

*Concepts in dispute in occupational therapy:
Deepening the debate to better inform professional practices*



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Study context

- Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy at the Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil: 2014–2015: first PhD Program in Occupational Therapy in Latin America
- Course *Theoretical-Methodological References in Occupational Therapy* (first offer – 2016): theoretical concepts in occupational therapy
- Keynote delivered by Ana Malfitano during the 18th WFOT Congress, in 2022, Paris, France, prepared jointly with Patrícia Borba and Roseli Lopes (Malfitano, 2022).

PPGTO



18TH WFOT CONGRESS
OCCUPATIONAL R-EVOLUTION
28 – 31 AUGUST 2022



Metuia Network – Social
Occupational Therapy

Introduction

- Concepts (Barros, 2021; Hjørland, 2009).
- Loci of practice: occupation, human activity, *cotidiano* (everyday life), and ways of life.
- Purposes of occupational therapy: occupational engagement, social insertion/inclusion, emancipation/autonomy, and social participation. (Malfitano, 2022; Malfitano, Borba, & Lopes, 2023)
- Plurality of vocabularies, histories, and cultures within the profession

Goal

To explore how social concepts (specifically: **social transformation, social participation, social inclusion, social insertion**) are theorized and mobilized in literature in occupational therapy and occupational science.

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Methods

Phase 1:

- Searched on Web of Science, Scopus, CINAHL, SciELO, and Lilacs databases
- English, Portuguese, and Spanish, without a time limitation.
- After removing duplicated texts, 6,012 texts were identified.
- Following a two-stage screening process, 155 texts were included.

Identification

Studies from databases/registers (n = 10.291)
Scopus (n = 4.090)
CINAHL (n = 3.631)
Web of Science (n = 2.360)
Lilacs (n = 128)
SciELO (n = 82)

References removed (n = 4.279)
Duplicates identified manually (n = 280)
Duplicates identified by Covidence (n = 3.999)

Screening

Studies screened (n = 6.012)

Studies excluded (n = 5.450)

Studies sought for retrieval (n = 562)

Studies not retrieved (n = 0)

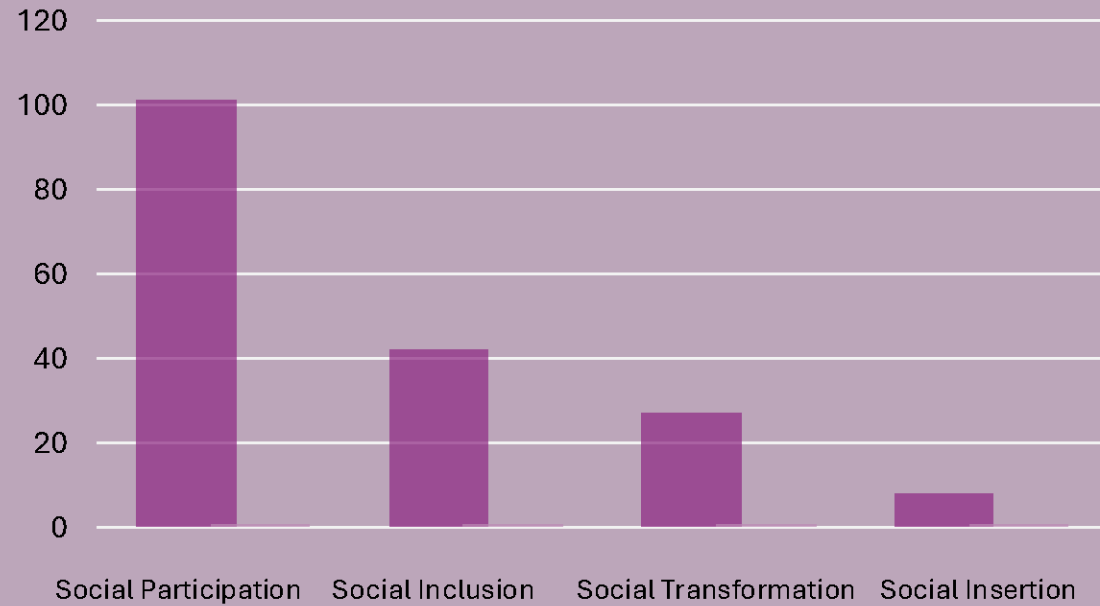
Studies assessed for eligibility (n = 562)

Studies excluded (n = 407)
Not OT or OS (n = 7)
SC for our study, but not defined (n = 93)
SC for our study peripheral/not focus (n = 125)
SC a focus, but not our study concepts (n = 152)
Not available in English, Spanish or Portuguese (n = 17)
Conference paper, book/book chapter, thesis, newsletter, and practice magazine (n = 13)

Included

Studies included in review (n = 155)

Concepts



<i>Concepts</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Social Participation	101	65,16%
Social Inclusion	42	27,10%
Social Transformation	27	17,42%
Social Insertion	8	5,16%
Total	155	

Methods

Phase 2: online dialogues with authors identified through our literature review in phase 1.

<i>Concept</i>	<i>Groups and Number of Participants</i>	<i>Countries</i>
Social Participation	03 Groups in English, 1 Group in Spanish, 1 Group in Portuguese (n=12)	Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Netherland, UK, United States,
Social Inclusion/ Social Insertion	02 Groups in English, 1 Group in Spanish/Portuguese (n=9)	Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, UK
Social Transformation	02 Groups in English, 1 Group in Portuguese (n=8)	Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Spain, South Africa, United States

Results

USA, Brazil, Canada and Australia were countries with the biggest number of articles.

Journals (number of articles)

Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy = 35 (23%)

Journal of Occupational Science = 21 (14%)

American Journal of Occupational Therapy = 16 (10%)

British Journal of Occupational Therapy = 8 (5%)

South African Journal of Occupational Therapy = 4 (3%)

47% of articles do not specify key-references to approach the concepts.

Discussion

Preliminary analysis:

Although the use of a social concept, there is a perspective predominantly focused on professional actions directed toward *individual-centered components*, without reference to the contextual dimension of life for the application of techniques and instruments.

It also highlights articles grounded in transactional and social perspectives, within a dialectic between the individual and society, promoting diversity and critical reflection on professional practice.

Critical reflexivity

Final Thoughts

The need for greater methodological rigor and continuous development of the foundations of the profession is identified in response to social challenges and the growing demand for professional practice.



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- Malfitano, A.P.S. (2022). An anthropophagic proposition in occupational therapy knowledge: Driving our actions towards social life, *World Federation of Occupational Therapists Bulletin*, 78(2), 70-82, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14473828.2022.2135065>.
- Malfitano, A. P.S., Borba, P. L.O., & Lopes, R.E. (2023). Palabras, conceptos y contextos históricos y culturales: : la pluralidad en Terapia Ocupacional [Words, concepts, and cultural and historical contexts: Plurality in Occupational Therapy]. *Revista Ocupación Humana*, 23(2), 104–135. <https://doi.org/10.25214/25907816.1591>

Thank you!

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