0160

"Building an inclusive work biography" - do Occupational Therapists practice what they preach?

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Introduction: Occupational Science contributes with its philosophical and practical understandings of justice to the discussion of diversity in Occupational Therapy. In an international review Gupta (2016) captured the need to reduce attitudinal barriers experienced by marginalized people on micro-levels, as well as to contextualize Occupational Justice on macro-level to reduce sources of injustice. German literature lacks contributions on how professional members view and experience the concepts of Inclusion and Occupational Justice regarding people with disabilities in their own profession.

Aim: This study aims to explore the working situation in Germany of a team of Occupational Therapists while one colleague is dependent on a wheelchair.

Method: Following the grounded theory methodology, team-members are interviewed and observed in their working environment. Perspectives regarding inclusion and professional actions are captured through a life-narrative and episodic interviews. Interactive settings are observed. Further data-gathering will follow theoretical sampling and take place in summer and late 2017. In this presentation the biography of the person depending on the wheelchair is focused through the analysis-method of Schütze (1983).

Results: The biographical process-structures reconstruct strategies to "keep going" with "work and others" after experiencing a life-changing incident. The construction of the life-story reveals how trajectories are depending on contexts and significant others (i.e. colleagues and employers) to build an "inclusive" work-biography.

Discussion: Deepening the understanding of "occupationally just or injust" contexts and identifying rationales of professional members how to shape inclusive contexts, should contribute to the intra-professional development of a profession calling themselves experts of inclusion and occupational justice.