



# School of Health Professions

## After Work Lectures

### Introduction to the Kawa Model & its Applications in Practice

Michael K. Iwama, PhD OT(C)  
Associate Professor, University of Toronto

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 6 P.M. – 7 P.M.  
Hörsaal TN EO.58, Technikumstrasse 71, Winterthur



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Technikumstrasse 71  
Postfach  
CH-8401 Winterthur

Phone +41 58 937 63 02  
Fax +41 58 935 63 02

E-Mail [info.gesundheit@zhaw.ch](mailto:info.gesundheit@zhaw.ch)  
Web [www.gesundheit.zhaw.ch](http://www.gesundheit.zhaw.ch)



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### **Introduction to the Kawa Model & its Applications in Practice**

The Kawa (River) Model is the newest conceptual model in occupational therapy. The first model to emerge from outside the Western world and the first to be raised from clinical practice through a process of qualitative research, the Kawa Model is challenging conventional occupational therapy approaches to be more culturally relevant and client centred. The ground-breaking model is based on a metaphor of the river as a symbolic translation of a person's life journey. Occupational therapy through this metaphor is the process of enabling people's lives to flow better. In just 5 years, the model has grown to be taught in hundreds of occupational therapy education programs and used in practice contexts spanning 6 continents.

In his After Work Lecture, Michael Iwama explains the basic structure and content of the Kawa Model and describes how the model is applied in progressive occupational therapy practices.

Michael Iwama is known internationally for his critical work on culture and its implications for knowledge, theory and practice in Occupational Therapy. He is sole author of a landmark book by Elsevier Press, on theory and culture in health titled: "The Kawa Model; Culturally Relevant Occupational Therapy". A leading theorist in the field of occupational therapy, he has delivered over 30 keynote & plenary addresses at conferences and symposia in North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, South America and Africa. In addition to his appointments as Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at University of Toronto, he holds Honorary Professorships at the University of Queensland, Australia, the University of Alberta, Canada, the University of Salford and the University of Plymouth, United Kingdom.

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