

## Abstracts

(in alphabetical order of last names)

**Borda Alison**

### ***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

Décastel Laure

***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

**Douma Gerbrich**

***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**

***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

Lau Malena

***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

**Nicolajsen Mette**

***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

Schaap Rolf

***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

van der Merwe Suné

***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



*Also graduated, but unable to attend on 12 March 2019 is:*

**Sophie Albuquerque**

***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