaning of driving for individuals.

By using a narrative methodology, this study aimed to explore how is driving cessation experienced over time by older individuals. Five narratives were elaborated from five participants over 72 that lived in Western Switzerland. It appears that driving cessation as an occupational transition is an interruption in the narrative of older individuals. It imposes a reorganization of occupations and of daily living. The reorganization aims to elaborate a satisfactory balance between the identity and the participation. But, adaptation to changes is more difficult if driving was a valuable occupation for an individual. If it is not well-negotiated, driving cessation threatens the well-being and health. Consequently, to accompany older people in the elaboration of their balance, by anticipating a transition of mobility and by apprehending alternatives for engagement in occupations seems to be a perspective for occupational therapists.

Selina Egger (January 2017)

Older people's perspectives on facilitators and barriers for participation in occupational therapy health promotion programs

Keywords: Occupational therapy, health promotion, old people, participation, recruitment, facilitators, barriers

Introduction: The amount of older Swiss people is increasing and along with it the amount of health problems. Active ageing is seen as an important determinant to reduce health problems and along with it health costs. Occupational therapy health promotion programs support old people in performing healthy lifestyles and therefore lead to well-being and health.

However, the recruitment of healthy old people for such programs is challenging. Sparse occupational therapy and occupational science literature on this topic exist. Research of other professional fields give more information but the applicability to the Swiss occupational therapy health promotion context is restricted. Therefore, more knowledge about facilitators and barriers for healthy older people's participation in occupational therapy health promotion programs is needed.

Method: To answer the research question a qualitative descriptive study was conducted. Single interviews with seven participants were carried out to collect qualitative data. The interviews were analysed using inductive thematic analysis according to Braun and Clarke (2006).

Results: Perspectives on barriers and facilitators are subjective although some equalities exist. Participants reported three main themes as facilitating or barrier for participation in occupational therapy health promotion programs. 'Social aspects', 'health awareness' and 'program expectations' do have a mutual influence on participation.

Conclusion: The results of this study add new knowledge to the recruitment and content of occupational therapy health promotion programs in a rural area but do also show similarities to already existing studies of other disciplines. Further research is needed how occupational therapists can implement health promotion efficiently and which recruitment strategies are effective also in urban areas

Fabienne Hasler (January 2017)

*Participation of wheelchair users in public transport
A qualitative study of Swiss manual wheelchair users*

Keywords: Social participation, Transportation, Wheelchairs

Background: To be mobile is essential to participate in today's society, irrespective of disability. Previous literature mainly focused on environmental and accessibility issues in participation of wheelchair users while using public transport.

Aim: The aim of this study was to describe what adult, manual wheelchair users perceive as facilitators and barriers to participation when using public transport in Switzerland.

Methods: Seven wheelchair users with different mobility impairments participated in semi-structured interviews. A qualitative descriptive approach was applied and analysis was performed using qualitative content analysis.

Results: The use of public transport gives wheelchair users the opportunity of independent mobility and a sense of freedom what is perceived as a facilitator to participation. A main barrier was seen in the confrontation of being different while using public transport. Therefore a behavioural modification and self-reflexion about skills and disability was perceived as a central facilitator for participation in public transport.

Conclusion: Mobility is a major concern of manual wheelchair users and participation in public transport is facilitated through various aspects. Identification of strategies which are needed to engage and enhance wheelchair users' participation in the use of public transport could be possible aspects health care professionals could focus on.

Hanna Köttl (January 2017)

Everyday technology use among older adults with and without Alzheimer's disease and Mild Cognitive Impairment in relation to perceived Life Satisfaction

Background: The aim of this study was to understand the association between life satisfaction (LS) and difficulty in everyday technology (ET) use, amount of relevant ET and non-use of relevant ET in a sample of older adults with and without Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) (n=117). Moreover, this paper intended to detect other factors explaining being dissatisfied with life (DSWL).

Methods: Within this secondary analysis, using a cross-sectional design, Mann-Whitney U tests and t-tests were applied to compare those SWL with those who were not in relation to difficulty in ET use, amount of relevant ET in use and non-use of relevant ET. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis were conducted to identify further factors explaining being DSWL.

Results: No significant differences were demonstrated between the SWL group and the DSWL group regarding perceived difficulty in use and amount of relevant ET in use. However, the non-use of relevant community-based everyday technologies (CBET) was significantly associated with being DSWL. Depression, dropping activities and interests, the non-use of home- and community-based ET (HCBET) and CBET significantly explained being DSWL in the univariate analysis. The logistic regression model identified depression and the non-use of relevant CBET as main influencing factors in being DSWL.

Conclusion: This study emphasized the association between depression, daily functioning and LS. Further research involving a larger sample is desired.

Jacqueline Leenders (January 2017)

Incidence, Location and Severity of Pressure Ulcers and their Impact on Participation among People with Long-term Spinal Cord Injury

Keywords: Participation, Spinal cord injury, Pressure ulcer, Chronic conditions, Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy

Objectives (1) To describe the prevalence of Pressure Ulcers (PU) among people with a long-term Spinal Cord Injury (SCI); (2) To identify if there is a significant difference in level of participation, measured in frequency, restrictions and satisfaction, between people with and without PU; and (3) To identify factors associated with participation.

Design Multi-centre cross-sectional study.

Setting Wheelchair dependent persons (n=282) with traumatic or non-traumatic SCI for ≥ 10 years, age at injury 18-35 years, current age 28-65 years.

Method A rehabilitation physician assessed occurrence, location and severity of PU. Participation was measured with the Utrecht Scale for Evaluation of Rehabilitation- Participation (USER-P).

Results PU were reported by 30.9% of the participants. Most reported PU locations were: foot (36%), buttock (34%) and sacral (21%) areas. Due to PU extra bed rest was applied by 42.5% of the participants and hospitalisation occurred among 16.1%. Regarding participation, there was no significant difference between people with and without PU in all USER-P total scales (frequency, restrictions or satisfaction). Only few activities showed a significant difference between people with and without PU: leisure activities indoor, outdoor activities and sports and physical exercise activities. Having a paid job, having a stable relationship and a lower lesion level were positively associated with higher levels of participation. Hospitalisation due to the PU was negatively associated with lower rates of satisfaction with participation.

Conclusion PU are frequently reported among persons with long-term SCI, leading to extra bed rest or hospitalisation. The impact of PU on participation was only partly shown. A paid job, stable relationship and a lower lesion level are positively associated with participation. Being hospitalised due to PU has a negative impact on participation. Development of severe PU should be prevented in order to minimise participation problems for people with a long-term SCI.

Purity Mwirigi (January 2017)

The influence of Saudi Arabian culture on foreign Occupational Therapists daily intervention processes: An exploratory study

Background: Saudi Arabia has had rapid growth in the healthcare sector due to its oil wealth and the subsequent ability to outsource health care resources and facilities. It relies mainly on foreigners from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds for labour. It is important to understand how the culture difference influences occupational therapy interventions since Saudi Arabian culture is mainly governed by religion.

Aim: The aim of this study was to explore the experiences of foreign occupational therapists with regard to the influence of Saudi Arabian culture on their daily interventions.

Method: A qualitative approach using interpretive phenomenological analysis was used. Semi-structured interviews were used for data collections of the four purposively selected participants. The collected data was transcribed verbatim and analysed in the six steps of the IPA approach as described by Smith et al (2009).

Findings: Five superordinate themes emerged from the data analysis. They were 1.) Experiencing culture shock 2.) Language barrier 3). Accepting and integrating religion with treatment 4.) Dynamics of the intervention process 5). Perception about the working environment. The findings indicated that most of the influences to the intervention process stemmed from religion with religious beliefs and taboos, language barrier and gender segregation being the key influences.

Conclusion: This study affirms the importance of Client- family education of OT skills, Family centred care and regular cultural interaction through cultural events as way of improving the cultural difference, encouraging interaction and integrations of the cultures. Occupational Therapist cultural training before embarking to any foreign country was also found essential.

Elieke Nijhuis (January 2017)

Increased Awareness in People with COPD after Occupational Therapy

Keywords: Occupational Therapy, COPD, Occupational performance, Awareness, Self-management, mixed-methods

Purpose: The aim of this study was to research how people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)—who participated in newly developed occupational therapy modules of COPDnet—perceive changes in occupational performance, dyspnoea and fatigue after the intervention as well as to uncover what contributed to these changes.

Method: Four COPD-patients participating in occupational therapy modules of COPDnet were included. A mixed methods single case design was used. Occupational performance, satisfaction and either dyspnoea or fatigue were measured pre-, mid- and post-treatment with the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) and either the dyspnoea dimension of the Chronical Respiratory Disease Questionnaire (CRQ) or the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue (FACIT-F). Semi-structured interviews were conducted after treatment.

Results: Post-treatment participants expressed increased awareness about the disease and its influence on meaningful occupations as well as about their own influence on symptoms when performing meaningful occupations. The participants have started changing habits and experience the importance of reengagement in meaningful activities. Clinical relevant improvements are seen in occupational performance and in dyspnoea, but not in satisfaction or fatigue.

Conclusion: This study indicates that the newly developed occupational therapy modules can be an important contribution in treatment of people with COPD.

Beth Njuguna (January 2017)

Views of school-based therapists and special education teachers on collaboration and pull-out models of service delivery

Different models of service delivery can be applied in a school setting. Collaboration: working with the teacher in the classroom and pull-out: taking a child out of the class for treatment.

This qualitative study used a qualitative descriptive with the purpose of this study was to identify the views and attitudes of school-based occupational therapists and special education teachers regarding collaboration and pull-out models of service delivery and providing further understanding and knowledge on how the use of different models of service delivery in school-based practice contribute to students participation in classroom activities.

Data was collected using four individual interviews and one focus group discussion and resulted into four themes which were achieved through an inductive thematic analysis. The participants had varying views concerning the collaboration and pull-out models of service delivery.

Both models were seen to have some positive and negative consequences to students' performance in school. However, the collaboration model was seen to support the student to participate in the classroom activities which is paramount for the occupational therapy practice. There were some barriers that the participants anticipated if the collaboration model was to be implemented in their school, like the lack of support from management and lack of knowledge and information on collaboration model.

However, despite the positive attributes to participation when the collaboration model was applied, the participants still valued some aspects of pull-out model and recommended the use of both models in the school set-up.

Andrea Petrig (January 2017)

Experiences of occupational therapists working with Diagnose Related Groups management in Switzerland

Keywords: occupational therapy, work satisfaction, professional autonomy, code of ethics, reimbursement system

Background. The implementation of DRG (Diagnose Related Groups) management has an impact on daily practice. No previous qualitative exploration has been done with occupational therapists in the Swiss health care system.

Purpose. The purpose of this study is to explore how the DRG management corresponds to the professional autonomy of occupational therapists and to explore possible impacts on their job satisfaction.

Methods. A qualitative approach using thematic analysis was employed.

Results. Three overlapping and one overarching theme were derived from the data: perceived benefits, perceived risks, difficult situations arise because of the DRG management and the perceived autonomy and work satisfaction.

Conclusions. Occupational therapists experienced a strengthening of the presence of occupational therapy within the interprofessional team and the whole hospital. Occupational therapists showed an ethical awareness in line with their code of ethics and conduct, but feel the economic pressure. Support in difficult situations was appreciated but not guaranteed for all participants. The findings reinforce further monitoring in Switzerland but also internationally on how reimbursement systems shape daily practice of occupational therapists.

Frauke Rennhack (January 2017)

Work-related situation and goal-achievement of psychiatric patients receiving Pre-Vocational Therapy - A cross-sectional study

Keywords: Pre-Vocational Therapy, acute mental health, goal achievement, work

This study investigated goal-achievement and work-related situation in acute psychiatric clients of a Pre-Vocational Therapy (PVT) intervention directed at work-related participation.

17,1% of the 41 participants achieved their desired work-related situation at discharge. 39.0% of the sample did not name a clear goal. Concerning type and length of intervention, no significant differences were found between participants who achieved their goal and those who did not. Most participants retained or established productive activities from admission to discharge.

The findings raise the issue of appropriate goal-setting and the need for further research to identify appropriate vocational interventions in acute mental health.

Esther Rothenberger (January 2017)

Occupational therapists' experiences with occupation-based acute and non-acute hand therapy practice - A phenomenological study

Keywords: Occupational therapy, hand therapy, occupation-based practice, interpretative phenomenological analysis

Background: Occupational therapists within hand therapy experience tensions due to the predominant biomedical view that conflicts with the core concepts of occupational therapy. Through the revision of the Swiss health care system, allied health professionals are required to improve quality and delivery of their service. In order to justify occupational therapy's relevance in the multidisciplinary setting of hand therapy, one is challenged to provide an effective and a unique service, which could be seen in occupation-based practice.

Methods: An interpretative phenomenological approach was utilised to understand how five occupational therapists experienced the use of occupation-based hand therapy. Results: The use of occupation-based practice in hand therapy was inconsistently experienced.

Participants who were able to successfully use occupation-based practice usually had valuable experiences to draw upon. Conversely, practitioners who struggled to use occupation as a medium often lacked successful experiences with occupation-based practice.

Conclusion: Practitioners who have experience of the value of occupation-based practice can support practitioners in using an occupation-based approach to treatment and facilitate its application. Further discourse on practicalities of how to implement occupation-based practice is needed to facilitate this approach in acute hand therapy practice.

Alea Zurbrügg (January 2017)

A qualitative study on occupational therapists' reasoning in stroke rehabilitation

Keywords: clinical reasoning; evidence-based practice; occupational therapy; stroke

Aim: The aim of this study was to identify how occupational therapists in stroke rehabilitation reason about their everyday practice. Understanding practitioner's doing and thinking can give insights into how occupational therapists reason and which role evidence plays within a practice aiming for a stroke rehabilitation that is relevant and effective for the stroke survivor.

Methods: Eight occupational therapist participated in semi-structured interviews. A qualitative descriptive approach was applied and analysis was performed using content analysis.

Findings: When occupational therapists in stroke rehabilitation reason about their everyday practice they integrate not only scientific evidence but also patient's goals and motivation, personal experience, prior knowledge and team-knowledge. Thereby effectiveness of their therapy is linked to patient satisfaction. The whole treatment process is furthermore strongly influenced by the patient-therapist relationship.

Conclusions: Whereas the participants reported to rely on occupational therapy specific scientific research on everyday life and patients, guidelines and scientific research on effective treatment have not been directly named. Scientific evidence is sometimes not sufficient to reflect on the complex relationships and the holistic picture in stroke rehabilitation. In complex everyday situations the participants therefore primarily use their clinical reasoning skills to decide about appropriate action.

Erica Blokker (September 2016)

*Engaging family caregivers in the occupational therapy process
Perceptions of occupational therapists*

Keywords: Acquired brain injury; Constructivist grounded theory approach; Informal care; Occupational therapy.

Background: Involvement of informal caregivers in the rehabilitation process is recognised to be important for patients with complex long-term health conditions such as acquired brain injury. Knowledge is lacking on how family members can be more actively involved in the therapy process in order to improve cooperation with family members. Perspectives of occupational therapists may give insight into the factors that hampers or stimulate involvement of family caregivers.

Study aim: The study explored how a group of Dutch occupational therapists perceive their professional task towards family caregivers who take care of relatives with acquired brain injury in a changing societal environment.

Method: A constructivist grounded theory approach was used. Data were generated from six individual semi-structured interviews followed by one focus group. Ten occupational therapists participated in this study. A constant comparative method was used for data analysis.

Findings: The analytic process brought forward three categories: Together being at the right place in the right time; Learning to judge competency: Being part of a dynamic context.

Conclusion: Trends in healthcare and the societal context demand further development of professional competence to involve family caregivers in the occupational therapy process. Awareness of changes in a societal environment can result in opportunities to form partnerships

Amanda Bueno Cipriani (September 2016)

The impact of substance use disorders in quality of life and human occupations: a cross-sectional study from a gender perspective

Keywords: Substance use disorders; Occupations; Quality of Life; Gender

Introduction: This study aimed to explore the similarities and differences between men and women in the impact substance use disorders have upon quality of life and human occupations.

Method: A total of fifty patients who sought treatment for alcohol and other drug dependence at a specialized outpatient clinic were assessed. Data on occupational roles were obtained by means of the Role Checklist. Quality of life was assessed through the World Health Organization Quality of Life (WHOQL-BREF). Occupational performance was assessed through the Self-Assessment of Occupational Functioning (SAOF). Data on addiction severity were obtained through Addiction Severity Index 6 (ASI 6).

Results: Gender differences were found with regard to involvement in leisure activities, the environment and social relationships with family and children. There were no statistically significant differences in occupational functioning. Similarities were found in the other analyzed aspects.

Conclusion: There are relevant gender differences in the impact of addiction in quality of life and in the engagement in occupations, specially in leisure activities, family relationships and occupational roles, which are more affected among female participants. Both groups presented high rates of unemployment. Further studies are recommended.

Irene Christen (September 2016)

Virtual Reality Intervention for Stroke Patients

Change of Arm Usage in Daily Activities after a Virtual Reality-based Therapy Intervention for People with Hemiplegic Stroke

Keywords: intervention, MAL-14, occupational therapy, stroke, arm recovery, activities, virtual reality

Background: Stroke often leads to reduced arm usage in daily activities. Virtual reality (VR)-based therapy is a new approach in stroke rehabilitation. Its impact on arm usage in daily activities is still unclear.

Objectives: To determine whether arm usage in daily activities improves after VR intervention.

Methods: Eleven stroke patients underwent a 6-week program of daily VR-based therapy for upper limb. Arm usage in daily activities was assessed using the Motor Activity Log – 14. Nonparametric statistic and descriptive analyses were applied.

Findings: The amount of arm usage in daily activities improved significantly whereas the quality of arm usage in daily activities showed no significant improvement following intervention.

Relevance to Clinical practice: VR-based therapy seems to improve amount of arm usage in daily activities. However, the intervention has to be further evaluated and adapted regarding its appeal, intactness and goal-fit to ensure its power.

Limitations: Small sample size and lack of a control group.

Recommendations for further research: Randomized controlled trials are needed.

Jeroen te Dorsthorst (September 2016)

How childhood cancer survivors reflect on the influence of late effects and their childhood cancer history to their occupational identity.

A narrative study

Keywords: Childhood cancer; survival; late effects; occupational identity

Introduction: Increased cure rates of childhood cancer have resulted in an increasing number of survivors. It has become clear that many of the survivors face late effects of the cancer treatment they received. These late effects may have a large impact on daily occupations. Our occupational identity is built on what we do, what we want and our experiences as a person.

Aim: This narrative study aims to get more insight into the way survivors of childhood cancer reflect on the influence of the late effects and their childhood cancer history on their occupational identities.

Method: Seven adult survivors of childhood cancer were interviewed for this study and their stories were analysed by means of narrative analysis.

Results: The findings show that they experience a large, ongoing effect on their occupational identity. Various aspects of the occupational identity, like occupations, dreams and wishes, relationships and worldview are affected. This made them to create an occupational identity in which the story and the late effects are intertwined in the occupational identity after a phase in which they wanted but didn't manage to build an occupational identity outside the cancer history

Angelique Kester (September 2016)

Vietnamese caregivers reflections on activities of daily life in relation to PEDI

Keywords: disability, capability, performance, ADL, assessment, PEDI, Vietnam, caregivers

Purpose: This study aims to explore whether the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI) fits the Vietnamese context by reflecting on activities of daily life (ADL) of children with disabilities and how these activities are constructed, from a caregivers perspective.

Methods: This qualitative study included views of 15 caregivers. Cognitive interviewing was used based on the constructs of PEDI by semi-structured interviewing and expansive verbal probing. Interviews were performed in English and Vietnamese with a translator and transcribed verbatim in English. Data was analysed using Constant Comparative Analysis.

Findings: PEDI has potential to fit the Vietnamese context although about 60% of PEDI-items require adaptation. Findings reflect differences in performance of several PEDI-items compared to original PEDI content and show which factors impact caregivers assistance. In general, there was a great need for better comprehension of the child's (dis)abilities and potential. The interviews lead to raised awareness of caregivers about functional skills and assistance given.

Conclusions: The study shows that the concept of PEDI is relevant for Vietnam. At the same time, similarities and differences are revealed regarding the concept of the original PEDI. This implies a further need to adapt PEDI-items in order to use in Vietnam by health professionals.

Bärbel Rückriem (September 2016)

Lived experience of caregivers in Switzerland when providing the first wheelchair to children with severe cerebral palsy (GMFCS & MACS IV/V)

An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis Study

Keywords: Severe cerebral palsy, provision of first wheelchair, caregiver, GMFCS, occupational therapy, Switzerland

Purpose: To understand how caregivers of a child with severe cerebral palsy (GMFCS&MACS IV/V) experience the provision of the first wheelchair in Switzerland.

Method: The approach of the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis was chosen to gain insight into the lived experience of 5 mothers regarding the provision of the first wheelchair to their child. Data was collected through one-to-one, in-depth semi-structured interviews and observation.

Results: The findings entailed three superordinate themes, "It was some big step from the buggy to the wheelchair", "Getting through it" and "And the wheelchair meant", describing the caregiver's inner struggle to accept their child's diagnosis before being able to agree to the provision of the wheelchair, the impact the wheelchair had on child and caregiver and the evaluation of the service and the collaboration with the health professionals in the provision.

Conclusions: The findings of this study can help occupational therapists to understand caregiver's perspectives when confronted to ascend to the change from a buggy to a wheelchair, recognise the importance for comprehensive assessment and close collaboration with parents in the intervention and distinguish clearly between the needs of the caregivers and children with GMFCS level IV and V.

Nina Teufen (September 2016)

Lived experiences of co-occupation of everyday life among couples being parents for the first time - A phenomenological study

Keywords: co-occupation, first time parents, couples, everyday life, Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Aim: Occupational science sees the family as an important place where everyday life occurs. This qualitative study with a hermeneutic, phenomenological methodology, aims at understanding the experiences of co-occupation of four couples in their everyday lives after becoming first time parents in the German speaking part of Switzerland.

Method and Results: Through semi-structured interviews data was collected. The interpretative analysis revealed the three main themes of “From two to three”, “Together through a changing everyday life” and “Bringing it all together”, and showed a process of occupational change that the couples experienced. Co-occupation between the parents was experienced as equal teamwork. The presence of the child facilitated the co-occupation between the parents and from a co-occupation between the parents made a co-occupation in the family unit.

Implications: This impact of the child on the co-occupation of the parents implied that in a family, the individual view of occupation is challenged and must be looked at more from the view of a system of the family. In addition, questions on the current concept of co-occupation in the family context arose

Fay Zischeck (September 2016)

Resilience in everyday life: experiences of individuals with a work-related musculoskeletal disorder of the upper extremity

Keywords: upper extremity, adjustment, routine, activities of everyday life

Introduction: In Europe, musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) of the upper extremity pose a major problem due to the cost they cause in terms of sick leave and heightened health care expenditures. Individuals with a work-related MSD of the upper extremity experience stress and are limited in their everyday life. Resilience as adapting well in the face of adversity is therefore important in the recovery of individuals with a work-related MSD of the upper extremity.

Aim: This qualitative study aims to explore how individuals with a work-related MSD of the upper extremity experience resilience in everyday life.

Method: The study was conducted following the constructivist grounded theory approach. The data was collected through five in-depth semi-structured interviews and analysed using the constant comparison method.

Results: The participants experience resilience in everyday life as a continuous adjustment period with three main phases that are not linear but are marked by ups and downs. Furthermore, the participants experienced this continuous adjustment period as the successful adaptation of their routine to suit the capabilities of their bodies in their actual health condition and it therefore restored their self-efficacy to a great extent.

Implications: The findings imply that resilience is a process that can be learned and improved. Occupational therapy practice can benefit from this knowledge by considering that feeling good and being distracted worked as a catalyser in the process that helped participants embracing their actual health condition and actively planning positive experiences.

Mohamad Nizar Bin Zainal (January 2016)

“The journey is not occupation-focused all the time” – A phenomenological exploration of the use of occupations by occupational therapists in the Singapore acute care sector

Keywords: Occupational therapy, acute care, Singapore, phenomenology

Background: In Singapore, a majority of occupational therapists are employed by acute care hospitals. As there is often a struggle to be occupation-focused in biomedically-influenced environments, it is pertinent to explore the therapists’ experiences of using occupations in these hospitals.

Objectives of Study: The study aimed to describe the meanings of using occupations in the acute care sector as experienced by recently-graduated occupational therapists.

Methods: Six therapists working in Singapore acute care hospitals were recruited and interviewed using a semi-structured guide. The transcripts were analysed for emergent themes following a descriptive phenomenological approach.

Findings: Three themes arose – “What my organisation demands of me”, “What my patients need of me”, and “Doing what I have to do.” Participants seemed to express a three-way tension between the use of occupations, organisational demands and patients’ needs. Although participants recognised the value of using occupations, they appeared more accepting of having to forgo the use of occupations when circumstances required them to.

Relevance to Clinical Practice: The nature of acute care practice impacts the professional practice of recent occupational therapists. They may require strategies on how to navigate these tensions to support continued professional well-being.

Limitations: The findings only represented an account of practice by six recent graduates in Singapore from different organisations. However, consensus was obtained on the themes and subthemes.

Recommendations for Further Research: Further investigation on the impact of these challenges found in this study on the professional well-being of practitioners is warranted. Within hospitals, action research teams to discuss and implement relevant strategies to overcome these challenges can also be initiated

Angelika Echsel (January 2016)

“Together on the way” - Emerging occupational therapy practice in mainstream schools in Switzerland. A narrative study

Keywords: Participation, children with special needs, school based practice, occupational therapy, narrative methodology.

Recent changes in legislation reformed special need education in Switzerland, subsequently more and more children with special needs are integrated in mainstream schools. This brought about a change in practice context for paediatric occupational therapists.

In a paradigmatic narrative approach occupational therapists stories and clinical reasoning have been thematically analysed. Three main themes with two subthemes each were identified and discussed: “bringing in an occupational therapy perspective”, “focusing on school related occupations” and “developing collaboration with different inclusion players”, representing three different aspects of the therapists emerging practice in mainstream schools in Switzerland.

Sandra Häberli (January 2016)

Social connections with people living with severe mental illness: Experiences of mental health professionals

Keywords: constructivist grounded theory, connectedness, everyday occupation, focus group discussion

Aim: The aim of this study was to explore and enhance the understanding of how social connections in everyday occupations with people living with severe mental illness is experienced among some mental health professionals. Deeper knowledge regarding the complex, social process of being socially connected in everyday occupations would support putting more specific treatment of people living with severe mental illness into practice.

Methods: A total of 18 mental health professionals, including eleven women and seven men, participated in this study. The data was generated from four focus-group discussions and an analysis was performed using a constructivist grounded theory approach.

Findings: The more a person suffers from severe mental illness the more the mental health professionals take over the responsibility of establishing mutual social connection. The findings also show that engagement in everyday occupations was experienced as a source for social connections with people living with severe mental illness.

Conclusion: Everyday occupations can open up opportunities for experiencing social connectedness. Clinical practice could benefit from this knowledge regarding the source of everyday occupation which could strengthen the treatment of people living with severe mental illness as well as preparing them for social connections in their communities

Pauline Hoellinger (January 2016)

The Implementation process of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure: Perception and Experience of Occupational therapists

Background: The biomedical model still dominates the Belgian Health Care System and regulates health care professionals. A team of occupational therapists from a university hospital were willing to enhance evidence-based practice through the use of an occupational therapy professional model and its attached outcome measure.

Purpose: The study explores how occupational therapists perceive and experience the implementation process of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure as a routine outcome assessment within their clinical setting.

Method: The study used the Participatory Action Research design. Data was collected throughout the two stages applied to the focus groups. These were both before and after the 3 months' trial period of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure use. Thirteen occupational therapists participated with no dropouts. A qualitative content analysis was chosen for the data analysis.

Findings: Participants' perceptions highlighted that both the model and the measure enhanced the sense of belonging in the team, questioned practices and specified professional identity definition. The inputs experienced were the emphasis of the client's project and the continuum in the intervention. The challenges experienced included the functioning modes, the therapists' interview skills and the organizational constraints.

Implications: The short time-scale study initiated individual and organizational changes. A long-term implementation depends on ongoing training and follow-up staff meetings.

Vera Kälin (January 2016)

Validity of Norms of the School Version of the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills for Middle European children

Keywords: Cross-regional comparison, occupational therapy, task performance and analysis

Objective: To determine whether the international age-normative means of the School Version of the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (School AMPS) are valid for children living in Middle Europe (Switzerland, Germany, Austria).

Method: Proportions of School AMPS measures within ± 2 standard deviation (*SD*) of the international sample of the School AMPS were calculated for 159 Middle European children, 3 to 12 years. One-sample Z tests were used to evaluate for statistically significant differences between mean School AMPS measures of the current sample and the international age-normative means.

Results: No significant mean differences were found in all age groups ($p \geq .25$), except for 6- and 8-year-olds ($p \leq .02$). At least 95% School AMPS measures of the Middle European sample were within ± 2 *SD* of the international sample means for the School AMPS.

Conclusion: The results support the use of the international age-normative means of the School AMPS for Middle European children.

