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Governmentality and Biopolitic: an approach to knowledge and historical practices of occupational therapy in Chile

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This research shows the relation between socio-political issues of the State, and Occupational Therapy in Chile from a genealogical perspective of analysis; from this analysis is explained how it is reproduced this relation in the knowledge and practices of Occupational Therapy (OT).

It is considered as a conceptual framework for analyzing the exercise of power, two concepts developed by the author Michel Foucault: governmentality and biopolitics. The OT in this context, is defined as a disciplining device, corresponding to an instrument of governance of the above.

The methodology corresponds to a genealogical analysis. An analysis of speech from a Foucauldian perspective, from 5 semi-structured interviews to Occupational Therapists, jointly analyzed under the same methodology, historical texts of the discipline in Chile. The unit of analysis was the political.

The conclusion of this research is possible to state: the conception of subject on which it's built the fundamentals of OT intervention is influenced strongly by the conception that the State has of the subject and how it manages those lives politically. The OT is an instrument of the Chilean state biopolitical exercise, functional to the political forces that shape externally. Neoliberal governmentality during an eruption occurs in the development of the discipline, which produces a historic perspective, mute and disciplining to the dictatorial power.