

# *Everyday life: living and doing in a changing society*

## Occupational Science Europe Online Conference 2021

17th November 2021 (12.50 pm - 6.10 pm CET)



We invite you to this dialogue for an inclusive and democratic Occupational Science.

- Students, researchers, practitioners, and interested individuals from different backgrounds are invited!
- The conference is free of charge.
- The link for registration is [here](#).

Organizing Committee: OSE Board

**Welcome!**

**Bienvenue!**

**¡Bienvenido!**

**Willkommen!**

**Bem-vindo!**

## OSE Conference 2021

<https://os-europe.org>

[oseconference2021@gmail.com](mailto:oseconference2021@gmail.com)





# Virtual OSE Conference Programme

Wednesday, 17th November 2021

12.50 pm	Waiting room				
1.00 pm	Opening Ceremony				
1.10 pm	<b>Keynote 1: “A Theoretical Montage for Social Transformation”</b> International Social Transformation Through Occupation Network (ISTTON)				
1.35 pm	Change to Breakout Rooms				
1.45 pm	Panel-Sessions				
	<b><u>Dialogue 1</u></b>  <b>What factors can influence the out-of-home participation of older adults with dementia?</b>  Pascale Heins, Camilla Malinowsky, Louise Nygard & Anna Brorsson	<b><u>Dialogue 2</u></b>  <b>Issues of care and the absence of occupation</b>  Michelle Elliot & Kevin Browne-Macleod	<b><u>Dialogue 3</u></b>  <b>Toward transdisciplinary practices: Linking occupation and communication</b>  Kristen Abrahamas & Mellisa Franckle	<b><u>Dialogue 4</u></b>  <b>An exploration of the perception of play as an occupation in adulthood: How do adults play?</b>  Mia Angelos	<b><u>Dialogue 5</u></b>  <b>One screen, one room, many places, many people: Reflections of university based occupational therapy practice educators on supervising student tele-health placements and how working and doing has changed for the supervisor.</b>  Patrick Hynes, Fiona McDonald, Tanya McGarry, Katie Holly, Jordan Balfry & Fiona Ryan
	<b>The added value of intersectionality in caregiving research</b>  Aldiene H Hengelaar, Yvette Wittenberg, Rick Kwekkeboom, Margo van Hartingsveldt & Petra Verdonk	<b>An exploration of how the theory of Occupational Science translates into practice with children and young people within the youth justice system</b>  Toks Odutayo	<b>Interdisciplinary project development for social transformation through occupations in social work: A pilot training</b>  Sophie Albuquerque & Anny Pilar	<b>Occupational right for play, engagement and the autistic child</b>  Symeon Batzios & Agapi Tzougkaraki	<b>The occupation of being a student in a pandemic: The importance of belonging and connectedness to people and places.</b>  Angela Payne
2.30 pm	☕ Coffee Break and change to Breakout Rooms				
2.45 pm	Panel—Sessions: Language Groups				
	<b>Language Session 1—Español</b>  <b>Desafíos y oportunidades de una ciencia ocupacional en español: un diálogo pendiente .</b>  Natalia Rivas-Quarneti	<b>Language Session 2—Français</b>  <b>Vers des occupations intégrales soutenables : transition personnelle, transformation sociale?</b>  Denis Pouliot-Morneau	<b>Language Session 3—Deutsch</b>  <b>Occupational Science im deutschsprachigen Raum – Wo stehen wir im Jahr 2031?</b>  Silke Dennhardt, Ulrike Marotzki, Katharina Röse & Sandra Schiller	<b>Language Session 4—Português</b>  <b>Ciência ocupacional e lusofonia: vamos conversar sobre isso?</b>  Lilian Magalhaes & Sílvia Coelho Martins	<b>Language Session 5—English</b>  <b>From knowledge gaps that need to be addressed in occupational science to knowledge gaps that need to be addressed with occupational science: Come and discuss</b>  Tanja Krizaj & Eric Asaba