Muriel Lüthi (January 2016)

Remaining at work despite work-related upper extremity disorder: A qualitative study about Swiss workers experience

Keywords: Phenomenology, work attendance, sickness presenteeism, musculoskeletal disorders

Background: Because of work related upper extremity disorders (WRUEDs) a considerable amount of workers claim work absence that are expensive both for the employers and the wider economy in Switzerland. However, not all workers suffering from WRUEDs withdraw from work. Currently our understanding of why some workers remain at work and others claim sick leave is limited.

Objective: The aim of this study is to illustrate how workers suffering from WRUEDs experience and give meaning to remaining in the workforce and continuing their work.

Methods: This qualitative study is methodologically grounded in phenomenology. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with four Swiss workers suffering from WRUEDs from different professional groups. An interpretative phenomenological approach (IPA) taken from Smith, Flowers and Larkin (2009) was adopted.

Results: Five themes were identified that describe how workers suffering from WRUEDs experience and give meaning to remaining at work: (1) Taught work values and work related self-concept as attendance incentives; (2) being in a dilemma between taking care of one's self and continuing work; (3) competence to adjust the workplace; (4) belonging as an incentive; (5) lack of appreciation as demotivating factor.

Conclusion: Findings contribute sensitivity to understanding the affected worker's dilemma and his or her incentives for remaining at work in the context of Switzerland. Future research on work attendance in workers suffering from WRUEDs is recommended to use the revealed experiences and incentives of those workers.

Cathrin Marthe – Grob (January 2016)

The essence of everyday activities for people suffering from depression pre to post occupational therapy treatment: A phenomenological study

Keywords: Occupational therapy, qualitative interviews, patient experiences, phenomenology

Objective: There is limited research on the application of everyday activities during occupational therapy. This phenomenological research study explored the lived occupational experiences of seven persons who suffer from depression pre to post occupational therapy in Switzerland.

Method: Secondary data analysis with the semi-structured interviews was done to elicit themes illuminating the essence of everyday activities. Thematic analysis is applied on the transcriptions with identification of themes on a semantic level from description to interpretation.

Results: The findings identified a process presented within three themes related to everyday activities: “feeling under pressure”, to “feeling protected through group members” and “having and enjoying of occupational choice”.

Conclusion: Enabling everyday activity might not be as important as thought previously at least at the beginning of rehabilitation process in occupational therapy. This research provides a further understanding on how persons suffering from depression perceive everyday activities in occupational therapy setting. Further research is needed with the focus on these everyday activities transfer to every-day life.

Anja-Sofie Schuler (January 2016)

The elderly in prison: occupations between occupational deprivation and occupational enrichment

Keywords: incarceration, ageing, everyday occupation, development of meaning, Switzerland

Significant ageing in the world's population is mirrored within prisons. Various changes in law have led to a growing population of prisoners of advanced age. Research from an occupational perspective has shown that prisoners are at risk of being affected by occupational deprivation and occupational disadvantages, though the special situation of elderly prisoners has not yet been taken into account.

With the aim of investigating the development of meaning in everyday occupations amongst elderly prisoners, this exploratory study applies a constructive grounded theory approach. Data based on eight semi-structured interviews with prisoners of advanced age (50+) from Switzerland was analysed using constant comparative methods. The five themes "Living in an environment that pushes towards occupational deprivation", "Growing old in prison changes meaning", "Balancing relationships with the inside and outside", "Better being occupied than to be left to one's own" and "Little islands of meaningful occupations" were established.

Elderly prisoners may experience consequences of occupational deprivation even more intensely than younger inmates. To promote occupational justice, prisons should be structured to enrich environments, so that meaningful occupations are available to elderly inmates.

Margot van Melick (January 2016)

Strategies and underlying motives among persons with pain related fear while performing occupations

Keywords: pain related fear, graded exposure, pain strategies, motives, meaningful occupations, life roles

Purpose: This study aimed to explore and understand strategies and underlying motives for occupational performance used by people with chronic pain and pain related fear.

Method: This study used qualitative methods based on the Responsive Evaluation. Three men, two women who participated in a group based Graded Exposure program, aiming at reducing fear beliefs, were interviewed in a semi-structured way. Data were analysed using the Constant Comparative Approach.

Results: Motives underlying strategies appear to be personal and occupation and context based. Having less fear beliefs is related to less avoidance strategies: all participants experienced that strategies (e.g. avoiding and pacing) were no longer or less needed while performing meaningful occupations. New strategies (e.g. being physical active and thinking) became part of their occupational performance. The desire to engage in meaningful occupations and in life roles is an important motivator in mediating fear.

Conclusions: Occupational therapists are invited to become more aware of the disabling role of pain related fear in occupational performance in people with chronic pain and the way fear impacts the choice of strategies. Professionals working with Graded Exposure program are invited to incorporate the idea that engagement in meaningful occupations and life roles can help to challenge pain related fear.

Marjolein Thijssen (August 2015)

Collaborative practice in Dutch community based dementia care: A multiple case study

Studies about collaborative practice usually address the perspective of professionals and consider caregivers as 'service recipient'. Considering the importance of the caregiver in community dementia care, the goal of this study was to describe characteristics of collaborative practice among caregivers and professionals.

A qualitative multiple case study included interviews, observation and document review. Analysis revealed six themes: the situations is too complex to handle alone; others strengthen me personally; we are partners of different kinds; knowing each other is more important than regulated contact; this is what I do and autonomy is important during collaborative practice. Several influential factors were described including reflective capacity, in-depth understanding in the field of dementia and the importance of feeling appreciated.

Regarding collaborative practice among professionals and caregivers in community dementia care, an ongoing dialogue is suggested which would be characterized by mutually recognition and acknowledgement of one's resources and limitations together with shared values and commitment for the quality of care. Further studies are needed about personal and professional development towards an ongoing dialogue in collaborative practice.

Vanessa Johan López Castillo (January 2015)

Experiences of Peruvian Children with DCD in Participatory Occupations.

A look at the inside of a mainstream primary school in Lima

Keywords: developmental coordination disorder, mainstream school, culture, environment, occupation, ethnography

Background: There is a recurring phenomenon in the participation in school occupations of Peruvian children with DCD while attending primary regular schools in Peru. Peruvian children with DCD not only struggle with their competences, but they encounter a challenging school environment which requires them to adapt before they are able to fit in this new social group.

Aim: The aim of the study is to explore the participation experiences of children of 7 to 13 years old with DCD in schooling occupations attending a mainstream primary school in Lima- Peru. This study addresses the topics that come from exploring the experiences of these Peruvian children with DCD – in a school environment.

Method: An ethnographic approach was used to gather data through semi participatory observations, field notes, and informal interviews.

Results: Enculturation and assimilation of the classroom's rules, labeling towards children with DCD, identity and sense of belonging, and barriers to inclusive education.

Conclusion: This research found out that 'culture', across the class community shapes the responses of Peruvian children with DCD. These responses could be positive or negative. Labeling constrained the participants' engagement in activities. The feedback that the participants experienced from interaction in the classroom helped to build their 'identity' and 'sense of belonging'. The barriers in inclusive education and its lack of understanding from the class community prevent that the children integrate with their peers in occupations. Peruvian occupational therapists should do further research into this subject including the data from teachers, parents and Peruvian authorities in a school primary system.

Ana Salomé dos Santos Francisco da Silva (January 2015)

From parents to couples: Regaining couples identity through the participation in meaningful co-occupations

Keywords: Co-occupations, Couples, Narrative Research, Occupational Transitions, Post-Parental Period

Background: Post-parental is considered the period in which children stop being a regular physical presence at the parents' house. This transition period is highly connected to the (re)establishment of couple's identity. Identity is deeply related to occupational and co-occupational participation.

Aim and methods: Therefore this study's purpose is to explore how couples' relationships are influenced by the co-occupational changes after the transition to the post-parental period. A qualitative research using a narrative approach was conducted using a convenience sample of four couples in the post-parental period. They were interviewed using in-depth semi-structured interviews focusing on their co-occupations throughout life transitions, from their early years as a couple to the post-parental period. Photography elicitation was used as an additional method of data gathering.

Results: In the findings four emploted stories are presented: 1) Extending the parental period; 2) There is no time; 3) Time to pursue new projects; 4) Now it is our time. In conclusion, the post-parental phase is a period where pre-parental and parental interests are, respectively, renewed and/or maintained resulting in meaningful co-occupations. Engaging in those facilitates the transition and promotes the maintenance or the reestablishment of the couple's identity.

Diego Cifuentes (January 2015)

“Doctors should see me when I play” Experiences of Engagement in Play of Children Living with Cancer

Keywords: Childhood cancer, occupational engagement, play, narrative

Background: Nowadays, cancer is seen in some cases as a chronic disease, during treatment phase, children experience several impairments such physical and psychosocial symptoms. Research about the consequences on children’s engagement in daily occupations such as play is very limited.

Aim and methods: The aim of this study is to explore how children with living with cancer experience engagement in play as a daily occupation. Three children living with cancer, aged between 7 to 11 years were included. Data gathering was carried out through semi-structured interviews, field notes, and participant observation during play situations. Data analysis was carried out using a narrative interpretive method.

Results: Findings are presented using an overall plot named “Doctors should see me when I play” which interprets a process of being engaged in play during the different stages of treatment, complementary themes are used to explain different dimensions in the process of being engaged in play. Occupational therapy practice needs to put the focus not only on occupational performance but also to develop a deeper understanding on occupational engagement, in order to deeply value the progresses of clients living with cancer from their own perspective on wellbeing and quality of life, specially in those who normally have no voice in some cultural contexts.

Stefania Moioli (September 2014)

Exploring the concept of occupation in occupational therapy goals in Switzerland

Keywords: Content Analysis, Goal phrasing, professional's identity, Taxonomic Code for Occupational Performance (TCOP)

Background: Goal setting is a key component of rehabilitation and occupational therapy clinical process. As regards the profession identity, it is recognized that goals should reflect the philosophical and theoretical underpinning of the discipline. Occupational therapy treatment goals should therefore reflect the core construct of occupation.

Aim: The purpose of this study was to describe to which extent occupational therapy treatment goals in Switzerland focus on the concept of occupation and to uncover differences between specialty fields.

Material and Methods: 871 goals categorized in four different specialty fields (Pediatrics, Neurology, Orthopedics/Rheumatology and Geriatrics/Mental Health) were first coded into predetermined theory-lead categories using content analysis. Data were then statistically analyzed.

Results: Results revealed that goals focus only partially on occupation and reflect the fact that the concept of occupation is implemented differently among various practice fields.

Conclusion: As treatment goals reflect the profession's identity, occupation-focused goals help to strengthen the identity and specificity of the profession, they support the implementation of the construct of occupation in practice and are considered best practice. It is therefore important for occupational therapists to improve their skills in phrasing occupation-focused goals.

Caroline Kuit de Jong (September 2014)

Decision making for occupational engagement by people with COPD in the Netherlands

Keywords: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; interviews; Moustakas; Netherlands; observations; occupations; phenomenology.

Background: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) can severely restrict individuals in their occupational engagement. Little is known about how people with COPD experience a decrease in the ability to do occupations in everyday life and how this affects their experiences in occupational engagement.

Aim: The aim is therefore to explore and answer the question: What is the experience of people living with COPD in the Netherlands in regards to their engagement in occupations of everyday life? Using a phenomenological approach described by Moustakas, semi-structured interviews including observations were conducted with four participants in two visits.

Results: Results show that participants experience the need to take an “active approach”, they are compelled to employ and embody strategies, techniques and the use of devices in their everyday occupations; this demands continuous thought and evaluation of the occupations they engage themselves in. The study suggests a distinct decision-making process in determining the type of occupation that people with COPD choose to engage in as well as the method, and duration they pursue this occupation. It furthermore offers insight in experiences of people with COPD, which is important for the development of occupational therapy interventions.

Zuzana Rodová (January 2014)

Participants' experiences of a Czech occupation-based rehabilitation camp

Keywords: Rehabilitation camp, Acquired Brain Injury, adult, Occupational Therapy

Background: Enabling people to return to independent living following Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is a challenge for rehabilitation in all countries. In co-operation with the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Prague in the Czech Republic, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Rehalb holds week-long occupational-based rehabilitation camps (RC). These deliberately take people from the hospital setting to a more demanding environment, to encourage attendants to become more independent and moreover, to refine their occupational engagement and participation. However, the effect of participation in these camps has to date never been researched from the user's perspective.

Aim: The aim of this study was to uncover and describe personal experiences of rehabilitation camp participants.

Methods: A phenomenological approach was used. Data were gathered from 6 in-depth interviews.

Findings: The RCs seem to provoke enhanced opportunities within the participants' changed capacities. Following discharge from the hospital, the camp's activities provided opportunities for easier re-integration into society; significant progress was being observed in related aspects. Six themes, which incorporated several categories, were identified: "Doing more"; "Escaping stereotypes"; "Discovering hidden potential"; "Finding independence"; "Transferring to normal life" and "Building relationships".

Conclusion: Natural, still provoking rehabilitation environment of the camps shall be considered a very appropriate setting for stimulation of independence skills of the ABI clients. In that matter, the RCs could be considered an important component of the rehabilitation process for people with the ABI diagnosis in the Czech Republic and perhaps could be initiated in other countries

Heiko Lorenzen (January 2014)

***The interplay of occupational identity and occupational experience:
A narrative study on the pre-stroke and post-stroke experience of leisure***

Keywords: narrative research, occupational identity, leisure, stroke

On the basis of a narrative approach, this study explored the experiences of older adults with participation in leisure occupations before and after the onset of a stroke. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with two male retirees who suffered from a first-ever stroke and continued to live in their communities after rehabilitation. Data analysis resulted in two emplotted narratives that revealed the leisure-related occupational identity of the interview partners as well as the relationship between occupational identity and participation in leisure pre- and post-stroke. It is discussed that experience of leisure participation contributes to the creation of an individual occupational identity and that the occupational identity in turn has an impact on the creation of meaningful leisure experiences after the onset of a stroke. Practical implications suggest that occupational therapists should generate knowledge about the occupational identity of their stroke clients in advance when re-engagement in leisure occupations is to be facilitated.

Monique C.S.G. Floothuis (January 2014)

Experiences with role management in the daily life of young adults with a neuromuscular disease

Keywords: role management, neuromuscular disease, interpretative phenomenological analysis

This qualitative study aimed to explore experiences with role management among young adults (22-29 years) with a neuromuscular disease. Data were collected by conducting semi-structured face-to-face interviews with four participants. Data were analysed following the interpretative phenomenological analysis methodology. Three themes emerged from the data: 1) needing support, a struggle in life, 2) working like a manager, and 3) at risk of being stigmatised. The findings show that the participants in the present study share the wish to live as actively and 'as normally as possible'. Important issues needed for role management are identifying facilitators and hindrances regarding decisional and executional autonomy, the skills required to enhance autonomy, building strong networks, learning to cope with requesting support, and the development of skills such as planning, coordinating and organising. The findings also show that assistive devices can be seen as a symbol of disability rather than of independence

Bena A. Kayoro (January 2014)

A Meta-Summary of Qualitative Findings on the use of assistive devices in children aged 3-18 with physical disabilities

Keywords: Qualitative research, Meta-summary, Assistive devices, physical disability

Background: Assistive devices aid in bridging the gap between performance of daily activities and physical disability in children. Due to diversity in different contexts, individual needs should be considered when using assistive devices. Knowledge on client's subjective experiences and perceptions would aid in clinical reasoning in relation to the use of assistive devices.

Aim: To summarize experiences and perspectives of children with disability aged 3-18 years, their parents/caregivers and teachers, on the factors that influence use of assistive devices and discuss the findings reflecting on the Arab region in order to develop culture specific knowledge on the factors that influence the use of assistive devices that would aid in guiding clinical practice in the region.

Method: PubMed, CINAHL, Embase, PsycINFO and Science Direct databases were sought for articles published in 2000-2013. A qualitative meta-summary design was applied.

Findings: Four themes reflecting on factors that influence the use of assistive devices in children emerged from the findings of twelve selected articles.

Relevance to Clinical Practice: Knowledge gained from this study would enable rehabilitative service providers to better understand children's unique contexts and needs, and guide clinical reasoning and judgment regarding the use of assistive device.

Limitations and Recommendations for Further Research: Direct integration of findings from the qualitative meta-summary, from the general public to guide clinical reasoning within the Arab region is challenging due to the cultural and environmental uniqueness of the region. This study provides guidance for clinical reasoning, but there is still need for studies on the use of assistive devices in the Arab region for the Arab region.

Jens Schneider (January 2014)

“Now I feel much better than in my previous life”: Histories of Occupational Transitions in Young Transgender Adults

Keywords: Occupational transitions, Development of transgender identity, Young transgender adults, Narrative methods

This multiple case study used a narrative approach in order to gain a better understanding of the experiences of four German transgender adults aged between 19 and 25 concerning occupational transitions during the process of developing their gender identity from early childhood to early adulthood. Data were collected through individual interviews and resulted in four stories which were developed using narrative analysis. The participants experienced a variety of occupational transitions on different levels. These transitions started in their earliest childhood when they acted like members of the opposite sex. During the development of their transgender identity the occupations changed to specific occupations of gender transition and resulted in the occupational life of their felt gender. The stories gave an insight into occupational performance problems related to occupational transitions. Strategies for occupational therapy interventions have been suggested in order to support transgender individuals.

Natalia Rivas Querneti (September 2013)

*Engaging in collective occupations to belong: promoting wellbeing after migration?
The stories of two Latin American female domestic workers in Spain*

Keywords: Daily occupations, occupational engagement, immigrant women, narrative

In Spain, immigrant women working in the domestic service are a group likely to face specific experiences, hardened by the economic crisis, which put at risk their wellbeing. Previous contact with Latin American female domestic workers informed that within complex daily lives these women choose to engage in specific occupations besides work to feel well. The aim was to explore experiences of 1) everyday occupations and 2) engaging in one occupation they choose to feel well, to gain understanding of the function of these latest occupations among women immigrant workers in Spain.

Participant observation and interviews were used within a narrative methodology to gather data of the experiences of two women. Narrative analysis enriched with theoretical knowledge was used. Findings are presented as two stories that capture the function of the chosen occupation in the metaphors *being in an oasis on Sunday mornings* and *a safe place to redefine her*.

Participants' stories illustrate occupational deprivation in daily life, and the need of connecting with peers and culture, within the chosen occupation, to gain wellbeing. The interplay between both dimensions illuminates the role of collective occupations to belong as a promoter of wellbeing. Potential positive contributions are questioned as these collective occupations maintain exclusion from society.

Pia Seltman (September 2013)

Parents' perceptions of the effect of Hippotherapy on their children's occupational performance

Keywords: Hippotherapy, cerebral palsy, occupational performance, perceptions of parents

Introduction: This study aims to explore the effects of hippotherapy on the occupational performance of children with cerebral palsy from the parents' perspective. Children with cerebral palsy demonstrate motor impairments, but the focus in care and research is shifting towards the impact of cerebral palsy on daily activities. However, research so far has not explored the impact of hippotherapy on the occupational performance of children with cerebral palsy from the perspective of the people who know them best: their parents.

Method: A qualitative descriptive design was used to document the perceptions of the parents of four of children with cerebral palsy who had participated in hippotherapy. The study employed semi-structured interviews and the data was analysed using content analysis.

Findings: Parents reported some improvements in how well their children could eat, dress socialize, communicate and demonstrate general physical abilities.

Conclusion: All parents reported that their children's occupational performance had improved to an extent, and all considered hippotherapy as a valuable complementary therapeutic approach that could be used in addition to traditional therapies.

Ank Eijkelkamp (September 2013)

Family-centred practice in practice: the experiences of occupational therapists

Keywords: children, disabilities, therapeutic method, co-occupations, qualitative research

This study was aimed at understanding family-centred practice as experienced by occupational therapists. Six occupational therapists working with children aged 0-8 with mild to severe disabilities, and their families, were individually interviewed about their experiences of family-centred practice. A phenomenological method was used for the analysis. The results revealed the four main characteristics of adjusting the therapeutic process to the occupational strengths and needs of the families: exploring boundaries to learn about families, creating an overview of occupational performance, being there where it happens, and discovering the social complexity of occupations. The findings suggest that establishing a trusting relationship with families to enable occupations, while simultaneously supporting the collective occupations of children and family members within the family context, are essential ingredients of family-centred occupational therapy. Ethical reasoning, working in family environments, and substantial work experience appear to be important for occupational therapists to work in a family-centred way.

Marianna Harutyunyan (September 2013)

Experience of teachers working in inclusive Schools reveals need for Occupational Therapy

Keywords: Inclusion, inclusive education, occupational therapy, experience, teachers, children with special needs

Objective: The aim of this study was to seek understanding of the experiences of elementary school teachers who were involved in implementing the inclusion policy in Armenia. Some schools now include children with special needs in their classrooms, and some teachers have been participating in a general training and education program for integration and special education. Appreciation of the experiences of teachers is relevant to occupational therapy which is a new profession in Armenia and one with the potential to work collaboratively with teachers in the future.

Method: Qualitative open in-depth interviews were conducted with 7 elementary school teachers, with more than 5 years working experience in an inclusive school. Analysis of the interviews was conducted using the thematic analysis method, following the work of Dale (2000) and Garland (2005).

Findings: The findings suggest that these teachers were enthusiastic to create equal opportunities for children with non-equal abilities and they hoped the society would follow them in the process of inclusion. They then espoused that children with special needs had a need for society support. Within this frame teachers realized their professional gaps, needs, and concerns mentioning the importance of skilled professionals for working in inclusive schools. They also valued inclusion and the rebuilding of the physical and social environment, with their importance for fostering engagement and for performing meaningful professional work. Unknowingly teachers expressed ideas shared by occupational therapy perspectives, such as the desire to better the conditions for children with special needs in inclusive schools.

Michelle van Vliet (September 2013)

Young adults with cerebral palsy in a transition period from pediatric to adult rehabilitation: their experiences

Keywords: Cerebral Palsy, Transition, Lived experience, Phenomenology

Objective: It is found that a group of young adults with cerebral palsy (CP) are lost in the transition period from child rehabilitation care to adult rehabilitation care. Not only overall contact with health care practitioners declines but also the frequency. The decline concerns both medical specialists and allied health caregivers due to a discontinuation of the care. This led to the following research aim: to explore the lived experience of the transition period amongst young adults with CP.

Design: Qualitative study, phenomenology according to the philosophy of Heidegger.

Subjects: 3 adults in the age of 23- 24 years old with CP.

Methods: The participants collaborated in two semi-structured in-depth interviews. Interviews addressed the lived experience of child rehabilitation care, occupational needs & problems and coping strategies.

Findings: It is not clear what rehabilitation care can offer. On the other hand it is also experienced that rehabilitation physicians and allied health caregivers are not listening carefully enough to their clients. Furthermore, participants have different ways to cope with their needs.

Conclusion: Rehabilitation physicians and allied health care workers could listen more carefully to their clients and the young adult teams or adult rehabilitation care should try to make clear what they can offer.

Rosa Jafari (September 2013)

Everyday occupations of Iranian mothers who live with a disabled child

Keywords: Everyday occupation, Iranian mothers, Narrative, disabled child

This qualitative study was designed by aiming to study the nature of everyday occupations of Iranian mothers who live with a disabled child and gain understanding on how they manage their everyday occupation. Narrative data gathered through three semi-structured interviews, observations, and using photos with two participants. Data analysis was done by Polkinghorne “narrative analysis” method. Findings of the study indicate caregiving and being responsible for household tasks were the main part of participants’ everyday occupations. As well, participants experience overload in their obligatory occupations and time constraints, which seemed to result in a lack of occupational balance and their well-being.

Katerina Pokorna Moravcikovafo (January 2013)

Prevention of an unsuccessful start to school

The effectiveness of preventive cognitive intervention using Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment (FIE) - Basic Program in enhancing the cognitive functioning of pre-school children - Pilot study

Keywords: Occupational Therapy; Pre-school children; Cognitive intervention; Prevention of an unsuccessful start to school; Mediated Learning Experience; Structural Cognitive Modifiability; Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment

This pilot study explores the effectiveness of Feuerstein's Instrumental

Enrichment (FIE) – Basic Program as a preventive cognitive tool for pre-school children. The study used a pre-test and post-test quasi-experimental design with a non-equivalent control group. The participants were from a single pre-school class aged 5-6 years. Children from the experimental (N=12) and comparison (N=15) group were measured with the use of Raven Coloured Progressive Matrices. Children in the experimental group received the FIE – Basic Program in pairs once a week for a period of 8 months. Matching pairs were used for data analysis, in the event 6 pairs being created. The paired T-test discovered that pre-school

children who participated in FIE reported higher results in measures of intellectual abilities than those who did not participate ($p=0.014$). Even if the study has some limitations, it can be concluded that the Program has a significant effect on enhancing the cognitive functioning of children through the FIE – Basic Program.

Christina Mayr-Moschen (January 2013)

Experiencing Participation Following Stroke - A Metasummary of Qualitative Findings

Keywords: Metasummary, qualitative, stroke, participation, ADL's, daily occupations.

Background: Recently, there has been increasing interest in research of individuals who have had stroke. Qualitative studies provide a rich medium that informs practice through deepening the professionals' understanding of the clients' perspective. This study sought to enhance our understanding of participation of people following stroke in their daily occupations.

Method: A metasummary approach was used in order to extract qualitative findings and to make an indepth analysis. After an extensive literature search, findings were extracted, edited, grouped and abstracted accordingly.

Results: 7 out of 2367 screened studies were included in the final analysis. The qualitative studies identified 4 themes namely (1) "experiencing barriers towards participation", (2) "finding a way to continue participating in daily occupations", (3) "adapting occupations to a new life situation" and (4) "continuing participation in the social context".

Conclusions: People following stroke need to create new lifestyles and daily structures that allow a new way of performing occupations. The experience of participation is critically associated with the individual, the occupation she/he is engaged in, the environment, and the social system. Implementation of these findings into the practical treatment framework could improve treatment outcomes and would be an interesting research topic for future studies. (197 words)

Sylvie Ray-Kaesler (January 2013)

French cross-cultural adaptation of the Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire'07 - Qualitative cognitive pre-test in Switzerland

Keywords: Developmental coordination disorder, Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire'07, cross-cultural adaptation, cognitive interviewing

Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) is a condition that challenges engagement and participation in childhood occupations. A valid first-step instrument in French to support the identification of DCD is urgently needed in Switzerland in order to address the children's occupational needs and prevent secondary consequences. Recently, the author and a team of Swiss and French experts developed a pre-final French version of the Canadian English Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire'07 (DCDQ'07), a parent self-report instrument developed to screen DCD and document the disturbance of this condition on children's activities of daily living.

The present study was aimed at testing the pre-final French version of the DCDQ'07. It specifically explored the understanding and appropriateness of the questionnaire with a sample of thirteen French-speaking respondents in Switzerland. It applied qualitative methodologies to the pre-testing of questionnaires that shed light on problems affecting the response process. The findings informed the development of a final version as equivalent in content to the original DCDQ'07 as possible. Future methodological studies should estimate its psychometric properties.

Beate Städler (January 2013)

The interchangeability of work and leisure: A perspective of self-employed Swiss dairy farmers

Keywords: Occupational-balance, time use, farmer

The main aim of this phenomenological study was to contribute to the understanding of the concept of occupational balance. This was done through a comprehensive exploration of how self-employed Swiss dairy farmers experience their use of time in their daily life. What these “time use” experiences mean for their occupational balance was therefore investigated in this study.

Six participants were selected through a purposive sampling technique. Informed consent was obtained. Six, semi-structured, in depth, face to face interviews were conducted and analysed using Interpretative Phenomenology Analysis (IPA). The research showed that work is experienced by all as not merely a physically rigorous occupation, it is also perceived as a reward, as satisfaction, and as a hobby. All of the farmers experience primarily fulfilment with a career centred on the natural cycle of life. That is however, provided they have a family. The main finding can be expressed in the following way: “Leisure can be leisure, but it can also be work”. “Work can be work, but it can also be leisure”.

With the help of this study the traditional categorisation of occupational balance in scientific literature can therefore be criticised because work and leisure are interchangeable terms. How an occupation is perceived and assessed depends on the experiences of a person.

This study supports the statement that flow experiences play a role in the perception and assessment of occupations as being satisfying. The knowledge which can be gained is that flow experiences have a strong connection to occupational balance and this is important for a supportive health system in the community.

Marietta Lechner (January 2013)

Walking up the mountain step by step: The patient's process of goal setting during rehabilitation

Keywords: Goal setting, rehabilitation, stroke, narratives

The purpose of this study was the exploration of the goal setting process patients undergo during rehabilitation after experiencing a stroke. The concept of goal setting is based on the goal theory developed in the field of psychology and tested with healthy persons in their everyday life. Three participants experiencing a stroke were interviewed three to four times; at hospital, during rehabilitation at a rehabilitation centre, and at home. Diaries were also included as a second source of data collection. The study was conducted within a narrative tradition in qualitative research. For interviewing as well as for the analysis a narrative approach was used, three stories were developed through narrative analysis. Through specific comparison of these three stories, commonalities and differences were discovered. The findings show that patients tend to reflect on their current, necessary goal, but not to think far ahead. Only in the concrete context, at home, they do realise certain realities and obstacles which they had not considered before. This study might serve as a contribution to the existing knowledge of goal setting as well as to the development of an adequate goal theory and goal setting approach for the field of rehabilitation.

