

OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE EUROPE



NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 8

DECEMBER 2025

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

- New OSE Board Members and looking for members
- OSE Conference 2025 & Announcement of the OSE Conference 2027 Host
- Language Groups
- ISTTON. Project "Mapping Social Transformation Through Occupation"

www.os-europe.org

OSE BOARD WELCOMES YOU!



Margarita Mondaca
Chair



Georg Gappmayer
Secretary



Claire Hart
Chair of Interdisciplinary
Committee



Silvia Veiga-Seijo
Chair of Education and Dissemination
Committee



Maria Alonso-Ferreira
Chair of Social Media
Committee



Tanja Krizaj
Chair of Research Committee



Martin Fitzgerald
Treasurer

NEW OSE BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce the new members joining the Occupational Science Europe Board. Welcome! :)



[Lisette Farias](#)



[Michelle Bergin](#)



[Stina Meyer Larsen](#)



[Petra Wagman](#)

We are very much looking forward to working together and to the contributions and perspectives they will bring in the next phase. We would also like to thank all candidates who stood for election. We truly appreciate the time, effort, and willingness to contribute shown by everyone who put themselves forward.

Finally, we would like to express our most sincere thank you to those who are stepping down after six years of contribution to the board: Georg Gappmayer, Silvia Veiga-Seijo, and Margarita Mondaca. Their commitment and contributions over the years have been invaluable and have had a lasting impact on the organization.

Georg, Silvia and Margarita are thankful for these interesting and great 6 years in the Board of Occupational Science Europe.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS!

The OSE Social Media and Research Committee is seeking additional members.

Details on how to submit an expression of interest can be found on the OSE website under Research Committee, via the link "Becoming a member of the OSERC." We warmly encourage anyone interested in supporting and shaping our research community to apply.

- Social Media: <https://os-europe.org/social-media-comittee/>
- Research: <https://os-europe.org/research-committee/>



Call for Contributors:

OSE Social Media Committee



Do you want to be part of the development of OS through social media and digital networks?

Become a member of OSE's Social Media Committee. Find the application form attached on the following link:

[www.os-europe.org/social-media-comittee/](https://os-europe.org/social-media-comittee/)

PARTICIPATION IN OSE 2025

Author: Dr. Georg Gappmayer

The conference, themed “Visions and Realities: Exploring tensions in what we do and how we live,” was characterized by four themes: social transformation through occupations, citizenship and the associated rights and opportunities for action, decolonization of occupational science, and a sustainable environment for all in the context of human actions. To give researchers, teachers, and students the opportunity to engage with these topics, the University of Essex in the UK was chosen as the host. 230 participants from 26 countries attended. Most participants were also occupational therapists, as occupational science is closely linked to occupational therapy.

The conference consisted of a pre-conference day and two days with a more traditional conference format featuring keynotes, lectures, and workshops. On the pre-conference day, participants were able to explore a topic in greater depth within a group and develop ideas together. The focus was on the topic of social transformation (<https://oseurope.org/international-social-transformation-through-occupation-network/>), the Model of Occupational Whoness, visual methods in research, and embroidery as a potential form of resistance.



OSE board members with the conference organizers. From left to right:

Margarita Mondaca, Claire Hart, Tanja Krizaj, Georg Gappmayer, María Alonso, Simone Coetzee, Anna Pettican

On the two main days, a total of four keynote speeches introduced the conference topics. The keynotes by Susan Buckingham and Mya-Rose Craig contextualized the significance of activism in our time in connection with their personal experiences with birdwatching, nature conservation, and climate change, as well as the question of how far activism can or must go. Wendy Bryant, on the other hand, focused on the concept of occupational balance and her personal experience with a chronic illness. Lisette Farias Vera spoke about decolonialism in occupational science and made a strong statement in her keynote address by speaking not in English, but in her native Spanish. She explained that Spanish, too, is a colonial language that has been marginalized by many other languages and cultures. Within international academia, however, Spanish is unusual, as English is the lingua franca of almost all scientific disciplines. This performative act of speaking Spanish led to altered practices, as almost all participants either listened to the lecture via an AI-supported translation program and their own mobile phone headphones or read along with the English AI translation text on the screen – this was new territory, especially for people whose first language is English. The language advantage they had was made visible precisely by the fact that it was not present this time.



