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Atler, Karen; Chestnut, Amanda

Affirming the Ethos of Occupational Therapy: A Community's Perspective From an Occupational Therapy Service Learning Experience

Occupational therapy education has undergone many recent changes with the infusion of more "occupation" into the content and methods of graduate level learning. (Hooper & Mitcham 2004; Palmadottir, 2003). To date there is little research that has examined the effectiveness of occupation-centered education methods (Lysaght & Bent, 2005; Reeves, Mann, Caunce, Beecraft, Living, * Conway; 2004; Greene, 1998). In this presentation, qualitative data is discussed for the study of an occupation-based service learning project. This discussion explores the extended themes from the participant and student experiences, which in turn reveals the ethos, or belief system, that brings "occupation" into Occupational Therapy (Peloquin, 2005). Service learning is "a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development" (Jacoby, 1996 p.5). In this project, paired 2nd year master's students collaborated with an adult with a neurological condition to identify and work towards a small goal to enhance daily life engagement. Students' written reflections and participants responses to semi-structured interviews were analyzed. To ensure rigor, students written assignments were used to triangulate data with the participant interviews. Results revealed that engagement in the service learning project produced a variety of outcomes for the adults, both tangible (i.e. cooking with less fatigue) and intangible (i.e. enjoying helping others). Possibly more revealing were themes related to the process of how these outcomes came about. Caring about the person and establishing a relationship was as important as the actual engagement of the activity. The findings will stimulate discussion about: 1) how participant's perspectives provide evidence for the ethos of our profession (i.e. "time, place and circumstance open paths to occupation" and "occupation fosters dignity, competence and health" (Peloquin, 2005, p 613); 2) the importance of occupation-centered learning for students preparing to become occupational therapists, and 3) the need for preventative occupational therapy services focusing on occupation.

Barney, Karen

Saint Louis University International Project: A Three-Tiered Approach to Disability Awareness in Afghanistan

Twenty-five years of civil war and political upheaval in Afghanistan have produced hundreds of thousands of people with physical disabilities and related psychological symptoms. This project was designed to provide a disability awareness program in Afghanistan in a very practical fashion. We combined a unique team from

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the USA and Afghanistan, including members with intimate knowledge of the culture and context within the country. This team brought together the disciplines of occupational science and occupational therapy, public health, medicine, nursing, and other individuals and community based organizations with extensive knowledge of disability and disability culture. The original project plan consisted of a three-tiered program. First we planned to recruit 100 Afghan professionals to complete a disability awareness training program in Kabul, to establish broad-based capacity and the ability to extend the practice aspects of disability awareness. After three attempts over two years to send the team to Kabul, the first tier of the project had to be deferred due to U.S. State Department security concerns. Second, individuals were screened and selected to pursue training on disability awareness in St. Louis from May 7 to 21, 2006. This group of eight professionals forms the core disability working committee and leadership for a permanent disability blueprint program for Afghanistan. The two-week training program provided a wide variety of topics, balanced with site visits of examples of models that promote inclusion, access, and occupational justice for persons with disabilities in the community. In addition, each Afghan professional was linked with a local mentor who will maintain an ongoing relationship and provide current resources to their mentee. Furthermore, materials were provided to establish a nation-wide resource center to support the work of these professionals regarding disability awareness and occupational justice. When the third tier is implemented in the future, we will provide disability awareness training to 500 Afghan people with physical disabilities and caregivers in Kabul. Their training will serve also as a training environment for the Kabul professionals. This population tier also serves as the ultimate goal for changing the face of disability and occupational justice in Afghanistan.

Bazyk, Susan

The Meaning of Occupational Therapy Groups for Low-Income Urban Youth Attending After-School Care

The application of occupational science to practice, specifically the principle of occupational justice, has inspired occupational therapist to pursue new practice arenas - to actively pursue the development of programs designed to promote health through occupation for all individuals. From an occupational science perspective, the unique role of occupational therapy in addressing the occupation-based and social-emotional needs of low-income urban youth attending after-school care will be explored. Low-income urban youth may be at-risk of occupational deprivation because of limited social and material resources. With fewer opportunities to engage in structured leisure occupations, these children spend more time in passive, unstructured activities and subsequently may be lured into participating in risky street activities in order to meet personal need

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for challenging occupation. In the spirit of occupational justice, the Occupational Therapy Groups for HOPE (Healthy Occupations for Positive Emotions) were developed to promote occupational enrichment for low-income urban youth. The nine-week HOPE groups provide a combination of meaningful structured leisure occupations and social-emotional learning activities within a supportive group context. In an attempt to determine the essence of occupation and its influence on health and well-being, this phenomenological study focused on the meaning of the HOPE groups for the participating youth. In-depth interviews and participant observation were used to explore how the participants' perceived and experienced engagement in structured leisure occupations and social-emotional learning activities provided within a therapeutic group context. Ten children between the ages of 7 and 12 were interviewed between one and three times yielding a total of 23 interviews. The focus of analysis was on understanding the children's subjective experience of the HOPE groups and identifying the core essence of the experience from an occupational perspective. Selected excerpts from the interviews will be offered to help illustrate the findings. Specifically, findings contribute to an understanding of the meaning, form, and function of occupation by exploring how engagement in the HOPE groups influenced the participants' daily occupations and interpersonal relationships. In this way, findings may simultaneously contribute to the discipline of occupational science and the fields of occupational therapy and after-school care.

Beagan, Brenda; Etowa, Josephine

The Effects of Everyday Racism on the Occupations of African Nova Scotian Women

While cultural differences clearly influence occupational participation and meaning, it is equally important to examine how the hierarchical ordering of social and cultural groups may also affect occupation. This paper explores the impact of racism. The theory of everyday racism (Essed, 1991) suggests that racism is manifest in minute, even trivial, everyday interactions which constitute instantiations (enactments) of existing social relations of power. In other words, an individual incident is given its meaning and destructive power precisely because it encapsulates historical and current social relations. In addition, racist encounters gain their meaning not just from individual experiences but also from the experiences of the collective. Drawing on qualitative interviews and standardized measures with 50 African Canadian women, this paper explores how everyday racism has shaped their participation in occupations and the meaning of occupations. Paid work, schooling, leisure, parenting and spirituality are all directed affected by racism. Paid work and leisure may become episodes of endurance, infused with the need for hyper-vigilance, guardedness against hurtful

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messages. This experience of occupational participation inevitably alters occupational meaning. When schooling becomes an occupation that demands negotiating for your own dignity – with classmates as well as administration – how does that affect occupational performance? Occupational participation? Meaning? When parenting necessarily takes on added dimensions concerning teaching children survival skills, how can the occupational meaning be understood without taking racism into account? Finally, the meaning of spirituality as a core coping mechanism for surviving racism highlights the political meanings of spiritually-oriented occupations for this population. Taken together, the results suggest valuable way to think about the ‘social environment’ and its effects on occupation.

Blakeney, Anne; Marshall, Amy

Occupational Injustice in the Appalachian Coalfields

In this presentation, the authors draw upon the Model of Occupational Justice (Townsend and Wilcock, 2003) to analyze the impact of contemporary coal mining on human occupations. Their study is part of a Participatory Action Research project entitled The Headwaters Project that was conducted collaboratively with a geographer, a sociologist, and a rural mountain county in Appalachia. The research methods used in the three phases of the larger study will be shared. The emphasis will be on the benefit of collaborating with citizens in an Appalachian community and with other researchers in an interdisciplinary approach that strengthens the entire project. Examples of occupational injustice will be highlighted to demonstrate the application of the Model of Occupational Justice in present day Appalachia.