Dorien Schuerhoff (January 2013)

Participation in Occupational Therapy: Narratives of Two Clients with Multiple Sclerosis

Keywords: Participation, occupational therapy, narratives

Introduction: Little knowledge is available about clients' their participation in occupational therapy and a need exists to study participation from an occupational perspective. The purpose of this study is to explore and understand the participation in occupational therapy of two clients with MS.

Methods: A qualitative study with a narrative approach was designed. Data was collected through field-based observations and in-depth, unstructured, and open ended interviews and analyzed with the use of Polkinghorne's narrative analysis procedure. **Findings:** Participation in occupational therapy seemed to be multifold and contradictive or to hold a subjective meaning for the two participating clients. Besides, their participation appeared to be an unique, social construct. **Discussion:** A clients' participation might be further enabled by occupational therapists accepting tensions and empowering clients regardless of which role they choose to participate from. In this way, clients could develop a sense of agency that is needed for participation.

Zaruhi Harutyunyan (January 2013)

Lived experience of participation in daily occupations among older people living in social house in Armenia

Keywords: Aging, participation, daily occupations, older people, social house.

Objective: The aim of this qualitative study is to explore the lived experience of participation in daily occupations of older people living on Social House in Armenia

Method: A total of eight participants (1 male, 7 female) who lived in social house in Yerevan, Armenia were in-depth interviewed in this study. The Empirical Phenomenological Perspective (EPP) method (Karlsson, 1993) was applied for analyzing the interviews to explore the meaning structure of participation in daily occupations in social house as expressed by participants' lived experiences.

Findings: Findings has identified three main characteristics of participation in daily occupations of eight older people living in Social House: *Change in place – change in life; being dependent as doer – not free in making choices; Lack of environmental possibilities in daily living.*

Conclusion: The findings of the study highlighted older people's personal perceptions of current living place and importance of supportive environmental conditions which facilitate or challenge their participation in daily occupations. Subjective perception of the current place of living and experienced changes in daily occupation were identified among older people living in social house, which limited their possibilities to choose and maintain autonomy in daily occupations and in their social participation.

Loretta Sciuchetti (January 2013)

Leisure and work aspects of participation in stroke rehabilitation - A Swiss occupational therapy perspective

Keywords: Occupational therapy, hand rehabilitation, upper extremity, employment, narrative

Traumatic hand injury often lead to a disruption of the worker role and other roles and result in an overall disintegration of routine and injured workers are struggling with medical, psychological and financial challenges, as well as organisational and systemic barriers. Literature concerning experiences of worker with their return to work after hand injury is sparse. This study aimed to explore the experiences with return to work of people with a severe or major traumatic hand injury. Qualitative research methods were used in order to explore the research question. Participants were selected by means of purposeful sampling and the data were collected by means of a series of two individual informal conversational interviews. A narrative analysis led to the following findings: Return to work was experienced by the participants as dynamic process involving several facets of returning to work and drawbacks. They experienced becoming advocates for their needs and power imbalances. The results indicate that occupational therapists need to consider power relations and advocacy when working with people with hand injury. To further support an active role of clients with hand injuries, occupational therapists and other stakeholders in the return to work process are encouraged to give more control to the worker.

Marie-Gabrielle Wick-Brasey (January 2013)

Leisure and work aspects of participation in stroke rehabilitation - A Swiss occupational therapy perspective

Keywords: Stroke, participation, rehabilitation, work, leisure

Introduction: Leisure and work are important occupations for stroke survivors but neglected areas of inpatient rehabilitation. The purpose of this work is to a) explore and describe the understanding of participation among Swiss occupational therapists working with stroke patients, and b) examine the extent to which occupational therapists implement leisure and work aspects of participation in their practice.

Method: A qualitative study was carried out in three different strokes rehabilitation institutions in the French part of Switzerland. There were three focus groups of five participants, which each met only once. Analysis was informed by the process described by Rabiee (2004).

Results: The extent to which participation in work and leisure occupations is incorporated within inpatient neurorehabilitation is limited by (1) the focus on patients' returning home, (2) the perceived stigma and irrelevance of leisure and (3) the complex vocational needs of patients. This study highlighted the difficulty of incorporating leisure and work participation in stroke in-patient rehabilitation.

Conclusion: It has been argued that incorporating work and leisure aspects of participation within inpatient neurorehabilitation could contribute to improvements in stroke rehabilitation through specific client-centered therapeutic interventions.

Cornelia Kocher Stalder (January 2013)

Student-environment fit of children after traumatic brain injury and cerebrovascular disease when back at school: children's and teachers' perspectives - A cross-sectional study

Keywords: Children, acquired brain injury, student-environment fit, School Setting Interview, school participation, self-reports and others

Children with traumatic brain injury and cerebrovascular diseases (ABI) often demonstrate functional deficits influencing their participation and well-being. This cross-sectional descriptive study investigated the student-environment fit for 20 children with ABI back at school 1-4 years after their initial incidents.

Children and their teachers were interviewed individually, using the School Setting Interview (SSI) and the Child and Adolescent Factors Inventory (CAFI). Their perspectives were explored regarding various personal factors. Data were analyzed applying descriptive statistics and nonparametrical statistical tests.

Individual-level analyses indicated that children perceived more adjustment needs in cognitively and psychological-emotionally related activities, whereas teachers focused more on physical, emotional and socially-oriented activities, with generally weak associations between the two groups' answers. Collectively, though, while teachers systematically perceived more needs, their responses did not differ significantly from the children's. The more problems were perceived in current functions, the more adjustments were necessary (children $r = -0.680$; $p = 0.001$; teacher $r = -0.703$ $p = 0.001$).

To enhance student-environment fit, occupational therapists standard practice should include direct consultation with children and teachers in the school environment. Long-term follow-up should be reflected. Further studies are necessary to investigate the application of the SSI and the influences of environmental factors on adjustment needs.

Bianca Rouweler (January 2013)

Use of the Perceive, Recall, Plan and Perform (PRPP) system of task analysis for persons with Parkinson's Disease: an inter-rater reliability study

Keywords Parkinson's disease, occupational therapy, reliability, task performance and analysis, cognition

Background/ Aim: The aim of this study was to explore the inter-rater reliability of the Perceive, Recall, Plan and Perform (PRPP) system of task analysis for analysing occupational performance and information processing capacities in persons with Parkinson's disease (PD). **Methods** Videos of 13 persons with PD performing one self-chosen activity in their home-environment were independently scored by 38 Dutch, PRPP trained, occupational therapists. All therapists performed their own task analysis in stage One of the PRPP. Relationships between the amount of steps and the scores of stage One were interpreted with the use of scatterplots. Two-way random intra-class correlations (ICC) for absolute agreement based on single measurement were calculated for stage One and stage Two scores. **Results** A non-linear relationship between the amount of steps in the task-analysis and the scores in stage One indicated a tendency towards receiving higher scores when an extreme amount of steps is used (>20). ICC's for stage One scores ranged from slight to fair (0.056-0.364). Stage Two total score showed a moderate ICC (0.415) and ranged from slight to moderate for the quadrants (0.153-0.434) and sub-quadrants (0.102-0.442). **Conclusion** Although the results are limited, they show potential for assessing occupational performance in persons with PD. More training on performing a task-analysis and choosing an activity in concordance with the cognitive ability of the person might improve the reliability. Future research should address intra-rater reliability and other psychometric aspects in persons with PD in varying stages of their disease.

Elien van der Wijst (January 2012)

The suitability of the Montreal Cognitive Assessment as a screening tool to identify people with dysfunction in occupational performance after mild stroke

Keywords: Cognition, executive function, occupational therapy, activities of daily living, AMPS

Introduction: Cognitive deficits are one reason why many people experience limitations in occupational performance after stroke. It is important to recognize this at an early stage, so they can get the support and treatment they need. This is difficult in the non-challenging environment of a hospital. There is a need for a screening tool to identify the group of people that will encounter problems in occupational performance. This study has investigated the possibility to use the Montreal Cognitive Assessment for this purpose.

Method: For this cross sectional study a sample of 29 people with mild stroke was gathered. Scores on the Montreal Cognitive Assessment and Assessment of Motor and Process Skills scores as well as categories of overall functioning were compared and correlations were calculated.

Results: Participants did not score similar (above or below cut off scores) on both measures. A moderate correlation was found between scores on the Montreal Cognitive Assessment and the process scores of the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills.

Conclusion: It is not possible to use the Montreal Cognitive Assessment as a screening tool for people with mild stroke to identify those who will encounter problems in occupational performance.

Diana Sigrist-Nix (January 2012)

A comparison of health professionals' reports and patients' reports of changes in upper extremity strength, sensation, fine motor tasks and functional tasks and their relation to clinical outcome measures in individuals with cervical spinal cord injury

A preliminary study

Keywords: spinal cord injury; rehabilitation; patient–health professional differences; self-report measure; outcome measure

Study Design: Prospective longitudinal multi-centre, observational study.

Objective: To analyse changes in strength, sensibility, fine motor tasks and functional tasks over time within and between a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) and a health professional-reported outcome measure (HROM) and to relate these measures to clinical outcome measures (COMs) in patients with cervical spinal cord injury (C-SCI)

Patients: A total of 41 individuals with post-acute C-SCI, who were being treated in five spinal cord rehabilitation centers in Switzerland and Germany, participated.

Method: Patients were tested at one, three and six months after C-SCI. The total scores of motor, sensibility and prehension subtests of the Graded Redefined Assessment of Strength, Sensibility and Prehension (GRASSP) were calculated. The self-care subscale total scores of the Spinal Cord Independence Measure (SCIM III-SS) were also used. At three and six months, a seven-point rating scale of a PROM and a HROM were used. Changes over time within and between a PROM and a HROM were tested, using the Wilcoxon signed rank test. Correlations between the COM's and the PROM, as well as the COM's and the HROM were tested, using the Spearman rank correlation test.

Results: There was a statistically significant group difference between three and six months, for patients' rating of change regarding 'strength' ($p=0.034$). Statistically significant group differences between patients' and health professionals' rating of change at three months and six months regarding 'sensation' ($p=0.034$) were noted. All relationships between COMs and the HROM at three and six months were statistically significant, except for functional tasks at six months. In contrast, the relationships between COMs and the PROM were not statistically significant in every subtest and time interval.

Conclusion: The perspectives of patients and health professionals accurately reflected changes in progression of the arm and hand function. Health professionals' impressions of change can potentially be effective in evaluating the treatment approach. COMs reflect patients' points of view at three months, except 'sensation'.

Beatrice Ottiger (January 2012)

Reintegration to Normal living after inpatient stroke rehabilitation

Keywords: reintegration to normal living, stroke, participation, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate reintegration to normal living and the relationship among stroke patients having long-term out-patient therapies (occupational-, physio-, and speech-therapy). It is known that therapy-based rehabilitation services for individuals after stroke can reduce risk of deterioration with regard to reintegration to normal living. Though there are wide differences between the services delivered and the interventions undertaken. In order to improve the quality of out-patient therapies, it is essential to evaluate the state of delivery and kind of long-term out-patient therapies provided to stroke survivors after 1 to 3 years of discharge inpatient rehabilitation and to reveal the remaining lowest items of reintegration to normal living.

Methods: This study is a second analysis from a cross-sectional study. The sample consisted of 178 stroke survivors from a neurological rehabilitation centre in Switzerland. Patient's questionnaire and reintegration to normal living index (RNLI) were sent to 287 eligible stroke inpatients from the time period of January 2006 until December 2008 which had been discharged from rehabilitation unit at least 1 to 3 years.

Results: Participants without out-patient therapies at follow-up are significant ($p=0.008$) better reintegrated than participants receiving long-term out-patient therapies. Participants receiving long-term OT only revealed approximately the equal reintegration total mean value (1.42) like participants without therapies at discharge (1.41) and without therapies at follow-up (1.45). The lowest RNLI items were 'taking trips out of town' and 'participating in recreational activities' even the participants had long-term out-patient therapies or not.

Conclusions: The results of this study demonstrate that long-term out-patient therapies for stroke survivors are essential in reintegration to normal living. Although, the focus of long-term out-patients therapies should shift more to outdoor and recreational activities as those items were of most concern to all of the participants even they had out-patient therapies or not. A special attention should be done by speech therapists with regard to their patients how they feel comfortable in company with others.

Julie Boeberg Jensen (January 2012)

Adapting to mealtimes: the lived experiences of elderly people with dysphagia

Keywords: adaptive strategies, dysphagia, elderly people, interpretative phenomenological analysis

Eating and drinking is one of the most basic human needs for sustenance and is typically enacted in a social context. Unfortunately, this function can become impaired, for example, through dysphagia. The aim of this qualitative study was to explore and understand the lived experiences of elderly people with dysphagia adapting to their mealtimes. Individual in-depth interviews were conducted twice with three participants and subjected to Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). The findings illustrated three over-arching and inter-related themes: every day is a struggle, mealtimes become very emotional, and coping with the consequences. The results show that participation in mealtimes changed considerably with the onset of dysphagia, and the participants were avoiding participating in meal-related activities due to the physiological and psychological consequences. To minimize the consequences a variety of adaptive strategies were used. Beneficial support from health care professionals was needed in order to help them manage their dysphagia and mealtimes and to improve participation. Further studies are needed to improve knowledge of the impact of dysphagia over time and different settings and the effect of social support to people with dysphagia.

Lisette Farias (January 2012)

Unravelling the Family knot: Negotiating the layers of cultural values and identities enacted through everyday occupations of a family with migrant background in Sweden

Keywords: migration, identities, family, culture, occupation, narrative.

Background: Adjusting to a new socio-cultural context can lead to dramatic changes in family life, as in the case of families who have experienced migration since they may bring with them their family and cultural traditions while they leave their extended family and the community that support their daily occupations behind.

The aim of this study is to explore how members of a family who migrated to Sweden negotiate multiple cultures and identities through everyday occupations.

Method: An ethnographic and narrative approach was used to gather data through participant observations, field notes and interviews. A narrative analysis was conducted drawing together the storied material from multiple interviews, observations and field notes into a coherent whole.

Findings & Conclusion: In line with narrative analysis, the findings are presented through stories, where the data and the theory are constantly interwoven and integrated. The structure of the findings is presented as an 'unraveling' of personal stories from a main event or 'knot': 'The Sunday Lunch'. The stories illustrate how occupations provide possibilities for negotiating different layers of the participants' own identities and cultural values, while renegotiating the relationship between their culture of origin and themselves. This study enriches current understanding of the complex process of migration, and emphasizes the family unit as a fluid and dynamic place, actively reconstituted and negotiated through everyday occupations.

Naphtali Yego (May 2011)

Giving voice to caring in Cerebral Palsy: Occupational narratives of Kalenjin women of North-Western Kenya

Background: Mothering is particularly important social role and a time and energy intensive occupation. Kalenjin women's work becomes even demanding when caring a child with Cerebral Palsy whose needs for care extend indefinitely into the future. Different culture and ethnic groups are likely to see disability differently and have different strategies for dealing with it. All these determine and influence the type of care given to children with Cerebral Palsy.

Purpose: This qualitative study is aimed at gaining insight regarding caring thus designing culturally sensitive home-based programmes and expanding occupational therapy practice by incorporating what seem valuable and acceptable within the Kalenjin socio-cultural context.

Research question: What characterize occupational narratives of the rural Kalenjin women of North-Western Kenya who care for a child with Cerebral Palsy within their other daily occupations?

Methodology: The study was conducted within the qualitative tradition and narrative inquiry incorporating micro-ethnography was employed.

Sampling: The principle of purposive sampling was used to guide the selection of four Kalenjin women who had the potential to illuminate their experiences and meaning in caring as an occupation.

Data gathering: Informal participant observation, narrative interviews and field notes was used together as it is seen as data gathering methods best suitable to answer the research question.

Data Analysis: Narrative analysis inspired by Molineux and Richards was employed and this consist of; Determining the boundaries of the story, ordering the events chronologically, establishing the plot, determining contributors to the story and writing the narrative.

Ethical consideration: The study was approved by joint Institutional Research Ethical Committee (IREC) of the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and Moi university school of medicine.

Findings: The findings showed that mothering a child with cerebral palsy is a narrative turn that reconstructed the lives of Kalenjin women, spiritual beliefs and traditional treatments heavily influenced the care of the child and mothering is done in interdependence manner within the Kalenjin community.

Gemma G. M. Testerink (January 2012)

Towards a motivating play environment for children with Down syndrome; A parent's perspective

Keywords Grounded theory approach, home environment, mother-child interaction, play environment, motivation, Down syndrome

Aim: The aim of this study is to gain a better understanding of how parent's view and provide a play environment for their children with Down syndrome to motivate them to engage in play.

Method: Five Dutch boys with Down syndrome (age 34 to 49 months) and their mothers participated in the study. The techniques and procedures are based on a grounded theory approach. Data is collected through observations and interviews in the home environment. Data is analyzed using a constant comparative method.

Results: Parents views and doings resulted in a model depicting five elements of a motivating play environment, namely the opportunity to be/feel safe, to have fun, to play alone, to play with others, and to learn. Monitoring of the child's development results in the use of strategies that are selected based on characteristics of the child, parent, and context they are both part of. Providing a motivating play environment is in essence about enabling the child's overall development.

Conclusion: More research is necessary to better understand the meaning behind parent's views and doings, and the contextual factors that are of influence in order to enable children with Down syndrome to engage in meaningful play.

Juliane Stöcker (December 2010)

Systemic Sclerosis: The patient perspective on occupations in daily life

Keywords: Client-centred practice, patient perspective, systemic sclerosis, everyday occupations

Objective: To explore and understand the perspective of Swiss patients with Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) on their daily occupations and the impact of the disease on their everyday lives by identifying concepts that are important to these patients.

Methods: A qualitative study using a focus group technique was performed at the University Hospital in Zurich, Switzerland. Each focus group was tape recorded and transcribed verbatim. The qualitative analysis followed a modified form of meaning condensation method as described in the literature.

Results: A total of 16 people (14 women and 2 men) with limited or diffuse SSc participated in this study in three focus groups. Three main themes emerged from the data analysis: (1) experiencing a loss or limitation of the performance of occupations as a result of the disease, (2) sustaining or modifying certain occupations to continue to perform them and (3) accepting changes in the performance of one's occupations. The findings of the study lead to the conclusion that occupations undergo a process of change based on the individual's limitations.

Conclusion: SSc was found to have a considerable impact on daily occupations. The experience of change in the performance of occupations is not necessarily seen as negative, as previous literature would suggest. Because of the possibility of sustaining or modifying certain occupations, occupational therapists and other health care professionals might also want to focus on the positive aspects of daily occupations when working with patients with SSc.

Petra Schwab (January 2012)

Fall-Prevention – A Matter of Balance

Experiences of Occupational Therapists Concerning Fall-Prevention for Community-Dwelling Elderly

Keywords: elderly, community-dwelling, fall-prevention, occupational therapy, autonomy, safety, role, habits

Study aim: The aim of the study was to explore how occupational therapists experience the current practice of fall-prevention intervention for community-dwelling elderly people.

Method: A grounded theory approach was used. Focus group and single-in-depth interviews with in total seven occupational therapists from a major city in Austria were conducted.

Findings: Five categories emerged from the data. ‘Balancing autonomy and safety’ was found to be the core-category intertwined with four additional categories named ‘balancing responsibilities’ ‘managing various OT roles’, ‘balancing the roles of relatives’ and ‘affecting client’s habits and values’.

Conclusion: Occupational therapists experienced fall-prevention as a highly challenging matter of balancing autonomy and safety. A client-centred approach is suggested to achieve successful fall-prevention which aims as much on client’s autonomy as on safety.

Sara Idrissa Remtula (January 2012)

Homelessness: The stories of people who become housed in Lisbon

Keywords: homelessness, house, occupational therapy, narratives

Occupational therapists support clients with homelessness background. Although we have access to an extensive source of information about this client group, there is still a lack of understanding about their experience. This thesis aims to explore and understand how homeless people in Lisbon, after their transition to house accommodation handle with daily living activities, including cooking, money management, shopping and housework. A narrative approach was used through the research and the data have been analysed with the Biographic Narrative Interpretative method (BNIM). Three phases in the course of homelessness are identified: 'disruption of daily routines/occupations', 'what changes?' and 'living a new life'.

It is suggested that participant's narratives can help occupational therapists gain a deeper understanding of participant's experiences and support occupational therapists in the discussion of suitable treatments for clients with homelessness past.

Sabine Plaehn (May 2011)

Becoming Unemployed

Experiences of the Occupational Transition from Employment to Unemployment

Keywords: change, job loss, role exit, status passage, live event

Western societies have to cope with unemployment since the industrialisation started. In the past decades a new phenomenon occurred: an increase of occupational transitions. A literature review shows a lack of knowledge concerning the experiences of unemployed people in the transition process of becoming unemployed.

The purpose of the study was to explore how people experience the occupational transition from employment to unemployment in order to deepen the understanding of the effects of occupational loss.

Data was collected by conducting semi-structured in-depths interviews with six participants who had become unemployed within the last six weeks.

Data analysis was inductive, cyclical and iterative following guidelines provided by Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA).

Concerning occupational transition, three super ordinate themes emerged: the first theme reflects crisis experiences directly linked to the dismissal itself and is oriented to the past. The second theme describes experiences of change that emerge in the present. The third theme demonstrates the re-invention of self with direction to the future.

Matthias Möller (January 2012)

*Between affection and rivalry: staff perceptions regarding a new occupational therapy service at a psychiatric hospital
an example from Italian Switzerland*

Keywords Clinical mental health care, occupational therapy, professional evolution, cultural influences, team work perceptions

This study aims to identify and understand how different health care professions working in a psychiatric hospital view the recently implemented occupational therapy service and how they value this new treatment component.

A constructivist grounded theory study design was chosen to explore the process of integrating an occupational therapy service into the clinics' treatment supply. Eight individual in-depth interviews with different staff members were carried out and analysed by using constant comparative method.

The main findings were that though building on a solid ground of common assumptions, ambivalence was the core concept that influences health professionals' perceptions like affection, rivalry, and scepticism with respect to the occupational therapy service, as participants showed to switch between positive and negative aspects. The small sample size may relative the findings; however, considering the specific cultural and institutional conditions is important as they influence how others see occupational therapy. Particularly nurses and occupational therapists in analysing together their common assumptions about mental health care and how activity and occupation should be distinguished could help clarifying their professional boundaries. To advance the common level of information about occupational therapy within the staff, the institution could start developing clear guidelines concerning the mandate of occupational therapy.

Cécile Küng (December 2010)

Elderly stroke patients' experiences of home-based occupational therapy – an interpretative phenomenological analysis

Background and aim: A growing need for home-based occupational therapy for stroke patients is expected. An important condition for effective home-based occupational therapy is the adoption of a client-centred approach. Therefore it is crucial to gain a better understanding of the clients' perspective of the service delivered. The aim of this study was to explore stroke patients' experiences with home-based occupational therapy.

Method: In-depth interviews were conducted with 3 elderly stroke patients receiving home-based occupational therapy. Their interview transcripts were subject to interpretative phenomenological analysis.

Results: Participants experienced their home as a convenient place to get therapy. Their expectations for therapy wavered between hope and doubt and they perceived successful therapy as a joint adventure of the patient and the therapist: Individual effort, the therapist's effort and a good therapeutic relationship were identified as contributing factors. Participants perceived physical exercises as meaningful and reported only little engagement in daily activities during occupational therapy.

Conclusion / Implication: Occupational therapists need to be aware of stroke patients' perception of physical exercises and engagement in daily occupations. They should inform clients about the domain of occupational therapy and the therapeutic benefits of the home environment, about existing evidence of any interventions and discuss the most meaningful treatment.

Robbert Kruijne (December 2010)

Tuning the Everyday to the Modification

Exploring older people home modifications processes in Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Keywords: Home modifications, elderly, ethnography, occupational therapy

Aim of this study was to explore and describe how older adults in one Dutch municipality experience and lived with home modification services. A case study design is applied, using an ethnographic research tradition. Three participants were recruited through a home modification company. From these three participants, field notes were obtained from participatory observations. These were analysed with help of a comparative analysis, leading to the main result 'Tuning the everyday to the modification' based on three main dynamics: 'negotiating routines', 'negotiating dependence' and 'negotiating safety'. The results show an ongoing interaction between the different features of the participants' daily lives in which the home modifications have to find their place.

Jerneja Krizaj (December 2010)

Engagement in a preferred occupation

Experiences of people living at home more than a year following their stroke

Keywords: occupational engagement, meaning, stroke, home environment, phenomenology

Stroke can cause many limitations in one's life. Meaningful occupational engagement becomes significant source for people's perception of their satisfaction and meaning of life. Missing enjoyable occupations by the people with stroke living in the community was indicated in previous studies. The research of experiences of preferred occupational engagement after hospital discharge is limited. The aim of the current phenomenological study is to explore the meaningful characteristics of the engagement in currently most preferred occupations, by eight people who have been living at home for more than one year following stroke. Data were gathered through one in-depth interview with each participant and analyzed using a modified form of the Empirical Phenomenological Psychological method (EPP). Trustworthiness was examined in relation to 'horizontal consistency' and peer debriefing. The analysis revealed three main meaningful dimensions of the preferred occupational engagement: it fulfilled the innate self, facilitated positive

Anna-Maria König (December 2010)

Occupational therapists managing discharge of clients with AD(H)D

Keywords Occupational Therapists, Discharge, Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder, Independent Practice, Empowerment

Occupational therapists have been increasingly confronted with the treatment of clients with attention deficit (hyperactivity) disorder (AD(H)D) in independent practices. This study focuses on how occupational therapists experience managing discharge of those clients. Two semi-structured interviews with each of the six occupational therapists were conducted. The Empirical Phenomenological Psychological (EPP) method was used for data analysis.

Findings included 1. Coping with structural circumstances, 2. Empowering the family, and 3. Making sense of discharge including 3.1 Discharge as a new beginning. The study implies that occupational therapists may develop more the way they do discharge of clients with AD(H)D through an emphasis on empowerment which can benefit clients and occupational therapists.

Isabella Kerschbaumer (December 2010)

Tolerating and enabling occupational change:

Occupational experiences and strategies of some working Austrians caring for a family member after stroke

Keywords: IPA, phenomenology, occupational experiences, informal carers, stroke, working carers, daily occupations, occupational therapy

Study aim: This qualitative study explored how some working Austrians' experienced and handled their changing daily occupations after becoming informal carers of stroke survivors. Since no research exists that acknowledges daily occupations of carers of stroke survivors who still work, this study extends the knowledge about their occupational experiences and strategies in a changing everyday life. **Methods:** Three working informal carers of stroke survivors were personally interviewed on two occasions. The data were analysed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis.

Findings: Carers found themselves in an ongoing process, from disruption of daily occupations to their restructure. First, occupational change was externally induced, which resulted in challenges of their own, and shared, occupations. Second, there was a self-induced shift in values and performance of occupations, which seemed to be a strategy to actively shape their well-being. Work appeared to be a stabilizing and balancing occupation contributing to coping and well-being.

Conclusion: The findings add to the literature on occupation and encourage occupational therapists to become more sensitive to the complexity of working informal carers' occupational lives. The benefit of paid work and engagement in meaningful occupation for the carers' well-being should be considered. This may help occupational therapists in a more client-centred approach respecting the relevance of the occupational well-being of carers.

Rianne Jansens (May 2011)

Post-Intervention Use of Cognitive Strategies by Children with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD)

Keywords: Developmental Coordination Disorder, Cognitive Orientation to daily Occupational Performance, cognitive strategies, engagement in occupations, transfer of strategy use

Children with Development Coordination Disorder (DCD) have poor motor coordination and difficulties acquiring new skills. Cognitive Orientation to daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP) is intended to support skills acquisition and the use of cognitive strategies. There is evidence of its effectiveness for skills acquisition but little for improving transfer of strategy use. This study investigates skills acquisition by children with DCD after occupational therapy with CO-OP and their use of cognitive strategies to support this process.

Six participants were interviewed about their engagement in new occupations and asked to perform one new skill and were interviewed about using a think aloud protocol.

The results demonstrate engagement in new occupations and suggest that self-efficacy, the experience of flow and the social context play an important role in this process. Findings further suggest that, following CO-OP intervention, children with DCD transfer strategy use to support the performance of a new motor-based skill.

Foekje van der Heide (January 2012)

Using the Soft Towel for Bathing a Spouse

Experiences of Carers

Keywords: soft towel bathing, informal carers, spouses, qualitative research

The aim of this study was to describe how informal carers experience the use of soft towel bathing for their spouses living at home. A descriptive empirical phenomenological design is applied. Five participants were selected through sequential sampling. The open in-depth interviews were analysed based on the phases developed by Georgi (1985). Three essential components emerged: more efficacy and ease in the bathing activity, suiting my needs as a carer and partner and meeting my spouses' needs. The findings show that using the soft towel influenced informal carers' daily routines and contributed to their needs as a carer and partner in a changed relationship. The findings contribute to an understanding of informal carers using the soft towel bathing method for their spouses at home and highlights the importance for practitioners to take into account the informal carers' needs when suggesting the use of the soft towel.

