

## 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 2023, but not all the theses will be presented in the seminar

**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

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

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.

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<sup>1</sup>*

**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

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<sup>1</sup> This thesis will not be presented in Eastbourne

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

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

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

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

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<sup>2</sup>*

**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

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<sup>2</sup> This thesis will not be presented in Eastbourne

Le Monières 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

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

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

**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

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

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

**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

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;

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

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<sup>3</sup>*

**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

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<sup>3</sup> This thesis will not be presented in Eastbourne

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