

Program
for the Thesis Presentation Seminar of the
European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Thursday September 13th 2018

Seminar program
and
Abstracts

The seminars will take place at
University of Brighton at Eastbourne
Robert Dodd Building
RD203/RD211

Graduation ceremony
Room RD203
At 12.45

(see Map on last page)

Welcome to these thesis presentations
regarding occupational therapy and occupational science issues.
Come and listen, learn and ask questions!



University of Brighton

University of Brighton
Eastbourne, United Kingdom



Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences
Amsterdam, the Netherlands



Zurich University
of Applied Sciences
Winterthur, Switzerland



University College Absalon,
Næstved, Denmark



Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm, Sweden



Seminar program Thursday, September 13th 2018

09.00 to 09.30 Place and time for graduates to gather and prepare in rooms RD203 and RD211

Time	Seminar A Room: RD203		Seminar B Room: RD211	
09.00–09.40	Student: Opponent: Chair:	Anja Christopher Tanja Joho (Zulauf) Jesper/Fenna	Student: Opponent: Chair:	Hyub Kim Jacqueline Coppers Ann-Helen
Break and oral feedback to students				
09.55-10:35	Student: Opponent: Chair:	Joseph Ndiwalana Elisa Fabrizi Fenna	Student: Opponent: Chair:	Vanja Rutten Hyub Kim Debbie
Break and oral feedback to students				
10:50-11:30	Student: Opponent: Chair:	Elisa Fabrizi Vanja Rutten Ton	Student: Opponent: Chair:	Katja Sigrist Anja Christopher Line/Anders
Break and oral feedback to students				
Tea/coffee and biscuits from 11:30 to 12.00 at Greynore Restaurant for the presenters and their families				
12:00-12:40	Student: Opponent: Chair:	Tanja Joho (Zulauf) Joseph Ndiwalana Jon/Mette	Student: Opponent: Chair:	Jacqueline Coppers Katja Sigrist Jon/Christina
12.45-13.45	Graduation Ceremony Room: RD203			
13.45-14.30	Celebration, Drinks and Snacks Room: Greynore Restaurant			

Meeting room for the examiners (internal and external): Room: RD120 with Coffee and Tea



Abstracts

(in alphabetical order of last names)

Anja Christopher

***The meaning of motorcycling –
an interpretative phenomenological analysis***

***The heartbeat of motorcycling
revealed through the experience of motorcycle travellers***

This qualitative study aims to contribute to the understanding of the meaning of occupation by investigating the occupation of motorcycling through the experience of motorcycle travelers in Germany. Motorcycling is a serious leisure activity for the participants as defined by Stebbins (1982). Through interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) and the author being an insider of the motorcycle travelling community, the findings of this study present a new facet of the meaning of occupation.

Semi-structured interviews with seven participants revealed two main themes. First “connectedness” with the sub themes of connectedness to “the inner self”, “the motorcycle”, “nature” and “the community of motorcycle travelers”. The second theme presents motorcycling being more than riding as “motorcycling is a whole package”, “development of competencies” and is an “essential part of life”. The author presents “spirituality” being a facet of meaning of motorcycling and contributes to the discussion of other authors on developing a universal definition of “meaning of occupation”.

Keywords: meaning of occupation, motorcycling, serious leisure activity, spirituality



Jacqueline Coppers

A narrative study on the interplay between occupation and identity of young adults with adolescent-onset first episode psychosis

Background: From an occupational perspective maintaining identity is viewed as hindered by psychosis but important in recovery. This qualitative research aims to explore how young adults with adolescent-onset first episode psychosis experiences make sense of their identity in relation to their occupations.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were used to collect data from four participants. Polkinghorne's narrative analysis facilitated construction of four individual narratives.

Results: Narratives illustrated a process of exploration, construction and negotiation of identities, consisting of continuity and multiplicity. Own and others' expectations and experiencing togetherness propelled occupational choices, highlighting 'the importance of others'. By 'finding an own way', identity was constructed and expressed through occupations.

Conclusion: These findings contribute to occupational therapy practice regarding how occupation-and-identity-interplay can be supported, and to occupational science considering the area of mental health and occupation-and-identity-interplay.

Keywords: Occupation, identity, first episode psychosis, narrative analysis.