Pietro Grillo (December 2010)

The Future Working Lives of People with Mental Health Problems Working in Sheltered Employment in Switzerland

Keywords: sheltered workshop, mental illness, multiple case study, thematic analysis, occupational therapy.

People with severe and enduring mental health problems lack the opportunity to work in the competitive labour market. One alternative open to them is sheltered employment in the alternative labour market. However, there is a growing body of literature demonstrating these people's desire to re-enter the competitive labour market, and currently, Supported Employment and Individual Placement and Support, a vocational rehabilitation approach, shows good evidence in terms of reintegrating people with mental health problems into the workforce. In Switzerland, there is little research disclosing these people's desires. The aim of this study was to gain a deeper understanding of the future working lives of people with mental health problems who work in sheltered employment in Switzerland. The method used was a multiple case study design; semi-structured, in-depth interviews were conducted with five participants aged 20-30 working for a short time in sheltered employment. To identify, analyse and report patterns or themes within the data, thematic analysis was adopted. Findings show that participants wished to enter the competitive labour market and expressed the desire for an independent life characterised by self-determination. Seven themes were detected and allocated to the categories of enablers and barriers, which were seen as facilitators and obstacles to pursue the aspiration of a future working life.

Angelika Beck – Engler (December 2010)

Living with a brain injured person

A narrative of partner experiences and the impact on their daily lives

Keywords: Partners, Adults, Brain injury, Qualitative Research, Daily life, Experiences

Brain injury is a life altering event which affects virtually every area of a patient's daily life including that of his or her family and most importantly partners. Research is needed to contribute to the understanding of experiences and the impact on partners of brain injured persons daily life from an occupational perspective. This qualitative study involved three partners of brain injured persons. Data was gathered through interview using the Biographic-Narrative-Interpret-Method (BNIM). Data was analysed through narrative analysis methods. The results show that all participants have experienced an impact on their daily life and occupations. Major impact was experienced and described in Instrumental Activities of Daily living (IADL), namely 'change in roles and responsibilities' and 'leisure activities'. As the results have shown, being a partner of a brain-injured person can affect different domains that occupational therapists consider in daily practice. Therefore, it might be beneficial for the occupational therapist to consider the partners of the brain injured persons in order to provide a suitable and client-centred treatment.

Andrea Citrini - Hunger (December 2010)

My batteries are always full: Biographical Narratives about Occupation from Men with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Keywords: ADHD, Occupation, Experiences, Narrative

Aim: The thesis aims to explore occupational experiences about occupations from child to adulthood of men diagnosed with ADHD in childhood.

Method: An open qualitative approach, namely Biography-Narrative-Interpretation Method (BNIM) according to Wengraf and Rosenthal, was applied to include the life context of participants.. Data collection was undertaken through narrative interviewing with eight men aged from 18-36 years. Additionally, personal biographic data was collected from each participant. Analyzing of the data followed the BNIM two-track interpretation procedure.

Results: The results highlight the development of the experiences of the subjects' with excess of energy during the three life phases – preschool, school time and working. In the first phase the institutional structure of spending time at home or in kindergarten enabled them to play and move outdoors indicating 'energy in freedom'. At school the environment led them to experience 'energy in a too narrow channel'. Outside the school the 'island of energy in freedom' which helped them to regulate the excess of energy has an important role. The third life phase of becoming and being a worker, including the transitional period between school and work-life, involved a growing maturity which allowed the subjects to influence their futures by choosing occupations that allowed them to channel their excess energy in a constructive and positive manner.

Conclusion: The findings of this study show the development and change of occupation during the lifespan of young men. Namely how persons with ADHD have to be encouraged to explore their strengths, needs and interests relating to different stages of life. Additionally, it is important to provide support in finding meaningful and enriching occupations for them, that allow them to make the best of their excess of energy.

Tanja Klein (May 2011)

Robot-facilitated play in Occupational Therapy:

Exploring influences on the level of playfulness of children with developmental disabilities

Keywords: robotic toy, Test of Playfulness, single-case design

In this study, two types of play intervention (standard occupational therapy versus robotfacilitated play intervention) were compared regarding their effect on the level of playfulness of children with developmental disabilities. The research also aimed to identify interventions' influence on children's general functional development and goal achievement, as well as whether a robot-facilitated play intervention added value from the occupational therapists perspective.

Three children (45-60 months) were assessed in 12-14 videotaped 30-minute therapy sessions over a 7 week period, following a single-case research design primarily using the Test of Playfulness (TOP). Results confirmed that the IROMEC robot partly met the needs of the participants, and a positive impact on TOP results was found with two children. This suggests robots might support certain children with developmental disabilities in enriching play.

Recommendations are put forth for further development and use of robotic toys in practice. TOP was a useful measure of intervention effectiveness.

Bernadette Ammann (December 2010)

Experiencing occupations with chronic hand disability

Narratives of hand-injured adults

Keywords: Chronic hand disability, occupations, adults, qualitative research, narratives

The purpose of this narrative study was to understand how adults with chronic hand disability experience the impact of the disability on their occupations over time at least one year after the hand accident. Three participants were selected through a purposive sampling technique. Informed consent was obtained. Two narrative interviews were conducted per participant and analyzed using narrative and structural analysis. All participants experienced the challenge of occupational disruption, faced occupational limitations with the consequence of changed occupational performance/patterns, and later strived for normality. In the end, all participants were still getting accustomed to occupational changes.

The findings indicated that this process of occupational adaptation was still going on at least one year after the hand injury, highlighting the importance of adopting a holistic approach to occupational hand therapy by supporting the clients through engagement in occupation during the therapy process.

Nino Rukhadze (December 2010)

Amiran was singing in heart asking serfs to accompany– process of articulating silent frustrations of occupational therapists in Georgia

Keywords: co-operative inquiry, culture, competence, parent involvement

The purpose with this study was an attempt to explore the process of developing cultural competence by the group of occupational therapists working in Georgia. The co-operative inquiry, strong participative form of action research, was used for this process. Small group of therapists who were researchers and at the same time inquiry participants were transforming their own experiences through cycles of group reflections and actions. The four inquiry cycles revealed the shared experience of developing cultural competence as an attempt to 'articulate silent frustrations'. Therapists used their own frustrations as a trigger to look at culturally tacit aspect of own work for further articulation and development of practice. Even though, that study presents minimal number of inquiry cycles, is conducted in a short period of time within a small group of local therapists, inquiry process was experienced as helpful way of developing cultural competence. More complex inquiry is recommended to examine further the diverse ways of developing cultural competence.

Anja Langlotz (December 2010)

The two souls

Employers supervising employees who return to work

Keywords: Dilemma, working place, mental illness, constant comparative method, phenomenological philosophy

This qualitative research project explores the experiences of employers who supervised employees with mental health problems who return to work in the German speaking part of Switzerland. Six employers from a variety of industries were in-depth interviewed at their working place. Data analysis was inspired by the constant comparative method described by Glaser & Strauss (2008).

The findings indicate that employers who supervised employees with mental health problems have three main experiences. `Two souls live in my heart`, `Uncertainty with leadership - the bad conscience` and `Individual background influences the approach`.

Birgit Girsch (December 2010)

Interrater- reliability of the culturally adapted German Version of the Occupational therapy guideline for assessment and treatment of apraxia in CVA-Clients

A pilot study

Keywords: psychometric study, reliability, cultural adaptation, assessment, Apraxia, occupational performance, cognitive rehabilitation, stroke

The overall purpose of the presented study is to provide Austrian occupational therapists with evidence based methodology intending to support quality development within the assessment and treatment of clients with apraxia following left hemisphere stroke. With the provision of a culturally adapted and reliable translation of the Dutch Guidelines of assessment and treatment of Apraxia after left hemisphere stroke (Apraxia Guidelines) (Stehman-Saris, et al., 2003) the effectiveness and quality of occupational therapy practice can be enhanced.

Interrater reliability was investigated by multiple raters and video observations, estimating reliability coefficients (kappa values, ICC and PA). Results showed good interrater reliability for three phases of occupational performance (orientation, execution, control) and almost perfect interrater reliability for the independence score. For the two variables of the conclusion part (useful compensations and useful interventions) moderate to good interrater reliability was indicated by kappa values and PA.

Regarding these results, the Apraxia Guideline can guide occupational therapy interventions for enabling occupational performance and enables Austrian OTs to justify their treatment in front of stakeholders and clients with a reliable instrument. A minimum two days training course is recommended before its use in practice.

Further psychometric studies can facilitate implementation in practice.

Amanda Whitford – Ahearn (December 2010)

Mae's story: Lost in the Wave

A storied approach to understanding natural disaster's impact following the Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2004

Keywords: occupation, narrative methods, meaning, natural disasters

The aim of this study is to explore how a natural disaster can impact occupational narratives. This was done using a case study of one individual who was affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2005. Data were collected through in-depth interview and participant observation over a nine month period starting a year and a half after the tsunami. Analysis resulted in a reconstructed story using metaphors based on the aspects of the narrative and order of events with attention to directionality.

The main findings support a transactional view of occupation where occupation is sustainable despite unforeseen events. Meaning is created through a process of stringing together symbolic events while engaging in occupation and 'trying out' a potential future. Finally, meaning is not fixed but always open to change based on the current life story. The findings challenge current views of resilience, and sustainability of the self and further supports a proposed twofold function of creativity and order in narrative.

Cornelie Zillhardt (April 2010)

The Daily Life of Families with Children with Sensory Processing Disorders

Keywords: Family occupations, rituals, routines, preschool children, narrative analysis

This study aimed to understand how families with preschool children with sensory processing disorder experience and create daily life, with a view to contributing to the knowledge base on family occupations. Qualitative interviews were conducted with three families with children who had sensory processing disorder. Data were analyzed using a narrative approach. The results showed that family occupations were mostly created as routines and rituals within daily life. The parenting style influences how routines and rituals are established within a family. Rituals can be experienced as a source of security, support, and solace for the whole family. Unexpected changes in routines and rituals seem to affect the family system, and especially children with sensory processing disorder.

Christine Odhiambo Seeger (April 2010)

I am somebody who can do something

Everyday life experiences of people with schizophrenia after hospital discharge.

Keywords: Participation, Ambulant Psychiatric Clinic, Schizophrenia, Interpretative Phenomenology Analysis, Occupational Therapy.

Objective: Readmission rates following a hospital discharge among persons with schizophrenia diagnosis is on the increase. For this particular group, it is vital to gain insights about their occupational engagements and its relationship to health and well-being. Their experiences is relevant to inform the Occupational therapy interventions.

Aim: The aim of this qualitative study sought to understand the experiences of discharged women with schizophrenia in relations to their participation in occupations after hospital discharge.

Method: Semi – structured interviews were conducted with six female participants in the area of Aachen. Informants were all above 44 years of age. The analysis of the interviews was conducted using the Interpretative Phenomenology method.

Results: Out of the analysis four central themes emerged namely : (1) 'I am somebody who likes to be with others'(2) 'I still can do something' , (3) living with the illness through occupations and (4) I can make my own decisions.

Conclusion: The findings suggest that participants valued occupations. Participation in terms of social interactions showed to be a positive influence to their every day occupations and facilitated to their well being through daily structural routines, that occupations require. All participants stressed the importance of being and belonging, having satisfaction and enjoyment in what they were doing in an attempt to escape from the state of idleness.

Margarita Mondaca Arriagada (April 2010)

Psychosocial Trauma and Engagement in meaningful occupations: a narrative Study with Elderly Chilean immigrants in Sweden.

Life must be lived the best you can

Keywords: Psychosocial trauma, engagement in occupation, elderly experiences, narrative method, liminal spaces

This study focused on elderly Chilean immigrants arriving during the 70s to Sweden. These people arrived because of political reasons, often also with the experience of Human rights violations. Sweden is the country in Europe with the largest Chilean population and a big group of them are growing older. Research shows that violation of human rights can impact everyday life, but there is a lack of research on the long-term effects from an occupational perspective. The aim is to better understand and gain knowledge about experiences of elderly Chilean immigrants, who had suffered human rights violations, about their engagement in occupations constituting meaning while living in Sweden. A narrative design was chosen and data was collected through participant observation and semi-structured interviews. Data was analyzed using a narrative method. Findings are presented as three participants' emplotted stories and possible interpretations. They show that the experiences from the life in Chile are strong determinant within the participant's current everyday life. The experiences from human right violations are infusing daily life and impacted strongly on current daily engagements. Further elaborations are made about: a) Occupation embedded with cultural and political motives, b) Occupation as foundation source of liminal spaces c) Occupation as part of a larger healing process. The presented findings contribute with empirical knowledge and new perspectives to features of psychosocial trauma, ageing and the meaning making process. The results highlight the significance of the cultural and political nature of occupation for meaning development. Findings confirm the need to pay attention to experiences of human right violation when planning support to participation for elderly Chilean immigrants in Sweden.

Kirsten Munk Kusch (April 2010)

Participation in daily activities following hip fracture in old age

Four narrative case stories

Keywords Case study, change, elderly, home, narrative analysis, participation

The purpose of the study was to explore the participation and the change of participation following hip fracture in old age after a clinical stay from an internal point of view. Four women over the age of 75 years and still living in their homes were included. Three semi structured interviews per participant were carried out. The first interview took place in the clinic shortly before discharge, the second one week and third five weeks after discharge in the homes of the participants. The data was analysed with a narrative approach.

The findings indicate that the participation in daily activities declined especially shortly after discharge from a clinic. During the first five weeks at home the older adults start to regain participation. The recovery process is influenced by emotional aspects and might be hindered or slowed down. Help from outside seems to play an important factor in regaining participation. In all the cases the participants had to deal with a limited participation compared to the time before the fracture.

Ruth Amann (April 2010)

Like flying quiet easily

Perceptions of children with cerebral palsy about free chosen occupations

Keywords: occupation, choice, children with cerebral palsy, enjoyment, hermeneutic

This study aimed to get an insight into the phenomenon of engaging in free chosen occupations which children with cerebral palsy label as being enjoyment to them. Data were gathered through video stimulated recall dialogues. Analysis followed a hermeneutic approach inspired by Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis.

Findings show that children with cerebral palsy perceive free chosen occupations which they label as being enjoyment as a process. This process needs a safe and self-determination base in order to experience extended options compared to different, mostly more restricting circumstances. Intense involvement can be seen as the product of experiencing oneself with extended options, as the booster of staying involved as well as a magnet to engage in that 'experiential category' of occupation again. Findings of this study inform occupational therapy about how to deal with the topic of advising about activity choices to promote intrinsically motivated activity participation of children with cerebral palsy.

Annelies Feelders (April 2010)

Work, a twofold reality

The meaning of work in the lives of people with Retinitis Pigmentosa

Keywords: meaning of work, Retinitis Pigmentosa, compensation,

This study aimed to gain insight and understanding of the perception and reflection of people with Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) on the role and meaning of work in their life. Eight Dutch individuals with RP were interviewed. An approach inspired by hermeneutics was used throughout the study and the data were analysed by the constant comparative method.

Three main themes were identified: Work gives recognition that I matter, Work: disguising RP and pushing the limits and Work, a twofold reality. Work forms a dilemma because it seems to give compensation for RP to the participants but at the same time it demands compensation because of RP. The participants go through a repeated process from disguising to integrating the visual impairment as part of their personal identity and learning to work within their possibilities and to respect their limitations. This leads to successful compensation: keeping the work without overburdening oneself.

The conclusions suggest rehabilitation practices can support clients with RP to prevent overburdening by finding and practising effective compensation strategies, and by advocating the use of workplace adaptations.

Liesbeth de Vries (November 2009)

Content Validity, Feasibility and Proof of principle in Discriminative Validity of the Writing Readiness Inventory Tool In Context (WRITIC)

Aim: The Writing Readiness Inventory Tool In Context (WRITIC) is developed for children in kindergarten to evaluate handwriting readiness (1). This study is conducted in order to establish content validity, feasibility and proof of principle in discriminative validity.

Methods: To investigate content validity, the Delphi method was used. Three rounds for achieving consensus were performed with ten experts, with a minimum of 90 % agreement. To investigate feasibility and the proof of principle in discriminative validity, a pilot study was conducted (n=40). Based on the opinion of the teachers two contrast groups were formed and assessed on the WRITIC; a group with well developed and a group with poor developed handwriting readiness.

Results: Content validity is established with a mean of 94,4 % consensus. The WRITIC is feasible in practice. Analysis regarding proof of principle in discriminative validity shows that the WRITIC discriminates statistically significant on the paper and pencil activities ($p=0,008$).

Interpretation: The WRITIC is a promising instrument for the evaluation of handwriting readiness. Further studies are needed on validity.

Linda Stigen (November 2009)

Inter-rater reliability of the Norwegian version of the Perceive, Recall, Plan and Perform System of Task Analysis

Keywords: psychometrics, reliability of results, occupational therapy, cognition, task performance and analysis, (PRPP)

Background/aim: In order to survive in the current health and social care climate occupational therapists need to demonstrate that their interventions are effective both clinically and economically. The use of the Perceive, Recall, Plan and Perform system of task analysis is expanding in Norway and there is a need to be sure that we are using this assessment in a valid and reliable way. The aim of this study was to establish inter-rater reliability of the Norwegian version of the Perceive, Recall, Plan and Perform System of Task Analysis.

Methods: Inter-rater reliability was measured using percentage agreement (PA) and intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC).

Results: 29 occupational therapists participated and rated 3 clients. ICC results ranged between -0.66 to 1 on descriptor score and 0.15 to 0.62 on quadrant score. The PA ranged from 42 % to 100% on descriptor scores, and between 77% and 83 % on quadrant level.

Conclusions: The results indicate that the inter-rater reliability of this group of occupational therapists is low compared to previous studies. The study gives some indication on the inter-rater reliability of the Norwegian version however future studies are necessary in order to be able to draw further conclusions.

Alexa Binder (November 2009)

Disease and aging is a tangled process

A Qualitative Study of Older Women with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Keywords: successful aging, occupational science, meaning condensation

Objective: To explore how individuals with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) experience their daily life both in the past and at the time of the interview and whether their experiences from the past could be used to manage daily life at present.

Methods: A qualitative study has been performed. Semi- structured interviews were conducted with seven women with RA who were between 76-85 years of age and had a disease duration between 30-70 years. The interviews focused on the experiences of the participants' daily life with RA and the relation of aging to their experience with managing daily activities and chronic disease. The transcribed data were analysed using meaning condensation analysis.

Results: Related to management of daily life in old age the following four themes emerged: living with different diseases; changing attitude towards own abilities in managing disease and daily life; using past experiences to organize life despite of disease; and engaging in familiar occupations to gain satisfaction.

Conclusion: The results suggest that at the time of the interview co-morbidities play an important role in older adults with RA and that RA was experienced as 'just one' disease. It seemed that past experiences that have been made during a life with RA as well as life experiences as such are important factors for successful or less successful management of daily life activities in old age. In addition, by focusing on the continuation of familiar occupations or activities health professionals may contribute to enable older people to participate in society.

Toril Røssvoll (November 2009)

The impact of Multiple Sclerosis on Daily Occupations

Metasummary of Qualitative Studies of Personal Experience

Keywords: qualitative metasummary, multiple sclerosis, daily occupations, occupational adaptation

OBJECTIVE: To identify and aggregate findings of all published qualitative research studies regarding peoples' experience of how symptoms of MS impact on their daily occupations.

METHOD: Several techniques have been used to find relevant reports, electronic searching being the most important. Qualitative Metasummary techniques were used to integrate the findings from the included reports.

RESULTS: The findings show that symptoms of MS impose restrictions and limitations to a range of occupations, which require a need to prioritize occupations, and to plan the day in accordance with reduced capacity. The findings also show that facing these limitations can result in a new perspective on peoples occupational lives and give opportunities to try out new roles and occupations.

CONCLUSION: This study underline the importance of occupations in the process of adapting to changes in life, and reveals the values of focusing on daily occupations in order to meet the rehabilitation needs of individuals with MS.

Hanne Peoples (November 2009)

Stroke survivor's experiences with rehabilitation
A qualitative evidence synthesis

Keywords: Qualitative evidence synthesis, stroke rehabilitation

Background and purpose: The increase in demands of accountability in health care and acknowledgment of the importance of stroke survivors participation in health decisions, calls for systematic ways of integrating this perspective.

The purpose was to undertake a qualitative evidence synthesis to provide the best available evidence on stroke survivor's experiences with rehabilitation.

Method: A qualitative meta-summary was chosen as method to investigate the topic. A literature search in published qualitative research studies from 1990-2008 was conducted. Data analysis entailed; extracting, editing, grouping, and abstracting findings.

Results: Twelve studies were included in the meta-summary. One main theme was identified; 'Power and Empowerment' and 6 subcategories; coping with a new situation, informational needs, physical and non-physical needs, being personally valued and treated with respect, collaboration with health care professionals and assuming responsibility and seizing control.

Conclusions: Stroke survivor's experiences reflected individual and relational aspects of power and empowerment. The capacity to assume power and responsibility is a dynamic rather than a progressive issue where the stroke survivor may be able to make some choices but not others and this may vary throughout the rehabilitation. This reflected a dynamic nature of stroke rehabilitation where the process was triggered by change in progress of the stroke survivor, indicating that enabling empowerment is a matter of constant weighing contrasting issues against each other. Health professionals must be able to evaluate which patients that are ready to assume responsibility and target their approach accordingly.

Sarah Matovu (November 2009)

Narratives of everyday life occupations; experiences of young Ugandan women's adherence to haart

It's a tug of war between everyday life and adherence to medication

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, Uganda, young women, adherence, HAART, Occupations, routines, Habits

Our everyday lives consist of occupations that we perform in form of routines and habits that we barely think about them. The routines organise our occupations which are gendered according to each specific socio-cultural context. But women with HIV/AIDS are faced not only with the burden of living with the disease but, also have to manage their lives as well as take medication causing poor adherence, which is a public health threat.

The purpose of the study was to explore how young women with HIV/AIDS in Uganda experience the influence of their everyday life routines and habits on adherence to HAART after more than one year on the medication.

Stories of the participants were drawn using semi structured interviews that were conducted twice in places of their convenience within a period of one month in view of many returning to school. Narrative analysis was used to order the data using five steps according to Polkinghorne to identify the beginning, middle and end of the stories.

The findings reveal that the participants were struggling to carry out their everyday life occupations in terms of work, school, housework, meeting friends, going dancing and watching movies as well as adhering to their medication terming it as a tug of war. The participants' routines gave them a sense of identity, value and meaning that they took precedence over adherence of their medication. Therefore it is important to have discussions with the young women about everyday life routines and habits, so that medication schedules are made in accordance with their routines or lack of routines.

Marieke Lindenschot (November 2009)

Exploring the cognitive intervention CO-OP for children with Developmental Coordination Disorder in the Netherlands

Keywords: Children, Developmental Coordination Disorder, Cognitive intervention, multiple case study, mixed method, occupational therapy.

The objective of this study is to evaluate the Cognitive Orientation to daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP) approach when applying it to children with Developmental Coordination Disorder in the Netherlands. This was investigated by using a multiple case design with a mixed method. Four children were included. Quantitative data of occupational performance pre and post intervention was collected from the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure, which was conducted with the child and separately with the parent. The Performance Quality Rating Scale was conducted by an independent occupational therapist. The patient record and a registration list gave data on the content of the treatment. Qualitative data of the reflection of the occupational therapists on the interventions was collected with semi-structured interviews. The results show clinical relevant improvements in occupational performance on (un)trained goals for all four children and provide directions for adaptation of the CO-OP approach to the Dutch situation. Recommendations for further research and implications for practice have been given.

Tinatini Kavtaradze (November 2009)

Occupations on the ward

Experiences of every day occupations on long-term hospital ward by persons with mental health problems – patients' perspective

Keywords: Daily occupations, Institutional environment, Mental health, Constant comparative method

Objective: The aim of the study was to discover and characterize experiences of every day occupations of mental health clients on the long term psychiatric ward from the perspective of the clients themselves. Despite of the extensive professional literature on the topic of occupational therapy in the mental health, culturally relevant knowledge on occupational engagement of mental health clients in different cultural and institutional environment remain little studied. Therefore it is important to address the issue of occupational engagement and experiences of occupations from perspective of mental health clients in Georgian reality.

Method: qualitative interviews were conducted with 6 clients residing for prolonged time on the psychiatric ward. Analyses of the interviews were conducted using constant comparative method.

Findings: the findings suggest that participants experience every day occupations on the ward as limited, therefore time dragging and occupationally deprived from meaningful activities; simultaneously, they experience any kind of occupational engagement possibility as purposeful and bearing personally important meanings.

Selma van Huijzen (November 2009)

Doing activities spontaneously and being taken seriously

Keywords: Ventilation, neuromuscular disorder, social participation, occupational participation, occupational therapy

Qualitative study on social and occupational participation of young adults with neuromuscular disorder, who are being treated by chronic mechanical ventilation and live in a nursing home

Aims: This study aimed to gather information concerning the human experience of participation for young adults with a neuromuscular disorder who are being treated by chronic mechanical ventilation, and who live in a residential nursing home.

Method: The design was qualitative, based on an action orientated approach within the critical theory paradigm. Data were collected by conducting one pilot focus group discussion with three male adults (aged 28-39) in one nursing home and two focus group discussions with six male adults (aged 23-40), all living in a specialised nursing home on two different occasions. The data analysis was based on constant comparative approach in combination with an eyeball approach.

Major findings: The results reveal that the type of ventilation has a big influence on the participation. The results consist of four main themes: Taking responsibility for ones own health, Doing activities spontaneously, Being taken seriously, Feeling just like others.

Principal conclusion: This study provides useful data to help with the development of intervention plans aimed at improving the participation of young adults with neuromuscular disorders, who are living in a nursing home and are treated by chronic mechanical ventilation.

Mona Dür (November 2009)

***Validity of the School Version of Assessment of Process and Motor Skills (School AMPS)
The School AMPS' Construct Related Validity tested at an Austrian Sample***

Keywords: School AMPS, assessment, students, occupational therapy, Austria, psychometric assessment, primary school, validity;

The current paradigm of Occupational Therapy (OT) and its positioning in the health care system on the one side, possible contributions from OT to the ongoing reform of the Austrian educational system on the other, especially regarding screenings for health and development in pre-schoolers and first graders, require evidence based practice and evaluation of the effectiveness of therapeutic and educational interventions. Therefore, valid and reliable assessment instruments according to these requirements are badly needed. The school version of the assessment of motor and process skills (School AMPS) is an observational evaluation of functional skills in classrooms, which is validated in several ways and countries. This study aimed to examine concurrent validity, the School AMPS' ability to differentiate among groups, at a sample of 99 typically developing (TDS), mild disabled or delayed (MDDS) and severe disabled or delayed students (SDDS), aged six and seven years. The means of school motor measures and school process measures per group revealed significant differences among groups using one-way ANOVA and post Hoc Tukey HSD. The findings suggest that the School AMPS satisfies criteria of concurrent validity. Out of 99 students 60 (round 60%) of the original data were rejected due to rater error, possible reasons lying behind that are discussed.

Regula Kubli (November 2009)

Treating clients from diverse cultural backgrounds

Experiences and reflections of occupational therapists working in Switzerland

Keywords: Occupational Therapy, Cultural Competence, Migrant Background, Focus Group, Swiss Health Care System

Switzerland has become a multicultural nation with foreigners constituting 22,1 % of its population. A pluralistic country like Switzerland needs a health care system which meets the requirements of a multicultural population. Culture and its influence on occupation is an often discussed issue in occupational therapy literature. The aim of this study was to examine experiences and reflections of occupational therapists working with clients from diverse cultural backgrounds in Switzerland. Data were collected from one focus group of nine occupational therapists during the course of three meetings in order to gain a better understanding of their situation with regard to implementation of cultural competence within occupational therapy practice and to contribute to further development in this respect. Three themes emerged: differences in treatment, challenges or problems during the therapeutic process, and different approaches or strategies implemented. To offer culturally sensitive and appropriate further training in occupational therapy, the development and implementation of cultural competences will be needed for occupational therapist working in Switzerland.

David Ebongon Kabarak (February 2009)

Where will I go if I let them go? The Meaning in Cattle Herding

Keywords: Occupation, Cattle herding, meaning of occupation, Turkana herders & Occupational therapy.

Over the years, herding has been considered as a major occupation among the Turkana people of North Western Kenya. However its meaning is seldom described in occupational therapy and science literature. This qualitative study explores the meaning of herding as a human occupation as experienced by the herders. Interviews and observations were used to collect data. Four male adult informants described their experience of herding. Data analysis used a modified form of Karlsson's (1995) Empirical Phenomenological Psychological method (EPP). Findings suggest that doing is the central focus on occupational performance. The relationships between doing, being, becoming and belonging were subjects of discussion. This understanding may perhaps translate into skillful designing of occupational therapy intervention programs that are in tandem with the local occupational forms and dynamics. This may also provide the foundation for the entrenchment of local occupations into the academic definition and applications of occupation as a therapeutic media.