Carrier, Cristine

Locating Occupation and Occupational (In)Justice in Postmodern Spaces and Places

Occupational science, perhaps the newest disciplinary “lens” in the social sciences, has declared itself an interdisciplinary science. This opens up the door to extensive theoretical and methodological discourse, most often but not exclusively with our sister social sciences. While we have begun tentative discussions of space and place, selectively drawing from other disciplinary traditions, most notably anthropology, far less attention has been paid to other “more distant” social sciences, including geography. Additionally, occupational science has yet to significantly engage with supra-disciplinary ontological approaches such as postmodernism. In order to demonstrate the relevance of postmodern spaces and places to understanding occupation and occupational (in)

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justice, this paper develops in three parts. In part one I will explore the meaning of the postmodern and contrast that with “modern” understandings of the world. Part two looks at the concepts of space and place as examined by scientists from a variety of disciplines within a postmodern perspective. Last, in part three, I will demonstrate how the ontological and epistemological approaches of postmodern geographies can inform and enrich the study of occupation.

Crall, Elizabeth A.; Bagatell, Nancy; Carrier, Cristine Evelyn

The “Doing” of Occupational Science: Toward a Better Ethnography Through Occupation

Ethnography has long been used as a method of learning about the beliefs and practices of others or in the case of autoethnography, about the self. Ethnographic methods range from observing the doing of occupation, to participating in occupation with those being studied, to discussing occupation with participants. However, while occupation (or “doing”) is essential to the practice of ethnography, the meaning of its role in research has not been adequately explored. The objective of this panel is to facilitate a discussion of the role of occupation in research, and its potentially untapped contributions to qualitative research methods. Participant observation, a common ethnographic method, includes pure observation to active participation. This panel will explore occupation-focused participant observation as discussed in the literature and will discuss an approach involving engagement in shared occupations, occupations that are meaningful to both the participant and the researcher, as a data collection strategy. What can be gained by using this method, particularly how trusting research relationships can be fostered through engagement in shared occupation, will be illustrated using examples from one panelist’s ethnographic study of adults with autism. Information collected through interviews and participant observation are often viewed as somewhat interchangeable, reflecting the same underlying truths but expressed through different channels. However, meanings captured at the moment of occupation are not always identical to those expressed during moments of reflection. This panel will discuss one panelist’s experience capturing meanings at the point of “doing” as compared to those expressed in interviews, and will explore the significance of these differences in reporting on research. Carnal sociology is not another form of postmodern autoethnography; rather, it seeks to recognize the role of the body as the medium for experience and the bodily habitus as a source of tacit knowledge, and to incorporate this knowledge into more classical participant observation approaches. Toward this end, the researcher must not just observe, but also submit her body to the experiences of those being studied. In discussing one panelist’s experiences using

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this approach, we ask if as scholars of “doing” we should be using these ideas toward a carnal occupational science?

Crall, Elizabeth A.; Jackson, Jeanne

The Dinner Dilemma: How Small Choices Make a Big Impact

The occupation of eating dinner, upon first consideration, seems rather ordinary and mundane. Eating is a basic human need for survival, and “dinner” is a construct shared across many cultures. It is an occupation most people living in Western industrialized households do every day. However, when one takes dinner for granted, one also takes for granted the multiple economic, social, and political systems at work throughout the globe that make that dinner possible. In this paper, I will discuss the occupation of eating dinner, and its effect on local and global economics and society, particularly as it relates to the occupational injustice that stems from our modern means of production. In our daily lives, we have contact with many far reaches of the globe, simply as a function of the food that we eat. When the typical American family sits down to dinner, they are sitting down to food that has traveled, on average, 1500-2500 miles from where it was grown or produced, to their local supermarket. Because of technology and globalization, individuals who consume food have grown progressively further removed from those who grow the food. They are not just further geographically, however; their understandings of each other’s daily lives grow further apart as well. Many Western households struggle to make ends meet as wages fail to keep pace with the cost of living. Meanwhile, this quest for lower prices places pressure on growers to keep their cost of production at a minimum, lowering wages for their workers. Much of the food we eat in Western industrialized countries has been scrubbed clean of any evidence of the conditions under which it was produced. This allow Western consumers to purchase foodstuffs without feeling guilty of knowing that their low prices come at the expense of other human beings, often in developing countries, who work for subsistence wages under often-exploitative conditions. This paper will explore the linkages between the daily occupations of food producers and food consumers, and aims to open up a discussion about possible future directions for research and action related to this issue.

Dennhardt, Silke; Laliberts, Debbie

Occupational Identity in Three Older Women’s Narratives on Widowhood

Occupational identity is an emerging and exciting concept in occupational science as it shows great promise in extending and deepening our knowledge about humans as occupational beings. Much remains to be understood regarding

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how individuals develop, maintain, and re-construct their occupational identity during their life course. As widowhood is a major life transition experienced by many women in later life that both challenges identity construction and often leads to changes in one's occupational repertoire, exploration of the experiences of widows offers interesting opportunities for occupational scientists to further our understanding of occupational identity. As well, since widowhood is a status and a process that is both individually and socially constructed in multidimensional ways, exploring the narratives of older widows allows for examination of both personal and contextual influences on occupational identity. Because narration is a process of creating meaning, as well as a means to build and shape one's identity, the investigation of older women's narratives of widowhood will allow for a deeper understanding of how these women construct their occupations in regard to their identity, and vice versa. This research paper presents a qualitative study in a narrative paradigm, based on in-depth interviews with Meta, Elizabeth, and Mary, 3 women aged 75 and older. The selected approach comprised multiple contacts and both open narrative exploration and focused interviewing. The women were asked retrospectively about their experiences of becoming and being a widow in later life and were invited to tell their story on this identity transition. Data analysis followed Wicks & Whiteford's (2003) strategy for occupation-based identity construction in the narratives of these older women as well as on the ways in which the women's occupational options and decisions are shaped by contextual factors. Drawing on occupational science, critical gerontological, and life-course perspectives, the relationship between occupation and identity in the transition to widowhood will be explored, and implications for future development of the concept of occupational identity and research will be discussed.

Erickson, Brenda; Matuska, Kathleen

How Do Adults With Multiple Sclerosis Experience Life Balance?

Modern, western, lifestyles are busy and pressed for time and people are trying to manage their lives in ways that meet their needs and fulfill their roles with a minimal amount of stress. For most people in modern society, finding the optimal balanced life is challenging at best and even more so if living with a chronic disease. This qualitative research explored the lived experience of people who have multiple sclerosis to understand how they perceive their lifestyle balance through their experiences of everyday life. Two focus groups were conducted with a total of 12 people with MS. The data was analyzed using a triangulation method and member checks. The common themes that emerged from the focus group discussion and the coding process were: challenges related

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to finding lifestyle balance; adaptations made to achieve lifestyle balance; and the emotional experience of trying to maintain lifestyle balance. Within these categories, participants identified problems managing their time, their health, their energy, and their relationships. They adapted by modifying their daily activities and the environment, adjusting standards, and changing expectations. Finally, they expressed an altered identity as a result of the disease and most of the participants described the negative emotional toll it took on their lives and how they are trying to cope. The results support a model of lifestyle balance described by Christiansen and Matuska who defined lifestyle balance as “a satisfying pattern of daily activities that is healthful, meaningful, and sustainable to an individual within the context of his or her current life circumstances (2005, p.6). MS symptoms are often triggered or exacerbated by stress yet the participants in the study described the everyday ways that MS affected their ability to live balanced lives, this increasing their stress. Living successfully with a chronic disease such as MS requires more than medical management of symptoms, it requires life management as well, where people find ways to flourish, to meet their needs, and to fulfill their meaningful roles, resulting in reduced stress and better health outcomes.

Frauwirth, Stacy; Fogelberg, Donald

Looking Across the Levels: Participation on the Fourth of July

Proposed Focus of Forum and its Importance to the Study of Occupation: Through this forum, we propose to continue the discussion on the use of complexity science as an organizing framework for research within SO by presenting on a research project that simultaneously explored the phenomena of holiday occupations across the multiple levels of analysis: individual, group, and population. By presenting a research project that was explicitly designed using a hierarchical framework based in complex systems theory, we hope to discuss emerging findings on the practical utility of the framework to develop and focus so research questions and organize research data. The use of actual data will also provide the opportunity to examine the types and nature of occupations at each level, unique characteristics of occupation at the different levels of analysis, and the interrelatedness and influence between the levels. Lastly, this forum provides an opportunity to explore methodological issues when studying occupations at the group and population levels. Rationale and Aims of the forum: The foal of the forum is to present on research designed using an evolving complexity-science based framework in a setting that allows for comprehensive discussion and feedback on theory and methodology.

