



Social Occupational Therapy: Advancing in fields of practice



**Federal University of
São Carlos
Brazil**



**METUIA
Project**

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WORKSHOP PLAN

- ❖ Brief presentation: contextualizing the discussion
- ❖ Discussion in groups: what could be called by “social” in occupational therapy? Examples of a personal practice.
- ❖ METUIA Experiences in Social Occupational Therapy



What is the social function of occupational therapists in our society?

What kind of answers do we offer to society through our knowledge?

What is the social role of the profession?

(Gramsci, 1988)

- **Social role of occupational therapists:**

Acting in health, education and/or social field in order to **promote emancipation and autonomy** for those who deal, temporarily or definitively, with difficulties in the **inclusion and social participation**. The reasons could be physical, sensorial, mental, psychological and/or social (USP, 1997).

Social context: starting point

Therefore, it is essential to approach the context where people live, their historical and collective dimensions. The intention is to understand where the person is and the possibilities to inclusion and social participation. Considering, always, the structural limits.

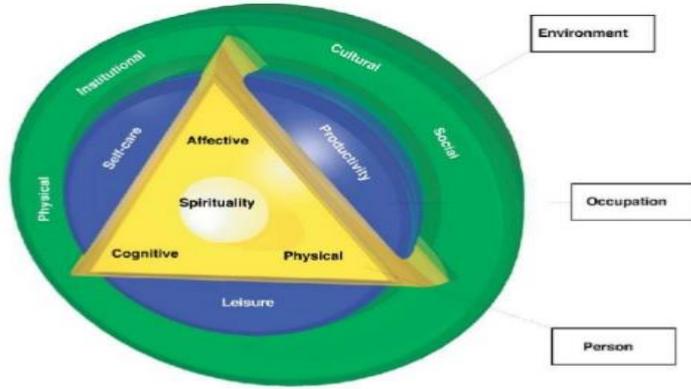
(Malfitano, 2016)

Social context: starting point

- Occupational therapy is involved with context and environment;
- Models around the world approach environment as an element of the practice action;
- In places without locally developed models, like Brazil, the context can play an important role defining the occupational therapy practice.

(Law, 1991; Kielhofner, 2009; Malfitano, 2016).

Figure 1: Canadian Model of Occupational Performance

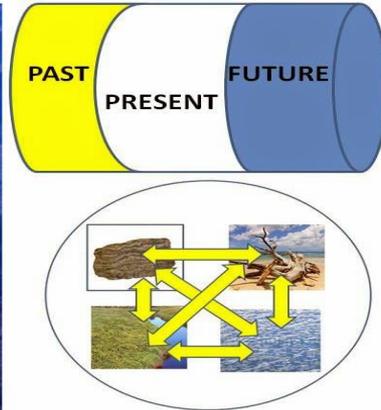


Reproduced from *Enabling Occupation: An Occupational Therapy Perspective*, © CAOT 2002
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Model of Human Occupation



THE KAWA MODEL



The Person-Environment-Occupation-Performance (PEOP) model



Social context: starting point

Occupational justice concept brings the importance of discussing justice and injustice to professionals and enables this in their practices, which is very important and necessary.

(Wilcock & Townsend, 2000; Townsend & Marval, 2013)

However, it is different to deal with social inequalities, which can be another field into Occupational Therapy.

Occupational Therapy

- Occupation
- Function
- Performance
- Self-care
- Productivity
- Leisure
- Volition
- Routines
- Skills



