

El Modelo Rio (Kawa); The Power of Culturally Responsive Occupational Therapy

Michael Iwama^{1,6}, Nicole Thomson^{1,9}, Rona Macdonald¹, Kee Hean Lim², Salvador Simo Algado³, Imke Winkelmann⁴, Ole Mygind⁵, Alison Nelson⁶, Hanif Farhan⁷, Daniela Castro⁸

¹University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, ²Brunel University, London, United Kingdom, ³University of Vic, Catalonia, Spain, ⁴ETOS, Osnabreuck, Germany, ⁵University College Nordjylland, Aalborg, Denmark, ⁶University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, ⁷University Kebansang Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ⁸Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile, ⁹Bloorview Kids Rehab, Toronto, Canada

Since its introduction, The Kawa Model (Iwama 2006) has continued to gain recognition internationally as a simple yet culturally relevant and powerful model of occupational therapy. The first substantial OT model developed by clinicians outside of the Western world, the model is gaining traction across OT practice contexts in 6 continents. Hailed as a novel development in OT, the Kawa Model also illuminates the cultural nature of OT theory and epistemology. The model supports and demonstrates the need for alternative models that can guide and explain occupational therapy for an increasingly diverse and global world.

This full day workshop brings international OTs together with their Latino colleagues to critically consider culture's influences on contemporary OT theory, knowledge and practice. Case studies of the Kawa Model from various parts of the world that demonstrate cultural challenges and adaptations are collectively considered. Participants will be encouraged to examine the social-cultural features of their diverse practice contexts and critically compare these to the cultural features of familiar OT models. The workshop concludes with a challenge to re-consider theory in occupational therapy from a cultural perspective and to move toward developing new theoretical materials that are culturally responsive and safe to use across diverse practice contexts.

Learning Objectives:

By the conclusion of the workshop participants will;

- understand some of the cultural and social features of 3 contemporary models of OT (including the Kawa Model),
- appreciate the cultural and social practices that accompany the application of OT theory,
- explain the connection between the structure/content of the Kawa Model and the cultural contexts it originated from,
- identify 4 key cultural patterns/features of one's own practice contexts,
- identify at least 3 potential modifications to the Kawa Model or an alternative model to increase its cultural responsiveness in local practice.

Length of Time: Full Day

Description of Teaching Methods

Short presentations by international workshop leaders followed by questions/facilitated discussion. Practical sessions, such as participant drawings and interpretations of the Kawa Model across represented cultural contexts will occur.

Maximum Number of participants: 200