# Virtual OSE Conference Programme

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**3.30 pm** ☕ Coffee Break

**3.55 pm** **Keynote 2: “P4Play: Playing with Occupational Science”.**  
Prof. Jeanne Jackson & Dr. Helen Lynch (P4PLAY)

**4.20 pm** **Change to breakout rooms**

**4.30 pm** **Panel-Session**

<u>Dialogue 1</u>	<u>Dialogue 2</u>	<u>Dialogue 3</u>	<u>Dialogue 4</u>
<b>Can activism be considered an occupation for political expression and social transformation?</b> Christina Müllenmeister & Lisette Farias	<b>The Impact of a Sensory Garden on University Students Living and Doing</b> Janet Bucey, Theresa Delbert & Kasey Stepany	<b>The role of occupation in the disproportionate impact of CoVID-19 for vulnerable groups.</b> Claire Hart	<b>Play in digital spaces</b> Fiona Loudon, Bryan Boyle & Maria Larsson-Lund
<b>Are we really all in this together? Pandemic, Brexit, and the dislocation from ‘normal’</b> Michelle Elliot	<b>The experience of sleep as an occupation by Dutch adults: A descriptive phenomenological study</b> Robert David van der Veen, Staffan Josephson & Ton Satink	<b>“Who is safe at work?”: Problematizing employment volatility during 2008-2014 Spanish socioeconomic crisis</b> Natalia Rivas-Quarneti, Olalla Vilar-Filgueira & Silvia Veiga-Seijo	<b>Here and There: Exploring 'telepresence' as a virtual means of living and doing everyday life - Implications for Occupational Science</b> Tina McGrath

**5.15 pm** ☕ Coffee Break

**5.30 pm** **General Assembly**

**5.40 pm** **Keynote 3: “Occupational Science Research in European contexts”**  
Janice Jones & Steve Whitcombe (Occupational Science Europe Research Group)

**6.00 pm** **Introduction to the 2023 OSE Conference (Odense) and Goodbye**

**6.10 pm** **End**

## We invite you to this dialogue for an inclusive and democratic Occupational Science!

- Students, researchers, practitioners, and interested individuals from different backgrounds are invited.
- We look forward to participants from diverse practical fields and scientific areas such as social sciences, humanities, arts, architecture, technical sciences, and occupational science to name a view
- The conference is free of charge.

### Organizing Committee: OSE Board



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**Acknowledgments** to the support of members of Social Media Committee: Maria Alonso-Ferreira, Alba García Fariña & Marta Canabal López.

## Keynote 1

Time: 1.10 pm

### A Theoretical Montage for Social Transformation

#### INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH OCCUPATION NETWORK (ISTTON)

Debbie Laliberte Rudman, Sandra Schiller, Sarah Kantartzis, Ryan Lavalley, Nick Pollard,  
Hanneke Van Bruggen



#### Abstract

Moving forward in conceptualizing and enacting social transformation through occupation challenges occupational scientists to engage with and integrate social theories. This presentation will consider the plurality of theoretical perspectives that are currently being employed by members of the International Social Transformation through Occupation Network (ISTTON) to explore, articulate, and implement work around social transformation through occupation. We will highlight epistemological stances from varying cultural and political contexts and their influence and particularities in mobilizing occupation as a tool for social transformation. To do this we have invited a number of our members to share with us a short overview of some of the perspectives that they have employed in their own work around social transformation:

- Latin American Collective Health ground for occupational therapy practice. A dialectical historical materialistic approach. Introduced by Dr Aline Godoy-Vieira
- Transaction and Pragmatism. Introduced by Dr Ryan Lavalley
- Social Economy and Solidarity Economy. Introduced by Dr Salvador Simó
- Social Theories. Introduced by Dr Nick Pollard

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These videos are the start of building a theoretical montage, seeking to compare and contrast relevant theoretical possibilities. They also reveal the enriching nature of multi-theoretical dialogue within the network. We believe continuation of this dialogue supports nuanced and contextualized approaches to social transformation through an occupational lens.

