

Abduction: A way of understanding reasoning within occupational therapy better.

henrik Vardinghus-Nielsen

University College Nordjylland, Aalborg, Denmark

Introduction: Science and professions most often describe the way of reasoning as either induction or deduction. But very rare reasoning is described as abduction. I will argue that especially occupational therapy is a profession that without paying attention to it in many areas can be described as a profession that uses abduction as a way of reasoning. By addressing some of occupational therapy's reasoning as abduction it is possible to describe and reflect certain kinds of knowledge production better, both the clinical reasoning that takes place within practice and scientific reasoning that takes place when scientific projects and research questions is being formulated and scientific knowledge is produced. **Objectives:** Participants will understand the concepts of induction, deduction and abduction and learn about how different reasoning and knowledge production within occupational therapy can be described. How to use abduction to address interesting research questions will also be considered. **Methods:** The session will begin with a presentation of the three kinds of reasoning by relating them to occupational therapy. A further exploration with examples of how abduction can be used to formulate research questions will be addressed. **Results:** When explaining how occupational therapy functions and produces knowledge reasoning is of core interest. **Conclusions:** Understanding abduction will help occupational therapists describe certain reflections that lead to action, and addressing interesting research questions.

Reference List

- 1) Kielhofner, Gary (2006): Research in occupational therapy: methods of inquiry for enhancing practice. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis.
- 2) Hagen, Roar (1999): Rasjonell solidaritet. Universitetsforlaget, Oslo