Marjon ten Velden (November 2008)

***Dutch Children's Perspectives on the Constructs of the COSA:
A Qualitative Exploration***

Keywords: client-centered, children with special needs, assessment, self-report, occupational therapy, cognitive interviewing approach, three-step-test-interview

Client-centered practice provides the framework for using the Child Occupational Self Assessment (COSA), which has been translated for use in the Netherlands. Assurances regarding the validity of this instrument depend on explorations of its qualities in this context. This study aimed to begin the inquiry into one aspect – does it measure what it intends to measure? It sought to see how children with special needs, as experts, interpret the meaning of the COSA questions.

Method: A qualitative design used the cognitive interviewing approach to explore the children's meaning given to each item. Participants were 6 special needs children from 8 – 12 years, receiving occupational therapy and being representative for everyday pediatric occupational therapy-practice. Data was collected using observations and interviews, inspired by the Three-Step-Test-Interview. Analysis was guided by the constant comparative method described by Bogdan and Biklen (2007).

Results: Variations were discovered in how some of the COSA items are understood by different children. In addition, shortcomings were found in how children then 'graded' their responses to the items. The research also revealed inaccuracies in this translation of the COSA.

Conclusion: More evidence is needed to demonstrate that the COSA is sufficiently free from response biases to measure what it is meant to measure. Results show that Dutch children find the COSA enabled them to share what they find important.

Verena Tatzer (November 2008)

*Narratives of Elderly Viennese Women
Changes in Occupation over Life-Time*

Keywords: life story, narrative, elderly women, occupation, change

This article presents the four life stories of elderly women in Vienna in order to better understand how their occupations changed in the process of ageing against the background of their individual life-story. The main changes were found in the meaning of important occupations, the way they relate to their future perspective with regard to occupational potential and significant social relations. The stories presented extend beyond an illness or deficit narrative and contribute to a more diverse narrative of the subjective experience of ageing in occupational terms. The elderly women did not perceive themselves as old or sick despite problems in mobility, the presence of chronic disease and advanced age. This is the result of their engagement in occupation that is meaningful and linked to their identity as human beings. The attempt of the four elderly women to maintain a balance between adapting and struggling to continue their occupations and thus relate to their identities are discussed. A particular interesting finding unravelled by a structural narrative analysis was the use of metaphors and fairy tales by the women to make sense of their changed occupational life and their struggle between change and continuity. Furthermore, implications for Occupational Therapy (OT) practice are discussed, the main point being that use of narrative assessments using a life story perspective like the OPHI II is thus recommended for OTs who work with elderly clients.

Gaby Scheidegger (November 2008)

Children with disabilities in Tibetan villages

The families' experiences and the influences on their daily lives and occupations

Keywords: Activities of daily living (ADL), culture, ethnography, Himalaya, occupational therapy, remote area

The aim of this paper is to explore and describe the experiences of Tibetan families who have a child with disabilities while living in remote villages. Focussing on their specific situations and the influences on their daily occupations, the study provides a deeper understanding of the families' experiences, perceptions and expressed needs. Two families participated in an ethnographic study. Both participant observation and conversational interviews were used to collect data. A comparative data analysis revealed the following themes: 1) Families' views on disability and care provision: 'What we have, we are willing to give'; 2) Families' occupational pressures: 'One person needs to be caregiver all the time'; 3) Families' desires: 'That the child can feed and go to the bathroom independently'. Implications of the findings for practice in remote areas and cross-cultural contexts are discussed. These findings help to provide a good foundation for occupational therapy practice in this context.

Albrecht Konrad (November 2008)

Bridging the gap

Experiences of social support after a vocational training for people with mental illness who are now working in the labour market

Keywords: Occupational therapy, social support, recovery, paid work

This qualitative research study was designed to explore and describe experiences of social support for people with mental illness during the process of reintegration into the labour market. Qualitative interviews were conducted with four people with mental illness, who have finished a vocational training and have been employed for at least 6 months. The data was analysed using a comparative method.

Findings identified that participants experienced social support as a needful 'bridge' between to do a vocational training (Role: Rehabilitant) and to work independently in the labour market (Role: Worker). Bridging the gap was the general notion of social support by the interviewees and the multifaceted core concept of the analyses. Further, to pay attention to meaningful occupation a trustworthy, sustainable safety net was identified by all participants as an important basic part of social support.

Inference: Social support might strengthen the outcomes after a vocational training and contributory the overall feeling of safety to do meaningful occupations. Social support seemed to be the key element within the recovery process, to keep the balance between mental health stability and the daily job requirements for people with mental illness. This paper aimed to contribute to a discussion about social support.

Bianca Köller (November 2008)

The psychometric properties of the German version of the new Worker Role Interview (WRI-G 10.0)

Keywords: Work rehabilitation, Musculoskeletal disorders, Assessment, Model of Human Occupation, Rasch Analysis

Objective: Occupational therapists play an important role in work rehabilitation in getting people with chronic disabilities back to work. Due to an increasing need for quality control and the call for evidence-based practice, the use of work assessments as outcome measurement have become mandatory in current health and social care contexts. The Worker Role Interview (WRI) is intended to detect psychosocial and environmental factors influencing the ability to return to work for injured or disabled workers. This study examined the psychometric properties of the recently modified German version (WRI-G, 10.0) in a population with work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) in Switzerland.

Methods: Data was gathered from 20 participants with work-related MSD. The interviews were conducted face-to-face and videotaped. Five occupational therapists, trained in the use of the WRI-G, independently rated all twenty interview recordings following the official manual. Thus, 100 ratings were analysed by use of Rasch analysis to test construct validity and transform ordinal raw data into linear data (person locations) for interrater-reliability calculations.

Results: All items fit the Rasch model, except the item 'perception of boss'. Three items displayed differential item functioning (DIF) for different groups, which was remedied by item split. The final WRI-G, consisting of 15 items, showed good overall model fit ($\chi^2 = 54.66$, $p = 0.04$); excellent person-separation reliability (PSI 0.91) and high interrater reliability (mean ICC 0.90).

Conclusions: Based on this sample, the WRI-G (10.0) indicates to be a valid and reliable instrument to assess psychosocial ability for return to work in a work-related MSD population.

Katja Angleitner (November 2008)

I just want to be seizure free...

Everyday life experiences of epilepsy patients before and after epilepsy surgery

Keywords: epilepsy, open-ended interviews, life management, expectations, life changes.

The aim of the study was to explore a person's everyday life experiences before and after the epilepsy surgery, coping with chronic illness since disease onset, and experiencing the changes in everyday life within four months after the surgery. A qualitative approach through open-ended interviews was used for gathering and a constant comparative method for analysing the data. Two female participants were included in the research. Eight open-ended interviews were done, four with each participant, two before and two four months after the epilepsy surgery.

Findings revealed several problems participants were dealing with. They were defined in the following themes: illness controlled their life; expecting to manage life better after the epilepsy surgery; and coping with the new life situation. Managing everyday life four months after epilepsy surgery was still a problem for both participants. Nevertheless, some differences between them could be recognized. Participants and their families were in the phase of adapting to the new life situation, where the adaptation process could last between 1 and 2 years.

Epilepsy surgery for them did not mean a better, seizure free life, but rather a decision toward positive changes in their life. In spite of their good surgery outcomes, problems continue to persist. Both participants are still dependent on family members at the time of this study.

Andrea R.P. Weise (November 2007)

Strengthening Participation:

Environmental barriers and facilitators described by Austrian and Swiss People with Multiple Sclerosis

Keywords: Environment, Barriers and facilitators, Multiple Sclerosis, Participation, Cross-national

Background: Looking at participation of people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is important from the individual's as well as from a socio-economic perspective. The influence of environment on participation and of participation on health is underlined by literature.

Objectives: (1) to obtain consensus on which environmental factors are relevant to a large group of people with MS in Austria (AUT) and Switzerland (CH) with regard to their participation; (2) to look at cross-national differences.

Methods: A three-round Delphi study was conducted defining people with MS as experts. Qualitative and quantitative data was gathered by subsequent questionnaires. Thematic content analysis, using the classification of environmental factors of the ICF as a framework, and descriptive statistics were applied for analysis. A cut-off of 75% had been pre-defined as consensus.

Results: Volunteer samples of 112 (AUT) and 109 (CH) were recruited. Analysis revealed 768 environmental factors, of which 176 (AUT) and 177 (CH) reached the cut-off for consensus, covering all dimensions of environment. Comparing the national results, only few differences were found, mainly related to different cultural habits and national policies.

Conclusions: Addressing all dimensions of environment is essential to enhance participation of people with MS. Addressing the consensus factors obtained from this study within (political) decision making and rehabilitation efforts, participation of a large group of people with MS would benefit. Rehabilitation professionals should try to influence issues relevant for (large) groups of their clients on community or even national level. Cross-national efforts could overcome commonly experienced environmental barriers, and strengthen facilitators.

Anita de Vries-Uiterweerd (November 2007)

Validity of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA) questionnaire for use in people with mental disorders

A cross-national study

Keywords: measurement – participation – outcomes – Rasch model – mental disorders – rehabilitation

Purpose: To evaluate the internal scale validity and person response validity of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy questionnaire for use in a mixed outpatient population with mental disorders.

Subjects: A total of 286 outpatients with mental disorders, 135 persons in Germany, and 151 persons in the Netherlands.

Design: Similar cross-sectional non-experimental study design with convenience sampling in both countries.

Method: Rasch rating scale analysis was used to examine psychometric properties of the IPA.

Results: Analysis of combined data showed that the IPA has 31 items for the construct of perceived participation in the target group, after removal of one misfitting item. Rating scale analysis revealed consecutive threshold values to all 31 items on the IPA, indicating good category functioning. Persons were differentiated into four levels of participation. Item separation demonstrated 10 strata of difficulty. Person response validity showed a misfit rate of 15.7%.

Conclusions: The findings confirmed the internal scale validity of the IPA for use in persons with mental disorders. Further research into scale construction and acceptance of the IPA items is needed, in order to better match the population of the mentally disordered people.

Tako Tavartkiladze (November 2007)

Daily Occupations of Internally Displaced Persons in Collective Living Centers

Experience of Daily Occupations of Internally Displaced Women in Collective Living Centers

Keywords: Daily occupations, Lived experience, Empirical Phenomenological Psychological method, Occupational science

Millions of people around the globe have been displaced in their own countries as a result of conflicts or human rights violations. There are about 247 000 persons displaced from two conflict zones in Georgia. Many of them are resided in collective living centers/camps in extremely restricted conditions.

The purpose of this phenomenological research was to understand the meaning of daily occupations of internally displaced women living in collective camps.

Seven women were interviewed in different collective centres. Data were analyzed and interpreted using the Empirical, Phenomenological, Psychological (EPP) method (Karlsson, 1993).

The findings revealed three main characteristics that described a meaning of daily occupations for the women: limitations of occupational life in camp which is influenced by the restricted environment and limits their occupational participation; interdependency in the community expressed in helping each other and will to engage in collective culturally appropriate occupations; engagement in work related and personally meaningful occupations. The findings showed how occupational deprivation is prevalence in the camp context. However, the latter two characteristics describe occupational strategies identified by the women to reduce burden and enrich their occupational participation.

The findings from this study suggest how an occupational change is stimulated by the environmental change. This knowledge should lead to an increased understanding in occupational therapy about occupational needs of displaced persons and can serve as a basis for population based intervention strategies.

Birgit Prodinge (November 2007)

Participation of people with Multiple Sclerosis:

Environmental barriers and facilitators described with a Delphi Study

Keywords: Environment, Barriers and facilitators, Multiple Sclerosis, Participation, Cross-national

Background: Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neurological, progressive disease with its main burden mostly during the 5th and 6th decade of life. Disability contributes to restrictions in participating in daily life. Environment plays an important role with regard to the participation of an individual. Variations in physical and socio-cultural environments throughout different countries are evident.

Objectives: The objective was to identify environmental factors impacting participation of people with MS in their daily life in Austria and Switzerland. The specific aims were to gain knowledge about which environmental factors are of relevance regarding participation in daily life and to explore similarities and differences in environmental factors of people with MS in Austria and Switzerland.

Methods and Materials: In each country, a three-round Delphi study was conducted. People diagnosed with MS by a neurologist were recruited as so-called experts. The first questionnaire aimed at obtaining qualitative data with open-ended questions. By using meaning categorization and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as framework, environmental factors were extracted from the obtained data. In the 2nd and 3rd questionnaire, experts were asked whether the factors extracted were of relevance to their participation. So-called 'consensus factors' had to be of relevance either as barrier, facilitator or both to at least 75% of the participants per country who completed the last round. After the three rounds, the obtained lists of environmental factors for each country were qualitatively analysed and categorized into main themes. Descriptive statistics and frequency distributions were calculated on a national level and for some national sub-groups and comparisons between the countries were made.

Results: Initially, 112 people with MS were recruited from Austria and 109 from Switzerland. A drop-out rate of 45% for Austria and 40% for Switzerland occurred. A list of 174 environmental factors with consensus resulted in Austria, 177 in Switzerland. Experts concurred that these factors were either facilitators, barriers or both with regard to their personal participation. Analysing the two national lists of environmental factors combined, five main themes were established, which included, 'mass/communication/ and information media', 'health care and social security services and policies', 'mobility in public space', 'support and attitudes (individual and societal)' and 'natural environment'. Comparing the national results, differences were not statistically significant. Only minor differences due to cultural habits and national policies were revealed.

Conclusions: Environmental factors are important to ensure equal participation for people with MS in different countries. Health professionals, such as occupational therapists and social workers, could facilitate participation by first addressing these environmental factors in their assessments and treatments while considering the different influences of cultural factors and health and social care policies on individuals. Secondly, they could facilitate participation of people with MS by addressing the identified factors on a broader level such as within communities and/or on national and international levels.

Eugénia M. Marques Pereira (November 2007)

My school - the participation experience of children with disabilities in Portuguese mainstream schools

Keywords: Mainstream school, Children with Disabilities, Participation, Subjective Experience of Participation

The aim of this study was to describe in depth how children with disabilities perceive and experience their participation in mainstream schools in Portugal. The participants were fourteen children with disabilities, between eight and eleven years old, who attended mainstream schools. The data was collected through open-ended interviews and analysed employing the psychological phenomenological method described by Giorgi [1]. The findings of this study add knowledge to understanding both topics inclusion in mainstream schools and the subjective experience of participation. The findings reveal that, in essence, children with disabilities are fond of school, whatever the particular circumstances they have to deal with. For them it is normal to attend mainstream school. This is the place where they build friendships and learn.

This study also supports the claim that it is necessary to include the subjective experience of participation, when classifying participation. Different figures of participation described and four participation levels are proposed. Further investigations to clarify this dimension are recommended.

Beate Krieger (November 2007)

Becoming a member of the work force: perceptions of adults with Asperger Syndrome

Keywords: Asperger Syndrome, competitive work, biographic narrative, occupational therapy

The degree to which adults with Asperger Syndrome (AS) participate in the competitive work force is generally reported to be very low. However, some adults with Asperger Syndrome have been successful in keeping a job against all odds.

The purpose of this study was to investigate how working adults interpret the meaning of those contextual factors in their biographies, which contribute to their successful work participation. Using a hermeneutic narrative approach in the tradition of Paul Ricoeur, each of six participants, who live in Switzerland, told his or her story in two in-depth interviews. After having constructed a core narrative and emplotment, the subsequent data analysis included a first naïve interpretation to grasp context as well as two structural analyses (plot structure and core metaphor), in order to deepen understanding.

Results showed that the participants became socialized for future work situations during their childhood by having acquired basic social competences and by others fostering their ability to learn. They are able to adapt to their actual work through their strong inner motivation for work, their capacities for understanding and adapting to social norms, and by grasping the particular needs of themselves. Disclosure is rare and stigmatization is still present. The findings of this study are intended to aid occupational therapists' understanding of how individuals with AS and their contexts can be supported to enhance labour participation.

Tina Helle (November 2007)

The Nordic Housing Enabler: inter-rater reliability of the Nordic version of the Housing Enabler instrument, available in Danish, Finnish and Icelandic.

Keywords: Accessibility, physical environment, housing, occupational therapy, translation, inter-rater reliability.

This study addresses inter-rater reliability of the Nordic version of the Housing Enabler, available in Finnish, Danish and Icelandic. The purpose was to provide occupational therapists with a standardized instrument and evidence-based methodology, intending to support quality development in housing adaptation and housing provision for persons with disabilities and facilitate cross-Nordic research targeting accessible housing design. The Housing Enabler instrument was translated from the original Swedish version and adapted according to Danish, Finnish and Icelandic norms and legislation on housing design through an iterative process involving professional translators, occupational therapists, architects and engineers. The 'two-panel' approach was utilized for the translation. Sampling strategy and data collection procedures were similar in each country. 18 voluntary occupational therapists, pair wise collected the data. These pair wise raters assessed the same ten persons with functional limitations and their housings, independently from each other. In total this brought 92 pair wise observations (N= 92). The Nordic version of the Housing Enabler was examined for cross-Nordic inter-rater reliability of the involved national contexts. Inter-rater reliability was calculated by means of percentage agreement and kappa statistics. The results demonstrated good mean percentage agreement for both the personal and environmental component, while moderate agreement for the personal component and fair for the environmental in terms of mean kappa values. Limits of the study were discussed and in conclusion, the Nordic version of the Housing Enabler was regarded as reliable for use in Nordic national settings and in cross-Nordic research.

Tina Hansen (November 2007)

Validation of a Danish translation of the 'Occupational therapy guideline for assessment and treatment of apraxia in CVA clients'- A pilot study

Keywords: Occupational performance; ADL-observations; cognitive rehabilitation; interactive dynamic assessment; reliability; validity

In order to contribute to the professional development within Danish occupational therapy the objective of this study was to produce a valid Danish translation of the Dutch 'Occupational therapy guideline for assessment and treatment of apraxia in CVA clients'; to investigate the interrater reliability of the assessment-part in terms of ADL-observations in self-chosen tasks, and to determine the content validity of the translated guideline. The interrater reliability was investigated using video-observations and multiple raters who also judged the content validity quantitatively. For the scores of the patient's occupational performance the study found moderate to good interrater reliability for 3 of 4 variables and poor to fair interrater reliability for 1 variable indicated by intraclass correlation coefficient and kappa-statistic. For the conclusion-part the results demonstrated fair interrater reliability for 5 of 6 variables and poor interrater reliability for 1 variable indicated by kappa-statistic. The content validity was judged valid for 100 and invalid for 28 defined elements. In conclusion, taking the complexity of the ADL-observations using self-chosen tasks in an interactive dynamic approach and the study design into consideration, the Danish translation of the guideline can serve as a clinical practice-guideline within Danish occupational therapy practise; however a 2-days training-course is recommended.

Brigitte Elisabeth Gantschnig- Huber (November 2007)

Feeling and being involved?

Participation experienced by children with disabilities at mainstream schools

Keywords: participation, subjective experience, phenomenology, occupational therapy, children with disabilities, school, ICF

Objective: The aim of this study was to gain an in-depth knowledge about children with disabilities lived experiences of participation in mainstream schools. Participation in childhood occupations is essential for children to grow and develop.

Method: Qualitative interviews were conducted with five children, between the ages of eight and twelve. Data was analyzed according to the descriptive phenomenological psychological method.

Findings: Participants appreciated attending mainstream schools as it enabled them to come into contact with other children and to do things together with them. Being a part of school life revealed as the central theme, that included experience of participation and non-participation. In reference to the central theme, two others were studied: environment experienced as crucial to participation and experiencing differences in comparison with peers.

Conclusion: The study emphasises that participation comprises of more than the actual doing in a current environment. The subjective dimension of participation is an important factor that should not be missed when assessing and facilitating participation.

Wiebke Flotho (November 2007)

Validity of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA) questionnaire for use in people with mental disorders

A cross-national study

Keywords: measurement – participation – outcomes – Rasch model – mental disorders – rehabilitation

Purpose: To evaluate the internal scale validity and person response validity of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy questionnaire for use in a mixed outpatient population with mental disorders.

Subjects: A total of 286 outpatients with mental disorders, 135 persons in Germany, and 151 persons in the Netherlands.

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Conclusions: The findings confirmed the internal scale validity of the IPA for use in persons with mental disorders. Further research into scale construction and acceptance of the IPA items is needed, in order to better match the population of the mentally disordered people.

Koen van Dijk (November 2007)

Validity and reliability of the School Assessment of Motor and Process Skills, School AMPS, in the Netherlands

A study on the School AMPS in a Dutch population

Keywords: School AMPS, cultural validity, Many faceted Rasch analysis

Objective: a study of validity and reliability of the School Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (School AMPS) in a Dutch population.

Design: Children between 3 and 12 years old were observed in their classroom environment performing schoolwork tasks. The data was analyzed with the Many Faceted Rasch model for the School AMPS. Students were selected by occupational therapists working in mainstream and special educational settings. The research was approved by the WECO, Board for Scientific research in Rehabilitation centre Heliomare, Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. Informed consent was given by the parents of the children and the board of the schools

Subjects: 75 students between 3 and 13 years old were included in this study. 22 students had no medical diagnosis, 53 students had several medical diagnoses.

Results: 73 students (96%) demonstrated acceptable goodness of fit to the Many Faceted Rasch models (MFR) for the School AMPS on motor ability, 63 students (84%) demonstrated acceptable goodness of fit to the MFR for the School AMPS on process ability. The group of typical developing students showed no significant difference to the existing group in the School AMPS database.

Conclusions: This study demonstrates preliminary evidence to support the internal scale validity, person response validity and person item reliability. Task validity of the School Amps is not demonstrated due to small sample size. Finally, the results partially support the reliability of the School AMPS 2005 in the Netherlands.

Anna Arganashvili (November 2007)

Considerations on participation of persons with disabilities

A meta-synthesis of qualitative studies in occupational therapy and occupational science

The purpose of this study is to generate an insiders' perspective on the community participation concept by conducting a meta-synthesis of the qualitative research in occupational therapy and occupational science. The study also aims to re-appreciate the value of the subjective experience of 'participation' within ICF mode of thinking.

Meta-synthesis methodology involves the analysis and the synthesis of the findings from qualitative studies with the constant comparative method of data analysis.

Involved qualitative studies range between the years of 1996-2006 focusing on the 'participation in the community' based on ICF definition of participation domain, which, for the purpose of this study concentrates on the following: community life, recreation and leisure, human rights, political life and citizenship;

The study also reflects on the complexities of the meta-synthesis methodology and the potential of its application in occupational therapy discipline.

Results of the study has identified three main considerations regarding community participation which deal with the transformation of participation from formal to real mode; revealing the leisure participation as an opportunity for managing the traverse of disability through re-discovering self beyond disability; prompting the changes throughout the whole system to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and to facilitate optimal civic participation.

Petra Marksteiner (November 2007)

***Occupational Therapy with Mentally Ill Offenders in Forensic Psychiatry:
A explorative cross-sectional survey of OT Practitioners in Austria and Germany***

Keywords: Education, forensic psychiatry, work practice, professionalisation

Forensic psychiatry imposes particular challenges on occupational therapists. In this area, occupational therapists are key players concerning assessment (including risk assessment) and treatment. Because of potential dangerousness of the clients and complexity of mental states, the occupational therapist needs knowledge and skills that are very profound and at the same time tailored to the specific demands of forensic psychiatry.

This explorative study looks at the work practice and related attitudes of occupational therapists working in forensic psychiatry institutions. The focus is on Austria and Germany because occupational therapy in forensic psychiatry has hardly been studied yet in these countries, and because their educational situation is not yet satisfying, although both Austria and Germany currently witness a growing professionalisation of occupational therapy.

In order to find out whether occupational therapists in forensic psychiatry in Austria and Germany feel well prepared for these challenges, a questionnaire was performed. It showed that occupational therapists in forensic psychiatry in Austria and Germany often do not use professional occupational therapy models and methods. This seems partly due to not being aware of them because of educational lacks, which is also reflected by the fact that many of the participants are not very satisfied with their education and training. But it seems also due to perceived restrictions in applicability of models, assessment, and treatment methods to the special forensic situation. This corroborates the claim of several authors for the development, and corresponding training, of occupational therapy methods tailored to forensic psychiatry.

Uta Jakobs, MSc. OT, Zürich Switzerland

(November 2007)

Agency in Transitions

Changing Occupational Identity of a Woman with Migration Experiences and Severe Mental Illness

Life history interviews and observations were conducted to explore how a woman with migration experiences reflects on her occupational performance during employment transitions. Narrative analysis was based on the interpretative socio-linguistic approach. An occupational perspective was applied to reveal the narrator's agency and the meaning of work in the historical-biographical constitution of her occupational identity. The concept of agency served as the guiding plot over the course of her life. One of the key findings highlighted the reciprocal relationship between agency and occupational performance, which enabled the narrator to cope with her daily struggle of control after her health-illness transition. A further finding was the change in the culturally imprinted and socially constructed meaning of work towards a balanced occupational life facilitated by a safe and tolerant therapeutic support system. Finally, it was found that the narrator constructed her own agentic identity for the first time as a consequence of her health-illness transition.

Helen Barnes (November 2007)

Trailing Partners: An occupational perspective on the experience of leaving a career to follow a partner on expatriate assignment to Belgium.

Keywords: dual-career couples, expatriation, life change events, occupation, trailing partner, transition

This study attempts to explore the transition experienced by 'trailing partners' who have left their careers to accompany their partners on expatriate assignments in Belgium, and the role occupation other than paid employment plays within that process. Moving from a career into a daily life where work no longer dominates is an unpredictable change with many implications.

There is a growing interest in developing further our understanding of human occupation and a transition of this type provides an opportunity to study humans as occupational beings and how they use occupations to maintain health.

A qualitative methodology was used and within a convenience sample nine trailing partners participated in semi-structured tape-recorded interviews. The constant comparative method of analysing the data revealed that participants went through a distinct process of transition with clearly defined stages, not dissimilar to the levels described in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The new temporal and occupational structure created by the space that work used to fill requires innovative and creative solutions, which become more evident to them as they engage in a process of continuing self-reflection revealing ways they might use their existing skills in a broader context.

Seulgee Kim (November 2007)

Restructured New Daily Living

A Study on the experiences of disabled elders participating in adult day care

Keywords: Disabled elders, occupational therapy, day care, qualitative research, participation

Disabled elders live unbalanced daily life because of restrictions in physical functions and isolation from social relations and as a result they experience continuous worsening of health. Adult day care is a service that helps disabled elders lead a spirited life. The present study purposed to understand disabled elders' experience of participation in activities at day care programs. The present study collected materials through in-depth interviews with participants in adult day care programs, participant observation, field notes, program diaries, etc. and analyzed them by the grounded theory method, which is one of qualitative research methods. According to the results of the present study, disabled elders participating in adult day care centre programs experience the process that their daily living is restructured through activity participation and the establishment of personal relationships. Depending on time flow, the participants' activity participation types are divided into dependent participation, independent participation and interdependent participation. These activity participation types changed along with the change of physical functions, the support environment of the facility and the degree of adaptation. Deep understanding of disabled elders' participation in day care program activities and the type of participation is expected to provide grounds for establishing occupational therapy strategies suitable for disabled elders living in local community.

Almut Späth (May 2007)

Experiencing Creativity

Painting a Picture of Young Adult's Experiences with Creative Occupations

Keywords: occupation, meaning, young adults, creativity, phenomenology.

This study explored how young adults experience being engaged in creative occupations. Three young adults living in Switzerland agreed to participate and to share their experiences with painting and drawing, as one example of creative occupations. A phenomenological study was conducted, collecting data in two individual interviews with each of the three participants. Data was analyzed using a modified form of the Empirical Phenomenological Psychological method (EPP). Validity was examined in regard to 'horizontal consistency' and peer examination. The analysis revealed four main themes: feeling an inner urge to paint, experiencing emotions as being central throughout all phases of the painting process, communicating with the painting and creating and showing artistic identities through painting.

Ingrid Wormsbächer (May 2007)

From dying to living positively:

Participating in the community as a young HIV+ Namibian

Much has been written about the impact of HIV and AIDS on the lives of people with this disease, as well as on the lives of their families, friends and partners. The experiences of individuals living with HIV and AIDS, as well as the potential role of the occupational therapist in the care and treatment of these clients throughout the progression of the disease, have been researched. The majority of these studies have, however, focused on participants living in developed countries.

Despite the large number of people infected with HIV/AIDS in Namibia, no studies have yet been conducted to investigate the way persons living with HIV experience their participation in the community.

As more people with HIV in Namibia gain access to antiretroviral therapy, the number of people in the country without physical symptoms will increase. Yet, studies show that not just the physical symptoms of the disease impact on occupational performance, participation and general well-being, but also the psychological and social problems associated with HIV infection.

This study investigates how the knowledge of being HIV positive impacts on how young adults living in Windhoek, Namibia, experience their participation in the community. Through the implementation of eight in-depth, unstructured and semi-structured interviews, the study explores the experiences of four young adults who have been recruited by means of purposeful sampling.

A qualitative approach based in phenomenology, making use of open coding to develop themes, is used to analyse data gained from the interviews.

Information obtained from this research can help occupational therapists and other social scientists gain insight into the impact that being HIV positive in Namibia has on community participation and may guide future research into similar topics. It may also add insight into the health care needs of individuals living with HIV in Namibia.