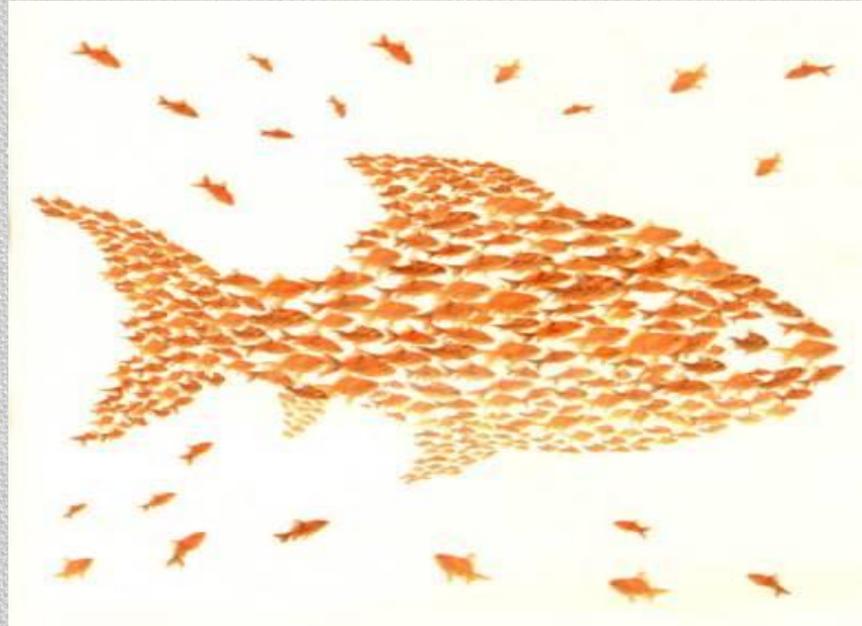
Occupational Therapy

- Context
- Social inclusion
- Social participation
- Autonomy and interdependency
- Culture
- Politics



Social context: starting point and point to “arrive”

Individuals and collectives



Our context

❖ Social inequalities



Tuca Vieira, São Paulo, Brazil, 2004

Social Occupational Therapy

Social Occupational Therapy refers to politically and ethically framed practices that target individuals, groups or systems to enable justice and social rights for people experiencing disadvantageous social conditions.

(Barros, Ghirardi & Lopes, 2005)

Social Occupational Therapy

- Contemporary social question (Castel, 2003)
- Social Issues: poverty, homelessness, immigration, drug use, unemployment, underemployment, culturally marginalized groups, prostitution, incarceration and others.
- Occupational therapy is a profession with different histories around the world trying to answer demands in the society. It is expected that professionals to answer concrete problems. Therefore, what kind of problem do we answer in our societies?

Social Occupational Therapy

- Scientific field (Bourdieu, 1993) is a network or configuration of relationships disputing position, legitimacy and power.
- Social occupational therapy as a field in Occupational Therapy, with expertise, knowledge and methods to mediate social participation of people who have socioeconomic factor hampering their social participation.

Social Occupational Therapy - Theoretical Framework

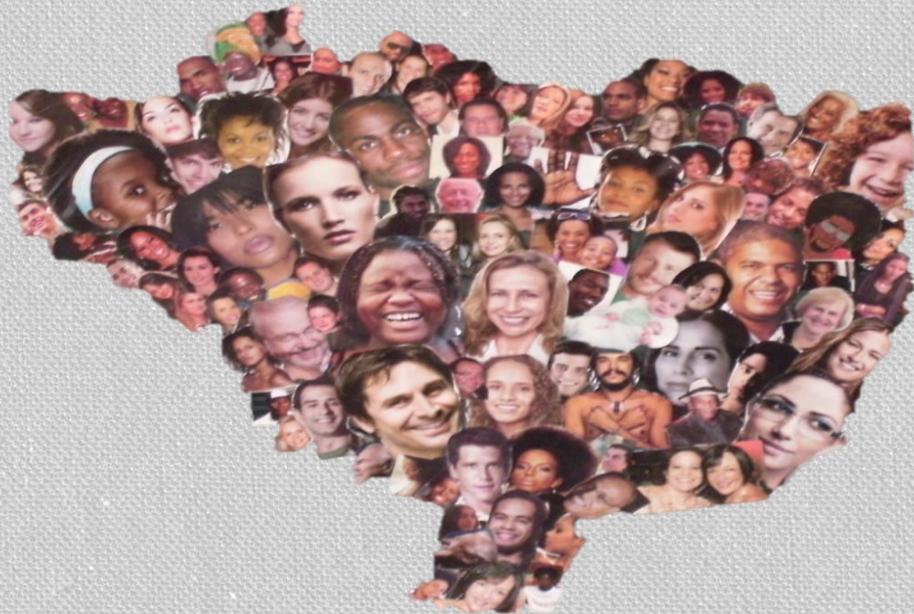
- ❖ Capitalist society where inequalities are structural. It defines the social question: work and social support to keep social cohesion (Castel, 1988)
- ❖ Social policies: what do we recognize as demand? (Offe, 1974; Sennett, 2001)
- ❖ Citizenship and rights (Marshall, 1950; Arendt, 1958; Lopes, Malfitano, 2017)
- ❖ Ethical, political and technical work (Gramsci, 1992).