Elisa Fabrizi

***Changes over time in the use of everyday technology within different contexts
and their relation to cognitive decline
in Swedish older adults with mild cognitive impairment***

Background: Monitoring Everyday technology (ET) is of major relevance in older adults with cognitive impairment, as decreased ability to use ET and downsizing of ET used appear to be sensitive markers of cognitive decline. However, no study has analysed these changes in relation to the context in which ET is integrated.

Aim: To explore change in the ET use and its relation to change in cognitive status over five years among older adults with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), evaluating the use of ETs with respect to the context they belong (home-based ET, community-based ET, home and community based ET).

Methods: A retrospective longitudinal study was conducted in twenty-one participants with MCI at inclusion, assessed in six occasions over 5 years. Data regarding ET use and cognitive status were collected through the Everyday Technology Use Questionnaire (ETUQ) and Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) respectively. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse ET use within and between the different contexts; regression analysis was applied to analyse the relation between changes in ET use and in cognitive status.

Results: The use of ET differently changed over time depending on the context. The change in the amount of ETs used appeared to be a predictor of change in the cognitive status for the home-based ET and for the home and community based ET. Variations in the use of technologies belonging to the home environment as a whole were more likely to predict cognitive decline, even though variations in specific ETs belonging to other contexts could be relevant indicators of cognitive decline.

Conclusion: This study underlines the relevance of monitoring the use of ET in patients with cognitive impairment within occupational therapy and clinical diagnosis assessment, adding new insight on the necessity to evaluate the use of ETs as integral part of the context whose they belong.



Tanja Joho (Zulauf)

Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time

Time-use among Danish people living with COPD in terms of domains of occupation and perceived competence, value and enjoyment, reflected in everyday occupations

Aim: The aim of this study is to describe time-use among Danish people living with COPD in terms of different domains of occupation and perceived competence, value and enjoyment, reflected in everyday occupations.

Methods: A cross-sectional secondary data analysis on an existing dataset was done for the present study. 87 participants filled in the Occupational Questionnaire (OQ), a time-use diary based on the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO). Descriptive statistics, distribution of time-use and group comparison, based on the variables living situation and level of COPD severity, were done.

Results: A majority of the waking hours were spent on daily living tasks (6.5 hours) and recreational occupations (5 hours). Three hours were spent on rest and 1.5 hours on work. The average of sleeping hours was 7.5 hours. The participants spent around 80% of their time on occupations they valued, enjoyed and in which they felt competent. The results show that the participants living alone scored significantly lower in enjoyment in restful occupations compared to the participants cohabitating. No statistically significant difference could be detected between the different groups of COPD severity in terms of perceived level of competence, value and enjoyment.

Conclusion: The participants used two hours more time on daily living tasks and two hours less time for recreational occupations, compared to literature about the healthy population. Reasons for this could be inefficiency in task performance in daily living tasks because of functional limitations, or fatigue, and therefore lower priorities on recreational occupations. By analysing the data of the OQ and looking at the reported occupations in relation to a certain time frame, no assumptions according to the OB of the participants could be made in the present study. It is crucial when working with time diaries to include the explanation and comments of the client in the analysis in order to be able to relate the time-use to OB. Besides that, the aspect of time is highly relative which implies that time-use should not be overestimated when evaluating OB. More qualitative research on the individual perception of time-use in people with COPD should be taken into consideration.

Key words: *Time-use, COPD, Meaningfulness, Occupational Balance, Occupational Science*



Hyub Kim

Time Use of People with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

Purpose: The aim of the study is to investigate the time use of people with spinal cord injury and to explore the perceptions of their time use through occupational balance.

Methods: The study used survey questionnaire that has been used by Statistic Korea to collect data from 120 participants with spinal cord injury and compared the data with the disclosed data from Statistics Korea.

Results: Difference in time use was found for various activities in both groups. Social participation and self-care activities were higher in the SCI group, but a lower percentage was feeling insufficient time and less fatigue.

Conclusion: The SCI group showed discrepancies in the use of time in various activities compared to no SCI group. The differences may imply issues in occupational balance and suggests consideration in welfare policies.