Inge Vromen (May 2007)

I belong, therefore I do

Stories of three people participating in an activity centre

Keywords: belonging, occupation, occupational engagement, narrative methods, mental health

Occupation has been typified as a synthesis of 'doing, being and becoming' by Wilckock (1998). Recent findings on occupational engagement and developments in occupational science imply a more social nature of occupation than this widely used description seems to highlight.

In this study a narrative approach was used to explore the informants' perspectives on the meaning of social components for their engagement in occupations. The informants, three people with enduring mental health problems visiting an activity centre, were interviewed three times. A narrative analysis led to the construction of three individual narratives, with plots on engagement and sociality.

The findings show that for these people a sense of belonging to a group or place is essential for (further) engagement in occupations. Important factors were: being with people with a shared background in a welcoming environment and doing for others.

In line with these findings and contemporary literature and to allow for a more social focus, it is suggested that occupation be described as a synthesis of doing, being, belonging, becoming (in whichever order)

Karin M. Todt (May 2007)

Time-related Components of The Adaptation Process in self-care

An analyses of narratives from Persons living in the Community with Severe Hemiplegia

Keywords: Occupational Therapy, occupational adaptation, basic activities of daily living, stroke, narratives

Occupational adaptation occurs during rehabilitation, but also occurs naturally after discharge and is influenced by the environment. Self-care training is the most common intervention of occupational therapy in the rehabilitation setting, yet literature about the adaptation process of self-care in the community is lacking. The aim of this study was to obtain knowledge about the elements of the domiciliary adaptation process in self-care after stroke. Unstructured interviews were conducted with eight participants in their environment and between 2,5 to 6 years after the participants were discharged from the clinical setting. A narrative approach was used throughout the research and the data was analysed with the constant comparative method. Four themes, which are related to time-phases of the adaptation process in self-care were identified: Phase of (1) recognizing challenges; (2) finding and integration solutions that ensure adequate help and safety; (3) making efforts towards more independence; (4) using better 'self-identity'. The findings suggest that occupational therapists should enable their patients to realise future challenges, test and practice self-care within their home environments in order to find solutions for safety and more independence, and to assist clients to improve self-identity skills. This thesis shows how narratives can help occupational therapists obtain knowledge from personal stories.

Christine Mosimann (May 2007)

Making confrontation with the real world bearable

Occupational therapists assess and train pedestrian skills with clients after stroke suffering from unilateral neglect

Keywords Real world experience, Doing together, Therapeutic strategies, Grounded Theory

The safety as a pedestrian is an important issue for clients after stroke suffering from unilateral neglect and for their relatives as well. Assessment and training of pedestrian skills is therefore performed in occupational therapy. This study aims to explore how occupational therapists do assessment and training of pedestrian skills with this client group for building up a background to guide practice.

Six occupational therapists participated in a qualitative interview. The collected data was analysed following the Grounded Theory approach with its focus on change in interaction, using the Constant Comparative Method.

The OT owns a restraint role to support the clients' experience of the real world to become aware of difficulties for initiating the use of compensatory strategies, which is seen as effective. The provoked distress in the client due to confrontation is met through delivering safety in form of the restraint role again, beneath a working alliance based on 'doing with' and 'working with' the client, the therapeutic attitude and therapeutic methods. Further investigation should be done on the working alliance based on 'doing together' in the sense of being engaged in one occupation with the client.

Isabel Lohss (May 2007)

Psychometric properties of the Worker Role Interview (version 10.0) in mental health

Keywords: Work, Assessment, Outcome measure, Rasch analysis

Getting people with mental illness back to work is on the agendas of both the UK Government and health care services. Occupational therapists working in psychiatry are routinely required to undertake vocational assessments and help clients into work. In order to make such efforts successful, modern health care contexts call for the use of evidence based practice and outcome measures.

Objectives: To examine the psychometric properties of the of the Worker Role Interview (WRI version 10.0) with a psychiatric population in the UK, particularly its validity as a baseline assessment and an outcome measure.

Methodology: In a small scale pilot design data were collected from 34 psychiatric clients rated by seven therapists. Rasch analysis was used to examine the data regarding construct validity, validity of clients' response patterns, precision of measures, the scale's aptitude to detect different ability levels and rater consistency.

Results: All items except one demonstrated acceptable goodness-of-fit to the Rasch model. The misfitting item was still considered relevant to psychosocial ability to work, although clients with certain diagnoses and associated perceived self efficacy might respond differently to this item. Over 90% of clients fitted the model; reasons for the degree of misfit might be related to changes in item descriptions in version 10.0. The scale detected five ability levels but client measures were slightly imprecise. Raters used the scale consistently and implications of rater leniency were discussed.

Conclusions: Overall, the pilot provided evidence of internal scale validity, supporting that the tool can be used as a baseline assessment to aid treatment planning in a mental health population. Usefulness as an outcome measure is questioned due to its current lack of measurement precision. The tool could be further developed by defining more items to improve its sensitivity. Findings need to be verified with larger samples.

Anja Junkers (May 2007)

The effect of animal-assisted therapy intervention on volition of children with developmental disabilities

Keywords: developmental disabilities, pet-assisted therapy, Paediatric Volitional Questionnaire (PVQ), single-subject design, motivation.

Aim: The purpose of this pilot investigation was to evaluate the short term effect of animal assisted therapy as adjunct occupational therapy intervention on the motivation of children with developmental delays.

Method: Five children, aged four to seven years, with developmental disabilities participated in the study, which was based on a single-subject reversal design. The Paediatric Volitional Questionnaire was used as the evaluation instrument.

Result: Volition was increased in all five participants during animal-assisted therapy compared to volition during standard therapeutic interventions. An increase of volition from baseline to follow up sessions suggests that the intervention had some lasting effect. Conclusion: The results obtained from this pilot study suggest that animal-assisted therapy may positively influence the volitional behaviour of children with developmental disabilities and can be seen as a useful adjunct to standard occupational therapy.

Saskia Hofstede- Wessels (May 2007)

Understanding line-managers experiences working with employees with mental illness

Keywords: Employee, manager, mental health, qualitative research, vocational rehabilitation and workplace.

This article presents the results of a study on how line-managers experience their doings on behalf of employees with mental illness. Seven in-depth interviews were held with Dutch line-managers, from non-profit and business organisations. These were managers who worked with employees with mental illness. Verbatim transcripts of the interviews were analysed and interpreted, inspired to a hermeneutics tradition.

The result shows that line-managers experience themselves as persons whom 'bridge to align'. That is, they act as eager information collectors, seeking out knowledge to align the needs of the organisation with the needs of the employee with mental illness. Information gathering helps them to fill gaps in professional and personal experience and gain a grip on the situation.

The article concludes with suggestions for vocational rehabilitation specialists and line-managers looking to develop a supportive social-cultural work environment for employees with mental illness.

Simon Hannaford (March 2007)

Occupation across Europe

A systematic review of how the concept of occupation is used by Occupational Therapists on the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Programme

The study aimed to describe the way European Occupational Therapists used the term occupation, in order to identify current understandings and establish new areas for research into occupation in a European context. A systematic review and thematic analysis using a Social Constructionist philosophical position was conducted using 58 completed dissertations from postgraduate students on the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy as source material. The review identified 22 emergent themes, which were converged into 4 meta-themes: Occupation as a complex transaction, Occupation as a key human organisational drive, Occupation as a factor in how we construct who we are, and Practical dilemmas faced by Occupational Therapists in applying their understanding of occupation within service constraints. These themes were discussed and a conclusion made comparing the findings with an existing European definition of occupational therapy. The study identifies a need for further research into the nature and meaning of context, concepts of self and the neurological and developmental value of occupation and suggests that a European Model of Occupation would be of value.

Hetty Tonneijck (November 2006)

*Understanding the complex power of choir singing:
An engaging occupation*

Keywords: Occupation; Meaning; Choir singing; Qualitative methods; Leisure.

Limited knowledge exists on the perspectives of people engaged in leisure occupations. This article reports research findings on experiences of choir singing as an example of a leisure occupation. Six choir members from the same choir participated in this research. In this qualitative study, data were collected through participant observations during choir meetings and interviews focusing on the experience of the occupation. Data were analyzed using a comparative, interpretive method. Three themes emerged from the analyses that reflecting the informant's perspectives of engaging in choir singing: Offering a challenge; Enacting wholeness, and; Providing a difference. The challenge the choir offered the participants, seemed to work as a catalyst for the doing, was energizing, but was not always felt as an enriching and enjoyable experience. The choir seemed to function as a platform, where participants felt safe and where the connectedness with others and being engaged in singing enacted and created 'wholeness'. However, when feelings of safety were not there or restlessness occurred, the 'doing' in the choir did not lead to that experience. Finally, the participants valued the occupation as different in relation to 'ordinary things in life' and as a distraction of daily matters, although the transition from daily life to joining the choir was sometimes difficult and even experienced as stressful.

Christina Schulze (November 2006)

The German version of the School Function Assessment (SFA)

A pilot project of the German SFA for its cross-cultural use in occupational therapy with school children

Keywords: School participation, School Function Assessment (SFA), feasibility study, German translation for cross-cultural use

The primary purpose of this research project was to translate and adapt the School Function Assessment (SFA), a standardized criterion-referenced instrument that measures school-related functional skills, for its cross-cultural use in Germany. The project consisted of three study phases:

- Translation
- Cultural adaptation: Experiences of occupational therapist with the use of the SFA
- Pilot testing.

Findings revealed some difficulty in using the SFA and showed that the German version of the SFA cannot be used with the same confidence than the original version suggested. In the pilot testing phase the translated SFA was administered to 32 school children: 10 children with physical impairment, 10 with cognitive behavioural impairment and 12 without impairment. Only a few correlations between the three groups were found to be significant at the 0.05 levels. The results were analysed using SPSS 11 for Mac OSX. A second way of analysis was carried out: the results of the current project were also compared to the result of Icelandic children (Snaefridur 2004). These results support the findings of the second phase and indicate limitations in the use of the SFA. However useful guidelines for cross-cultural use of the SFA are presented. Future research should be directed either towards developing a new assessment for children's school participation or to a more careful adaptation of the SFA.

Ursula Ch. Mayer (November 2006)

Successful work integration

Experiences of persons with mental health problems a qualitative study

Keywords: work integration, IPA, qualitative research, mental health.

This qualitative study explores the experiences of persons with mental health problems in successful work integration in a competitive employment setting. Four persons with mental health problems, who were working for at least 6 months, were interviewed. The semi-structured interview consisted of questions about obtaining the current employment, managing the worker role and integration in the work team. The data was analysed using the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Findings through the analysing process were 'back to normal again', 'balance between competences and demands', 'an inclusive and tolerant culture at the working place', access to regular therapy and coaching' and 'motivation for a job'. The process of work integration, the individual development and the integration in the work team are further discussed. There is a need of further research on the complex interaction in the process of successful work integration between the individual, work, support and the societal context.

Claudia M. Lenz (November 2006)

Partnership in therapy -vision, illusion or reality?

Considerations of occupational therapists on establishing partnerships with clients

Keywords: Partnership with clients, enabling occupation, hospital environments, focus groups, critical social theory

The philosophy of partnership between the client and the therapist is a key element of occupational therapy and one of the basics for enabling meaningful occupations for clients. This study is a qualitative research seeking to ascertain the considerations of experienced occupational therapists working in hospital environments in Switzerland. The aim was to get a better understanding of their thoughts on establishing a partnership with clients. Two focus group discussions were carried out and the data have been analysed with Krueger`s (1994) framework analysis. Critical social theory (Habermas, 1971, 1979) was used as a theoretical framework to underpin the enquiry.

The research showed that a.) Therapists see partnership with clients as a fundamental factor to daily occupational therapy practice b.) Various challenges appear in the realization of such partnerships in the hospital environment and c.) There is a need for a clear definition and sound reasoning for further steps towards its future application and evaluation in occupational therapy practice.

It is not easy to enable clients in a partnership approach, even though occupational therapists have agreed to move forward to meet challenges ahead to make a vision come true.

Wiebke Hopstädter (November 2006)

Toileting severely disabled children

Experiences of parental caregiver

Keywords: toilet-use, toilet-training, accessibility, barrier-free environment, participation, parental caregiver.

As toileting is a complex task, severely disabled children often are not able to carry out the task without help from caregivers. Occupational therapists consider enabling children with disabilities to participate in self-care activities in the home environment as well as in social settings. Thus toileting falls within their professional remit. The aim of this qualitative study was to gain deeper understanding of how parents experience the process of toileting with their child sitting in a wheelchair. With this understanding the contents of therapy might be expanded and enriched, to meet the needs of service users. Individual semi-structured interviews were used focusing on the experience of four mothers when toileting their child in different settings. The transcribed interviews were analysed according to interpretative phenomenological analysis. In a second round of interviews the findings of the first round were subject to further questions.

Four main topics were revealed from the data: 1) using a real toilet at last becomes a cause for celebration; 2) most public toilets are still inaccessible; 3) toilet-training is a process of learning that reveals many insights and 4) parents have to become creative problem-solvers.

The findings of this study revealed how parents feel disappointed from therapeutic and societal interventions in Germany, when it comes to activities in toileting. Although they are pleased that the child is using the toilet, dissatisfaction is expressed about how they feel alone with their additional tasks. This research indicates the importance of listening to parents and matching the intervention to the unique goals and needs of each child, but also to meet the needs of disabled children in public settings. It indicates to remove barriers produced through the environment. This goes conform to the requirements of parents to participate actively and without additional barriers in daily life.

Barbara Hoogerdijk (November 2006)

*A narrative analysis about the adaptation process after traumatic brain injury
It isn't how it was*

Keywords: occupational therapy, discovery process, occupation, identity, narrative

The aim of this study was to get an understanding of the adaptation process after traumatic brain injury (TBI) and the value of doing everyday life activities within this process. Four participants were interviewed two times. Analysis followed a narrative approach and led to the construction of four individual narratives. The narratives show that the adaptation process after traumatic brain injury is a long learning process that continues after rehabilitation, is individual and situated and is about the need and fight for a new identity. The four persons needed several different experiences with especially former life activities in order to develop a new self-concept and resume meaningful roles. The findings suggest that occupational therapists should enable their patients to test and practice their abilities within their home environments, give patients space to practice and their own and guide them in using own or new strategies in an efficient and satisfying way. This thesis shows how narratives can enable healthcare professionals to understand those they seek to help since personal stories permit an insight into the experiences and thoughts of an individual.

Franziska Heigl (November 2006)

Meam familiam cogito, ergo sum

I Am Thinking of My Family, Therefore I Am

Perception of Daily Occupations of Male Albanian Blue-collar Workers Living in Switzerland, a Qualitative Study

Keywords: blue-collar workers, hermeneutic approach, occupational science, individual culture, collectivist culture.

In Switzerland 22% of the resident population are migrants. Nevertheless scientific literature about health and migration is limited in Switzerland. To increase intercultural competence for health care professionals, it is necessary to increase the knowledge of the culture of migrants. As the socio-cultural background is a factor in the choice of activities better understanding of daily occupations of migrants is required in order to attune to their needs. The purpose of this explorative qualitative study was to increase intercultural knowledge by uncovering and interpreting the perceptions of current daily occupations of some male Albanians living in Switzerland. In-depth interviews with eight healthy Muslim Albanian blue-collar workers were analysed and interpreted within the hermeneutical tradition using steps of the constant comparative method and hermeneutic principles. Three themes were uncovered. Everything I do I do for my family; Where do I belong to? and Doing something for myself depict the occupational relation of their perceptions. To offer cultural safe occupational therapy in a real client-centred way, findings suggest that it is necessary to be conscious of the differences between one's own and the client's individual or collectivist attitudes.

Kim Langer (May 2006)

When everything is meaningless...

Clients' perceptions of occupations in acute mental health care during crisis intervention.

Keywords: occupational needs, mental illness, interpretation inspired by hermeneutics.

Despite a change of paradigm in occupational therapy, from a biomechanical approach to one that enhances meaningful occupation, occupational therapy in acute mental health is still largely skill-orientated in German-speaking areas. Changed conditions in clinical mental health care question challenge this usual way of treatment. In order to understand the needs of clients in acute mental health care, their experiences have s to be explored. The aim of this study was to explore the meanings that persons suffering from an acute mental illness attribute to occupations during their stay at a clinic. The underlying query 'How do clients experiencing mental illness perceive the meaning of occupations during crisis intervention in a clinical setting?' has been explored in depth from the perspective of mentally ill persons, during and after their clinical stay.

The data from two in-depth interviews, conducted with each of the six clients participating in this study, is analysed according to principles inspired by hermeneutics.

The findings focus on three themes; 'Meaninglessness', 'Joining in' and 'Finding oneself'. In the discussion, the inability in to performing occupations is identified as a universal phenomenon occurring during the acute phase of a crisis. The findings can be interpreted as a process to reconstruct occupational identity, by meeting the occupational needs of doing, belonging, being and becoming.

Daniela Hengen- Lang (May 2006)

*An occupational perspective on the transition to motherhood
Experiences of some first-time mothers*

Keywords: Transition to Motherhood, Occupation, Identity, Narrative Analysis

In contemporary western societies, the transition to motherhood is recognised as a life transition that causes major change in a woman's life. Although occupational therapy and science has underscored the importance of human occupations in such times of change, little is known about the meaning and function of occupations during developmental transitions in human life. To broaden this understanding, the present study applied an occupational perspective to the transition to motherhood. Guided by the question of how first-time mothers experience their occupations during the early phase of the transition to motherhood, three in depth interviews with three first time mothers were conducted respectively during the first, second and third quarter postpartum. The applied narrative analysis revealed 'becoming oneself again' as a guiding motif for all women during their first months of the transition to motherhood. Occupations were found to serve as important means in this process. Further, the findings show how the occupational adjustments, which were applied to meet the women's anticipated mothering ideal and to cope with the demands of their environments, supported or hindered the engagement in those occupations that carried a notion of one's former sense of self. Finally, the findings are related to and discussed within the concept of occupational identity.

Annemie Vekeman (November 2005)

Starting a second life after a traumatic brain injury...

A challenge between time, environment and capacities

Keywords: Narratives, Occupational Adaptation, traumatic brain injury, transition to normal life

The purpose of the study is to elicit information on how adults with mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries (TBI) experience the transition from the rehabilitation centre to everyday 'normal' life after rehabilitation. In-depth interviews were conducted with 12 participants and a narrative analysis was used for analyzing the data. 8 men and 4 women between the age of 20 and 61 years participated in the study. The interviews were conducted between 4 and 22 months after the participants were discharged from the rehabilitation centre to their home. The findings show that the participants were going through a transition process from taking up old habits and routines just after discharge from the rehabilitation setting, to adjusting and accepting new habits and routines once they had realized that it was impossible to keep trying to live their lives as before. Implications of the traumatic brain injury only slowly became apparent to the participants, and once they had recognized and accepted them, they were able to move on in their new, second life. Their overall spirit changed over time and once they had completed the transition process all declared that they gave life a deeper meaning, and that family and friends became more important than before their injury.

The findings suggest that occupational therapists need to be aware of the transition process that patients have to go through once they are discharged from the hospital, and that further follow-up might be beneficial for the people with a traumatic brain injury once they have returned to their daily life.

Christine M. Steindl (November 2005)

Occupation and participation in everyday life:

A quilt of women's experiences from a refugee camp

Keywords: Daily occupations, Occupational deprivation, Ethnographic study, Occupational science

Refugees often spent their first weeks, months and sometimes even years in refugee camps. To get an understanding of the everyday-life within refugee camps an ethnographic study was designed to describe and explore engagement in daily occupations of women living in an Austrian refugee camp. Data gathered by observations and interviews were analysed using a comparative method. The findings show that women experienced their engagement in daily occupations as altered in many ways. The process was pointed out as a struggle between the 'being' and the 'becoming', where the need to reengage in meaningful occupations was threatened by contextual factors. But at the same time women seemed to experience the conditions differently, depending on the consequences for the life in resettlement. The two themes 'Daily occupations-a struggle against restrictions' and 'Travelling towards the future' were intertwined. Though camp life was seen as restricting, constraining conditions were tolerated as long as they did not delimit personal goals for the future.

In conclusion, participation in daily occupations within a refugee camp turned out to be a challenge, influenced by a range of factors internal and external to the person.

Els Spaargaren (November 2005)

Play in everyday life of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy

Keywords: daily life, CP, occupation, ethnography, occupational therapy

Despite a long tradition of the use of play in practice, an occupational perspective of play regarding children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy, hasn't been developed thoroughly. This paper presents a qualitative study of play in everyday life of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy in the age of 3,5-6 years old.

Objective: The aim of the study was to increase understandings for play of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy, which might lead to the development of supportive everyday contexts which support play participation for these children.

Method: An ethnographic approach allowed an in depth examination of three children playing in the home, school and playground environment. Data were collected using participant observation, combined with conversational interviews. Analysis was based on a thematic analysis.

Results: Results indicate that play in everyday life of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy can be characterised as an alternation between 'being in a world of my own' and 'facing and tackling limitations' within 'an environment receptive to play'. Sub themes united within these main themes seem to reflect dimensions of occupational performance of play in everyday life of these children.

Discussion: Through the use of strategies, children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy faced and tackled limitations during play in everyday life. By facilitating and supporting strategies in everyday life of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy, occupational therapists might reinforce the child to better adapt to the environment. Secondly, findings indicate that play participation might be improved through altering environments. Occupational therapists can take up roles as facilitator and advocates to enable play by working in the everyday lives of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy. Further research is needed to better underpin the results from this study.

Reidun Skar (November 2005)

Male experiences engaging in hobby activities besides work and family

Keywords: Leisure, hobby activities, male, enfolded occupations, everyday life.

The thesis presents the results of a qualitative study that explored characteristics of repeatedly engaging in leisure occupations and methodological considerations on the research process.

Qualitative interviews were conducted with eight working males living in Central Norway about the experiences of 'hobbies' and the role of hobbies in everyday life.

The analysis following the hermeneutical circle with identifying natural meaning units, identifying patterns and themes going back and forth between 'parts' and 'wholes' for each interview and then considering all interviews.

The results show that hobbies are freely chosen, multidimensional and dynamic doing males engage in over years. The informants express the pleasure of doing and mastering hobby activities at the same time as experiencing the excitement of the unpredictable outcome when performing such activities. Hobbies connect the performer to a certain culture and to local or global community. It plays a significant role in the performer's occupational pattern and has to be planned for and sometimes forced into the pattern along with work and family occupations.

The seriousness of hobby activities among occupations of daily life was underlined, which might give implications for occupational therapy practice. Leisure occupations done repeatedly may promote a long-term positive input for those involved. For future studies, methodological considerations should be made on studying hobby activities as occupational processes of 'doing' and 'meaning' enfolded in daily life and in culture.

Daniela Senn (November 2005)

Validity of the German Version of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA-G) questionnaire

Keywords: Impact on participation and autonomy questionnaire - outcome measures - client-centred rehabilitation - Rasch analysis

Objective: To evaluate the validity of the recently translated German version of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA-G) questionnaire by addressing scale validity, validity of the response process, ability of the questionnaire to differentiate between levels of participation, and the hierarchical order of items.

Design: Validation pilot-study. Respondents were selected using convenience sampling. Data was analysed using Rasch analysis.

Setting: A Swiss Rehabilitation Clinic with mixed inpatient population.

Subjects: 88 respondents from three Diagnostic groups 1) traumata of the musculoskeletal system (n=64); 2) intra-cerebral traumata (n=18); and 3) poly trauma (n=6) were included, providing a total of 135 responses in a follow-up design.

Results: The first analysis of the 32 IPA-G items showed three items not fitting the expectation of the Rasch model; in later analysis items were excluded until 28 items showed (96.43%) goodness-of-fit. Some respondents (12.60%) had higher misfit to the model, although further analysis showed that the fitting respondents had different sociodemographic characteristics. The IPA-G differentiates between five levels of participation ability; item hierarchy showed an adequately distributed scale.

Conclusions: 27 of the 28 items of the narrowed IPA-G showed sufficient scale validity, indicating that these items appertain to a unidimensional construct of participation. The IPA-G has a high potential for responsiveness as it differentiates between 5 levels of participation. Items are well ordered according to their difficulty and reflect clinical expectations. The IPA-G needs to be further evaluated, although it is a promising measure in evaluating or measuring outcome on the participation component of chronically ill clients.

Elsbeth Müller (November 2005)

Occupations as Burdens?

Carers' Perspectives on Everyday Occupations of the Family Member with Dementia

Keywords: Family carer, occupational therapy, engagement in occupations, constant comparative method, interpretation.

This study explored the occupational life-world of family carers and aimed to understand what significance carers gave the engagement in everyday occupations of their family member with dementia. Personal diaries and in-depth interviews of five spousal carers were analysed and interpreted. This was done in a hermeneutical tradition, using the constant comparative method and a hermeneutic circle. Four themes provided insight into the carer's life-world and were essential to reveal the enormous tension between almost overwhelming strain and some satisfying facets of caring. The analysis depicted carers' competence in finding strategies to engage the spouse with dementia in mutual occupations. This competence presented the basis for discussion of a collaborative, family-centred approach to occupational therapy, in order to support family carers in a satisfying way.

Mattie Dapper (November 2005)

Me or my hand

How motives for occupational performance are influenced in people with a Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, type 1, in one arm.

Keywords: Occupational performance, motivation, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome type 1

Background: People suffering from a complex regional pain syndrome, type 1 (CRPS-1), seem to be forced to make choices in occupational performance. Making choices might be looked upon as the result of the interaction between the person and their motives for occupational performance. Understanding how these motives are influenced might enhance insight in this process of interaction and can provide direction for occupational therapy practice.

Purpose: This study describes how influences on the motives for occupational performance can be understood in people with CRPS type 1, in one arm.

Method: In this qualitative study seven people with CRPS-1 in one arm were interviewed and data were subsequently analysed using a constant comparative method.

Results: The findings show that the motives for occupational performance are active constructions of purpose and meaning, which are influenced by: 1. trying to prohibit that their hand takes control of them; and by 2. Trying to live a life that is agreeable for them here and now.

Practice implications: Occupational therapists might considerate goal directed activities, value them and stimulate participants in creating them. These activities can be used to increase motivation and for the purpose of creating an agreeable life.

Umarasri Goedhart- Jitrapasnan (September 2005)

Family-centred Occupational Therapy: Multiple case studies of successful interventions concerning disabled children from migrant families

Keywords: successful intervention, occupational therapy, Family centred approach, disabled children, migrant families, multiple case study.

Background: family centred approach is a very important concept adopted in Pediatric Occupational Therapy in the Netherlands. The health care system, social and cultural environments especially, the intercultural rehabilitation of the Dutch health care system is, however, different from the United States where this philosophy of this service delivery emerged. The demand for effective intervention that fulfils the needs of immigrant clients is being challenged for the Dutch occupational therapists when implementing the FCS.

Aim: The purpose of this study was to explore important components which constitute a successful family-centred occupational therapy intervention for disabled children from migrant families in the Netherlands.

Design: Multiple case studies were an employed strategy. The data collection involved a variety of methods, including semi- structured interviews, journal notes of the interviews and gathering related documentation. The participants were six occupational therapists, with at least one year experience in working with disabled children from migrant families. Data analysis included case analysis and cross-case analysis, while pattern matching was used during the interpretation of the data.

Result: The cross-case findings revealed the relationship between the characteristics of a successful intervention, the OT's actions and reasoning towards the working/institutional conditions and the clients' living/cultural conditions.

Conclusion: The success of Family-centred Occupational Therapy is influenced by the diversity of the therapist's working conditions and the immigrant client's social and cultural conditions. This shapes the therapist's decisions on how problems are defined and which treatment is seen to be appropriate.

Gerda Estl (September 2005)

Quality in OT treatment, a qualitative study from an expert perspective

Keywords: occupational therapy, quality of care, competence, framework, clients' satisfaction, constant comparative method

Quality in Health care is a topic worldwide. Occupational Therapists are highly challenged to provide high quality in treatment. It is identified lack of knowledge in the meaning of quality from an Occupational Therapy perspective.

The aim of this study was to explore and gain knowledge about how Occupational Therapy experts express their experiences about quality in treatment. In this qualitative study eight Occupational Therapy experts were participating for data gathering using open interviews. The data was analyzed using constant comparative method whereby three categories emerged: (1) satisfaction in competence in performing as professional, (2) the challenge to keep high quality in Occupational Therapy treatment within (institutional) framework and (3) the clients' satisfaction. The findings of this study give a deeper understanding of quality from a professional perspective. Indicators for quality were identified and help Occupational Therapists in priority setting for achieving and keeping the quality in OT treatment in clinical practice.

Bianca Petrucci (November 2004)

How individual daily activities offered by occupational therapists may be used for severely demented patients in their daily crisis

Keywords: severe stage of Alzheimer Disease, behaviour dysfunction, everyday activities, occupational therapy intervention, familiar environment in Special Care Unit (NA), ethnographic method

The purpose of this research is to describe the influence of daily activities programmed by an occupational therapist upon severely demented people admitted into a SCU (NA) who had behaviour dysfunctions shown by regular daily crises.

The study is based on qualitative analysis of the ethnographic methodology and the data was gathered from observations of the participants. Four patients suffering from Alzheimer Disease were observed for two days each during their daily life. One nurse and one occupational therapist were interviewed about each patient in relation to behaviour, care activities and occupational therapy activities. The results were analysed using a comparative and interpretative approach.