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Furgang, Nancie; Burns, Roslyn; Burtner, Patricia A.; Laadt, Virginia

The NICU: A New Frontier for the Study of Occupation?

When a baby is born pre-term or with serious medical complications, the family enters the bewildering, intimidating Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) world of high-tech equipment, unfamiliar surroundings and uncertainty about the health of their newborn infant (Doering et al, 1999; Pebbles-Kleiger, 2000; Vickers, 2004). This is neither the environment nor the parenting experience they had envisioned. While much has been written in the occupational science literature about adolescents, adults and the elderly in such varied settings as the home, school, and assisted living facilities, the authors propose that the NICU provides an especially important opportunity for the study of occupation and the interplay between occupation and environment. Concepts of occupation, co-occupation, and the impact of environment need to be reconsidered in the presence of pre-term birth, medical fragility and the complicated role sharing that exists between mother and nurse. As an initial effort to examine occupation within the NICU, we conducted a descriptive study to investigate nurse perceptions of maternal presence, roles and caregiving occupations in the NICU at the University of New Mexico Hospital. 35 registered nurses assigned within a 2 day period were recruited as a convenience sample. Nurse interviews were conducted to obtain demographic and quantitative data using the Mother Caregiver Questionnaire. Qualitative data was obtained from open ended questions. Paired t-tests were used to compare nurse perceptions of 1) the importance of mothers' caregiving activities in the NICU 2) how mothers would rank the importance of their caregiving activities in the NICU and 3) how mothers would rank their enjoyment during caregiving activities in the NICU. Preliminary findings showed significant differences in nurses' rankings of the importance of caregiving activities and their perceptions of how mothers valued them as important or enjoyable. Caregiving activities rated as important, were perceived by nurses as being less enjoyable and/or less important to mothers. Activities perceived by nurses as enjoyable to mothers, were ranked by nurses as less important. If, through engagement in occupation, meaningful connections to others are experienced, (Hasselkus, 2002), how are occupations and meaningful connections impacted by how others perceive the importance of activities we value?

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Glennon, Tara J; Parham, Diane

Occupational Engagement: Sensory Factors Influencing Participation in the School, Home, and Community Settings

When one considers the amount of time that children are under the charge of the educational system, it becomes clear that successful participation within this environment is imperative. If, as is articulated, the educational environment provides children with multiple opportunities for engagement, and the development of play, it becomes imperative as occupational therapists and occupational scientists to understand, appreciate, and positively impact the facilitators and barriers to occupational engagement in the educational setting. Additionally, observing the interplay between school and home performance is equally imperative as we attempt to support children in a comprehensive manner.

The Sensory Processing Measure (school and home forms), assessment tools designed to identify how sensory components of various school, home, and community environments impact a child's occupational involvement and social participation, recently completed development and standardization on a sample of over 1000 children. While this information was originally collective for normative purposes, the examination of the data provides a comprehensive profile of each child within various environments. As such, the data provides insight regarding how the environment shapes each child's participation in multiple occupations. This presentation will share the information obtained from the perspective of understanding the interplay between occupation and environment.

Gowran, Rosemary Joan; Ruddle, Mark

Elite Sports People: An Investigation of the Impact of Occupational Role Change Caused By Injury

There are many challenges faced by elite sports people throughout their career, but injury is recognized as being the most difficult to come to terms with. Injury is recognized to cause the loss of a highly valued role, the physical constraint of an important mode of expression and uncertainty about return to competition for athletes. Additionally, it can undermine the athlete's sense of identity, self-esteem and social milieu. Role loss or transition, such as that caused by sporting injury, can be described as a discontinuity in a person's life space. This paper will report on the results of qualitative research from a grounded theory perspective with elite hockey players. In depth interviews with six elite Irish hockey players who had experienced a career threatening injury were completed. Analysis revealed that the loss of the athlete role impacted on the participant's lives in a number of ways. Seven themes emerged to elucidate this impact, and included; the gap left by sport, isolation of injury, keeping busy, sporting selves, on the outside, who really cares, and gaining perspective. This

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research illuminates the lived experience of occupational role changes for elite athletes following injury, and adds to the research body on the complex relationship between engagement in meaningful occupation and wellbeing.

Gupta, Jyothi

Ripples of Social Change: Occupations of Women in Rural India

Most females in rural India experience the vicious circle of lack of access to education, early marriage, and deprivation of opportunities for gainful employment. Women's occupations that contribute to rural economy, although integral, are not valued, unpaid and this invisible, resulting in women deprived of economic resources, such as ownership of property. This leaves them disempowered, marginalized, oppressed and unable to fully participate in society. They remain for generations victims of social and economic injustices. This paper will describe (a) the impact of the social and cultural contexts on women's everyday occupations and (b) a model for social change that has evolved out of the partnership between residents of four villages and a non-government organization. In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with the instructors of family life education program using a focus group format. The primary intent of the interview was to gather data on their everyday occupational lives and how (if any) changes had occurred due to their involvement in the community programs. The women unanimously reported transformative changes that have impacted positively on their daily lives and family relationships, thereby improving the wellbeing of self and family. They attributed these benefits to the acquisition of new occupations that has expanded their occupational contexts, roles and identity, altered their routines and habits, and increased community participation. The meaningfulness of this increased participation stems from working for the common good of all women and to promote social change. A serendipitous discovery during the interview was the power of group work and the strong relationships that have been forged as a result of a shared commitment to empowering and improving the daily lives of rural women. It was apparent that the group identity is a strong influence on their individual identities and everyday lives. Finally, the participants reported enjoying the focus group experience, expresses gratitude for having an opportunity to share their stories, voice their thoughts and feelings and were touched and intrigued that their "ordinary" lives was of interest to an Indian woman who, in their view, has "escaped" the ordinary existence.

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Gupta, Jyothi; Rene, Padilla; Karen Opacich

Health Disparities: Professional and Institutional Models for Community Partnerships for Social Change

In the United States, there are still significant health and other disparities that exist due to gender, race or ethnicity, education, income, disability, geographic location, or sexual orientation. Healthy People 2010 has as one of its two primary goals to eliminate health disparities among different segments of the population (<http://www.healthypeople.gov>). These disparities are also evident in the availability of opportunities for meaningful occupation. Occupational science and occupational therapy have the capacity to make significant contributions to eliminating health disparities but it will require a long term commitment to improving the health and quality of life of all citizens. Federal, state, and local governments are designating significant resources toward community and academic partnerships that address these needs. This panel will provide an overview of health disparities as they relate to human occupation and identify societal factors, governmental policies and characteristics of the educational and health care system that influence the health and occupational opportunities for citizens. We will introduce an institutional perspective of educational models that support community initiatives to promote social change. A summary of three local community initiatives will illustrate opportunities to address the occupational and health disparities in specific populations. The theoretical and pedagogical underpinnings that are the foundational basis for the community initiatives will also be discussed. The panelists will highlight the efforts being made by interdisciplinary teams towards the empowerment of communities to promote health and well-being for all of its citizens.

Hasselkus, Betty R.; Murray, Bridget

The Family With Dementia: Shifting Identities in Everyday Lives

The majority of care for people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias is carried out in the community by family and friends (National Academy of an Aging Society, 2000). The purpose of this study was to gain understanding of the nature of caregivers' experiences of identity in families with dementia within a context of everyday occupation. Burke (1980) defined identity as relational and social, and Christiansen (1999) proposed theoretical links between occupation and identity. The bulk of identity research in dementia care has focused on the person with dementia, not on the person providing care within a family. In one exception, Orono (1990) concluded that caregivers in her study "lost remnants of their own identity" over time. In this study, we broaden the study of identity beyond the individual self to the concept of shared family identities in the context of caregiver – care receiver occupational experiences.

