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Critical practice in critical times: Forging relationships between critical theory and socially responsive occupational therapy

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Learning objectives: By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the difference between critique and criticism in relation to theories and practices of occupation.

2. Describe the common elements that characterize critical theoretical perspectives.

3. Examine how the use of critical perspectives is advantageous for occupation-focused practice, education, and scholarship, both for working with diverse, marginalized populations and for identifying types and methods of marginalization that are poorly represented in dominant discourse.

4. Identify 1-2 critical theorists/critical theories and their relevance for socially responsive occupational therapy.

5. Develop international contacts with other practitioners, scholars, and educators who are interested in exploring and incorporating critical theoretical perspectives into their work.

Description of teaching methods: This workshop will introduce participants to critical theoretical perspectives and highlight the kind of foundation that these perspectives provide for socially-responsive practice, education, and scholarship. The session will open with brief presentations by facilitators from diverse Northern and Southern global contexts, who will provide examples of how critical theoretical perspectives have informed their various projects and practices. Following these presentations, participants will rotate between tables to learn more about specific critical theoretical perspectives and dialogue with facilitators about how such perspectives might enrich participants' own work. Challenges and possibilities for incorporating critical theoretical perspectives into participants' work will be identified.

Maximum number of participants: 40