The findings showed that the familiar environment represented the link between the physical characteristics of the territory, where daily activities were performed, and the human territory. Furthermore the results showed that personal and ad hoc activities influenced and affected the behaviour and well-being of the patients whenever they were especially devised for them and when they were carried out at the time when demented people were restless and irritable and expressed the desire for a specific activity.

Sebastian Voigt-Radloff (September 2004)

The Occupational Therapy Assessment: Psychometric analyses within subgroups of different health service stages

Keywords: Occupational performance – health services – outcome measurement – validity – reliability – responsiveness

Objective: to investigate the concurrent validity, internal consistency and responsiveness of the Occupational Therapy Assessment (OTA) under routine work conditions of German-speaking occupational therapists in different health service stages. With the newly developed and ICF-oriented OTA, occupational therapists assess occupational performance related to the client's familiar context.

Method: In this multi-centre cohort study, instructed occupational therapists applied the OTA, two self-administered questionnaires for functional capacity and general health (FFbH and IRES) and a brief performance test for cognitive abilities (MMSE) at the beginning and again the OTA at the end of the routine treatment. In the presented subgroup analysis, the Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients were calculated as the indicators for concurrent validity, the Cronbach alpha and Friedman test for the internal consistency, and effect sizes and the Wilcoxon test for the responsiveness.

Results: In the subgroups 'acute care' (n = 158), 'clinical rehabilitation' (n = 173), 'outpatient rehabilitation' (n = 174), 'long-term care' (n = 45), and 'others' (n = 146) the correlations between the five OTA domains and corresponding instruments ranged from -0.24 to -0.88 (Pearson coefficient), were moderate ($r \geq 0.4$) in three quarter of the cases and significant in all subgroups, except in 6 % of the cases. Internal consistency was high (Cronbach alpha: 0.84 to 0.98). Parametric and non-parametric statistics produced no strong divergences in these results. Results on responsiveness were divergent. Moderate effect sizes of about 0.5 or higher occurred in 18 of 25 cases. The Wilcoxon test showed significant differences in the OTA results regarding pre- and post-intervention in 6 cases.

Conclusion: Concurrent validity and internal consistency of the OTA-domains can be considered to be stable in various stages of health services. Results might be biased by data not yet investigated regarding equidistance and equivalence. Further research on responsiveness and scale properties of the OTA is needed.

Stephanie Vella (September 2004)

The meaning of pre-discharge home visits

Keywords: Malta, Core Component, Rehabilitation

This article presents the findings of an explorative qualitative study which aimed at gaining descriptions and understands the meanings of home visits from the experiences of some Maltese physically disabled older persons, their care givers and occupational therapists. Three different group categories were the participants of this study. Each category consisted of 6 participants (n=18). Data was collected from all the individual participants independently using open in-depth interviews. The data was analysed using the constant comparative method whereby 4 main themes emerged: 'In touch with Reality', 'Feeling of a Positive Aura', 'Negative Experiences' and 'Close to Home'. The findings showed that overall the three participant groups described home visits as being beneficial and satisfactory. The service users increased their awareness about inaccessible housing and the ways in which it can be altered. However the home visit at times left the participants feeling confused and doubtful about the future. A home visit was considered as part of a discharge plan. The results also lead to implications in the area occupational therapy practice and research.

Andreja Svajger (September 2004)

*Perceived Possibilities for Returning to Work with Chronic Musculoskeletal Disorders
The influence of life experience on the perceptions of employees*

Keywords: occupational therapy, return to work, chronic musculoskeletal disorders, qualitative study, narrative

This study was aimed at understanding how experiences with work and daily life before and after the occurrence of chronic musculoskeletal disorders influenced the development of employees' perceptions of their possibilities to return to work. Six Slovenian employees with chronic MSD were purposely selected and interviewed in-depth. The narrative approach to gathering and analysing data was used. The findings showed that participants' narratives about work and life before and after the onset of MSD led the participants to perceive their possibilities for returning to work with mixed and interchanging feelings of hope, doubt and fear. Their experience with workplace and broader societal environment represented by health-care and disability institutional practices was most decisive in the development of the perception. In their interactions with the environment, the participants gradually experienced exclusion from making decisions about their own lives. They were exposed to disbelief, continuous work-related frustration, exclusion from social context at work and gradual personal devaluation. They gradually lost control over the choices, preferences and meanings they could experience at work with MSD. The participants described their experience in the narrative of transformation from a life of stability and fulfilment enabled by meaningful work into a life of suspense about their future deprivation or engagement in meaningful work. The discussion of the findings concentrates on the experiences of marginalization and losing control in relation to workplace and broader societal environment.

Jette Schjerning (September 2004)

From Life in the Fast Lane:

A Qualitative Study of Younger Stroke Patients.

Keywords: narratives, Occupational Adaptation, discharge to home, lack of control, reconstruction of control, reconsideration of occupations, discovery process

Younger stroke patients find that the time around discharge is the most difficult time during their rehabilitation. The aim of this research is to explore and understand how younger, citizens with stroke experience the ongoing Occupational Adaptation in the time around discharge to home.

Narratives were collected from four participants 2 days before discharge, 2 weeks and 10 weeks after discharge respectively. Holistic form analysis and categorical content analysis followed by an interpretative step was carried out.

The participants experienced the discharge as a 'free fall into uncertainty' and when they tried to cooperate with professionals to plan further rehabilitation they experienced powerlessness. Before discharge the participants were focused on impairments as general, unmanageable problems. After discharge they predominantly focused on activity problems as specific, manageable problems. They took time to reconsider their major occupations. Work and parenting was found most urgent to resume, as the participants were very concerned about their children's future in various aspects. Moreover the participants tried to re-construct control by controlling their self-image and taking responsibility for further rehabilitation.

Findings are discussed from theoretical, empirical and practical perspectives including implications for practice.

Fenna van Nes (September 2004)

*One body, three hands and two minds:
individual and co-narratives of an elderly couple after stroke*

Keywords: occupation, co-occupation, caregivers, home-living, narrative methods, changing, adaptation.

This case-study aimed at understanding the experiences of an elderly couple of the changing of their everyday occupations after a stroke. Data were collected with individual and joint interviews through multiple home visits over a period of seven months, three years after the stroke. Analysis followed a narrative approach and lead to the construction of two individual occupational life narratives and one co-narrative. The findings show that the experiences of the changing process after the stroke are influenced by the meanings the spouses gave separately and together to occupation and to the situation. In their current life the couple acts as one entity in keeping balance, co-ordinating timing and in all their everyday occupations. Their occupational life is fully intertwined. The findings suggest that occupational therapists should pay more attention to the interdependency of people and should approach clients and their close social environments as being part of one system.

Klavdija Možina (September 2004)

Occupational life inside institution: Experiences of occupations by some of the residents in long - term social institution in Slovenia

Keywords: Slovenia, needs, occupational therapy, institution, deprivation, engagement.

Many people live in large institutions in Slovenia. In general, they are voluntarily or involuntarily institutionalised because they have nowhere else to be or nobody to take care of them. This occurs either because all close relatives, who usually take care of these people, are not in reach, or because social services decide it would be better for a person to be institutionalised. Although a lot has improved recently in the sphere of deinstitutionalization in Slovenia in social science, there are still many institutions present. However, no occupational therapists have ever conducted a research about people living inside institutions. The needs and experiences of institutional residents remain a mystery to occupational therapists in Slovenia. There is no data about the occupational needs of residents, what occupations do they really engage in, if any. This research on occupations and occupational needs was therefore conducted in one of the Slovenian institutions. The interest of the study was to obtain some basic knowledge and gain an insight into occupational lives of the residents in one of the institutions. The research reveals occupations residents can engage in, occupations they are deprived of because of living in the institution, and occupational needs that residents express.

In the first part of the thesis, the article prepared for the publication on this study is presented. The main literature review with theoretical background for the study indicates positions on occupation and deprivation of occupations inside institutions demonstrated in several studies conducted all over the world. The uses of qualitative paradigm and semi-structured interviews have led to qualitative findings. The findings reveal the fact that the system governing day to day running of the institution does have a great influence on residents' occupational lives. Institutions offer some occupational opportunities to their residents, but have and show no interest in understanding their occupational needs. Furthermore, even when residents live in a bigger group, they constantly experience a lack of occupations with other people.

The second part represents the researcher's expanded exploration of the literature review, study designs, and the findings. Several theoretical approaches would be appropriate and beneficial for the study, however, due to several limitations, they had to be rejected. In the end of this part, personal reflections on the study and its consequences for the researcher are presented.

In the appendix, the notes and forms are added to enable readers, who are not familiar a situation, a better understanding and a greater insight into the situation and into the way this study was conducted.

Claudia Link (September 2004)

***The Link Hand Function Test (LIHFT) for Patients with a Cervical Spinal Cord Injury:
An Intra-Rater and Inter-Rater Reliability and Expert Opinion Evaluation Study***

Keywords: tetraplegia, SCI, face validity, outcome measure, occupational therapy

In the treatment of patients with tetraplegia a satisfying instrument in which to evaluate and document hand function is missing. If any instruments are used, they are generally instruments which haven't been evaluated on this specific client group. The LIHFT aims to meet this need.

Objective: 1) To evaluate intra-rater and inter-rater reliability of the LIHFT. 2) To evaluate face validity and collect expert opinion on the feasibility and clinical applicability for daily practice.

Participants: 1) 37 OTs working in 16 spinal cord rehabilitation centres in Switzerland, Germany and Austria. 2) 64 Patients with tetraplegia currently being treated in one of these 16 centres.

Methods: 1) Patients are tested 3 times within 3 weeks to collect data for the reliability testing. Intraclass correlation coefficient and Kappa is calculated. 2) The experts filled in a questionnaire regarding face validity, feasibility and clinical applicability of the instrument. Percentage agreement was calculated.

Results: The LIHFT shows a satisfying reliability, with all items presenting moderate to almost perfect reliability coefficients (ICC = 0.62 – 0.92, K= 0.47- 0.84). The experts gave a very positive feedback, with 47% stating they would like to use the LIHFT as a standard instrument. The experts also pointed out several shortcomings, especially regarding the scoring and the test manual.

Conclusion: The LIHFT overall shows a substantial reliability and high acceptance by the experts. Some further improvement should be done on the instrument to improve reliability and achieve an even better acceptance in daily practice.

Torhild Holthe (September 2004)

Human occupation in a care dwelling for persons with dementia - an ethnographic study

Keywords: group activities, care dwelling living, ethnography, qualitative research

The purpose of this study was twofold; gain knowledge about what occupations the residents in a care dwelling for persons with dementia engaged and how the residents perceived the group activities in which they participated. The residents' age ranged from 82 to 92, with an average of 86,7 years. They were seven women and one man. Both participant observation and interviews were used to collect data. The approach was ethnographic, and 45 hours were spent in the care dwelling. The data analysis revealed three themes with sub-themes:

- The striking passivity in the residents
- The versatility of the occupations offered
- Deviant behaviour caused exclusion

The residents were passive and dependent upon the staff to be involved in occupations. Several group activities were offered in the care dwelling, but the real potential of the activities was seldom utilized. The residents perceived the activities differently, but preferred activities that did not display their impairments. Participation was perceived as important for exercise, social reasons and to avoid deterioration. Deviant behaviour was seen as unwanted, representing a threat for being excluded.

Demis Cachia (September 2004)

Leisure and life satisfaction amongst Maltese older citizens - a comparative study

Keywords: Occupational Therapy, University of the Third Age (U3A), Day Care Centres (DCC), leisure activities, and life satisfaction.

While some studies have been conducted on leisure and life satisfaction in retired persons, very little is known about persons attending University of the Third Age (U3A) and Day Care Centres (DCC). Studies related to leisure from an occupational therapists perspective are lacking when compared with studies carried out on self-care and work. Besides, no previous research has been conducted in Malta on leisure and life satisfaction in older persons, therefore this research was felt necessary. The aim of this study is two fold:- 1) To examine in further depth the relationship between leisure and life satisfaction in two groups of retired Maltese people; and 2) To determine whether or not older citizens attending U3A have a better or poorer leisure and life satisfaction when compared to those attending DCC. A non-experimental quantitative descriptive design method was used. Convenient sampling of 50 persons attending DCC and 30 others that participate in the U3A programme took part in this survey. Results demonstrated that although demographic variables (i.e. mean age, marital status, perceived health status and previous occupation) are different between the two groups, no statistical significant difference was found in their life satisfaction as a whole (Mann-Whitney $P = 0.3499$). Both groups reported that they were satisfied with their life as a whole. Only a minor significantly statistical difference (Mann-Whitney $P = 0.0457$) was found when comparing the 10 life domains of life satisfaction for persons attending day centres. As for leisure satisfaction, subjects from the DCC were found to be more satisfied with their leisure activities (Mann-Whitney $P = 0.0042$). While persons at U3A rated their leisure satisfaction as being 'medium satisfying' ($M = 3.8725$), those at DCC were found to be 'satisfied' ($M = 4.1686$). This difference in leisure satisfaction is thought to be either due to a positive effect of the DCC programmes since the U3A programme aims are primarily tertiary education or due to the demographic variables differences.

Diana Brouwer (September 2004)

Experiences 'visual impairments' with mobility training

Keywords: visual impairment, mobility, ADL, independence, older people

Older people with severe visual impairments usually experience difficulty in their mobility and independence. In the Netherlands the number of seriously visual impaired people is estimated between 160.000 and 300.000 people. This means from 1,1% to 2% of the Dutch population. In this study the mobility experiences of visually impaired people is examined in detail. Ten participants were interviewed twice. The data was collected using in-depth interviews which were audio taped, verbatim transcribed and analysed by the empirical phenomenology according to Giorgi.

According to the findings the participants experienced a severely limited range of mobility. This limitation influenced their occupational space and their independence. The impact of their mobility problems also showed an evident shift in Activities of Daily Living (ADL). Less social activities were attended and more assistance became necessary. The findings showed that the consequences of visual impairments were often misunderstood by others; the tension of being dependent, and the inability of facial recognition as a barrier to social life were common experiences. These experiences can provide occupational therapists with a deeper understanding of the difficulties that visually impaired people experience.

Jette Avlund (September 2004)

The Citizen-Centred Approach

Reflections and Descriptions made by Staff Members Engaged in Preventive Home Visits of Their Activities

Keywords: Disease prevention, health promotion, preventive home visits, elderly, occupational performance, enabling occupation, reflection-in-action, meaningfulness, coherence.

This article presents the findings of a qualitative study aimed to gain knowledge and understanding of preventive staff members' reflections on the content of the conversation performed during preventive home visits with special attention to reflection on enabling elderly individuals' occupational performance. Semi-structured questioning routes formed the basis for interviews in two focus-groups. The groups consisted of seven and eight participants respectively and were made up of occupational therapists, nurses and nursing aides. The data was analysed through meaning condensation. The findings identified that the participants' reflections are complex and gather around three main areas: Empowering the elderly citizens by using their experiences and knowledge, promoting health by looking for the meaningfulness of activity, and looking at the Act, the standing of the job and required competencies. The participants used a citizen-centred approach, and communicated, observed and reflected simultaneous during the visit. They worked from a broad concept of occupation and showed concern for understanding the meaningfulness of occupations to the individual in order for the citizens to enhance their health and well-being through occupation. The participants reflected on the Act, and on the implementation and standing of the Act in the municipalities.

Barbara Aegler (September 2004)

Performing under Pain: -The Experience of Persons with Chronic Pain: Performing Occupations under Pain

Keywords: ruptured performance, distraction from pain, constant comparative method

Chronic pain, a major problem worldwide, is a complex and subjective phenomenon and health care professionals are still highly challenged to work out solutions.

The aim of this study was to explore how persons with chronic pain experience their performance. The sample consisted of eight persons suffering from chronic pain. Semi structured interviews were analysed, using the constant comparative method. Three categories were identified: 'performing despite pain', 'ruptured performance' and 'performing beyond pain'.

Performing despite pain illustrates the innate need to be active of every human being. Performance under pain is frequently ruptured. The difference between disruption and interruption of activities is discussed in the perspective of temporality and occupational performance. To perform beyond pain is discussed with the focus on distraction and flow experience. How to deal with temporal disruption, and understand the motivational drive to master certain situations beyond pain, may add new knowledge to occupational therapy and generate further research questions.

Asa Nygren (May 2004)

Current practice of OT for children with autism spectrum disorders in Sweden and Denmark

Keywords: child developmental disorders, intervention, occupational therapist, sensory integration.

The purpose of this study was to gather opinion about occupational therapy for children with autism spectrum disorders in Sweden and Denmark. A mailing questionnaire, describing current practice and intervention methods for children with autism spectrum disorders, were completed by 38 occupational therapists in Sweden and 33 from Denmark. In the analysing process descriptive statistics, the chi-square test and the constant comparative method were used. The result showed that the Swedish respondents spent most of their time on consultation and environmental modifications. The Danish respondents spent most of their time on individual treatments. Many respondents from Sweden mentioned that they worked more towards or only towards functional skills/abilities than with reasons behind difficulties, compared to the Danish respondents who described sensory integration treatments addressing reasons behind difficulties. This study had a low response rate but it gives material to discuss the occupational therapy practice for children with autism spectrum disorders. The study indicates that we are treating differently in Sweden and Denmark. Additional studies are needed to investigate what the best treatment methods are to use with children with autism spectrum disorders.

Ellen Romein (September 2003)

Remission Profile for children and adolescents after severe acquired brain injury: establishing validity evidence

The Remi-Pro (Remission Profile for children and adolescents after severe acquired brain injury), is a comprehensive clinical assessment for occupational therapists working in pediatric rehabilitation, and developed to document the remission of these children from an occupational point of view. The Remi-Pro's six remission levels are: 1. Sleep-Wake, 2. Perception, 3. Communication, 4. Independence, 5. Group and 6. Social Level. The aim of this study is to establish validity evidence of the Remi-Pro based on test content and relations to other variables. Evidence for test content was evaluated with 23 experts from Germany and Switzerland who answered a questionnaire about 10 aspects of the Remi-Pro. In addition, the relation between results of the Remi-Pro and other tests was studied using data from 101 children in a retrospective design. Scores of the German Coma Remission Scale (KRS), the Functional Independence Measure for Children (Wee-FIM) and the Developmental Test of Visual Perception 2 (DTVP-2) were correlated with scores of the Remi-Pro. The results from this study support the validity of the Remi-Pro for use with children with severe acquired brain injury. This new scale can be a useful tool for occupational therapists for monitoring and documenting remission and for assisting occupational goal-setting.

Ursula Pott (September 2003)

I'm a Turkish woman, I will always be doing something

The reasoning of some older Turkish women, living in Germany, about their future occupational roles

Keywords: Elderly Turkish female migrants, occupational roles, future,

This paper reports the findings of a qualitative study focussing on the reasoning of some older Turkish women, living in Germany, about their future occupational roles.

Data were collected by interviewing 10 Turkish women aged between 57 and 66 years, living in a middle-sized city in the western part of Germany. Transcribed interviews were analysed with a constant comparative approach (Bogdan & Bilken). Out of the analysis 3 central themes emerged, each with 2 sub-themes. The results show that also in future being an active member of society and/or the family, who can offer something valuable to others and has a clear role with related occupations is central to participants. Additionally the participants related the fulfilment of personal wishes strongly to the benefit of the family.

Anne Le Morvill (September 2003)

Elderly's experiences of changing occupational environment

Keywords: elderly, occupational environment, accessible housing, health promotion, mutual projects

The aim of this study was to explore and describe the elderly's experiences with moving into accessible housing. The study has a qualitative approach. The data was collected through narrative interviews and the analysis was done using the constant comparative method. The analysis demonstrated that the whole process of moving from one kind of housing to another consisted of a series of very complex factors and motives.

The findings showed that moving was regarded as an occupation in itself and that the move had an impact on daily occupations, roles, habits and routines. There is a general assumption that moving into accessible housing will promote health and prevent disease. Though the whole process of moving was experienced as an occupation in itself, it was not necessarily a health promoting occupation. Whether the occupation of moving can be seen as health promoting is dependent on a lot of factors. The study point at the motives for moving as well as the choice of housing as being crucial to the subjective experience of satisfaction after the move.

Gitta Mathiasson (September 2003)

The experiences of being employed. From the perspective of participants in a vocational training programme

Keywords: occupational therapy (intervention), employment, participation, well being, qualitative study.

The aim of this qualitative study was to reveal and understand how participants in a vocational training programme experienced being employed, as a part of their vocational training.

Six participants were interviewed and data were analysed using a modified form of the EPP (empirical phenomenological psychological)-method.

Findings revealed how the participants past experiences as unemployed influenced the present experiences of being employed, which again were affected by expectations and concerns for the future. Unemployment in contrary to employment was described as living two different lives, emphasising the importance of performing goal-oriented and meaningful occupations as employed. Findings revealed coherence between the performance of meaningful occupations in a supportive environment and the development of personal identity and an emerging feeling of well being.

Employment was experienced as essential towards societal participation and inclusion. The feeling of having a fluctuating relationship to the labour market was apparent and affected future expectations. Findings were discussed and implications for future development of vocational training programmes were considered.

Inge Hemmen (September 2003)

Aspects of Occupational Performance of children with acquired severe brain damage in different stages of a coma

Keywords: occupational therapy, acquired severe brain damage, occupational performance, well-being.

This qualitative study examined the question ‘how do occupational therapists reason about occupational performance in children with acquired severe brain damage?’ Data were provided by six occupational therapists who narrated clinical cases in which they have given occupational therapy interventions. A constant comparative approach was used to analyse and interpret the data. Four themes of meaning were uncovered which were related to; the meeting and interpretation; that there’s no being without the other; that different perspectives on occupational performance are needed in order to understand the meaning of occupation and; that well-being and surviving is seen as an advanced occupation. On basis of these findings and previous research, the implications for further research in order to develop occupational interventions-, means, - and measurements is presented and discussed.

Esther Haver Droeze (September 2003)

Ergonomic intervention to reduce musculoskeletal disorders in the dental clinic: implementation of recommendations and reduction of MSD, viewed by the dentists
An evaluation study of a secondary prevention program for dentists in the Netherlands

Keywords: ergonomics, musculo-skeletal disorders, occupational therapy, implementation, prevention, dental clinic.

Objectives An ergonomic intervention program has taken place in the Netherlands to reduce musculo-skeletal disorders (MSD) in dental clinics.

The aim of this study is to evaluate this secondary prevention program from the dentists' point of view. First to investigate if dentists were able to implement recommendations and to identify barriers and facilitators for implementation. Second to find out if, in the dentists view, there is a relation between the implementation and a reduction of their MSD. This to improve methods of prevention at the dental clinics.

Method: A questionnaire was mailed to 57 dentists. They all returned the questionnaire.

Results: Over 50% of the dentists fully or nearly fully and 40% partially implemented the recommendations. Barriers that made change difficult included changing old routines and financial aspects. Important facilitators were motivation, pain and tailor made advice. The dentists did see a clear relation between the implementation of recommendations and a reduction in MSD.

Conclusions: The study shows that even in a highly motivated group recommendations to reduce MSD will often be partially implemented. This obviously influences the effectiveness of intervention programmes. Improving our understanding of barriers and facilitators to the implementation of ergonomic measures may result in a class of guidelines dealing with implementation issues.

Bente Hartvig (September 2003)

A clinical reasoning study of how Danish occupational therapists and their clients reason in the process of providing assistive devices in order to enable occupation

Keywords: Clinical reasoning, assistive devices, partnership, clinical judgement, occupation, adaptation

This qualitative study is a clinical reasoning study with an ethnographic approach aiming at gaining knowledge about how the thinking in the reasoning of the occupational therapist and the clients is in the process providing assistive devices in order to enable occupation in a client-centred approach.

Data were collected among four Danish occupational therapists and their clients during several visits in four municipalities over a period of 4 months. Data collection included strategies such as participant observations, video recording reflected on by the occupational therapists, an open ended interview with the clients and the occupational therapists.

Constant comparative method was used to analyse the field notes and the transcribed interview text. Two main categories and nine sub categories emerged from the analysis.

The results demonstrated that occupational therapists and their clients were thinking in facilitating a partnership in adapting occupations over time and in solutions in the perspective of the occupational therapist and the perspective of the client.

The occupational therapists were thinking of making and realising adaptive strategies focusing on occupational habits, occupational balance and risk factors. The clients were thinking of finding a daily rhythm in their everyday doings being a user of an assistive device. Accordingly, the occupational therapists were engaged in facilitating the acceptance of the life-situation. They had a focus on human temporality towards the client, the occupation and the process. Further, the occupational therapists had to balance between making clinical judgement as well as legal judgement whereas the clients had to adjust and accept the decisions made according to the institutional frames. This brought the occupational therapists' thinking into a double bound situation in the relation to the client being the administrator and enabler at the same time. On the other hand the clients' thinking was influenced by the dilemma of being the expert in your own life and depending on the occupational therapist as an expert.

The different aspects of the thinking in different aspects of enabling occupation and the dilemma of having to make different judgement at the same time require further study.

Maria Faktorova (September 2003)

The relationship between Memory and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living in brain damaged adults

Keywords: assessment, brain injury, I ADL Scale, occupational dysfunction, occupational performance, Rivermead Behavioural Memory Test

The first aim of this study was to examine how specific memory abilities, measured by the RBMT, are associated with performance on selected instrumental activities of daily living measured by the I ADL Scale in clients following brain damage. Second, to examine if the occupational performance can be predicted from memory deficits measured by RBMT. Ninety-six adults participants with brain damage were assessed by the RBMT and I ADL Scale over a 7-months period. The descriptive statistics, Spearman's rho correlation coefficient and linear regression equation was used in this correlational study. RBMT demonstrated in this study statistically significant associations with occupational performance measured by I ADL Scale both for male and female scores ($\rho=.71$; $p\leq 0.001$; $\rho=.65$; $p\leq 0.001$). The strongest association was found in item ability to handle the finance and transportation. In a series of linear regression models, memory functioning was a predictor for observed and reported I ADLs tasks. This study confirms that memory functions had a significant impact on I ADL ability in this population. Further, it supports the RBMT predictive ability and criterion-referenced validity to identify memory problems in Instrumental ADLs. From the wide point of view this knowledge could help to identify the clients, who most likely will experience problems in everyday memory tasks and thus this identification will streamline occupational therapy assessment and treatment process.

Karin Marie Bundgaard (September 2003)

A Bit(e) of the Everyday: The meaning of Meals in the New Living for Elderly

Keywords: meanings, meals, living units, everyday life, elderly, qualitative methods.

The aim of this qualitative study was to identify and interpret the experiences, values and meanings of the meals among a small group of elderly living in the new living units. Meals in this study include preparations and cleaning up besides the actual meal. Living units are a new way of organising nursing homes in Denmark. Data were collected through participant observation during mealtimes in one unit and by interviewing and analysed using a comparative and interpretative approach. The themes identified that meals gave time and space for: a homely place, a lived community, being somebody and being yourself and for having valued doings. The conclusion was that the way meals were arranged shaped most of everyday life in the unit. They gave room for everyday life by shaping a homely place and enabled a living community that acted in and put life to the everyday. Meals also made it possible to be somebody and to be yourself shaping your own reality in the everyday life and to have valued doings that gave substance to everyday life.

Christiane Mentrup (October 2002)

Comparing views of novice and competent occupational therapists on communication

Keywords: Communication between client and therapist, occupational therapy in Germany, professional competence, Dreyfus Model of skill acquisition, focus group methodology.

In Germany the education of occupational therapists is still based on a professional college level. Recent changes in federal law, produced new curriculum developments. In the state of Lower Saxony, starting in August 2002, all subjects will encompass four large learning fields, one of them being 'communication'. The number of German publications in occupational therapy is increasing, but still somewhat limited; foreign literature is not often used. For the subjects related to 'communication in occupational therapy', the educators and practitioners both rely on publications from related professions, mainly psychology.

This qualitative study explores and compares the views of novice and competent occupational therapists on communication with individual clients when involved with occupation. Two focus group interviews were conducted with 6 novice and 9 competent occupational therapists. Analysis of the data, using a constant comparative approach, revealed the following themes: rule bound versus intuitive behaviour, neglect of occupation as a therapeutic agent, limited awareness of environmental factors, and shift of communication problems from client to colleagues. The findings lead to implications in the areas of curriculum development, fieldwork supervision, further education and research.

In the introduction of the study, a literature review and definitions are provided. In the reflection, the design, the findings and the methods are discussed and the relevance of the study is demonstrated.

Inger Wallenbert (September 2002)

The dilemma of habits and routines in daily occupations

A study of reorganisation after stroke

Keywords: Habits and routines, occupation, stroke, qualitative methods.

The aim of the study was to explore and describe peoples` experiences of habits and routines in daily occupations after a stroke. This study has a qualitative approach. Data was obtained through semi-structured interviews. The constant comparative method was used for data analysis. The themes that emerged out of the data mirror the processes of frustration, struggle and dilemma regarding habits and routines in daily occupations. The findings show that there was a lack of ability and automation of habits and routines in this post-stroke phase.