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Phenomenological telephone interviews (Van Manen, 1990) were conducted with 33 family caregivers, asking each respondent to describe a very satisfying and a very dissatisfying experience of care giving. Follow-up call-back interviews were conducted with 8 of the respondents. We used a narrative analytic approach to identify experiences of everyday occupation in the data followed by thematic analysis and synthesis (Mattingly, 1998). The analysis yielded understandings of everyday occupation as a phenomenon through which challenges to the caregiver's well being, shared identities, and biographical continuity were revealed and from which strategies to meet these challenges were generated. These understandings help occupational therapists assist family caregivers to tailor their everyday occupation both to retain a sense of continuity in their family identities and to construct new identity parameters. Discussion accompanying this paper will likely revolve around shared identity, family identity, and individual identity as concepts, their relationships to everyday occupation, the unique identity concerns of the dementia care giving family context, and implications for practice in community and institutional settings. I will also encourage audience critique regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the research design.

Hooper, Barbara

From Prison to Community: A Transitional Program

This paper describes the process of applying knowledge of lifestyle redesign (e.g. Jackson J, Carlson M, Mandel D, Zemke R, Clark F, 1998) and transformative learning (e.g. Mezirow, 2000) to developing life skills program in a transitional living program for former prisoners. Lifestyle redesign is a therapeutic process “enabling the participants to actively and strategically select an individualized pattern or personally satisfying and health-promoting occupations” (Jackson, et al, 1998, p. 326). Redesigning one's life through more self-selected and satisfying occupations can entail significant transformations; therefore, combining knowledge of transformative learning processes with knowledge of lifestyle redesign could be profitable pairing. Transformative learning is an educational process of overcoming the limitations of previous learning, habitual ways of thinking, and ingrained ways of seeing and acting in the world (Cranton, 1994). Occupational science and transformative learning form the conceptual foundation for a 3-month program for ex-convicts including educational modules such as “Designing your Next Job” or “Designing Healthy Leisure and Recreation.” Ending a prison term can be what Mezirow (1991) called “a disorienting dilemma,” or what Brookfield (1987) called a “trigger event,” or what Taylor (1987) called a “disconfirmation”-occurrences in which one's expectations and experiences are in conflict, causing feelings of

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disorientation or uneasiness, and thereby potentially creating an opening for self-examination. Disorienting conflicts for former prisoners may include transitioning from institution-authored time use to self-authored time use, from institution-authored habits to non-destructive self-authored habits, or from a present-moment worldview to a worldview that includes future possibilities. Critical self-reflection and a sound self-concept are considered indispensable for transformative learning. In helping design a program to support prisoners' transition to the community, I have been challenged by a number of questions, including "How does transformation occur with a diminished self-concept and little experience with reflection? What transformations are needed to select health-enhancing occupations over self-defeating occupations? In addition to describing the conceptual model that integrates occupational science with transformative learning and presenting the subsequent "life by design" program, this paper will offer opportunity for discussing these issues and exploring together the research questions and methods appropriate to this population.

Humphry, Ruth

What Are Occupational Scientists Learning About Children and Their Occupations?

The body of knowledge about children and their everyday activities rests interdisciplinary contributions. The amount of research on children has increased and today scholars have built a compelling case for the importance of the historical times and social contexts in determining what children do. With this there is growing evidence that childhood is a socially constructed phenomena and research is subject to the particular perspective of a discipline. The purpose of this paper is to explore the theoretical lens of occupational science and describe one scholar's perspective of where we are in the development of knowledge about childhood occupations. Two issues warrant scrutiny as they threaten to bend the lens occupational scientists use to study childhood. First, occupational scientists that are embedded in a North American perspective of childhood are more likely to retain biological view of development. Adding to this traditional perspective (or maybe supported by it) has been the sustained fascination of occupational therapy with neuro-maturation approaches to practice with children. Second, in some circles there is a tradition of thinking of occupation in terms of the child's subjective experiences of meaning or the engagement in occupation as an individual endeavor. This is in contrast to the arguments recently set forth that childhood occupations are best understood contextually, where the person and context are a transactional whole. In light of these issues, there is a need to take inventory of occupational science's knowledge of childhood occupations. The paper summarizes the last decade of leading journals in occupational science and

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therapy with the intent of understanding what this work reveals about how the discipline sees childhood and how this impacts our scholarly endeavors. Second it analyzes the scholarly work informing therapists' services when children face occupational challenges. Finally, to further evaluate the status of our knowledge; the paper asks what information is passed on to the next generation of occupational therapists by entry level programs associated with occupational science. The speaker hopes to start a discourse regarding how occupational science can contribute uniquely to the interdisciplinary body of knowledge about childhood and inform the practice of occupational therapy.

Hunter, Elizabeth

Occupation Toward the end of Life: Women's creation and transmission of personal legacy

This study explores the occupation of legacy creation and transmission as a component of the aging experience among women. Against a backdrop of prior focus on transmission of material possessions as the primary form of legacy, the concept is critically examined in developing an expanded, theoretically and empirically grounded perspective. Legacy creation emerges as an appropriate occupation for those beginning to confront their mortality. In-depth interviews with thirty-eight women, ranging in age from 31-94 years and representing diverse marital, parental and health statuses reveal multiple dimensions of leaving in terms of content, creation and transmission. Through the stories of the participants in this study, legacy, emerges as a means of passing on the essence of one's self, in particular one's values and beliefs. Through personal action and concrete artifacts that may result, legacy is created and passed along. Legacy provides an avenues for continuity throughout the life courses as it is transmitted from the past, develop dint he present and given to the future. The desire to leave a legacy is manifest in many different ways dependent on the individual and their culture. While the idea of legacy is often couched in terms of material possessions, it appears that passing on values and beliefs is more important to older adults. The process of transmitting legacies of values and beliefs has notable implications for personal well-being and family relations as individuals age or face life threatening illness.

Ikiugu, Moses

Measuring and Understanding Occupational Performance: A Dynamical Systems Perspective

Occupational performance is a challenging phenomenon to measure because it is difficult to capture and quantify. Part of this difficulty emanates

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from the fact that participation in occupations is unique for every individual. Occupational engagement patterns are as varied as human beings. It is difficult to meaningfully quantify a phenomenon that is so complex, individualized, and varied. Therefore, few instruments are available that are designed to evaluate and quantify actual performance of occupations that are personally meaningful to individuals. In this paper, three instruments will be discussed that are designed to be used in combination to achieve that objective (to identify and quantify performance of occupations that are personally meaningful to individuals). The Assessment and Intervention Instrument for Instrumentalism in Occupational Therapy (AIIOT) is used to guide individuals to identify what they consider to be their purpose (personal mission) in life. They identify occupations in which regular participation would lead to achievement of that mission, and rate themselves on how they perform those occupations. The Daily Occupational Inventory (DOI) is used to identify occupations in which one is engaged every day from 6:00AM through 12:00 midnight for a specified number of days. A list of occupations and the frequency of engagement over the specified time period are then generated. The person ranks the occupations in the list in order of importance in helping him/her achieve the personal mission as stated earlier in the AIIOT assessment. The Occupational Performance Calculation Guide (OPCG) is used to facilitate computation of a performance score based on the top five ranked occupations. The three instruments were developed by the author in collaboration with others for research and clinical use. In the paper, it will be demonstrated that use of the instruments is consistent with the dynamical systems perspective of the individual as a complex dynamical adaptive system in interaction with the environment through occupational performance. Implications for use of the instruments to research and clinical practice will be explored.

