

January 2009

Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists (CSOS)

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A Word from the Executive Director – Suzanne Huot

Happy New Year! 2009 promises to be an exciting year for CSOS as we continue to collaborate with different organizations to promote scholarship in Occupational Science.

In the Spring of 2009 we look forward to a special edition of the **Journal of Occupational Science**, featuring articles from the 2008 Placing Occupation Symposium held in Thunder Bay, Ontario, guest edited by Sharon Dale Stone and Lynn Shaw.

Lynn Shaw and Debbie Laliberte Rudman were guest editors on a special issue of **WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation**, which will also be released in the Spring. It will focus the use of occupational science perspectives to study and understand transitions in the realm of work.

In June 2009, we will host our first one-day stream as part of the annual Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists conference in Ottawa, Ontario.

We are currently working on the planning for a joint occupational Science symposium with the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA to be held in London, Ontario in 2010.

If there is anything you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, such as an announcement, or opinion piece, please email the information to:
csos@dal.ca

**The Inaugural Occupational Science Stream at the CAOT Annual Conference
Ottawa, ON, Canada – June, 2009**

The preliminary program for the one-day Occupational Science stream is included at the end of this newsletter. For more information on the event, please visit: <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=2121>.

International Society of Occupational Science (ISOS)

Please visit the newly redesigned ISOS website: <http://isos.nfshost.com/>

ISOS is now inviting institutional members for 2009, with a fee of AUD\$100.00. Please contact Alison Wicks, president (alison@wicksmail.com) or Debbie Rudman, secretary (drudman@uwo.ca) for information regarding the benefits of institutional membership and the process of becoming an institutional member.

Occupational Science symposia are being hosted internationally, highlighting the ongoing growth and development of our field. In November of 2008, Taiwan held its very first symposium, and the 5th Australasian Occupational Science symposium was hosted in Melbourne. Chile is having its first symposium in June of this year.

The ASOS has also recently been approached by Malaysia, requesting that the Australasian society include the Asia Pacific ring.

For more information on ISOS you can contact Christine Guptill (cguptill@uwo.ca), our CSOS representative at the international level.

Fundraising

In a continued effort to grow our organization, CSOS is engaging in fundraising activities to supplement the membership fees. At our most recent symposium in Thunder Bay, a silent auction was organized that raised over \$500.

We also offer an ongoing fundraising initiative. Lynn Shaw has designed a series of cards that are available for sale. The first series, titled 'Becoming', features a range of flowers. The cards are hand-made and are available for \$2 each or in packages of 20 for \$30. They are blank on the inside and can be used for any occasion. If you are interested in purchasing any, please email csos@dal.ca for the order form.

CSOS Membership

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 and we accept subscriptions at any time. You can join CSOS or renew your membership by filling in the attached form. The continued growth of our organization will contribute to the ongoing success of Occupational Science in Canada.

Membership includes listserv subscription, newsletters, discounts on symposia, eligibility to vote, opportunities to get involved with CSOS events and activities, as well as the option to subscribe to the Journal of Occupational Science.

Website Redesign

Our website will soon be under construction as we work to completely redesign it! The current format is no longer supported and cannot be updated. If you have any questions regarding CSOS please contact me at csos@dal.ca as the information on the current website may be out of date.

Program for the CAOT 2009 Occupational Science Stream

8:15-8:30 *Opening*

President and Vice-President of the Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists Lynn Shaw and Debbie Laliberte Rudman

8:30 - 9:30 *Later Life*

Moving on to alternative transportation: Managing mobility transitions with seniors

Jan Miller Polgar, Lynn Shaw, Rhysa Leyshon & Jill Jacobson
University of Western Ontario

Loss of the ability to drive frequently results in significant reduction in opportunities to engage in life sustaining and enhancing occupations. Focus groups with fourteen seniors (64-83 years of age) explored experiences with alternative transportation. Results indicate that alternative transportation is inaccessible, inconvenient and costly and that service information is inadequate.

Aging in place: what does it mean to older adults?

Robin Stadnyk & Sue Pottie
Dalhousie University

In this paper, we challenge typical, policy-focused definitions of aging in place by using an occupational lens to explore the narratives of older adults in discussion about their housing needs and preferences. Features of geography and nature, community, and social connectedness emerge as important aspects of aging in place.

Exploring the situated nature of occupation: Women's stories of preparing for and living in retirement

Debbie Laliberte Rudman
University of Western Ontario

This presentation examines the situated nature of occupation by linking critical discourse and narrative analysis. An interpretive analysis that examined ways in which women, of varying age and with varying resources, narrate their occupational choices and ideals in relation to social discourses regarding the 'right' ways to retire is illustrated.

9:30-10:00 Break and Poster presentations

The meaning of shared occupation when one spouse has dementia

Sandra Hobson & Mélanie Wipprecht
University of Western Ontario

Couplehood is important to individuals with dementia and their spouses. Accounts about shared occupation from eight books authored by individuals with dementia or their spouses were analyzed for the meaning ascribed to shared occupations. Shared self care and productivity supported personhood of the individual, whereas shared leisure helped sustain couplehood.