## Panel-Session 1

Time: 1.45 pm

### Dialogue 1 Facilitator: Karin Lettner-Hauser

#### **What factors can influence the out-of-home participation of older adults with dementia?**

**MALINOWSKY, LOUISE NYGARD, ANNA BRORSSON<sup>4</sup>**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/1DTD8b2WsmE>

#### **The added value of intersectionality in caregiving research.**

**ALDIENE H HENGELAAR, YVETTE WITTENBERG, RICK KWEKKEBOOM, MARGO VAN HARTINGSVELDT, PETRA VERDONK**

Abstract

**Aim:** Caregivers share common experiences in providing care to someone with health and/or social needs but at the same time, their experiences differ across diverse backgrounds such as gender, age, culture, disability, as these aspects of diversity co-shape these experiences. This study aimed to explore how aspects of diversity are currently incorporated in caregiving research and discusses how an intersectional perspective can further develop our understanding of informal care. **Method:** A scoping review was performed to map relevant caregiving literature from an intersectional perspective. **Results:** Aspects of diversity are largely understudied in caregiving research. This intersectional informed analysis revealed that when studying diverse caregiving experiences the use of intersections of dimensions of diversity provides a nuanced understanding of these experiences. Adopting an intersectional perspective ensures that not only different categories or social identities of caregivers are included

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in future studies, but that the mutual relationships between these categories embedded in their specific contexts are actually studied.

Keywords

Informal care, intersectionality, diversity, scoping review



Dialogue 2  
Facilitator: Sandra Schiller

**Issues of care and the absence of occupation.**

**MICHELLE ELLIOT, KEVIN BROWNE-MACLEOD**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/9hq-rIJHkkA>

**An exploration of how the theory of Occupational Science translates into practice with children and young people within the youth justice system.**

**TOKS ODUTAYO**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/AtrpoP9Y1dk>

Dialogue 3  
Facilitator: Toril Beate Røssvoll

**Toward transdisciplinary practices: Linking occupation and communication.**

**KRISTEN ABRAHAMAS, MELLISA FRANCKLE**

*Abstract*

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic created opportunities to reimagine practices. As occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists this context facilitated a coming together to rethink how our work in communities to contribute meaningfully to social inclusion. The complexity of the challenges faced in the community were far beyond the scope of our individual professions. We understood that in order to develop more contextually relevant practices that address social inequalities, we needed to transcend our disciplinary boundaries. Through continuous dialogues across the professions, the intimate link between occupation and communication (which forms the core of our respective work) became apparent. This learning became the guiding principle that allowed us to explore a partnership that transcended our traditional interdisciplinary practices. We share a case example from a community development practice in South Africa which opened up spaces for questioning and reimagining our practices and what necessitated a shift toward transdisciplinarity. We question: what needs to be considered by our professions when the core of our work is so integrated, yet we teach, learn and practice in isolation?

*Keywords*

Transdisciplinarity, occupation, communication

**Interdisciplinary project development for social transformation through occupations in social work: A pilot training.**

**SOPHIE ALBUQUERQUE, ANNY PILAR**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/pvmzWd1gEbo>

Dialogue 4  
Facilitator: Sussanne Assander

**An exploration of the perception of play as an occupation in adulthood:  
How do adults play?**

**MIA ANGELOS**

Msc Occupational Therapy (Pre-Reg), University of Plymouth, United Kingdom

**Abstract**

With children, play has been defined as a fundamental tool of development that reveals positive impacts on a child's well-being. At present, there's minimal research addressing play in adulthood – however, this is an emerging topic. The aim of this study explored adults' perceptions of play – achieved through an occupational science approach with investigating the form, function and meaning of adult play as an occupation. This was accomplished using descriptive phenomenological-based semi-structured interviews involving graphic elicitation with seven University of Plymouth students. This study revealed eight themes that suggest adults redefine play, participate in play activities whilst also approaching activities playfully, yet struggle to accept play due to societal pressures, norms and available time. Therefore, they excuse and reframe activities and spaces to make play more acceptable by using terms such as leisure or playing with children. This study revealed a plethora of meanings adults attach to play and that Covid-19 highlighted the importance of play.