To manage in daily life there was a need for planning, thinking and reflecting when carrying- out an occupation. The participants had not adapted to their stroke by making any changes to theirs habits and routines in daily occupations. The conflict regarding adapting in this process reflects the fact of fear to be dependent on technical aids, adaptations and other people. There was a change of structure to people`s days as every day occupations took so much more time to perform than before and participants had less energy left for more enjoyable occupations. It was also found that few new habits and routines in daily occupations had been established.

The findings have implications how occupational therapists can guide and support people with stroke in the early post-stroke phase.

Kirsten Storminger (September 2002)

Characteristics of Meaningful Occupations of Children with disability

Aspects presented from the perspective of parents of children with disability

Keywords: qualitative research, characteristics of occupations, client-centredness, special schools, children with disability and collaborative partnership.

Consumer satisfaction related to special needs education has an increased political interest, which has implications for applied services such as occupational therapy, too. This corresponds with the professions increased focus on a client-centred approach in assessment and intervention of occupational therapy services. This dissertation presents, in the form of an article and a reflective introduction and critique of work, a research into some of the characteristics of meaningful every-day occupations of children with disability experienced by their parents.

This qualitative comparative research design, using in-depth interviews with open-ended questions, had the aim of exploring and understanding, how parents experienced their childrens every-day occupations. A mixed convenience and purposive sampling strategy was used through which eight participants were recruited. The transcribed interviews were analysed using a qualitative comparing method in combination with the process of coding. Criteria's of trustworthiness were applied through the process of research.

The analysis identified three main themes with subthemes as some of the characteristics of meaningful occupations of the child with disability experienced by the parents, 1) Learning to orchestrate one's own life. 2) Participating in family life. 3) Mastering one's own life as a grown-up.

Implications of the findings underline the need for scrutinizing both occupational therapy assessment and intervention procedures as well as the process of collaboration with parents related to special needs education.

Tanja Stamm (September 2002)

Occupational Balance of Women with Rheumatoid Arthritis in Austria: A Qualitative Study

Objective: Occupational balance has been advocated to be an important factor in maintaining health. Rheumatoid arthritis reduces functional ability and quality of life and may thus reduce occupational balance. The aim of this qualitative pilot study was to explore occupational balance in women who have rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: Nine female patients with rheumatoid arthritis with past, but not current paid work experience, no other confounding neuro-motor disease and with disease duration ranging from 0.75 to 31 years (mean \pm SD: 49.1 \pm 10.7) were selected from an Austrian rheumatology outpatient clinic. Age range of the participants was from 28 to 68 years (mean \pm SD: 10.1 \pm 10.9). A semi-structured interview was conducted with each participant and transcribed verbatim. Data were analyzed by the constant comparative method from an occupational perspective.

Results: Three main categories emerged: The participants experienced a process of change (1) due to the rheumatoid arthritis which led from their initial situation of occupational balance to the current state. This new state was characterized by a certain level of ongoing instability (2) and changed levels of involvement in physical, mental, social and rest occupations. Overall, the new state of occupational balance was valued differently (3): either positively, indifferently or negatively.

Conclusion: Rheumatoid arthritis was found to have a considerable impact on occupational balance. The experience is not invariably seen as negative as previous literature would suggest. Further research should explore the longitudinal dimension of occupational balance in people with rheumatoid arthritis.

Ton Satink (September 2002)

Daily occupations with or without pain

the influence of chronic low back pain on the creation of motives for occupational performance

Keywords: Occupational Therapy, Chronic low back Pain, Motives for Occupations, Qualitative study, Narrative

Occupational therapists support patients with chronic low back pain during their adaptation process. Although we have access to an extensive source of information about this patient group, there is still a lack of understanding about their experiences. This thesis aims to explore and understand how life with chronic low back pain influenced the reasons for occupational performance. A narrative approach was used throughout the research and the data have been analysed with the constant comparative method. Three phases in the course of life with chronic low back pain are identified in which 'the self', 'the pain' and 'the environment' are interrelated elements that influence the creation of motives. Initially patients did want to meet social and personal expectancies, which led to an ignorance of the low back pain. Subsequently patients withdrew from occupations, which is an example of an occupational risk factor. During the different phases, participants become more conscious about the interrelating elements which finally results in more insight in their personal desires for engaging occupations and ongoing dilemmas: 'Engaging occupations with or without the pain' and 'Dealing with the environment'. The thesis shows how a narrative approach can help occupational therapists to gain a deeper understanding of patients' experiences and give new subjects for treatments for patients with chronic low back pain.

Marie-Theres Nieuwesteeg-Gutzwiller

(September 2002)

Changing Occupation

Keywords: Occupational performance, changes and losses in occupational performance, adaptation strategies, learning experience

The article and the reflective introduction and critique review present a research about changing occupation in persons suffering from a progressive neurological e.g. multiple sclerosis (MS). A qualitative research design, using the constant comparative method, was chosen to reveal the experience of persons suffering since a long time from diminishing occupational performance due to MS. Eight semi-structured interviews were conducted to elicit how the informants experienced changes in their occupational performance, what kind of changes occurred in their daily live and how they adapted to the demands of the environment. The findings show that changes in occupational performance are perceived as a slow process, lasting over years. The informants use as long as possible their usual repertoire of occupational pattern and adopt if necessary, mostly unconsciously, different adaptive strategies. Informants abandon occupations if their commitment in comparison with the benefit is out of balance. Different theoretical approaches about adaptation are explored and the effect of changing occupational performance upon the identity are discussed. Some theoretical approaches to occupation are argued as well as the impact of different languages upon the research process. Implications for occupational therapy practice are elicited as well as further research efforts.

Isabel Margot Cattin (September 2002)

Access technology and dementia care: influences in a secure unit

Keywords: dementia, access control technology, well-being, ethnographic methodology, hospital secure unit.

As technology becomes more commonly used for assisting people with dementia and well-being is a field of concern for occupational therapy, there is a need to understand how individuals with dementia are influenced by an access control system in daily life. The aim of this study was to describe the influences of the technology on the occupational life of people with dementia in a specialized care secure unit. The staff members and the unit's inhabitants participated in the study, with 3 persons with dementia being followed more closely. Data were collected through observations and semi-structured interviews, and were analyzed by a comparative method. The detailed results show that conditions were necessary for influences to appear. But when they are present, the study showed that access control technology may be an aid for people with dementia's well-being and increased their opportunities to feel in place in the unit. Overall, the behaviours expressed by persons with dementia in relation to the technology's influences seem to indicate that even in a later stage of the disease, they retain abilities and resources.

Jet Lancée (September 2002)

Occupational therapy in adult physical rehabilitation in the Netherlands: Effect of changing demands

Keywords: Changes in the health care sector, range of treatment offered, adult rehabilitation, focus group method, occupation.

Recent developments in health care, like demand-controlled care, affect the work of the occupational therapists. The range of treatment offered to clients has changed, as has the use of theoretical models. These changes highlight the need for clarification of key concepts, such as 'occupation' and 'activity' and meaningful activities in current practice. The aim of this qualitative study, based on focus group design was to describe how occupational therapists working in adult physical rehabilitation experience their work with respect to occupation in every day practice in the Netherlands and how their experiences relate to one of the core values in occupational therapy, namely use of occupations.

Ten professional occupational therapists working in different rehabilitation institutes participated in three focus group sessions. Semi-structured questions were used in every focus group session to clarify the question till saturation was reached.

The study reveals that the occupational therapist's work is largely determined by a number of peripheral factors. These include multidisciplinary work and the use of occupational therapy models do not help to a clarification the occupational therapist's position.

Results imply that perhaps occupational therapists should claim the areas of work and leisure as an integral part of their profession far more explicitly than currently do. The concept of 'purposeful activity' requires specification, as well as terms such as occupation activity.

Occupational therapy educators and professionals working in the field might need to define their position more explicitly with regard to the range of treatment offered and the adjustments that are required for the professional role of occupational therapists. It is proposed that occupational therapy needs to critically examine and renew its foundations in theory and practice.

Mieke Le Granse (September 2002)

Promoting autonomy of the long-term mentally ill client

Views and experiences of occupational therapists from the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium

Keywords: Personal autonomy, long-term mentally ill client, occupational therapy, qualitative research.

The aim of this qualitative study was to analyse how occupational therapists perceive the barriers that seem to exist with regard to client autonomy and how they try to promote the autonomy of clients in long-term mental health care. Sixty participants from the Netherlands, Germany and Dutch-speaking Belgium (or Flanders as it is also called), the majority of whom working in psychiatric hospitals, shared their views and personal experience by filling in two successive semi-structured questionnaires. A qualitative research design was chosen, employing content analysis by developing coded categories and subcategories. Credibility was examined by means of a pilot before sending out both questionnaires. Member checking took place by sending back a feedback report after analysis of the questionnaires.

The findings stress the importance of motivation of the client and the importance of encouraging and empowering the client in displaying initiative. The analysis of the information gathered also show that participants find it difficult to deal with and support unmotivated clients. In addition to such difficulties, the culture within the institutions and the norms and values upheld by society are considered to be the major barriers to the promotion of client autonomy.

The analysis of the data also shows that the participants hold different views with respect to the promotion of the long-term mentally ill client's autonomy as part of the intervention process. These different views indicate an increasing influence of the client, which finds expression in various strategies for promoting client autonomy, ranging from goal-setting by the occupational therapist to negotiating with the client and supporting and respecting the client's choices.

Hetty Fransen (September 2002)

Mastering daily life occupations. Experience and meaning in two families of children with special needs

Keywords: mastery, daily life occupations, families of children with special needs, qualitative methods, occupational therapy, adaptation.

This dissertation, in the form of an article and a reflective essay, presents a qualitative study on the lived experience of mastery in daily life occupations in families of children with special needs participating in mainstream education. An ethnographic design allowed an in-depth examination in two families that adapted successfully. Data were collected by several home-visits, using multiple data gathering strategies, with as main method narrative interviewing. Analysis was based in life-history and phenomenology to reveal and understand the experiences of mastery in the context of the unfolding family-lives. The reconstruction of the chronological life-stories provided insight in the process of mastering from the perspective of the families. Four constituents were essential for the experience of mastery to appear: 'achieving results', 'being able to act', 'perceiving a fit with the school environment' and 'experiencing well-being of all the members of the family'. Furthermore, mastering was analysed as a process of 'meaning-making', 'becoming an active agent' and 'timing'. Collaboration with the school environment was lived as essential. This study suggests occupational therapists to put emphasis on the well-being of the family and develop sensitivity to processes of mastering in everyday life occupations. Implications for occupational therapy and further research are discussed.

Anne-Stina Dolva (September 2002)

Functional performance in children with Down syndrome

Keywords: 5-year old children, everyday life, PEDI

Objectives: Functional performance in every day life occupations has rarely been described in children with Down syndrome. The purpose of this study was to explore and describe functional performance in 5-year-old children with Down syndrome (DS) from a parental perspective, to increase knowledge and from there to create more specific research questions.

Method: In a cross-sectional study, the functional performance of the population of 5 year-old children with DS in Norway (n=43) was described and analyzed within quantitative methodology. Functional performance was measured with the Norwegian translation of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI), a parental interview. Supplementary information related to health, disabilities and function was gathered in an additional questionnaire.

Results: Great variation in functional performance was found. The main foci of parents were language functioning and for the children not yet toilet trained, the management of bladder and bowel in relations to starting school. Functional performance in self-care activities seems to be disabling when fine motor skills are required. Functional performance in the mobility domain is not disabling, but there is a question of quality in performance. Of typical medical concerns such as heart, hearing and visual conditions, no significant findings indicate any effect on functional performance.

Conclusion: The considerable variability in functional performance in children with DS indicates a need for individualized intervention. This study suggests occupational therapists to address the foci and priorities of parents, to reduce a child's handicap situations in every day life. The study contributes evidence on the importance of having a family/client centred, top-down perspective on occupations in everyday life in research as well as in therapy.

Marion Ammeraal (September 2002)

The process of work reintegration for occupational therapy clients with a major depression, a qualitative approach

Keywords: Work reintegration, occupational therapy, major depression, qualitative research

The amount of persons with depressive disorders that stop working and receive a disabled benefit is a large societal concern in the western countries. Occupational therapists support patients with depressive disorders to resume work. There is little knowledge on experiences of clients to successful work reintegration.

In this thesis the result of a qualitative study aimed to explore and understand the course of work reintegration for persons who participated in an occupational therapy program towards work resumption is described. Six participants, two years after their work resumption, were interviewed.

The findings are categorised in five themes, two related to work resumption: engagement in work tasks and engagement in work community and organisation, and three themes are related to work maintenance: knowing one's possibilities, knowing one's needs and knowing one's aims.

The findings contribute to a deeper knowledge about the process of work reintegration and have implications for occupational therapy practice: the importance of the actual doing, the meaning of fit, the importance of being an active agent and the dynamics of occupational balance.

The chosen qualitative design (semi structured interviews and a constant comparative analysis) proved to be a suitable method to understand how the reintegration process took place.

Marie Cederfeldt (January 2002)

Occupational status of stroke inpatient as documented in patient's record

Keywords: Documentation, occupational status, occupational therapy records, occupational performance, occupational areas, occupational aspects, constant comparison, stroke inpatients.

The literature shows shortcomings in the documentation of occupational therapy in patient records, especially goal setting and evaluation at discharge. Modern society has adopted the language of medicine as a framework of organising all health service, and the law and regulations do not clearly define how to document goals or the evaluation of the interventions. Since occupational performance is the current concept in goal setting and evaluation of occupational therapy, the aim of this study was to obtain an understanding of how occupational performance is documented for stroke inpatients. Twenty occupational therapy records from stroke inpatients were analysed with the method of constant comparison. The result showed a general structure, an occupational status including time dimensions, occupational areas and aspects that occupational therapists documented regarding occupational performance in patient records. The time dimensions were pre-occupational status, occupational status and occupational status at discharge. The areas documented were personal care, meal preparation and transfer at home. The aspects in the occupational status were independence, difficulty, performance problem related to impairment, patient contribution, safety and physical environment. However, the result showed that occupational therapists regularly documented some occupational areas for this inpatient group and assessed occupational performance from six different perspectives.

Netta van 't Leven (November 2001)

Doing, being... In a nursing home- Environmental influences on occupational performance of elderly in a nursing home

Keywords: elderly, nursing home, occupational therapy, qualitative study

The aim of this study was to explore how elderly residents of a nursing home, with somatic diseases perceive supports and constraints of the nursing home-environment on their occupational performance. Environment means the physical, as well as the social and cultural environment. Interviews were conducted with ten residents in one nursing home. The constant comparative method was used for data-analysis. Three themes were found to describe the influence of the environment on occupational performance: having social contact with other residents, having the possibility to decide and feel control and continuation of one or more meaningful activities. According to meaningful activities this thesis showed that some persons need to continue performing such an activity themselves, others were not missing the doing as such, but being 'in the atmosphere of the doing' may fulfil the same need.

Marjan Stomph (October 2001)

Views of experienced occupational therapists on client-centred practise in the Netherlands-concern, competency and constraints

Keywords: client-centred practice; compassion and competence to respond to the need of the client; barriers in client-centred practice; multi-strategies to discover the need of the client; interactive reasoning

Client-centred practice is an international topic in health care and occupational therapy, which emerged from health promotion during the seventies.

In the Netherlands these changes in culture led to a demand-based system of health care. Within this changing culture The Dutch Association for Occupational Therapy took several actions to improve occupational therapy services, such as the implementation of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measurement (COPM).

This grounded theory study explored the understanding of occupational therapists of client-centred practice. The outcome concerns compassion and competence to respond to the need of the client, including strong desire to meet the need, multi-strategies to reveal the need, conditions that facilitate the discovery and barriers to the supply. Therapists seem skilled and motivated although there probably are shortcomings in knowledge and skills to remain focussed on the need of the client.

Central was new information about Dutch occupational therapy: therapists most concerned about their ability to respond and to discover clients' needs using multi-strategies, but often found many constraints to maintain the ideal of client-centred practice.

In the introduction to the study definitions, a review of the relevant literature is given. In the reflection design, the results and the method are discussed and also the relevance of the study.

Sippie Formsmma (October 2001)

Identification of valued information by clients and team members of a Rheumatoid Hand Outpatient Clinic

Objective: The purpose of this study was to identify what information the medical team and the clients of a Rheumatoid Hand Outpatients Clinic expect from an Occupational Therapy Assessment.

Method: The method that was used had a qualitative semi-structured approach. The ICDH-2 classification was used as a framework for data-collection and data-analysis. Four team members and four clients of the Rheumatoid Hand Outpatients Clinic at the University Hospital of Groningen participated in semi-structured interviews to expose the information they expected from an Occupational Therapy assessment. Content analysis was used to analyse the data.

Results: Eight themes emerged after analysis of the interviews. Three themes were found on body functions and structures level; 'Experienced pain by the client', 'General condition of the client', and 'Anatomical situation of the hand'. Also three themes were found on the activities level; 'Using the hand within daily activities', 'Compensating strategies for daily functioning', and 'Accepting or coping with the situation'. On both the participation level and the contextual factors level one theme occurred; 'Participating in social environment', and 'Experienced influence of contextual factors'.

Conclusion: It can be concluded that it is important to look at the needs of both the clients and the team. They are equal participants in the decision process on the treatment policy to follow. Both have different demands and expectations towards information they value from an Occupational Therapy assessment.

Annika Sköld (September 2001)

Adaptation in young persons with cerebral palsy hemiplegia

Keywords: Strategies, Occupational therapy, Integration

This qualitative study examined adaptation in young persons with cerebral palsy hemiplegia from an occupational therapy perspective. 14 young persons were interviewed on their experiences of using alternative strategies in daily activities. Data was analysed by a comparative method. The findings show that adolescents and young persons with cerebral palsy hemiplegia use various strategies in order to handle practical problems related to the deficiency of their arm and hand. The choice of strategy is a balance between competing interests related to the wish to appear normal and the wish to solve problems in the most practical way. The situation of having a minor handicap in a society with high demands of integration accentuates the conflict. The discrepancy between the demands of the activity and the capability of the person on the one hand and the wish to appear normal on the other hand creates a tension upon which the person has to act. This action can be seen as adaptation to challenges in life. Occupational therapists have the possibility to intervene in this process in order to facilitate occupational performance.

Birgit Randløv (September 2001)

Participants' experiences in activity groups in a day care unit within mental health - a qualitative study

Keywords: occupational therapy, group work, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, qualitative method

The aim of this study was to describe the participants' experiences of participating in occupations in activity groups on a daily basis. Data were obtained by non-participant, overt observations and open-ended, in-depth interviews. The data analysis method used was the Empirical Phenomenological Psychological (EPP) Method.

The main findings of the study demonstrated the following main constituents; (a) participants need for having a place to be competent in by doing, (b) to have space in occupations, and (c) to have space in one's daily life. Each main constituent consists of a number of sub-constituents.

Participating in activity groups in an occupational therapy setting seems to be an important part of providing an occupational space both within the setting and outside in one's daily life, and meet the participants' needs for having a place for being competent.

Barbara Piškur (September 2001)

Occupation and well-being: a study of some Slovenian people's experiences of engagement in occupation in relation to well-being

Keywords: occupational therapy, occupation, well-being, qualitative method

This study investigated some Slovenian people's experiences while being engaged in daily occupations in relation to well-being. No research was done in this area in Slovenia. To be able to better understand the needs of the potential clients knowledge about peoples' experiences is needed. In this qualitative study focus groups were used for data gathering including twenty-four Slovenian people from different part of the country. The findings have been structured around three central themes that came out of the analysis. The constitutes that describe the phenomena of the engagement in occupation in relation to well-being were: finding a balance between what feels good and what feels bad, experience a feeling of being on the top and meaning of occupation for social relationships. These themes show the general pattern for all the interviews.

Dick van der Pijl (September 2001)

Validation of the assessment of communication and interaction skills (ACIS) in clients with intellectual disabilities in the Netherlands

Keywords: Intellectual disability, communication, interaction, validation, the Netherlands, MOHO.

The aim of this research was to do a validation study of the Assessment of Communication and Interaction Skills, ACIS. The study focused on the properties for use in the care for intellectually disabled clients in the Netherlands. In this paper research on reliability and construct and external validity is presented. The study was performed by training 25 Occupational Therapists and two Speech- Language Therapists who consequently rated three persons from videotapes in groups. Additional scores were obtained through the rating of two of their own clients. Inter rater reliability outcomes are good and construct validity expressed by Spearman's rho is also good. In an explorative factor analysis the scale structure could not be found so is likely that the ACIS is a unidimensional construct which means that the ACIS can be considered as one scale. Feasibility of use, expressed as practicability and process quality, is satisfactory and the instrument is easy to administer although a number of adaptation are needed. Based on recent views on communication and interaction processes the development of additional assessment instruments is recommended.

Brigitte Oberauer (September 2001)

The relationship between occupational performance and life satisfaction

Keywords: cerebrovascular disorders, subjective wellbeing, activities

Optimum life satisfaction is increasingly acknowledged as a final aim in stroke rehabilitation. Occupational therapists pursue this goal by enabling occupations. There is little empirical research on the assumption that an occupational balance facilitates a satisfying life. The present study evaluated the relationship between occupational performance and life satisfaction in persons with stroke and considered especially the individual's perspective towards occupations.

Persons with first-ever stroke discharged 6 months earlier from four Swiss rehabilitation centres were surveyed by mail. Sixty-nine informants completed a life-satisfaction questionnaire, the Frenchay Activities Index about their occupational life-styles before and after stroke, and self-administered questions on demographic data and on the importance of domestic, leisure, outdoor and vocational occupations.

Gardening was the only activity significantly related to life satisfaction. Also subjectively valued occupational performance and stroke-caused change of occupational performance showed no significant correlation with life satisfaction.

Eventually persons with stroke do not spontaneously perceive occupational performance as a major determinant of life satisfaction. The solitary influence of gardening underlines the relative importance of enabling activities that are not related to self-maintenance and vocation. In-depth explorations of the experiences of people with stroke are recommended to better understand the surprising weak relationships of most occupations with life satisfaction.

Berit Hvalsøe (September 2001)

Characteristics of meaningful occupations aspects seen from the perspective of long-term mentally ill people living in the community

Keywords: characteristics of occupations, long-term mental illness, community setting, phenomenology

In recent decades there has been a trend of integrating persons with mental illness in society. One goal in this process has been to support a satisfying everyday life for the individual. However there is limited research identifying what this group of persons experience as meaningful everyday occupations. The aim of the current phenomenological study was therefore to explore and understand the characteristics of the occupations experienced as meaningful, by eight long-term mentally ill living in the community. Informants participated in in-depth individual interviews, inspired by a narrative approach. A modified form of Empirical, Phenomenological, Psychological method (EPP-method) were used to analyse and interpret the data. Validity was examined in relation to 'horizontal consistency' and peer debriefing.

Findings stress that characteristics of occupations experienced as meaningful, were closely related to feelings of being supported in living a life towards normality. And as creating a natural arena of social interaction facilitating the identity of the individual and the sense of well-being. Also the essential relation between creating meaning and coherence and the development of identity through engagement in meaningful occupations, were issues of discussion. And further the similarity of meaningful occupations with work or work related occupations, was addressed from a societal perspective.

Ramon Daniëls (September 2001)

Experiences of Occupational Therapists in Stroke Rehabilitation

Dilemmas of some occupational therapists in in-patient stroke rehabilitation

Keywords: stroke rehabilitation, occupational therapy, qualitative method

The aim of this study was to explore and gain understanding of occupational therapists' experiences of therapy with patients in in-patient stroke rehabilitation, through the identification of their considerations for practice. Two focus group interviews were conducted. The considerations for actions were triggered by using a written case sample. The analysis of the study took a perspective of meaning interpretation to the statements of the occupational therapists. The meaning structure that arose was that occupational therapists experience dilemmas when they are considering their actions. Three dilemmas were named: 'focusing on adaptation while the patient is focused on recovery', 'being client-centred and protective in the same time' and 'setting meaningful goals in a institutional context'. From the three dilemmas it can be understood that setting meaningful goals in in-patient stroke rehabilitation is not easy to achieve for occupational therapists.

Peter Bontje (September 2001)

Occupational Adaptation as Undertaken by Some Dutch Elderly Persons with Physical Disability

Keywords: occupational adaptation, the Netherlands, elderly, occupation, occupational therapy, activity

This dissertation, in the form of an article and a reflective introduction and critique, presents a research into Dutch elderly persons' experiences with adapting occupations after acquiring physical disability. A qualitative research design, phenomenology, allowed for revealing new insights and understandings relevant to client-centred occupational therapy. Its aim was to describe occupational adaptation, tentatively defined as overcoming disabling influences to engagement in occupations. Unstructured interviews exploring life-worlds were conducted to elicit meaning from persons' experiences and to describe the essence of this phenomenon. Eight older independently living occupational therapy clients were recruited based on a mixed convenience and purposeful sampling method. This resulted in 11 hours of rich-in-information data. The analysis process, adapted from Giorgi (1985), consisted of identifying and describing meaning, and reflection and free imaginative variation resulted in a general structure describing the phenomenon. Occupational adaptation was found to be a non-linear cumulative undertaking in three phases. Three specific dimension described the meaning of occupational adaptation. These related to aversions to dependence, continuity with individual's life-course, and to the informants' environment. Implications for occupational therapy practice and theory specific to older persons are discussed.

Beatrice Bonnier (September 2001)

Effects of intervention based on constraint induced movement therapy in adolescents with hemiplegic cerebral palsy- a day camp model

Keywords: Adolescents, Hemiplegia, Constraint Induced Movement Therapy, Occupational Therapy

In Sweden, children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy commonly have contact with occupational therapists. However, as they reach adolescent years this contact is infrequent. If this, in actual fact, has to do with not needing intervention or if it has to do with therapists not finding forums for treatment can be contemplated upon. In an attempt to find an intervention form that can be applied with adolescents, a new form treatment has been introduced and employed. Nine adolescents with hemiplegic cerebral palsy between the ages 13-18 were enrolled at a 2-week day camp where intervention was given based on the concept of Constraint Induced Movement Therapy. This implied that they were restricted of using their dominant hand in various daily and recreational activities by wearing a glove-like restraining splint. The purpose of this study, based of theories of motor learning principles and the use of occupations acting as a therapeutic change agent, was to examine if restraining the dominant hand was an agent for increasing adolescents' hemiplegic hand function and occupational performance outcomes. Assessment intake took place before and after intervention as well as upon a 5-month follow-up. On the measured hand function parameters improvements were observed in speed dexterity, precision and manipulative abilities however non-significant results were observed in grip strength. The extent to which the motor skills impacted on daily activities as measured by the AMPS showed significant changes after intervention but did not sustain upon a 5 month follow-up. Occupational performance improvements were seen in Frisbee Golf, a recreational game that was played during intervention.

Gunnel Arvidsson (September 2001)

Intellectually Handicapped Adults Experiences Using Time Aids One Year After Their Introduction

Keywords: Intellectually Handicapped, Time Aids, autonomy, independence, phenomenography, Occupational Therapy.

The aim of this thesis was to describe how Intellectually Handicapped adults experienced the use of Time Aids 1 year after their introduction by an Occupational Therapist. A historical view, paradigm shift and the new role for the Occupational Therapists, among other factors, are presented as being important to get a deeper understanding concerning the use of Time Aids in the present time. Data was obtained through semi structured interviews.

The analysis was performed using a phenomenographic qualitative approach. The phenomenons chosen were independence and autonomy. Results showed that independence and autonomy should be considered as 2 separate phenomenons. Four different relations between these 2 phenomenons were found. These implications indicate the importance to contextualise the use of Time Aid, as many different persons are involved during their introduction and follow-up. Concerning usability of Time Aids, knowledge, interest and motivation appeared to be the main factors to consider in a longer perspective. Occupational Therapists have to recognise the importance of frequent communication with the Intellectually Handicapped persons to understand the phenomenons around them. Based on the study, recommendations in prescribing Time Aids are proposed.

Mette Andresen (September 2001)

Co-housing for Seniors Experienced as an Occupational Generative Environment

An explorative study about how well elderly living in co-housing for seniors in Denmark, experience their occupational choices and occupational performance

Keywords: occupational performance, occupational choice, well elderly, health promotion and disease prevention, social network.

Health promoting and disease preventive housing environments for the growing populations of elderly in Europe are issues of increasing political interest. A relatively new and popular trend in housing for the elderly in Denmark is co-housing for seniors. Little is known about the occupational, health promotion and disease preventive perspectives of this way of living.

The aim of this qualitative study was therefore to identify and explore experiences of occupational choices and occupational performance among well elderly living in co-housing for seniors and relate the findings to health promotion and disease prevention.

A semi-structured discussion guideline with three main topics - occupational environment, occupational performance and occupational choices were the basis for three focus group interviews, each with 6 participants. The analysis was performed by using a modified qualitative meaning condensing approach, and member-checks with the original focus groups.

The study demonstrated that participants see themselves as living in an environment which generates their occupational performance and choices and their feeling of autonomy. In general, they have the experience of their choices and performance as enabled or increased, they link this to their physical and social environment, and emphasise they have a strong social network. Some participants do point at experiences of occupational limitations in relation to either their physical or their social environment.

Implications of the findings for this way of living will be discussed from an occupational therapy and health promotion and disease prevention perspective.