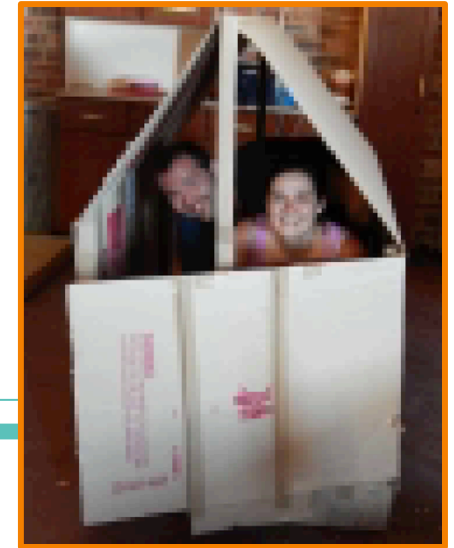


# An Occupationally Just Society: Improving Global Health

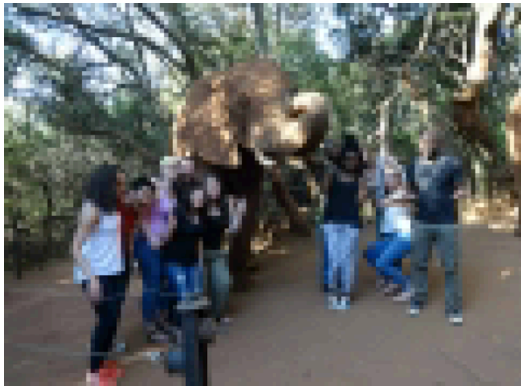
**Dr. Gillian A. Rai**



# Dr. Gillian A. Rai

World Federation of Occupational  
Therapists Congress 2018

George Washington University  
Washington, DC



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# occupational justice

justice that recognizes the right to inclusive participation in everyday occupations for ALL persons

## What we know...

- OT students do not gain awareness of cultural attitudes, knowledge and skills from merely learning foreign languages or exposure to cultures (Liu, 2014).
- Students who complete journal reflections in their coursework have shown to improve self-awareness, critical thinking, problem solving and leadership skills (Horton-Deutsch and Sherwood, 2008).
- Reflective writing goes beyond describing a situation, but rather provides an opportunity to critically reflect on the experience; its relationship to personal and professional growth (Chabon and Lee-Wilkerson, 2006).

# Objective

- Responsibly address cultural sensitivity fostering intercultural competence (ICC) and responsiveness.
- Explore the effects of fieldwork experience on OT students and future practitioners.
- Develop sustainable partnerships to promote participation through meaningful occupation

## What we did...

10-day international  
Level I Fieldwork  
experience at  
Diphetogo Preschool,  
North Western  
Province, South Africa



# South Africa: Our Experience

Wolmaransstad,  
South Africa

Diphetogo Preschool

Pretoria, South Africa

Pathways

Pathways Studio



<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/images/map-south-africa.png>

## Data Collection:

- Students were asked to reflect on their experience by completing the Self-Assessment of Clinical Reflection and Reasoning; Cultural Assessment and Sensitivity Questionnaire (SACRR) pre and post trip. (Gilbertson, Barrett, Berger & Cohn; Royeen, Barrett, & Luebben, 2001)
- Guided Reflection: Students also completed 10 journal entries



## Self-Assessment of Clinical Reflection and Reasoning; Cultural Assessment and Sensitivity Questionnaire

The following themes were used to group the survey items (Dasari, 2006):

- **Decision making based** on experience and evidence
- **Dealing with uncertainty**
- **Self reflection** and **reasoning**
- **Cultural factors awareness**

## How & What We Learned: **Quantitative Data**

Scores that Increased the most from Pre to Post:

**#4. Prior to acting, I seek various solutions** (*Decision Making based on experience and evidence* )

**#8. When planning intervention strategies, I ask “what if” for a variety of options** (*Self Reflection & Reasoning* )

**#10. I ask for the viewpoints of clients’ family members** (*Dealing with uncertainty*)

## How & What We Learned: Quantitative Data

Scores that Decreased from Pre to Post

**#30. How aware are you of methods to reduce cultural barriers?**  
*(Cultural Factors Awareness)*

**#7. When there is conflicting information about a clinical problem, I identify assumptions underlying the differing views**  
*(Decision Making based on experience and evidence)*

**#29. How aware are you of access to translation services?**  
*(Cultural Factors & Awareness)*

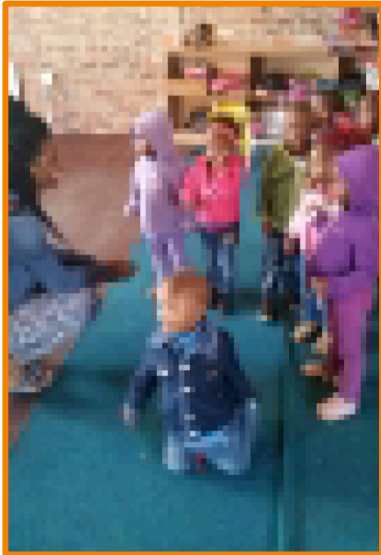
## How & What We Learned: Quantitative Data

- Overall scores went from .680 → .773 = Intercultural Competence **INCREASED** after trip to SA
- A Paired t-test indicated that these population means were different. Post survey scores are statistically significant higher than pre survey scores ( $p < 0.0005$ ).



I believe this will make me a better clinician because I thought that I was more culturally sensitive than I actually was” ; “ ... provoked me to think of ways to improve traditional OT methods.





My expectations were far surpassed and I gained a wealth of knowledge that could not be supplemented any other way”.

“I will be more aware of culture and global health”

“In practicing health care, it is important to consider a diverse range of ideas and perceptions, and what I learned in South Africa is a valuable tool for evaluation, assessment and practicing moving forward.”<sup>14</sup>

“I came home with a greater want, and almost need, to discover more of the possibilities for OT application around the globe”



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