## **Occupational right for play, engagement and the autistic child.**

**SYMEON BATZIOS, AGAPI TZOUGKARAK**

### **Abstract**

In a neurodiverse world, the autistic child often displays unique ways of participating and enjoying everyday life. Special interests, sensory exploring movements and passion for details are just some examples that describe how an autistic child can engage in play occupations. Personal meaning, choice, and motivation are important aspects of occupational engagement, which describes a high level of involvement in meaningful occupations. However, these play manifestations, that allow an authentic, child-driven occupational experience, can contradict with how the dominant Western society is viewing occupations and play.

From our clinical practice in Greece, we have seen that families and professionals usually view play as a productivity tool, that reflects the adult perspectives of being and surviving in the modern, capitalist society. When targeting play in therapy, we fail to be responsive to the child's way and preferences to engage in play.

### **Keywords**

Occupational right, occupational engagement, autism



Dialogue 5  
Facilitator: Julia Unger

**One screen, one room, many places, many people: Reflections of university based occupational therapy practice educators on supervising student telehealth placements and how working and doing has changed for the supervisor.**

**PATRICK HYNES, FIONA MCDONALD, TANYA MCGARRY, KATIE HOLLY, JORDAN BALFRY, FIONA RYAN**

*Abstract*

Changes and challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic are gaining rapid attention worldwide, with a range of emerging commentaries on the impact of people's occupational identities and lives. At the University of Limerick, Ireland, the occupational therapy Practice Education (PE) team faced many changes in supporting and supervising students on practice education placements with the onset of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Doing your occupations in a changed society:

Being responsive to student needs, university requirements, and state regulatory requirements, the PE team embarked on a new way of working by creating a telehealth placement. Resultant from that, occupational changes included changes to occupational therapy student supervision; changes to how the supervisor built rapport and relationships with the students; changes to how the supervisor monitored and determined student competencies; and how being situated in one place but connecting with many was possible. Switching between students and clients, without leaving their room and screen, ignited a certain intensity for the supervisors.

Conclusion:

Telehealth placements are likely to continue to feature as a part of practice education for occupational therapy students. There are many situated changes in the place, space, context and environment of how and where the supervisor work on telehealth placements.

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Keywords

Telehealth, practice education, responding to change

**The occupation of being a student in a pandemic: The importance of belonging and connectedness to people and places.**

**ANGELA PAYNE**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/gNYmGjOyU7I>

## Panel-Session: Language groupes

Time: 2.45 pm

### Language Session 1: Español

#### **Desafíos y oportunidades de una ciencia ocupacional en español: un diálogo pendiente**

**NATALIA RIVAS-QUARNETI**

##### Resumen

El desarrollo de la ciencia ocupacional en contextos de habla hispana es desigual y ha generado tanto tensiones como oportunidades para la terapia ocupacional y terapeutas ocupacionales. Afirmaciones relacionadas con la CO como: “Esto es lo que siempre hemos hecho en terapia ocupacional”; “Tengo una vaga idea de lo que es CO” o “Es algo que viene de contextos del norte” han sido escuchadas. Invitamos a toda persona interesada en CO con habla española a unirse a conversaciones sobre tensiones y oportunidades identificadas, así como a pensar deseos para el futuro.

#### **Challenges and opportunities of occupational science in Spanish: a pending conversation**

**NATALIA RIVAS-QUARNETI**

##### Abstract

The development of occupational science in Spanish speaking contexts is uneven and has generated both tensions and opportunities for occupational therapy and occupational therapists. Statements referring to OS such as: “This is what we have always done in occupational therapy”; “I have a vague idea of what OS is” or “It is something from and for the northern contexts” have been heard. We invite any person interested in OS with Spanish speaking background to join a conversation about tensions and opportunities identified, as well as their wishes for the future.

