

Studying 'occupation' where the grass is greener? Internationalized accounts of occupational therapy knowledge

Birgit Proding, Silke Dennhardt

The University of Western Ontario, Ontario, Canada

Learning objectives:

- Participants will be stimulated to enrich and widen their current local, taken-for-granted and familiar occupational therapy topics and core contents via participation in discussions with participants from different countries.
- Participants will engage in discussion about the representation of multilingual and multicultural voices in current occupation-based knowledge generation and application. The discussion based on participants' different experiences and diverse backgrounds may discover places and voices may remain silenced in the internationalized accounts of occupational therapy concepts.
- Participants will be encouraged to unpack the political in the internationalized accounts of occupation-based knowledge. The discussion will focus on challenging current, dominant occupational therapy concepts, their underlying political assumptions and cultural values.
- Participants will be invited to reflect on opportunities and struggles to bridge local and international knowledge. The workshop will be structured in order to draw upon, and be stimulated by, the diversity of experiences participants bring, which may include experiences of studying abroad, encountering the importation of knowledge generated outside to their local contexts, and interacting with colleagues trained in other contexts.

Length of time: 1.5 hours (also possible as half-day pre-conference workshop)

Description of teaching methods: The world-café method (Brown & Isaacs, 2005) will facilitate the discussion. This method is based on principles of a conversational process for thinking together, evoking collective intelligence and creating actionable results. The goal is to use dialogue for fostering collaborative and collective insight. This workshop is divided into three parts. First, a short introduction of the presenters, the theme of the workshop, and teaching method will be given. In the second and main phase, different 'knowledge-cafes' will be opened in which the participants will discuss questions that matter in regard to the topic. During this phase each participant will visit different cafés. In the third phase, collective discoveries will be shared and harvested. This last part intends to stimulate discussion about bridging local and international knowledge-contexts, which fits well with the World-café principle of catalyzing insight, innovation, and action. This workshop aims to contribute strengthening occupational therapy identity in local and international contexts.

Maximum number of participants: 30