Iwama, Michael; Odawara, Etsuko; Asaba, Eric

Cross Cultural Perspectives on Occupation; What Occupational Science Can Gain From Japanese Ways of Knowing

In this panel and ensuing discussion, Japanese occupational scientists who have located their research in both Eastern and Western socio-cultural contexts present a series of papers that will critically challenge (early) perspectives regarding how occupation is defined, comprehended and ultimately conceptualized. The grand narrative of occupation appears to have been framed and progressed within certain cultural norms that particularly privilege ontologies and systems of knowledge germane to Western spheres of experience. Occupation framed in terms of individual agency, of rational and pragmatic paths to identity and being, and the universal quality of its assumptions are tacitly held and rarely contested. For many who abide in non-Western spheres of experience, as in East Asia and who hold varying ontological views, philosophical traditions

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and value patterns, occupation, as defined in the Western world continues to be a relatively esoteric construct. How do the forms, functions and meanings of occupations look when viewed from socio-cultural contexts that celebrate collectivism, that define individual identity imbedded in other(s), that regard social dependency as a basic value, and that have preferred a particular variation of Confucian hierarchy over Western egalitarian practices? What happens to the function of occupation as a “bridge”, when the gap between distinct self and outer environment is closed and rendered inconsequential in a worldview that melds these two entities? The panel will present papers that speak to various aspects of these tensions between culture and occupation. Dr. Etsuko Odawara will present her work on horizontal social indexing conceptualized in Japanese as ‘Uchi’ (inside) and ‘Soto’ (outside), as a means to provide insights into how some Japanese locate aspects of self, other and meaning and power of ‘doing’ in various realms of proximity and distance. Dr. Michael Iwama will examine metaphor – particularly of the ‘Kawa’ (river) as a narrative of ‘life flow’, as a way to demonstrate how the interconnected aspects of the social, time, and space are perceived by the modal Japanese subject and how these amorphous contexts form the bases from which occupations are identified and valued.

Leimbach, Linda; Halton, Rachel E.; Stock, Stefanie

Women Creating: Transforming Who We Are and What We Do

Literature suggests that engagement in creative occupation enhances identity formation, self-confidence, empowerment, and creativity with the elderly and individuals with chronic or mental illness. The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of engagement in creative occupation upon the health and well-being of a group of well individuals. This study used ethnographic research methods to reveal the experiences of fourteen women who engaged in contemporary quilting in the laboratory portion of a graduate occupational therapy elective course entitled “Women and the Creative Process.” Students learned basic sewing and quilting skills, as well as basic design principles, and were then asked to make individual and group quilted wall hangings of their own design over a four month period of time. Student interviews, reflection assignments, journals, and participant observations by the instructor of the course were coded to reveal themes. As a result of their engagement in this creative occupation, students realized changes in their (1) Sense of Creativity, with Increased Risk-Taking during the Creative Process, Greater Acceptance of Mistakes during the Creative Process, Increased Levels of Creativity, Enhancement of the Creative Process through Social Support, and Greater Recognition of Many Different Types of Creativity; (2) changes in Self-Esteem and Sense of Identity, with Improvement in Self-Esteem, Greater Sense of

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Empowerment, and Use of the Creative Process for Self-Exploration and Self-Expression; and (3) changes in Occupational Performance in the areas of Work, Activities of Daily Living, Interpersonal Relationships, Health and Well-Being, and Creative Occupation. Students' Experience of the creative process during the making of individual wall hangings differed from that experienced during the making of the group quilt. The results of this study show the power of engagement in meaningful creative occupation upon the self-esteem, sense of identity, creativity, and occupational performance of a group of women in a community setting from a wellness perspective. This study constitutes a beginning effort within the field of occupational science to document the power of engagement in creative occupation specifically, and the power of engagement in meaningful occupation in general, upon the health and well-being of individuals, communities, and populations.

Marken, Dory; Pierce, Doris

Strategies & Challenges of Custodial Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren

Dramatic growth in the number of children raised in the custody of grandparents has implication for the healthy development of grandchildren and the successful aging of grandparents. Age-related physical, sensory, and social changes can limit a grandmother's ability to adequately care for her grandchildren on a full-time basis. In such homes, occupational therapists must weight the health, safety and developmental needs of the children against those of the older adult. For example, the older adult's need to reach medication throughout the day can present a danger to the children, while the children's need to play with toys can create a fall hazard for the older adult. This qualitative study provides a thorough description of how custodial grandmothers of infants and toddlers manage their occupation roles through environmental, social, temporal, physical and emotional strategies. Data collection included interviews and in-home videotaping of typical mothers and custodial grandmothers raising children under two years of age. Data analysis used a comparative approach to identify emerging categories, and theoretical sampling to maximize group differences and similarities. Present themes include: * Life course changes * Cohort differences in occupational patterns * Objects used to facilitate play and development * Social Network supports * Managing child safety and health * Routines * Physical demands of childcare * Mother/Grandmother relationship with child. The comparative description of strategies employed by custodial grandmothers has application to clinical practice. Occupational therapists can assist this unique population of caregivers by demonstrating modifications of context, tasks and routines. How does the comparative description of mothers and grandmothers elucidate the typical and atypical occupational patterns of childcare?

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Molineux, Matthew

Ducks and Rabbits: The Elusive Nature of an Occupational Perspective

It is well accepted that an occupational perspective of humans and health is fundamental to both occupational therapy and occupational science. As such, members of both fields are expected to adopt an occupational perspective in their work, and so when they fail to do so they are heavily criticized. What some critics may fail to acknowledge, however, is that while it is easy to talk the language of occupation, enacting that perspective in research, education, and practice can be difficult. This paper will share one experience of attempting to enact an occupational perspective in research. Following ethical approval, oral histories were gathered from five men living with HIV infection in the United Kingdom.. The oral histories covered each man's life from early childhood up to the end of the data collection phase. The interview data were analyzed narratively to produce textual representations of each man's occupational career. This paper will present a brief overview of this research, but will focus on the process involved in producing the occupational careers of each participant. It will show how initial analysis seemed to force an occupational view into a biomedical framework. This resulted in occupational careers which were demarcated by the recognized medical stages of HIV infection. Initially this seemed acceptable due to an interest in examining each man's life before and after HIV infection. To move beyond that, however, each man's life story was examined for occupational turning points. The result was a view of each man's life that was structured around those occupational turning points and sometimes these did not correlate with medical markers. On reflection, this process challenges what it means to adopt an occupational perspective; it is more than a concern with what people do and how they make sense of their experiences of occupational engagement, but it is, rather unhelpfully, subtle and difficult to articulate.

Munier, Veronique; Pierce, Doris

Difference in Interactions With the Home Environment Between Extremely-Low Birth-Weight and Typical Infants and Toddlers

The establishment of a science has created a space for a rigorous understanding of the foundations of occupation. Childhood ways of doing provide a developmental base for later forms of occupational engagement. In particular, the early development of tool use and space use are central to our understanding of these forms. Children with or without disabilities develop patterns of object and space interactions that support future mastery. This paper communicates the findings of an original study whose purpose was to compare typically developing infants and toddlers with extremely-low-birth-weight and toddlers (1000 grams or less) in terms of their use of the home space and objects.

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This comparison is built on the theoretical description elaborated by Pierce (1996, 2001) in an original study of 18 dyads of Caucasian infants and their mothers over the first 18 months of their life in the home environment. This primary sample consisted of equal numbers of male and female infants, spread evenly across socioeconomic levels. The sample of 3 extremely-low-birth-weight infants and their mothers was recruited without restriction concerning socioeconomic levels or maternal factors and were observed at 4, 6, 8 and 10 months of age. Both groups were videotaped at home in naturally-occurring situations and with typical objects. A grounded theory analysis (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Cutcliffe, 2000) was used to describe differences between the sample of extremely-low-birth-weight infants and typically developing infants. Findings will include a description of differences within two primary perspectives: Environment (features of objects and space) including the categories of infant devices, household objects, properties of objects, object groupings, barriers, surfaces, medical devices, and Interactions (infants' engagement with space and objects) including emergence of gaze and visual play, space use, ranging and mapping of the home space, stationary object play, mobile object play. This study suggests important aspects of infants' engagement in the modern physical environment.