## Language Session 2: Français

### **Vers des occupations intégralement soutenables: transition personnelle, transformation sociétale?**

**DENIS POULIOT-MORNEAU**

#### Résumé

La destruction des ressources non-renouvelables, la réduction de la biodiversité et les bouleversements climatiques en cours vont engendrer des changements considérables pour les occupations humaines et la santé, tout autour du globe. Ces thématiques devraient-elles être abordées sous l'angle individuel ou collectif ? Quels sont les enjeux de cette question? Ce seront les thèmes discutés lors de cette table ronde.

### **Towards fully sustainable occupations: personal transition and/or societal transformation?**

**DENIS POULIOT-MORNEAU**

#### Abstract

The destruction of non-renewable resources, the reduction of biodiversity and the ongoing climatic upheavals will lead to considerable changes for human occupations and health, all over the world. Should these issues be addressed through an individual or collective lens? What is at stake in this issue? This will be discussed during this panel discussion.

### Language Session 3: Deutsch

#### **Occupational Science im deutschsprachigen Raum – Wo stehen wir im Jahr 2031?**

**SILKE DENNHARDT, ULRIKE MAROTZKI, KATHARINA RÖSE & SANDRA SCHILLER**

##### *Abstrakt*

In diesem Workshop werden Ideen zu einem Zukunftsszenario zum Stand der Entwicklung der OS im deutschsprachigen Raum gemeinsam gesammelt. Der Workshop findet in deutscher Sprache statt.

#### **Occupational Science in the German speaking area – Where we are in 2031?**

**SILKE DENNHARDT, ULRIKE MAROTZKI, KATHARINA RÖSE & SANDRA SCHILLER**

##### *Abstract*

The aim of the announced workshop is to generate ideas on the status of OS in the future (2031) within German-speaking countries. This workshop will be held in German.



## Language Session 4: Português

### **Ciência ocupacional e lusofonia: vamos conversar sobre isso?**

**LILIAN MAGALHAES & SÍLVIA COELHO MARTINS**

#### Resumo

Para produzir conhecimento, os cientistas ocupacionais devem considerar as realidades locais, embora reconhecendo a importância de um diálogo global. Deste modo, existem peculiaridades na formação de cientistas ocupacionais (programas educacionais) e na aplicação prática desses conhecimentos. Vamos conversar sobre a realidade e potencial dos países de língua portuguesa?

### **Occupational science and lusophony: let's talk about it?**

**LILIAN MAGALHAES & SÍLVIA COELHO MARTINS**

#### Abstract

To produce knowledge, occupational scientists must consider local realities, while recognizing the importance of a global dialogue. As such, there are peculiarities in the training of occupational scientists, (educational programs) and in the practical application of this knowledge. Let's talk about the reality and potential of Portuguese-speaking countries?

## Language Session 5: English

### **From knowledge gaps that need to be addressed in occupational science to knowledge gaps that need to be addressed with occupational science: Come and discuss**

**TANJA KRIZAJ & ERIC ASABA**

#### Abstract

Scholars from around the world have contributed, through research and education, to our understanding of human occupation. Studies have in some cases focused on occupation itself, and in other cases on applications to everyday living conditions for people across the lifespan or to rehabilitation processes. Scholars from occupational science have also engaged in how human occupation impacts the global environment and how the environment impacts on human occupation. This is far from an exhaustive set of examples, but why not take the opportunity to come discuss what priorities occupational science needs to make as we look forward. What questions do we need to pursue with other scholars within occupational science? What questions do we need to pursue with those who do not yet know of occupational science? Come share your thoughts and ideas?

## Keynote 2

Time: 3.55 pm

### **P4Play: Playing with Occupational Science!**

**PROF. JEANNE JACKSON & DR. HELEN LYNCH (P4PLAY)**



P 4 PLAY



### Abstract

The P4PLAY MSC Innovative Training Network (MSC ITN) is a European Joint Doctorate (EJD) programme in Occupational Science for Occupational Therapists. P4PLAY was established in 2020, as a collaboration between 4 academic and 15 partner organisations in Europe and the USA and was awarded funding of 2.2 million, to concurrently develop the first PhD programme in Occupational Science for Europe, and implement a cohesive research programme to explore play occupation. Overall, through this significant commitment from Horizon2020, occupational science education and research has reached a new level of possibilities for Europe and we have been provided with the means to formally introduce a new discipline to our universities. Within the context of changing society that includes educational advances, we hope to share our vision and hopes for new scholarship in Occupational Science.

