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**International Society for  
Occupational Science**

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**Identifying research topics to  
increase occupational therapists'  
understanding of human  
occupation**

Workshop  
WFOT Congress  
Yokohama, Japan  
20 June, 2014

# Facilitators

Eric Asaba

Sweden

Roshan Galvaan

South Africa

Tomoko Kondo

Japan

Pollie Price

USA

Alison Wicks

Australia

# ISOS Mission

facilitation of a world-wide network of individuals and institutions committed to research and education on occupation and to promoting occupation for health and community development

[www.isoccsi.org](http://www.isoccsi.org)

# ISOS Beliefs

## Occupation

- encompasses all human pursuits
- is fundamental to autonomy, health, well-being and justice

## Occupational science

- generates knowledge about the rich diversity of human occupation
- embraces a multidisciplinary, multi-perspective approach

# ISOS Aims

- facilitate international collaboration in research
- facilitate international collaboration in the development of occupation-based curricula
- promote occupation for health & community development around the world

ISOS celebrates the diverse ways in which occupational science is developing around the world and supports the belief that contributions from scholars from diverse geographical and cultural locations will expand how occupation is conceptualized and studied.

(Laliberte Rudman et al., 2008; Wicks, 2012)

# Occupation

- the domain of **occupational** therapy

# Aim of Workshop

- identify & prioritise occupation-based research topics considered important by occupational therapists for continued development of our profession



# Outline of Workshop

- examples of OS research in different contexts
  - Scandinavian
  - South African
  - North American
  - Australasian
  - South American
  - Japanese
- small group discussions
- feedback and synthesis

# All around the world



# National & Regional OS groups

- Australasia – Australia & NZ
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Europe
- Japan
- South Africa
- United States

# Become an ISOS member

- free registration
- become part of an international group interested in developing occupational science

# How to join ISOS

- Go to [www.isocccsci.org](http://www.isocccsci.org)
- Click on Networking
- Click on Members
- Click on ISOS google group
- Follow instructions

# Scandinavian Contexts

**Eric Asaba**

Karolinska Institutet  
Stockholm, Sweden

Areas of interest:

- what hinders/facilitates participation or social inclusion...particularly among persons with disability or other minority experiences
- methodological/methods development

# Current trends in Scandinavia

- based on personal responses and literature

- Intervention studies

- falls prevention (H. Jonsson)

- balancing everyday living (M. Eklund)

- primary/secondary stroke prevention (upcoming)  
and more...

- Assessment Development

- placing occupation in view ... in different ways

# Scandinavia cont.

- Participatory

- return to work (E. Asaba G. Eriksson, et al)
- interest-based occupations for elders in residential facilities (L. Rosenberg)
- dialog meetings (K. Johansson)
- creating inclusive communities (E. Asaba), and more...

- Qualitative

- exploratory & hypothesis generating studies ...



# South African contexts

**Roshan Galvaan**

University of Cape Town

Cape Town, South Africa

Areas of interest:

- occupational choice
- occupational justice in the curriculum
- occupational therapy in community development practice

# Research in South Africa

- Disability and violence: A narrative inquiry into the journey of healing (Motimele, 2013)
- An occupational perspective on the journey of recovery from substance abuse among young adult Zimbabwean men (Nhunzvi, 2014)

# Areas of interest in South Africa

- human occupation in diverse contexts
- politics of human occupation

# North American contexts

## Polle Price

University of Utah

Salt Lake City, USA

### Areas of interest:

- how occupation emerges in the therapy process
- how occupation is addressed in curricula
- social & occupational participation of adults living in the community with spinal cord injury
  - influence of occupational therapy on those outcomes

# Research topics

- what is occupational science (OS)
- building theory in OS
- negotiating academia with an OS agenda
- studies of occupation, health, identity, meaning
- use of occupation in practice

## Research topics cont.

- occupational balance and health
- what counts as occupation
- developing measures of occupation
- research methods used in OS
- education incorporating OS theory theory

# **Australasian contexts**

**Alison Wicks**

University of Canberra  
Canberra, Australia

Areas of interest:

- older persons' participation
- development of occupational potential
- occupation-based practice

# Australasian research topics

- understanding occupational implications of immigration
- children's occupations
- occupational strategies for ageing
- occupational deprivation



# Areas of scholarship

- humans as occupational beings
- occupational justice
- occupation for population health
- critical policy analysis

# South American contexts

- Occupational therapy in Chile: An experience against occupational injustice of mothers with intellectual disabilities (Magallanes)
- Occupational participation of people with severe impairment & who are dependent (Santiago)

# Japanese contexts

## Tomoko Kondo

Teikyo University of Science

Uenohara, Yamanashi, Japan

Areas of interest:

- collaborative occupation
- recovery from life crisis through occupation

# Research topics in Japan

- Occupational place
  - occupational therapists and patients
  - relocation for older persons
  - mothers of children with disability and society
- Use of occupation
  - effect of meaningful occupations
  - application to various persons
  - application to various settings
- Occupational justice