

## Abstracts

(in alphabetical order of last names)

Please note: the following pages contain the abstract of all the theses of the students graduating in September, but not all the theses presented in the seminar

**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 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