

Subjectivity, Human Rights, Social Justice and Political Action: the trajectory of occupational therapy in the social field in the city of Campinas, Brazil, from the late 1970s to 2009

Sandra Galheigo¹, Beatriz Takeiti², Larissa Mazzotti³, Lucila Ferrari³, Tâmara Yamagute³, Giovanna Delorenzo⁴

¹*University of São Paulo, São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil,* ²*Uniará University Center, Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil,* ³*Center for Orientação of the Adolescent of Campinas, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil,* ⁴*Research Colaborator, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil*

Introduction: Occupational Therapy (OT) in Brazil has been involved with the development of practices with people in vulnerability since the late 1970s and early 1980s. Initially, the concern was with de-institutionalization and creation of community-based programmes when Brazil was still under dictatorship. During societal re-democratization and social policy-making's restructuring (mid-1980/1990), OT engaged in the societal struggle against social injustice, social inequality and the disrespect for human rights, which led to the emergence of the so called Social OT. Objectives: To present the historical trajectory and the main theoretic-methodological landmarks of Social OT in the city of Campinas, Brazil from the late 1970s to 2009. To discuss the field's achievements and setbacks and reflect the tendencies/challenges for the future of Brazilian Social OT. Methods: The study combines a historical method, to understand the time line/historical patterns and, a participatory action research (PAR) whereby the group of researchers reflects on their own biographies and over the collected material (documents and interviews). Considering that PAR methodology takes places with the research subjects, the group was composed by one first researcher and five co-researchers/participants; three out of six still continue to work in the city. Participants' professional biographies were shared and later discussed in group sessions. The city's history and the personal/professional stories have been studied and constructed via periodical meetings. Discussion: Preliminary findings show that Campinas Social OT started with the creation of the OT Program at the Pontifical Catholic of University of Campinas responsible for the engagement of OT in community-based programs, socioeducational programs for young offenders and for youth in vulnerability and, youth shelters. Four phases in the time line may be clearly identified alternating periods of expansion/consolidation with periods of estagnation/setback which are composed by biographical and documentary information. Conclusion: The development of OT in the city has been closely dependant on the university OT Program's trajectory and centered on a few pioneers, which contributes for the still fragile field situation. Contribution to practice: Understanding the historical trajectories and the building of main theoretical and methodological landmarks may provide useful understanding about the participation of OT in the social field.