Enabling international communication: cultural implications of definitions of occupation within a non-Anglophone context

Lilian Magalhaes & Sandra Galheigo
University of Western Ontario & University of Sao Paulo

This work explores the views of non-Anglophonic occupational therapists about occupational therapy key terminology through a sociolinguistic approach. Views are presented and show the importance of the social context where that language has been used, as well as the political conditions in which selected words have acquired specific connotations.

Exploring transformations in occupations of children with severe visual impairments

Maria Urrahman, Jane Davis & Helene Polatajko
University of Toronto

Early childhood visual impairment can have implications for future occupational development. In-depth field notes and visual depictions of the occupational engagement of children with visual impairments were collected and analysed through thematic analysis. The findings included themes pertaining to the children's social interactions and the nature of their occupational engagement.

10:00 – 10:45 *'Risky' occupations?*

Quantifying Urban Heat Islands: Using Science to Facilitate Outdoor Occupations

Carol Moogk-Soulis
OT (Reg.) Waterloo

Heat islands or superheated surfaces in the urban environment influence outdoor occupation negatively. The researcher quantified the magnitude of the heat island impact and a mitigation strategy on occupation. Identifying heat islands and mitigating them enables people to pursue wanted or needed outdoor occupations.

At-Risk Adolescents and the Experience of Well-Being through Occupation

Cynthia White & Wendy Pentland
Queen's University

This paper reports the results of a phenomenological study exploring the occupational engagement of "at-risk" adolescents. Understanding the engagement patterns of these young people allows us to explore how various occupations, those chosen or imposed, impact well-being during this important stage of occupational development.

10:45 – 11:45 *International perspectives*

No Mountain High Enough

Lindsey Nicholls
Brunel University

This paper uses a psychoanalytic perspective on mountain climbing narratives to consider if some of the occupations that people pursue are used as defenses against unconscious anxiety. The analysis of an activity as a 'transitional phenomenon' may support occupational scientists in thinking further about the hidden (unconscious) meanings of occupations.

Intertwining place and meaning: youth and occupation in a *glocal* context

Sandra Galheigo & Lilian Magalhaes
University of Sao Paulo & University of Western Ontario

This work presents occupational experiences of two community-based juvenile groups in a peripheral country. Sessions with young people living in underprivileged communities are analysed and reveal the decentering of identity in late modernity and the collage effect which makes varied and distant experiences become joined into a single narrative.

Participating lives: finding power in resisting, and joining with others

Ellie Fossey, Fiona McDermott & The Participating Lives Project Reference Group:
Wanda Bennetts, Evan Bichara, Carol Harvey, Diahann Lombardozi, and Sharon Saunders
LaTrobe University, The University of Melbourne

How do people find valued ways to participate in communities from the marginalized positions? This presentation describes participatory research guided by the Participating Lives Project Reference Group in which men and women experiencing mental health issues shared their struggles and strategies for 'participating as resisting' lived oppression through everyday occupations.

12:00-1:00 Lunch and Poster presentations

Psychometric Properties of the Engagement in Meaningful Activities Survey with Older Adults

Aaron Eakman, Mike Carlson & Florence Clark
Idaho State University, University of Southern California

The Engagement in Meaningful Activities Survey (EMAS) was reliable and demonstrated significant correlations with measures of psychological well-being, physical and mental health in a sample of older adults. Purpose in life consistently predicted the EMAS. Socially-related EMAS meanings were greater in persons with the lowest levels of physical health.

Work Integration for Persons with Disabilities: Best Practice Across Three Disability Groups

Bonnie Kirsh, Lynn Shaw, Terry Krupa, Mary Kita & Rebecca Gewurtz
Affiliation?
University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, Queen's University & University of Toronto

As the economy becomes increasingly knowledge-based, those with limitations in cognitive function are marginalized from the workforce. Persons with intellectual disabilities, brain injury and mental illness are particularly likely to experience barriers to

work. This paper examines the principles and practices guiding work integration for these three disability groups and identifies best practices that cross disability groups.

What is the role of work in the recovery process of people living with severe mental illness?

Catherine Vallée, Céline Mercier & Raymonde Hachey
Institut national de santé publique du Québec, Centre de réadaptation Lisette Dupras & Université de Montréal

This presentation examines the role of work related activities in the recovery process of people living with severe mental illness. Poor working conditions, workplace abuse and violence, or marginalised assignments hinders on one's recovery. Conversely, work as an occupation and a valued social role, can support this process.

Beyond media discourse: Work-life balance experiences of power and flexibility

Jennifer Wickenden, Sarah Jomaa, Jane Davis & Helene Polatajko
University of Toronto

Employees at both extremes of job power and flexibility are missing from work-life balance research. Two parallel studies explored the work-life experiences of two such employees groups: (1) elite workers, and (2) immigrant workers. The findings highlight work and non-work experiences of workers at the extremes of power and flexibility.

