

# Occupational Therapy's Prestigious Lecture Series: A Historical Review to Inform the Future

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## 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.

## 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.



**Elizabeth Casson/Great Britain**

Individuals are selected for being an inspirational professional within their area of practice, research, education, or management



**Eleanor Clarke Slagle /United States**

Members are honored when they have creatively contributed to the development of the body of knowledge of the profession through research, education, and/or clinical practice



**Muriel Driver/Canada**

Recipients are awarded for contributing to these five areas: influencing practice, leadership across clinical/academic settings, research, contributions to OT practice/professional associations, and education.

## 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?

## 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  
Unifying 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