ABSTRACT

Kielhofner and Burke (1977) suggest historical research through its analysis of trends, patterns, and processes of change are fitting indicators for the direction of the future. This research poster examines the development of the occupational therapy (OT) profession worldwide through analysis of themes and sociocultural influences addressed in the Slagle (United States), Casson (United Kingdom), and Driver (Canada) lecture series. The analysis provides a platform for greater understanding of occupational therapy’s future direction.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What themes are evident in occupational therapy lectureship series of countries around the world?
- Are there common themes among lectures of individual lectureship series?
- Are there common themes among lectures of lectureship series worldwide?
- Is there evidence of historical and sociocultural influences on these themes?

METHODOLOGY

- Three lecture series were chosen for analysis, which included lectures published in English dated 1980-2013.
- To identify themes and issues addressed in each lecture, students divided readings of 29 Slagle and 30 Driver lectures while the faculty mentor read 34 Casson lectures, in addition to reading all of the student-read Slagle and Driver lectures.
- Weekly discussion of themes and issues found in each lecture was held by group members.
- Individual lecture themes were recorded on a shared electronic document, transferred to Post-it notes for grouping into similar categories, then condensed into prominent themes.

DISCUSSION

- Looking at the past to guide the future—This research is important to OT because our history can influence and inform the present and future states of the profession.
- Application—This knowledge may inspire the OT professional in areas of practice, academia, and research. It may also serve to substantiate the profession by providing decades of historical evidence.
- Themes—Five prominent themes were discovered among the lectureship series of countries around the world. These themes followed historical, sociocultural, and professional trends as OT developed. These common themes are featured below.
- Limitations—The research was restricted to the published versions of the lectures and did not include any media that may have been used during presentation of the lecture.

PROMINENT THEMES:

- Change
  - Technology
  - Philosophy, models, and paradigms
  - Dual heritage
  - Historical review
  - Values conflict
  - Scope of practice
  - Uniting framework
  - Framework
  - Professional identity and roles

- Core Values and Philosophical Roots
  - Societal Factors of Influence
  - Political
  - Economic
  - Technological
  - Healthcare
  - Sociocultural
  - Paradigm shifts
  - Politics advocacy
  - Social Justice
  - Strategic planning
  - Opportunity
  - Vision / future

- Profession and Professional Development
  - Development of a profession
  - Remain contemporary/relevant
  - Education
  - Research
  - Professional development/lifelong learning
  - Professional responsibility

- Professional Recognition
  - Leadership
  - Risk-taking
  - Professional recognition
  - Promotion
  - External focus vs. introspection
  - Collaboration
  - Professional autonomy

- Complexity of Occupational Therapy
  - Uniqueness of OT
  - Complexity of OT
  - Occupational balance
  - Professional reasoning
  - Context
  - Spirituality
  - Cultural
  - Client-centered
  - Quality of life
  - Therapeutic use of self
  - Assessment