## Panel-Session 2

Time: 4.30 pm

### Dialogue 1 Facilitator: Maria Kapanadze

#### **Can activism be considered an occupation for political expression and social transformation?**

**CHRISTINA MÜLLENMEISTER, LISETTE FARIAS**

##### Abstract

As a global and situated phenomenon in Europe, activism as an individual and collective activity has been used to proactively address power structures. The doing behind activism and its shaping of everyday life have scarcely been explored from an occupational perspective. Understanding activism as product of individuals doing has the potential to contribute to recent debates about the political nature of occupation and occupation-based social transformation processes. This study aims to explore people's lived experiences of engaging in activism from an occupational perspective. Data was collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews with six activists living in Germany. An interpretative phenomenological analysis was used to uncover and understand the phenomenon of activism. The findings illustrate how 'doing' activism influence participants' everyday life in diverse ways that create tensions with other people's priorities while promoting collective occupations for social transformation. The findings reveal the importance of continue exploring 'untraditional' occupations related to political expression to illuminate the potential of occupation for individual and society's transformation, as well as the situated nature of occupation within diverse socio-political contexts. It is argued that occupations can be a site for resistance, increasing collective awareness, and social responsibility.

## Are we really all in this together? Pandemic, Brexit, and the dislocation from 'normal'

MICHELLE ELLIOT

### Abstract

In the early days of the Covid-19 restrictions, the discourse from the UK government and media was that we were *all in this together*. The restrictions were applied collectively, yet the experiences and the impact of the pandemic were hardly unifying. Fractures within social systems grew. Racial tensions accelerated with Black

Lives Matter and calls for decolonisation of curriculum and practices. Amidst the pandemic year, the Brexit deadline became official. No longer was the UK *in this together* with the EU. Interestingly, everyday occupations became 'exceptional' during this period. The UK reportedly collectively baked banana bread and took up gardening and home repairs. Did the unification of restrictions bring a normalised gaze to *doing together*?

I am curious about the increasing processes of 'othering' through binary positions of access and choice: green spaces, vaccinations, 'essential' work and travel, prioritization of personal or collective responsibility, health or economy. The means by which we establish connection in between these is unclear and polarising.

### Keywords

Othering, Curiosity



Dialogue 2  
Facilitator: Miriam Berger

**The Impact of a Sensory Garden on University Students Living and Doing**

**JANET BUCEY, THERESA DELBERT, KASEY STEPANSKY**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

[https://youtu.be/PDNVJ83Ji\\_4](https://youtu.be/PDNVJ83Ji_4)

**The experience of sleep as an occupation by Dutch adults: A descriptive phenomenological study**

**ROBERT DAVID VAN DER VEEN, STAFFAN JOSEPHSSON, TON SATINK**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/F3ii7Mn2IMA>

Dialogue 3  
Facilitator: Nadine Blankvoort

**The role of occupation in the disproportionate impact of CoVID-19 for vulnerable groups**

**CLAIRE HART**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/0kMvhYHZktM>

**“Who is safe at work?”: Problematizing employment volatility during 2008-2014 Spanish socioeconomic crisis**

**NATALIA RIVAS-QUARNETI, OLALLA VILAR-FILGUEIRA, SILVIA VEIGA-SEIJO**

Abstract

**Background:** Recent literature has approached work from a critical occupational perspective, but little is known about the impact of employment volatility in occupations during contexts of socioeconomic crises such as the one lived in Spain 2008-2014. **Objective:** To explore the relationship between employment volatility, participation in daily occupations, health and wellbeing of industry workers during the Spanish socioeconomic crisis. **Methods:** A narrative qualitative methodology was conducted. Two open interviews and a personal diary were used as data generation method. Two experiences were analysed adopting a thematic analysis. **Results & Conclusions:** Three thematic categories illustrate how workers orchestrate their occupations in a context employment volatility and situate the multidimensional context of work in such circumstances as restrictive of occupational opportunities. Uncertainty generates a normalized instability daily life, which impact on occupational choices, health and wellbeing. In addition, participants reflect on future perspectives of work associated with precarity and resignation.