Park, Melissa

Making a Home in the World: What's at Stake in Reframing a Language for Evidence

The relationship between the discipline of occupational science and the practice of occupational therapy has been marked by bouts of controversy, as well as ambiguity. Further, in a historical context increasingly concerned with the just distribution – and this effectiveness – of health care, what constitutes the best evidence for evidence-based practice is critical to (1) practice viability in general (Jensen & Mooney, 1990, Ottenbacher, Tickle Degnen & Hasselkus, 2002), and (2) the design of interventions for lifetime conditions, such as autism spectrum disorders, in specific (Lord et al, 2005). In a climate that appears to favor behavioral or performance health-related measurements of biomedicine, what is at stake in utilizing occupational science research that foregrounds experience in relation to evidence-based practice? Based on an ethnography of therapist-children with autism interaction in an occupational therapy clinic using a sensory integrative framework, this paper proposes that what is at stake is: (1) the provision of a language of evidence that is consistent with the practice profession's values in individual agency, experience, and action as opposed to biomedical measurements of behavioral or performance components as health outcomes, and (2) the excavation of the particularly narrative practices of action (Mattingly, 1998, 2004), where therapists engage clients in the creation of

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significant experiences central to healing (Marringly, 2000; Mattingly & Lawlor, 2001). This paper proposes that “making a home in the world” through one’s own actions (Reilly, 1962), and with others (M. Jackson, 1998) provides a language to frame the efficacy of occupational therapy practice that includes the underground social and symbolic work being done to create – and inhabit, if only for fleeting moments – possible homes in the world where one’s presence matters. Building on practitioner feedback and questions raised from previous presentations of this data, this presentation further suggest that evidence of “making a home in the world,” is of particular relevance for sensory integration framework outcomes which can frame treatment efficacy beyond discrete sensory-motor or social skills to the heart of the problem: Just exactly how does one make a home-carry a certain weight-in the world with others?

Pizur-Barnekow, Kris; Jacques, Noralyn Davel

Co-Occupation: Conceptualizing Models to Advance Thinking and Knowledge

The purpose of this paper is to advance knowledge about co-occupation. We will present conceptual models that provide a way of thinking about co-occupation and define aspects of co-occupation including shared physicality, emotionality and intentionality. We will conclude with a discussion about how co-occupation is embedded in meaning and may be seen as process or as an outcome. Occupational scientists accept the premise that humans are occupational in nature. This defines our scope of practice in occupational therapy and suggests a research agenda in occupational science. However we challenge this basic premise. Are we simply occupational beings or more so are we co-occupational beings? Humans are born as co-occupational beings. That is much of our survival depends upon mutual interaction with others. This mutual interdependence continues throughout the lifespan. Therefore the axiom guiding our thinking is that humans are co-occupational in nature. Co-occupations are social occupations that necessitate involvement of more than one person; both individuals must be active participants (Zemke & Clark, 1996; Pierce, 2003). Pierce (2003) extended Zemke and Clark’s conceptualization by stating that an individual’s response directly influences the response of another individual during co-occupational performance. Furthermore, Pierce classified co-occupation as a sub-category under the sociocultural dimension of occupation. This prior work provides a foundation for the study of co-occupation; however specific aspects or dimensions that compose co-occupations have not been identified. In this paper we will (1) define three aspects of co-occupation including shared physicality, emotionality and intentionality, (2) discuss the meaning of co-occupation as process and outcome. Participants attending this session will be introduced to

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novel conceptual models that may extend their thinking in regard to co-occupation.

Price, Pollie

How Occupation Emerges in the Practices of Experienced Occupational Therapists

Occupation has reemerged as the central heuristic for occupational therapy practice (AOTA, 2002). However, there is currently little agreement on a definition of occupation-based practice. Some scholars have theorized that occupation-based practice occurs when therapists provide intervention in the individual's natural context, using the individual's occupations as therapeutic interventions (Fidler, 2000; Hocking, 2001; Pierce, 2003). Other scholars have empirically demonstrated that powerful occupational outcomes have been achieved by employing a variety of procedures and activities in a variety of contexts throughout the therapy process (Gray, 1998; Jackson, 1998; Jackson et al., 1998; Price, 2003, 2005). Despite these studies, there is very little published research evidence that examines occupation as it emerges within and over the course of intervention. The author will present data and emerging interpretations from a continuation study (Price, 2003) of the practices of experienced occupational therapists that are nominated as and self-espoused to practice from an occupation-based perspective. Data were collected through in-depth observations of four therapists and eight clients working together over the course of service, semi-structured interviews with the therapists before and after the observation, and interviews with the clients and/or family members. Narrative micro-analysis (Mattingly, 1998) was employed to consider approaches, processes and features that illuminate occupation as an idea within and across cases. Some key aspects that have emerged from the data so far include: collaboration in goal setting and intervention planning, therapeutic strategies (therapeutic use of self), such as doing with, to promote competence in occupational engagement and adaptation to life situation, and promoting social participation. In order to develop a more complex, empirically grounded model of occupation-based practice, important aspects of occupation-based practice and how they are implemented across settings and populations need to be identified. This paper promises to elicit a lively discussion from the participants regarding the place of this type of research within the Society for the Study of Occupation, as well as what constitutes occupation-based practice, by asking, "Is there a place for occupation in occupational therapy practice? Is occupation in practice a concrete intervention form, or is something more complex, such as a process of becoming?"

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Reed, K.L.; Peloquin, Suzanne; Peters, Christine

Sources of Values and Beliefs in Occupational Therapy

This presentation is the outcome of a charge from the AOTA Representative Assembly in 2005 to better identify and verify the historical sources of influential values and beliefs related to occupational therapy. Although the value of occupation has been written about for over 100 years few scholars or practitioners can readily articulate the initial influences, beliefs, and values that lead to the use of occupation as a therapeutic/health/life organizing concept and occupational therapy as a profession. Instead many therapists seem to believe that both “sprang forth” in 1997 with NSPOT or originated with Adolf Meyer, both inaccurate. Accurate knowledge of one’s professional roots is as useful as knowledge of one’s personal roots. While personal roots can be traced by identifying ones ancestors, professions usually are traced to an identified knowledge base or specific technology (Maxwell & Maxwell, 1984). The Maxwells suggest that the concept and profession followed a unique path that drew on multiple sources of existing knowledge and technology to address social, health, economic and political problems of the early 20th century. Guided by the Maxwell’s insight and the historical method of Lucery (1984) a list of possible influences was developed and documented. Based on the documentation, values and beliefs were compiled from published sources. Occupational therapy’s atypical beginning arose in part from attempts to salvage humans from the ravages of disorders (mental), disability (rheumatism), disease, and/or injury to gain or regain role and status in the community as productive contributing citizens. Work, idleness, and occupation were key concepts leading to the recognition of occupational therapy as a discipline. This knowledge of our heritage enables us to better understand, explain, and study the concept of occupation and profession of occupational therapy as entities dedicated to helping people to “take back” their sense of self control over their lives, to “come back” from disorder, disability, disease and injury, and to “get back” into the mainstream of life.

Rudman, Debbie Laliberte

Working Retirees?: Potential Occupational Implications of the Contemporary Re-Structuring of Retirement

Retirement, as a social constructed phase of the life course, is being re-structured in ways that impact on occupational choice, occupational identity and occupational justice. Considerable public debate, policy attention, and scholarly attention are being focused, internationally, on how retirement should be re-configured in light of demographic, economic and political changes. Since the late 1960s, retirement, within several Western countries, has shifted away from

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being a defined event, particularly for men, when work ended near age 65 and a public pension began. Several factors, such as state retreat from publicly-funded pension programs, repeals of mandatory retirement legislation, and shifts in media constructions of retirement, have contributed to retirement becoming an increasingly ambiguous, diverse and individualized process, less clearly tied to age or pension eligibility. More recently, policy and media texts in several countries have emphasized ‘productive aging’, which involves continued involvement as ‘working retirees’ in the formal labour force. Increasingly, individuals can no longer take the meaning or timing of retirement for granted, but must face the question of: as a retiree what will I do and be? This paper critically reviews transformations in the structure of retirement, and raises questions regarding potential implications for the management and experience of occupation at individual and societal levels. As this re-structuring is occurring, occupational scientists have important roles to play in conducting research and advocacy work to ensure retirement is transformed in ways that support the occupational potential of aging individuals and promote occupational justice.