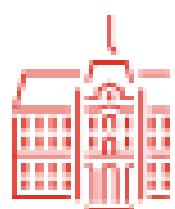
In addition to the keynote speeches, 21 workshops and numerous 15-minute presentations with subsequent discussions allowed participants to delve deeper into the various conference topics.

What else happened at the conference? Just as important as the presentations and workshops are the periods of time between and after the sessions, during which contacts are made and strengthened, and collaborations begin. At this conference, this was achieved, among other things, through shared accommodation in the student dormitory. I found that very fun – for three nights. There were also shared breaks and dinners, as well as a conference party.

OSE 2027 CONFERENCE!

We are delighted to announce that the next Occupational Science Europe Conference will take place in the summer of 2027 and will be hosted by [University of Ljubljana, Slovenia](#).

Further details will be shared soon. Stay informed with the latest updates from Occupational Science Europe! Membership is free—simply send an email to occupationalscienceeurope@gmail.com stating that you would like to become a member.



UNIVERZA
V LJUBLJANI

LANGUAGE GROUPS

News from the German Occupational Science group (dOS)

The German Occupational Science group dOS exists now for about four and a half year as a registered association and continues to be a lively and open group which meets biannually with the goal of promoting occupational science (OS) in Germany. The group has currently 36 members and publishes their meetings and activities. As dOS has become an important platform for establishing an OS discourse in Germany, current meetings focus on introducing and discussing international occupational science literature in the German language and context.



In November 2025, the 11th dOS Working Meeting took place in Bielefeld at the Evangelisches Klinikum Bethel. Once again, the format of starting with an open networking session proved to be very successful.

Due to the time difference with our guest speaker, Dr. Rebecca Aldrich from the University of Southern California (USA), the meeting began with her presentation on the concept of "Third Places" and their relevance to occupational science. The stimulating talk sparked a rich discussion, which participants continued to explore in smaller working groups throughout the meeting.



Figure 2: Working meeting in Bielefeld on November 15, 2025.

LANGUAGE GROUPS

News from the German Occupational Science group (dOS)

Another highlight of the past year was the dOS Session at the Occupational Therapy Congress 2025 – marking the 6th dOS session at a national occupational therapy congress in Germany. This year's topic, "Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy as Allies: The Example of Occupational Possibilities," was presented by Debbie Rudman from Canada.



Figure 3 Silke Dennhardt and Debbie Rudman at the Occupational Therapy Congress on May 16, 2025.

To enhance the accessibility of international content, the presentation slides were in German, however the original English slides remained digitally available. This approach supports one of dOS's core aims – to make international occupational science content available in the German language.

The session was complemented by a presentation from the Working Group "Occupational Science as a Teaching Subject," leading to a full dOS day, attended by many interested participants. To promote dOS, seed paper cards with information about dOS were distributed.

LANGUAGE GROUPS

News from the German Occupational Science group (dOS)

Looking Ahead – dOS Working Meeting 2025

We are already looking forward to our next working meeting on November 21, 2025 in Osnabrück.

This year's theme will be "Conciliatory Occupations."

We are especially delighted to welcome Lilian Magalhães from the University of São Carlos, São Paulo (Brazil), who will join part of our meeting virtually to discuss her concept of conciliatory occupation. Our discussion will be based on a recently published article in the Journal of Occupational Science, inspired by a keynote from the U.S. Occupational Science Conference.

Building on her keynote at the Society for the Study of Occupation (SSO) conference, Lilian will introduce the idea of conciliatory occupation and its potential for social transformation, encouraging a critical reflection on collective practices.

We cannot wait to exchange ideas, deepen our understanding, and continue building bridges between international perspectives and local practice.

Anybody interested in more information about the German OS group or in joining the next meeting is warmly invited to contact dOS via the following email address: osdeutsch@gmail.com or visit our new website: <https://www.occupationalscience.de/>.

LANGUAGE GROUPS

News from the Société Francophone de Recherche sur les Occupations

The Société Francophone de Recherche sur les Occupations (SFRO) is growing and energising its community. We've recently refreshed our committee, welcoming three new members, Catherine Vallée (Québec, Canada), Muriel Sahraoui (Paris, France), and Pauline Hoellinger (Brussels, Belgium), who bring fresh perspectives across research and education. The three other committee representatives continue their engagement: Isabel Margot-Cattin as president (Lausanne, Switzerland), Clémence Tanneau, secretary (Trois-Rivières, Canada) and Sophie Albuquerque (Trois-Rivières, Canada and Aix-en-Provence, France).

