

SPOTLIGHT ON OCCUPATION

ISSUE 19, MARCH 2016

AUT



Convenors (L-R)– Valerie Wright–St Clair, Clare Hocking & Heleen Reid

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WELCOME TO THE 19TH ISSUE OF SPOTLIGHT ON OCCUPATION

This issue focuses on the 2016 Australasian Occupational Science Symposium on Inclusion and Participation. A symposium is a social gathering or “convivial discussion” where people are encouraged to freely exchange ideas. To facilitate interaction, the timetable allows ample question and discussion time. At the end of each day, presenters discuss links across their ideas and engage with the audience.

Please join us on **21-22 April 2016** on Auckland University of Technology's city campus. You can find registration details at http://www.aut.ac.nz/asos_2016

Feel free to hand SPOTLIGHT on to anyone who might be interested in it or contact Annis to be added to the distribution list – ahuang@aut.ac.nz.

Previous issues are available at <http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/health-sciences/occupational-science-and-therapy/spotlight-on-occupation-newsletter>

www.aut.ac.nz/asos_2016



CLARE HOCKING: OCCUPATIONAL JUSTICE AS SOCIAL JUSTICE: TOWARDS INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Social justice relates to receiving a fair share of society's wealth, and having opportunities to access culturally important occupations and potential for equitable outcomes. This presentation explores occupational justice from that perspective. It draws on Young's justice of difference (opportunities to live, work, play, develop and age without exploitation); Sen's capability approach (the choices actually offered to people); and Nussbaum's argument that the freedom to do and be requires real opportunities for people to deploy their abilities. Conclusions are drawn about the occupations societies have reason to value and the assistance that ought to be made available.

VALANCE SMITH: ENERGISING EVERYDAY PRACTICES THROUGH THE INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY OF HAKA

This paper investigates how Māori spirituality can inspire everyday practices through the medium of haka. I propose that Māori spirituality inspires, energizes and synergizes all who engage and share in its life force. I seek to create systematic foundations for everyday occupations based on kaupapa – purpose, mana – empowerment, tapu – mutuality, mauri – life ethos, concepts deeply rooted in Māori culture and history. Each concept is linked to form a foundational framework, with the performance art of haka being a medium to mobilize it, thus energizing people's everyday occupations.

HINEMATAU MCNEILL: CAN MĀORI ATTITUDES TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PROVIDE INSIGHTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE?

This paper posits a broader agenda for occupational science by exploring tribal ideology and practices in relation to the natural environment, using a case study scenario; the Tapuika tribe. As descendants of the god Pūhaorangi, Tapuika believe they are the link between heavens and earth and therefore responsible as kaitiaki (guardians) of their tribal estate. However, the reconnection between tribal people and their natural resources is tentative and (for many) a sense of dislocation persists. The concept of social justice, which advocates empowerment, participation and meaningful occupation, is applied to the Tapuika to reflect on exclusion and alienation in both pre-Treaty and post Treaty settlement periods.

MARILYN WARING: PUBLIC POLICY FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

What occupies those whose work is unpaid? Who notices? Who is counting and what are the public policy consequences? How do the international rules of 'work' and 'economics' reinforce patriarchal hegemony? What 'work' is constantly absent from the data base for determining public resource allocations and investments? What alternative models lend visibility and significance to all 'occupation'? This presentation grapples with these important questions, drawing out implications for international human rights.



ASOS SYMPOSIUM 2016
Australasian Society of Occupational Scientists
INCLUSION & PARTICIPATION | 21 & 22 APRIL 2016

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GAIL WHITEFORD: RAISING ASPIRATIONS & DEVELOPING CAPACITY: THE WIDENING PARTICIPATION AGENDA IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Participation in higher education has a powerful financial, sociocultural and sociopolitical impact on individuals, families and communities. Inclusion in the professional workforce gives voice to currently under-represented groups. A refugee mentoring programme developed through a consortium of universities working with disadvantaged schools and communities is profiled. It included more than 500 high school students from countries including Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Burma and Sudan. It was a powerful initiative in building confidence and capacity to progress to higher education. Philosophical underpinnings, processes, outcomes and challenges of the programme are discussed.