Rudman, Debbie Laliberte; Linger, Lisa; Huot, Suzanne; Leipert, Beverley D.
Shrinking Spaces and Occupational Options: The Experiences of Older Adults With Low Vision Living in Urban and Rural Settings

Older adults are the fastest growing segment of individuals with visual impairments in industrialized countries. Among the older adult population, low vision, that is a degree of vision impairment that cannot be corrected with standard eyeglasses, becomes more prevalent and is more likely to be untreated with increasing age. Although previous research suggests low vision negatively impacts on older adults’ quality of life, health status and activities of daily living, there has been little research focused on understanding older adults’ perspectives of vision loss in terms of how occupations are experienced and managed. Results from a phenomenological study examining the experience of 40 adults aged 70 and older who have low vision and who have not accessed specialized low vision services will be presented. The following research questions will be address: how is occupation experienced by older adults with low vision; how do older adults adapt their occupations as their vision deteriorates; and how do older adults describe their experiences of occupational change and adaptation? Data was collected through the use of two semi-structured qualitative interviews per informant, with 20 informants residing in urban settings and 20 residing in rural settings. Findings derived from inductive analysis involving analysts from four different disciplinary backgrounds relate to four major inter-related aspects of the experience of living with low vision: shrinking physical and social life space;

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shrinking occupational options and competence; letting go or adapting occupation; and shifting outlooks on vision and occupational changes. Findings highlight the impact of low vision on basic occupations, such as reading and community mobility, which, in turn, impacts on participation in more complex occupations. As well, it was apparent that despite employing a range of adaptive strategies to accomplish necessary occupations, informants had given up participation in many personally important occupations, particularly those occurring outside the home environment, and had resigned themselves to these losses. Implications for our understanding of occupational adaptation and contemporary stress on independence and an individualized conceptualization of occupational adaptation will be discussed.

Sullivan, Catherine; Gupta, Jyothi; Padilla, Rene; Smith, Yda

Global Studies: Occupational Science and the Understanding of Immigration

This panel will present the process and significance of conducting research with immigrants using Occupational Science perspectives. While a number of disciplines have studied immigrants' adaptation process, the use of occupational science perspectives in understanding the various aspects of daily life impacted by immigration is still in its infancy. There are few studies that give insight into the particular methodological, practical, and ethical challenges encountered when studying immigrants' experiences. Given the increasing number of immigrants and refugees across the globe, it is essential that their context and experience be better understood through research processes that can respectfully capture the nuances of individual and shared experience, often within contexts in which participants feel unsafe and vulnerable. Panelist will discuss the methodological complexities and significance of research studies they have conducted with this population. Outline of Plan for the Session: As panelists who have been conducting research with immigrants for the past few years, each of us will use examples from our studies to illustrate the value of viewing the immigrants as "occupational beings" when trying to understand the impact of this major life transition on their everyday lives, health and well-being, and focusing on the rewards and challenges of the research process. We also will present our vision for the significance of such research not only for health professionals involved in the care of immigrants but also for other players at the system's level.

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Suto, Melinda

Occupational Disruption and Resumption: Leisure Experiences of ‘Immigrant Women’

Understanding leisure as an occupation requires an examination of leisure definitions, the various contexts and conditions that support or impede leisure, and meanings that arise from leisure participation. Social scientists who contribute to leisure studies conceptualize leisure as time, activity, context, and subjective experience and their research focuses on one or more of these features. The analytic lenses that scientists use to study leisure range from the personal and psychological to broader sociological perspectives that encompass cultural, economic and institutional phenomena and reveal the complexity of leisure. The conceptual and practical problems of leisure occupations are raised through the present research question: How does the process of resettlement in Canada influence the ways in which women understand and participate in leisure? Ethnographic, feminist and critical theory traditions formed the methodological underpinnings of this qualitative research, and guided analytic and ethical decisions. In-depth interviewing, conducted in English, was the main data collection method. Interview questions created a comprehensive picture of daily and weekly occupations. The recruitment of participants occurred primarily through community resettlement programs. The purposeful sample comprised 14 highly-educated women from nine countries who were married and had children living at home. Participants' ages ranged from 31 – 56 years old and prior to immigration they had careers as teachers, engineers, psychologists, systems analysts, social workers, and designers. Thematic analysis revealed that social, material and temporal circumstances influenced disruptions to leisure and helped explain situations in which leisure occupations resumed. Diminished time and social support, career changes and gendered domestic activities all contributed to women's understanding and participation in leisure. One theme, *Orchestrating the Day*, revealed how the process of resettlement changed the activities and time spent in mothering and homemaking roles, leaving fewer opportunities for leisure. Another theme, *Socializing is the Key to Leisure*, provided an explanation of participants' resistance to disruption in their leisure occupations, and identified opportunities to resume or recreate new leisure occupations. These findings highlight the importance of studying not only the meaning that individuals attach to self-defined leisure but also how environmental influences shape participation in leisure occupations.

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Wakeford, Linn; Ideishi, Roger; Olson, Judith; Kern, Petra

Outdoor Play: Occupation in Context

Research indicates that playgrounds and other outdoor environments offer children important opportunities for play, learning and social participation that differ from those offered by indoor environments (DeBord, Hestenes, Moore, Cosco, & McGinnis, 2002; Nabors, Willoughby, & McManamin, 2001). In addition, inclusion, group membership and meaningful participation are all challenges presented when the playground environment and activities do not match the abilities and interests of the child, resulting in a need for significant levels of adult support (Nabors & Badawi, 1997; Nabors, et al., 2001). In order for children experiencing any barriers to participation in outdoor play to benefit from these environments, we must acknowledge and understand the complexities of outdoor play as a key childhood occupation. This panel presentation is designed to examine the cultural, physical, social and temporal affordances and constraints presented in outdoor play contexts, and, both directly and indirectly, the role of the adult as co-constructor of the occupation. The primary goals of the presentation are (1) to explore ways in which research, theoretical perspectives and organized approaches to therapeutic intervention, on both individual and population levels, can be integrated to form a better understanding of outdoor play as an important childhood occupation, and (2) to generate discussion that will contribute to our understanding of how occupation and social participation emerge in playground settings.

Wright, C.; Vergamini, Laura; Taylor, Brandon; Kruer, Meredith

Bullying as Occupational Deprivation: A Pilot Study With GLBT Youth in Louisville, Kentucky

An interpretive phenomenological study exploring bullying and occupational deprivation is currently underway with participants from the Louisville Youth Group in Louisville, Kentucky. The Louisville Youth Group (LYG) is a community grassroots organization that helps and supports young people by providing resources and a safe social atmosphere for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning (GLBTQ) and supporting young people under 21. As a community, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people are marginalized in the United States and are often victims of violent acts. The detrimental physical and psychological effects of violent acts committed among heterosexual youth have been noted in the medical, psychological, sociological, social work and education literature. However, very few articles focus on violence and GLBTQ youth and none of the literature on youth violence has explored bullying from an occupational deprivation point of view. Therefore, the purpose of the study is to begin to explore the concept of occupational deprivation

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among gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. More specifically, the focus of the study is on the effects of bullying and occupational deprivation. Bullying is being defined as any emotional, psychological, verbal, or physical form of external violence perpetrated by another person the a priori assumption of the investigators is that the experience of an external force of violence creates the potential for occupational deprivation. The key to the investigation is to begin to identify, through the lived experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth, what forms or kinds of occupational deprivation occurs as a result of bullying. Participant interviews will be completed on May 19, 2006 and May 26, 2006 with subsequent analysis of initial results to be completed by July 15, 2006. Discussion of the results and implications for the study will take place at the SSO conference.