This year, we launched a series of short webinars (in French, open to all) showcasing current studies and debates in occupational science, like the "dark side" of occupations, increasing OS literacy in French through formats designed for lively exchange and quick knowledge translation. Building on this momentum, we're forming a new sub-group on teaching occupations to share curricula, pedagogical tools, and assessment strategies across francophone programmes (and beyond). If you're interested in contributing to the webinar series or joining the teaching sub-group, we'd love to hear from you—follow SFRO updates and get in touch via our usual channels (<https://sfro.hypotheses.org/>).



LANGUAGE GROUPS

The French-speaking centre Human occupation and health is celebrating its tenth anniversary!

The Centre of Competence for Human Occupation and Health (OHS) was founded in 2015 to promote occupational science in French-speaking countries. Based at the University of applied sciences and arts of western Switzerland, OHS has worked tirelessly to develop knowledge about the links between human occupations and health.

In ten years, its members have organized no less than 10 conference days and 50 events! Conferences, vernissages, exhibitions, seminars, workshops and training courses have facilitated a multitude of exchanges between occupational scientists and health and social professionals. The center has thus played a role in promoting research in occupational science while facilitating links between research and practice, in particular by developing communities of practice related to occupations.

OHS also contributed to the creation of the Francophone Society for Occupational Science (SFRO) in 2019. Today, these two bodies actively collaborate on various projects, including the organization of webinars and translations for the Journal of Occupational Science.

These ten years have given OHS the expertise and legitimacy it needs to meet the significant challenges of 2026. Two directions seem to be emerging: a name change that encompasses all occupations of living beings (not just human ones), and the strengthening (again!) of interprofessional and interdisciplinary contributions."



Human Occupation and Health (OHS)

The Human Occupation and Health (OHS) network brings together HES&SO's research and teaching staff around...

 HESL.ch

PARTNERSHIPS

Mapping Social Transformation Through Occupation

We are a project group of the International Social Transformation through Occupation Network (ISTTON), seeking to create a comprehensive, interactive map highlighting initiatives from around the world that use occupation to promote social transformation. Those participating in this project will become a part of a growing network of practitioners, researchers, and community leaders co-working toward equity, justice, and inclusion through occupation-based interventions.



ISTTON

International Social Transformation through Occupation Network

What Is Social Transformation Through Occupation?

Social transformation refers to changes in social practices, systems, and structures that promote positive outcomes at a community or societal level (van Bruggen et al., 2020). Social transformation through occupation recognizes that the everyday activities we engage in—such as work, caregiving, advocacy, and cultural practices— are powerful tools for addressing social inequities. These actions can shape more just, inclusive, and accessible societies by increasing occupational participation, opportunities, and socio-political engagement (Farias & Laliberte Rudman, 2019; Silva et al., 2017).

We acknowledge that there are multiple approaches to enacting social transformation through occupation. Therefore, this project seeks to capture and celebrate the diverse, multifaceted strategies used by individuals and organizations worldwide. Learn more about ISTTON's work here: [ISTTON Website](#).

www.os-europe.org/international-social-transformation-through-occupation-network

PARTNERSHIPS

Mapping Social Transformation Through Occupation

Goals of the Mapping Project

This project is designed to:

- Map and document diverse initiatives and programs that use occupation to foster social change.
- Facilitate learning and knowledge exchange by making information about these initiatives accessible.
- Foster collaborations and partnerships among individuals and organizations with shared interests.
- Contribute to a broader understanding of how occupation can drive meaningful social transformation.

Contributing to this initiative

- We are seeking submissions from initiatives that contribute to social transformation through occupation. If you know of or are involved in such a project, we invite you to share it with a global audience via the Participation Form.
- If you would like to follow the development of the map you can access it via this QR code



Contact Us

Members of the ISTTON mapping group are Yousef Babish, Sarah Kantartzis, Sarah Kaufner, Donnamarie Krause, Ines Viana Moldes, Ivory Rose, Monica Villaca

For further details or any inquiries, please contact us at isttonmapping@gmail.com

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We are looking for PhD students who are willing to discuss their research topics in our dialogue sessions!

If you are interested, please contact us at:
occupationalscienceeurope@gmail.com



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  Occupational Science Europe

If you have anything that you want to share in the next newsletter, or if you want to give us feedback - please contact us!
occupationalscienceeurope@gmail.com

Responsible for the newsletter: Silvia Veiga-Seijo, on behalf of the OSE Board