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Keywords

Employment volatility, occupational justice, socioeconomic crisis context

Dialogue 4  
Facilitator: Inés Viana-Moldes

**Play in digital spaces**

**FIONA LOUDON, BRYAN BOYLE, MARIA LARSSON-LUND**

Video abstract

This abstract is available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/Z0lvnotZ9D8>

**Here and There: Exploring ‘telepresence’ as a virtual means of living and doing everyday life – implications for Occupational Science.**

**TINA MCGRATH**

Abstract

The word ‘occupation’ refers to the seizing of time and space through embodied agentic action on the world. Traditional understandings of human occupation are premised on assumptions of bodily presence and proximity when participating in purposeful and meaningful activities at both personal and interpersonal levels of occupational engagement.

These established ways of thinking about human occupation are significantly challenged by the ‘new normal’ of bodily isolation and social distancing restrictions that were introduced as public health measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The central logic of phenomena such as lockdown/quarantine and physical distancing is to manage bodies as potential vectors of infection and to separate bodies from each other.

Everyday occupations have subsequently altered as a result, particularly those that involve social congregation. Many public encounters have become online interactions where the body has been detached from the target environment. On-screen occupations are mediated via virtual reality, resulting in what is termed ‘telepresence’

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where embodied presence is temporally and spatially disconnected from physical reality.

Keywords

‘Telepresence’, embodiment, human occupation



## Keynote 3

Time: 5.40 pm

### Occupational Science Research in European contexts

OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE EUROPE RESEARCH COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

Presented by Janice Jones & Steve Whitcombe



#### Abstract

**Introduction:** Occupational scientists in Europe have a broad understanding of occupational science and research a variety of topics.

**Rationale:** To our knowledge, there is no overview of contemporary occupational science research undertaken in Europe. However, having knowledge of current research provides valuable information for advocates and influencers of occupational science and occupational therapy.

**Objectives:** This presentation provides an overview of the extent and nature of up to date occupational science research carried out in Europe.

**Method:** A scoping review was conducted to explore and describe the characteristics of current European occupational science research. To be included, articles had to report studies in the field of occupational science, conducted in Europe, be peer-reviewed, and

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<sup>1</sup> Occupational Science Europe Research Committee: Michal Avrech-Bar, Teena Clouston, Mona Dür, Nicole Ilper, Janice Jones, Hanne Kaae Kristensen, Anne-Le Morville, Anna Röschel, Steve Whitcombe.

published in English in BJOT, SJOT or JOS between 2015 and 2020. The journals were systematically searched by two authors per journal and year. Quality assessment and content analysis were undertaken.

**Results:** The preliminary findings on the included 120 articles show that a large part of the studies comes from the Nordic countries. Most research are based on qualitative research methods. Theoretical concepts rooted in occupational science are used in data generating as well as discussions. A wide perspective of living conditions is explored including all age groups. The newer articles take more reflexive stance on positionality.

**Conclusion:** The review highlights the variety of the research and point to the need of a solid theoretical knowledgebase along with issues of how to operationalize and implement the knowledge in occupational therapy practice.

#### Video abstract

This abstract is also available in video format on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/9aGsBl4hyil>

# We encourage you to use this chance to be part of forming Occupational Science!



**Wir freuen uns darauf, Sie zu sehen!**

**Estamos ansiosos para te ver!**

**We look forward to seeing you!**

**Nous avons hâte de vous voir**

**¡Esperamos verte!**



<https://os-europe.org/>  
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