Yeager, Jenna

Mixed Method Investigation of Occupations of Undergraduate College Students

This paper will describe a study conducted to investigate the nature of occupational engagement of undergraduate students at a metropolitan university. This research utilized a mixed method approach including qualitative focus groups and an activities assessment designed for this research. The Activities Assessment was adapted from an existing tool and was designed to gather data regarding the occupations in which college undergraduates participated on a typical weekday and weekend day. A total of 112 undergraduates completed the survey. Participants were recruited from 4 campus groups, including a fraternity (N=6), sorority (N=53), general education class (N=15), and a non-denominational Christian group (N=28). Following survey completion in each campus group, participants were recruited for a follow-up focus group discussion. A total of 15 participants were involved in the focus group data collection, also representing the campus groups including the fraternity (N=14), sorority (N=11), general education class (N=7), and the non-denominational Christian group (N=?). Focus group questions were designed to gather perspectives of the participants regarding satisfaction with occupational patterns and to identify the factors that affected patterns of activity in this setting. Analysis of qualitative data via constant comparative line-by-line analysis revealed these including: participant perceived lack of control over time used; participant perceived roles and behaviors associated with status as an undergraduate, routinized time use and habits, and the priorities and values impacting choice of occupations. Descriptive statistics regarding the patterns of occupational engagement were generated from survey data and quantitative data analysis included an analysis of variance among campus groups. Results revealed significant differences among campus groups in terms of time spent engaged in various occupations. Accordingly, significant

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differences were found among groups in terms of time spent in social activities, family activities, spiritual activities and substance use. Discussion of this research study will include the significance of engagement in various occupations in terms of health habits for college undergraduates relative to the Healthy Campus 2010 initiative. Additionally, discussion will occur regarding the availability of methodologies for assessment of occupational engagement for different populations.

Discussants: Zemke, Ruth; Frank, Gelya; Perkinson, Margaret
Occupation on the Edge: Occupational Science in Dialogue With Anthropology and Occupational Therapy, Parts I, II, III

Occupational science is ready for wider dialogue with applied anthropologists, other practice disciplines, and its related profession, occupational therapy, concerning its distinctive conceptualization of and research on meaningful occupation, a vital component of individual and community health and well-being. Perspectives from practicing anthropologists and occupational therapists in turn, can be productive in addressing issues concerning the circulation and application of occupational science knowledge. Three panels organized by Gelya Frank and Ruth Zemke were involved in dialogue among occupational scientists, occupational therapists and anthropologists at the Society for Applied Anthropology/Society for Medical Anthropology conference in Vancouver, Canada, in April 2006. The dialogue continues here with papers presented acknowledging the interchange that has occurred and that which is possible through these interdisciplinary relationships. Discussants from anthropology will comment on the papers. The interdisciplinary audience then will be invited to join in the dialogue.

Panel 1 – Paper 1

Frank, Gelya; Zemke, Ruth

Occupational science has academic programs at the bachelor's and graduate levels and has become a leading framework for academic programs in the profession of occupational therapy in the United States and around the world. It focuses on a distinctive conceptualization of "personally and culturally meaningful occupation" as a previously neglected but necessary component of health and well-being. This paper by two of the discipline's founders, an anthropologist and occupational therapist, examines some of the political, ideological, scholarly, and professional issues leading to the emergence of this discipline and some of the challenges it now faces.

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Panel 1 – Paper 2

Wood, Wendy; Womack, Jenny

Adults diagnosed with a dementing illness commonly encounter a pessimistic and disempowering culture of care. Case study research in occupational science suggests this cultural pessimism invites another tragedy beyond the stigma of the diagnosis it self: lives of occupational deprivation. This research illustrates the costs of occupational therapists' absence from dementia care and also how practitioners could enrich the occupational fabric of persons' everyday lives. More comprehensive approaches are needed, however. All alliance among anthropologists, occupational scientists and therapists could help to eliminate cultural barriers that obstruct experiences of meaning and purpose in the daily lives of people with advanced dementias.

Panel 1 – Paper 3

Dickie, Virginia

Women make quilts to “do something” when troubled by personal tragedies and world events. Well-known examples include the AIDS quilt, the commemorative quilts after September 11, the “flood quilts” after North Carolina hurricanes, and the comfort quilts with parents' pictures for children whose parents have been deployed to the Middle East. Women also quilt for family and friends. The quilt metaphor defines a discourse that appears to transcend political, national, and socioeconomic differences, allowing women to engage in the world creatively, based on doing and caring.

Panel 2 – Paper 1

Blanche, Erna Imperatore; Edwards, Bryant

There is a growing interest and need for Latin American programs in occupational therapy import concepts from occupational science, a discipline founded in the United States. Some concepts appear to have a universal applicability for the profession's response to needs of individuals and communities. Yet the programs must also respect their socio-cultural identity and reject specific aspects of the occupational science approach that do not fit regional and local realities. This process will be discussed as observed in Chile, and other countries in South America, taking a perspective that depending on the issue will be bicultural, dichotic or complementary.

Panel 2 – Paper 2

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Block, Pamela; Buckovinsky, Dawn; Keltz, Lauren; Dour, Melissa; Moskowitz, Laura

Project Shake It Up, a federally funded rehabilitation research project, explores notions of independent living and capacity building among adults with spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis and related disabilities. Anthropology, disability studies and occupational therapy use different discourses to conceptualize autonomy and relations of power for disabled individuals. Ethnographic interviews and other qualitative data from Project Shake It Up will be used to consider anthropological conceptualizations of power and agency, disability studies notions of independent living and empowerment and occupational therapy concepts of functional ability, life satisfaction, and capacity building.

Panel 2 – Paper 3
Lawlor, Mary C.

Some therapeutic practices and occupational therapy in particular, demand forms of engagement that promote healing following illness, disability, and/or trauma. Qualities of engagement in therapeutic practices will be analyzed in terms of the interrelatedness of the social actors and the investment in the *doing* of occupations, the participation in living and learning in everyday life. Interpretive examples will be provided from an interdisciplinary, longitudinal, urban, ethnographic study of a cohort of African American children, their families, and practitioners who serve them and their engagement in healthcare encounters.

Panel 3 – Paper 1
Lysack, Cathy

How are the most sought after end-points of rehabilitation like community participation and social integration achieved for individuals least able to mobilize the social and material resources needed for health? Drawing on research with spinal cord injured adults, this presentation asks provocative questions about the obligations and means by which occupational science and occupational therapy respond to the persistence of social inequalities that characterize the lives of persons with spinal cord injuries, particularly visible minorities and the poor. The presentation explores anthropology's contributions to understanding inclusion and exclusion and examines the role of "meaningful occupations" in facilitating community participation after spinal cord injury.

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Abstracts for Accepted Papers

Panel 3 – Paper 2

Bagatell, Nancy

This paper will explore how clinical issues in occupational therapy lead to questions regarding the nature of occupation, the focus of occupational science. Because of the inextricable link between culture and occupation, anthropological methods and anthropological theories often inform qualitative research studies in occupational therapy. Drawing from an ethnographic study of adults with high functioning autism, the goodness of fit and the points of intersection between anthropology and occupational science will be explored. Examples show how anthropological theories enrich our understanding of the lives of a population where culture and occupation have until recently, been largely ignored.

Panel 3 – Paper 3

Schultz, Sally

Jean Cole Spencer was an anthropologist, occupational therapist and occupational scientist in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Texas Women's University. Her evolution spanned 30 years of scholarly contributions and forged important interdisciplinary linkages. These linkages and possible tensions between occupational therapy, occupational science and anthropology will be explored as evidenced in her writing and research. The broader challenges and benefits of bringing anthropology and occupational therapy together professionally and their possible effects on the emerging discipline of occupational science will also be examined.