1:00 – 2:00 Occupation across the lifespan

Survivors on the Edge: The Lived-experiences of Injured Professional Musician

Christine Guptill, Chris Lee, Thelma Sumsion, & Paul Woodford
University of Western Ontario

Professional Musicians are at risk of career-threatening injuries. This study used interviews and focus groups to explore the lived experiences of musicians who have survived injuries. Threats to occupational engagement and avoiding 'flow' to minimize injuries will be of interest to occupational scientists. Treatment of musicians will also be discussed.

Occupation across the Lifespan - Stories from Today's Oldest Old

Sandra Hobson, Natalie Gagnon, Manon Gallant, Kara Park, & Reza Toghrol
University of Western Ontario

Five individuals over age 80 were interviewed in depth about the occupations in which they have engaged throughout their lives. Their occupations were affected by life circumstances (e.g., gender), world events, life decisions (e.g., migration), and normal life events. As well, each had unique "signature" occupations that defined them.

Exploring the Nexus Between Occupation and Development

Angie Mandich, Kim Simpson & Ann Zilberbrant

University of Western Ontario & Occupational Therapist Jewish Family Services (Montreal)

This qualitative study explored the child and parent perspective regarding occupation and development and presents a model of occupational development. A constructivist grounded theory methodology was used in the current study. Twelve interviews were conducted with children aged 8-16 years of varying abilities and interests. The finding expands our understanding of occupational development and provides a tentative theory that requires further investigation.

2:00 – 3:00 *Community*

An examination of socially oriented perspectives: Implications for conceptualizing occupational identity

Shanon Phelan & Anne Kinsella

University of Western Ontario

This presentation explores the question: What do socially oriented perspectives bring to the conceptualization of Occupational identity? The authors will review current conceptualizations of occupational identity and introduce the theoretical underpinnings of several different social perspectives on identity construction. These perspectives will be examined in relation to occupational identity.

Occupation in Immigrant Settlement and Integration: Intersections of race, gender and language

Suzanne Huot, Debbie Laliberte Rudman, Belinda Dodson, & Lilian Magalhaes

University of Western Ontario

This paper presents preliminary findings from a critical ethnography of Francophone immigrants from visible minority groups residing in London, Ontario. The connections between participants' occupations and identities, according to race, gender, and language, will be explored, particularly in terms of how these relate to migrant settlement and integration.

Belonging and occupation in intentional communities

Rebecca Cabell & Robin Stadnyk

Dalhousie University

This paper explores the relationship between doing and belonging in intentional communities, reporting the results of a critical literature review. Intentional communities consciously strive to enable members' belonging and doing. Studying these processes offers important insights into understanding the relationship between communities and occupation and thus into humans' occupational nature.

3:00 – 3:30 Break and Poster presentations

A systematic review of Photovoice: Implications for Occupational Science

Shalini Lal
University of British Columbia

Photovoice is an innovative research tool that can be utilized by occupational scientists to help understand the experiences and perspectives of what participants consider to be important occupational aspects of their lives. This presentation examines the Photovoice methodology, reviews its applications, and discusses its relevance to participant-centered, occupational science research.

Passion in performing artists: Clarifying active occupational participation

Rachel Mullen, Jane Davis & Helene Polatajko
University of Toronto

Active participation in daily occupations is a vital part of everyday life, social participation and healthy life long human development. This study explores how passion is experienced by older adults working or retired from the performing arts. Exploration of the significance of passion to active participation will enhance our understanding of occupational engagement and occupational life course development.

Quality of Life: Perspectives of Children with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Jennifer Palma, Karima Ratansi, Rebecca Renwick & Ann Fudge Schormans
University of Toronto & McMaster University

This qualitative study aims to develop an understanding of quality of life (contributors making life good/not so good) from the perspectives of children with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Video methods and grounded theory approaches were used to explore the occupations of participants. Key themes and the 'My Quality of Life' model emerged.

3:30 – 4:30 Panel Discussion with Journal Editors

Marcia Finlayson – Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy
Clare Hocking – Journal of Occupational Science
Karen Jacobs – WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment & Rehabilitation

4:30 – 5:30 *Conceptual and Methodological Approaches*

A Perspective on Occupational Perspective

Anna Park Lala
University of Western Ontario

The literature demonstrates that when occupational scientists and therapists use the term occupational perspective, their intended meanings vary, and are not always explicitly conveyed. This paper raises the question: “What is an occupational perspective?” Current uses of the term are examined, and a dialogue is invited.

Occupation, personality and well-being

Dana Anaby & Tal Jarus
University of British Columbia

As occupation, as oppose to personality, is amenable to change we examined the unique contribution of occupation to well-being beyond personality. Occupation had a smaller contribution, compared to personality, yet its effect is notable as it is challenging to influence well-being in the presence of a powerful factor such as personality.

Forging Academic and Community Research Partnerships for Change

Elizabeth Townsend, Jocelyn Brown, Grace Warner & Ingrid Waldron
Dalhousie University

In this interactive session, a panel will profile three studies that draw on phenomenology, epidemiology and critical social sciences to understand occupational transitions associated with urban primary health care, rural chronic disease self-management, and anti-racism in mental health services. This session will generate insights for innovative research partnerships for change.