

"DEVELOPMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN ARGENTINA . HALF A CENTURY OF HISTORY SINCE THE CREATION OF THE CAREER IN THE ENTO/UNSAM"

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Introduction:

This paper presents a preview on a research project about history of Occupational Therapy in Argentina. This is being developed within the framework of the program for Incentives of the Secretariat for University Policies subject to the Ministry of Education of the Argentine Nation, which was granted in 2008.

There is presented the methodology and the criteria that have been used for the systematization of relevant documents and the testimonials of actors in the commencement and the history of the career in the country. Focusing on the emergence of the profession in Argentina and the creation of the first educational institution in that country, which was a benchmark for different Latin-American countries, known as the National Occupational Therapy School (ENTO) which now depends from the National University of San Martin (UNSAM).

Methods

Oral history methodology is used, such as life stories and observations of documents, photos and archives. Central data from interviews with key informants are offered, such as: first students and graduates from the career, first professionals, the actors involved in the formation of the career, among others.

Partial Results

As well as the historical records and presentation of results we propose to make an audiovisual production and a publication summarizing the principal results obtained for the 50 years of the career in Argentina, recovering and promoting the history of educational training in our country.

Contribution to the practice/evidence base of Occupational Therapy.

The preview of the investigation will be presented, offering new channels for Latin-American interchange enabling a systematic reconstruction of the history of Occupational Therapy in Latin-America. The process of reevaluation of our past constitutes an ethical epistemological and theoretical stance of the research team, hoping to be able to produce an important contribution to the discipline and to each professional in the search for an identity at a National as well as at a Latin-American level.