OFA DEWES: DOING CHURCH: PACIFIC COMMUNITIES IN FIJI AND NEW ZEALAND AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Pacific people constitute a diverse, youthful, and rapidly increasing population in Aotearoa New Zealand. Their experience of health and occupation is influenced by their world views, cultural beliefs, values and practices. Yet, they are disproportionately represented in preventable long-term health conditions. This paper articulates how engagement with Pacific church communities engages body, mind and spirit, providing a sense of belonging within the church and wider society. Resources are mobilised to help people access occupations and the broader society, in order to live healthy lives whilst reducing occupational inequalities.

VALERIE WRIGHT-ST CLAIR: OLDER ASIAN IMMIGRANTS' PARTICIPATION AS CULTURAL ENFRANCHISEMENT

Older Asian immigrants' resettlement in New Zealand is hindered by limited opportunities to engage with communities using culturally meaningful occupations. A grounded theory study with 74 older Chinese, Indian and Korean immigrants revealed how they acted to find ways around language and other barriers to inclusion. Their participation in socially embedded networks became a form of cultural enfranchisement and a pathway towards wider civic participation. While still largely hidden from view, these older immigrants found ways of giving service and strengthening community for the good of all.

HELEN HAMER: CITIZENS INTERRUPTED: PRACTICES OF INCLUSION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE USERS

Inclusion, participation and recognition as an equal are important for the well-being and resilience of all citizens, but the participation of some citizens can be conditional, interrupted and at times, denied. This paper presents the experiences of people who have used psychiatric services. Their journey to inclusion is framed within Isin's (2008) domains of citizenship: its extent (the rules and norms), its content (rights and responsibilities), its depth (thickness or thinness of belonging) and acts of citizenship. Occupation's role in constituting practices of inclusion are emphasised.

MARGARET JONES: SHARED OCCUPATION: COMMUNITIES ENABLING CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

Many ideas about participation direct our focus towards individuals and their immediate family members, acting in but apart from their environment. Actions that occur amongst participants collectively with context, in an ongoing cycle of change and development, have received little attention. A series of case studies into children's participation after traumatic brain injury generated more contextualised understandings. This presentation describes the Participation-Enabling Skills observed amongst those sharing in occupations, how those skills were fostered, and their relevance to promoting social change.

POSTER PROGRAMME

- A photovoice exploration of an occupation based treatment model
- Activity engagement & neuroendocrine function: Testing a needs-based model of resilience
- An alternative model for stroke self-management
- An occupational perspective of child poverty
- An occupational perspective of loneliness & older people
- Attitudes, values & beliefs that promote students' occupational participation, inclusion and belonging in schools
- Betwixt & between: Imagining the liminality of inclusion
- Community-centred practice: Re-imagining occupational therapy 'client' as community
- Deconstructing activity expectations in neoliberal unemployment policy discourses
- Enabling students' activity & participation through the built environment
- Exclusion in occupational therapy
- Not doing occupation influences health
- Traditional dance as a vehicle for identity construction & social engagement
- Narratives of the lived experience of dementia intervention
- Practices of exclusion through housing modification eligibility
- Sydney Cycling Sisters: A community development response to Islamophobia
- The lived experience of mothering a young child with severe multiple disability

STUDY OCCUPATION

Study options to explore participation and its relationship with health with AUT, include the Specialist Readings and Special Topic papers, where students work with an academic advisor to pursue an individual learning pathway, and Enhancing Social Participation in Mental Health. Contact Clare Hocking for details.

Qualification: Honours degree, Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma of Health Science (Occupational Practice), or a Master's degree.

Entry Requirements: All health professionals can enrol. Those with a Bachelor's degree can enrol direct into the Masters, holders of a Diploma or Health Department Certificate initially enrol into the Postgrad Certificate or Diploma.

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FULL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION ON THE WEBSITE

www.aut.ac.nz/asos_2016