The foundations of Brazilian social occupational therapy have two components:



The inseparability
of the collective
dimension and
individual needs

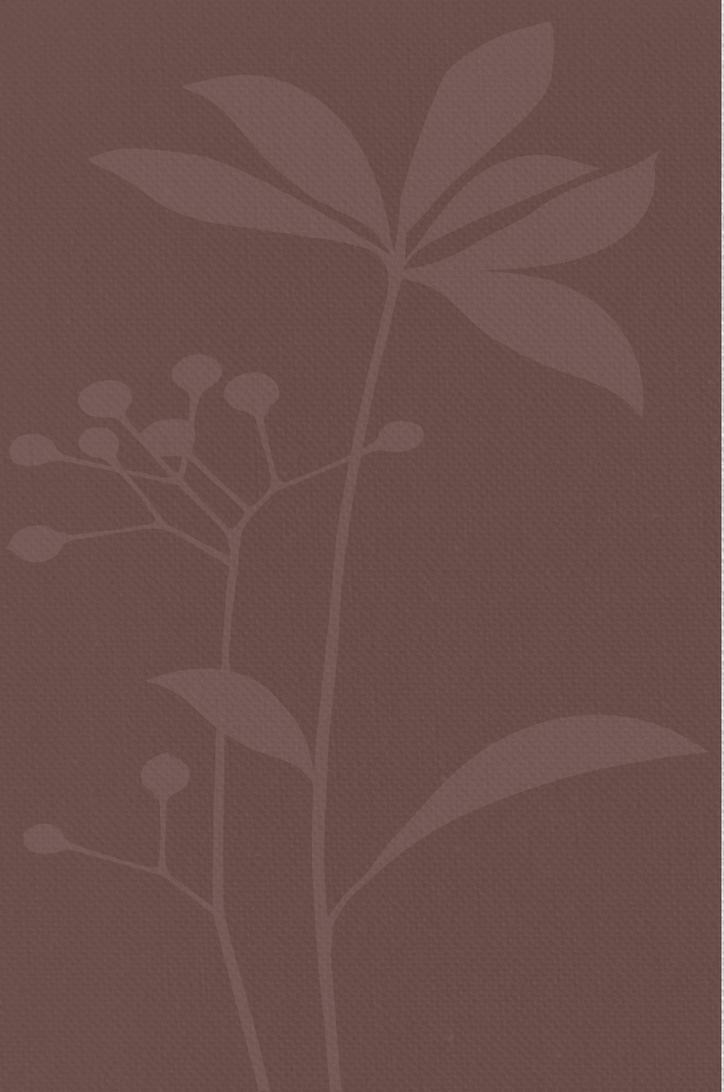
Specific
social
approaches;
health models
are largely not
applicable to
social contexts.



A stylized, light-colored illustration of a plant with several large, rounded leaves and a cluster of small, round buds or flowers on a thin stem, positioned on the left side of the slide against a dark brown background.

Groups with 5 people

**DISCUSS AN
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY EXPERIENCE
WHICH COULD BE
CALLED BY “SOCIAL”**



Groups Presentation



METUIA EXPERIENCES

METUIA

- METUIA, since 1998 (Denise Dias Barros, Roseli Esquerdo Lopes, Sandra Galheigo) –Research, Teaching and “Extension activities” – Community Based-Project.
- Research laboratory, where we discuss social projects, which have the participation of occupational therapists; we develop community projects, to teach Occupational Therapy for the undergrad students; develop researches in undergrad, master and PhD levels, about social subjects related to Occupational Therapy action

(Lopes, Malfitano, Silva, Borba, Hahn, 2012) .



METUIA

- METUIA UFSCar core activities have been developed in public schools, communities, social services, and non-governmental and other organizations related specially to youth. It is a collective work, with scholars, students and professionals in Brazil. We have started experiences with homelessness people, poor youth, youth in conflict with the law, social policies system, child labor, youth in situations of sexual exploitation and/or prostitution, and others.



METUIA - Experiences

Communitary Project
“Casarão”
(Big House)



METUIA - Experiences

Communitary Project “Casarão”
(Slum Areas)