Keywords: Occupational balance, Spinal cord injury, Time use



Joseph Ndiwalana

An international placement and its role in the professional development of Occupational Therapists

Introduction: The purpose of this study was to explore the phenomenon “international placement and its role in professional development” as described by occupational therapists.

Method: Six occupational therapists from developing and developed countries with the experience of an international placement were interviewed using semi-structured interview format and data analysed using descriptive phenomenology psychology.

Results: The general structure revealed the phenomenon was experienced as; ‘being a confident professional in communication with others and clinical roles as a practitioner, who by uplifting their creativity for clinical reasons and looking at challenging situations in a different way, is resourceful in practice. At the same time the professional keeps on maintaining continuous professional learning through continuous reflection on their international placement experiences and collaborative professional relationships with colleagues from the international placement. The professional also maintains a critical look at the approach to practice by considering social environment aspects in clinical situations.’

Conclusion: The study described the general structure of ‘an international placement and its role in professional development’. Future research with occupational therapists who had an international placement and those who had different placements in their countries could provide insight into how such placements comparatively influenced their subsequent professional development.



Vanja Rutten

***The experience of technology use by elderly at home
A qualitative study about the experience of elderly people living in Amsterdam.***

Introduction: Elders above the age of 75 have a higher risk of disabilities, which influence their capability to perform everyday activities. Therefore different types of technologies are used to help elderly (75+) to perform these everyday activities and stay independent. In this study the researcher explores the lived experiences of home technology use by elderly people (75+) who live independently in the Netherlands.

Methods: Four elderly people above the age of 75 participated; semi-structured interviews were used to capture the experience of the participants with an underlying interpretive phenomenological approach.

Findings: Four themes emerged from the data: Technology used as a tool in everyday activities, Technology creates a link to the (outside) world, Feeling safe and satisfied due to technology use, Difference in the meaning of technology use over time.

Conclusion: The main finding of this study was that the elderly 75+ experience technology use inside their home as a tool and a window to the outside world. It enables them to keep in touch and gives them the possibility to keep informed about the events that happen in the world. This makes them feel that their family and friends are closer and that they are included in the world.

Keywords: Technology, independent living, elderly, everyday activities



Katja Sigrist

An occupational perspective on the relationship between upper limb apraxia and the ability to perform personal and instrumental activities of daily living in clients after a left-hemisphere stroke

Background: Upper limb apraxia (ULA) in clients after a left-hemisphere stroke is defined as a cognitive-motor disorder and identified as negatively influencing the performance of activities of daily living (ADL).

Objective: To explore the relationship between ULA and the ability to perform personal ADL (PADL) and instrumental ADL (IADL) assessed with the Lucerne ICF-based Multidisciplinary Observation Scale (LIMOS) in clients in the acute to subacute phase after a left-hemisphere stroke.

Methods: This cross-sectional study is a secondary data analysis. The performance of PADL and IADL is assessed with the LIMOS, the presence of ULA with the Apraxia Screen of Tulia (AST) and the presence of aphasia with the Language Screening Test (LAST). Descriptive statistics were applied to explore the distribution of the data and the characteristics of the sample. Correlation coefficients were calculated to investigate the relationship between ULA and the performance of PADL and IADL.

Results: A moderate and significant relationship ($r_s = .38$; $p < .001$) between the AST and the LIMOS total scale in the total sample ($N = 120$) was identified. The subgroup of clients with ULA was found to perform IADL worse than the subgroup of clients without ULA.

Conclusions: The focus in occupational therapy practice should implicitly be on enabling clients after a left-hemisphere stroke with ULA to perform IADL. Since there is only little evidence available focussing on treatment approaches in these clients, further research should investigate evidence-based occupational therapy approaches.

Keywords: upper limb apraxia (ULA), stroke, rehabilitation, activities of daily living (ADL), aphasia.



Finding your way around the University of Brighton

The University of Brighton is based on five campuses in the coastal towns of Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings.

The Thesis Presentation Seminar will take place at the Eastbourne campus, at Robert Dodd Building, in rooms RD203 and RD211.

Room numbers provide information on both the building and floor level. The number is prefixed by the name of the building e.g. Aldro, Greynore 3 and Queenwood. Robert Dodd is abbreviated to RD and Robert Dodd Annexe to RDA. Ground floor rooms begin with G; first floor rooms with 1, and second floor with 2.