METUIA - Experiences

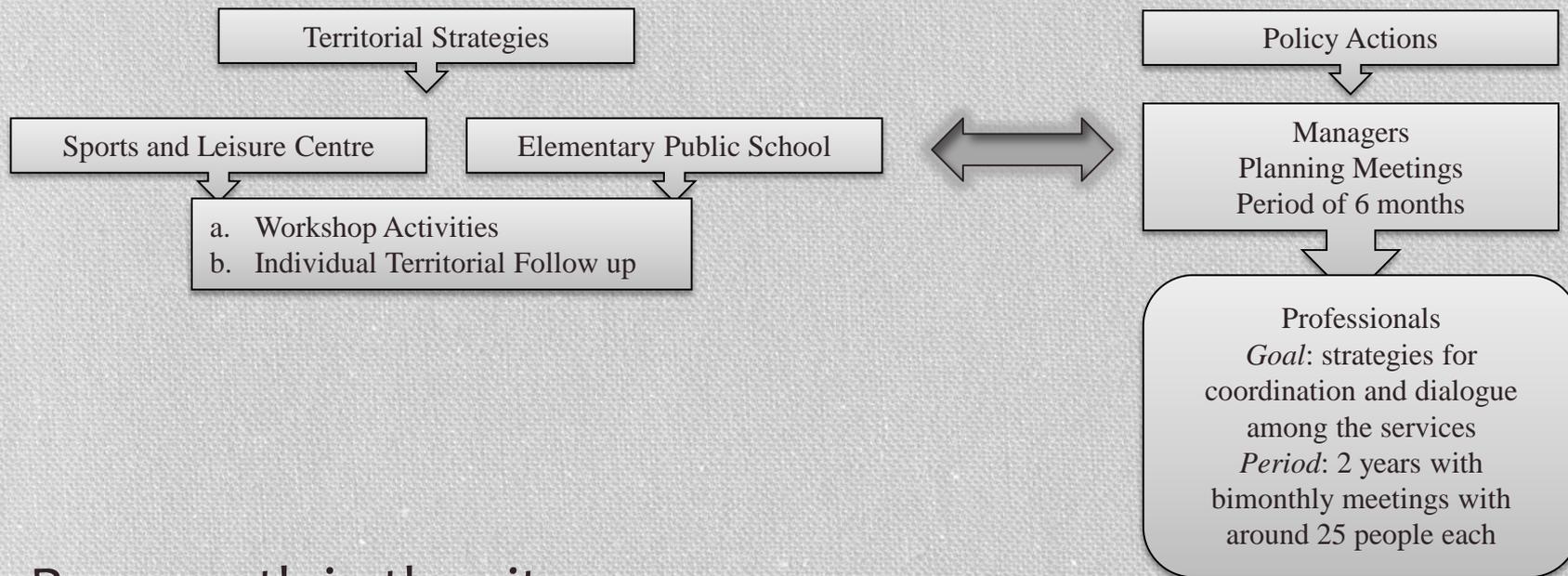


METUIA - Experiences

Poor youth in the city: Youth and School



METUIA - Experiences



Poor youth in the city:

Youth in a Social and Communitarian Center – Center of Youth

(Malfitano et al., 2014b)

METUIA - Experiences

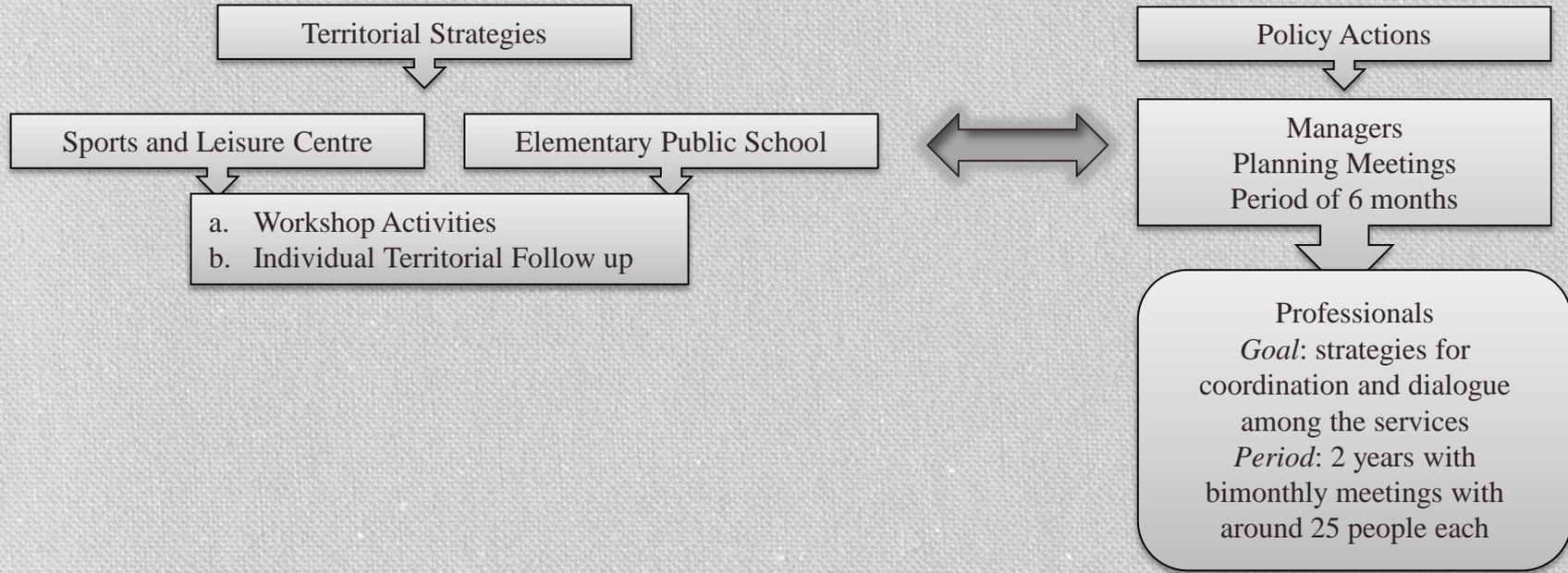
Poor youth in the city:

Youth in a Social and Communitary Center – Center of Youth





METUIA - Experiences



Social policy making and implementation
(Malfitano et al., 2014b)

Social policy making and implementation



(Malfitano et al., 2014b)

Social policy making and implementation



(Malfitano et al., 2014b)

METUIA - Experiences

Street kids



METUIA - Experiences

Street kids





METUIA - Experiences

Adolescent sexual exploitation/Prostitution



SOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES

Products, techniques or methodologies replicable, developed in interaction with the community.

It represents alternatives for social transformation.

SOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES



SOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES



Workshop
activities

SOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES

Workshop activities

Open activity workshops to promote life sharing opportunities through bonding with people to address both their individual and collective needs.

Activities include arts and crafts, the use of audio-visual resources, visiting cultural places etc.

(Lopes, Malfitano, Silva, Borba, 2014)

Individual Territorial Follow-up



Individual Territorial Follow-up

The word, *Follow-up*, was carefully chosen rather than the clinical term *treatment* to because the needs are not related to health or disease. Instead youth have social claims that should be viewed from a collective, macro analytical standpoint. An *individual* perspective, however, is applied to enable the telling and legitimation of personal stories.

(Malfitano, Lopes, Magalhaes, Townsend, 2014)

SOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES

*Individual
Territorial
Follow-up*

The goal is to promote professional mediation on individual life projects, always articulating the relevance of solutions to the collective of all youths involved.

(Lopes, Borba & Capellaro, 2011).

Articulating Resources in Social Field



- Social network
- Service network



(Lopes et al., 2014)

Network Enhancement

- Policy actions

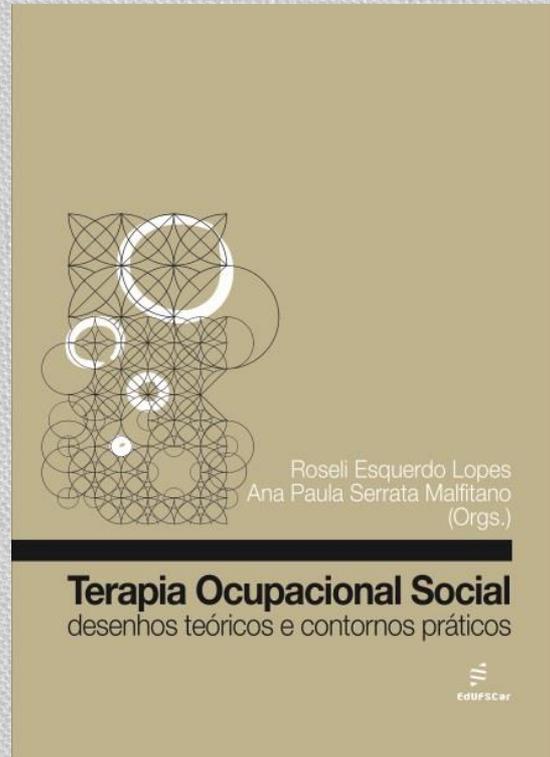
(Lopes et al., 2014;
Malfitano et al., 2014b)





- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZ2O3XQHuw>

Social Occupational Therapy: Theoretical Designs and Practical Outlines



Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists should direct their actions to real demands in our societies.

We should answer what kind of knowledge and methodology we have to deal with the inequalities in the world.

From the principle of humans and social rights, occupational therapist can be in social field, developing ethical, political and technical work, mediating the process to social participation and the access to social commodity for all.

SOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

From this background we are trying to be committed to **social change**, on a professional level.

Thinking of a world less unequal, with more solidarity.

Applying occupational therapy knowledge to try to be involved with this challenging world.





Thank you!

Obrigada

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