

WFOT Congress 2026

FORENSIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND ITS ROLE IN JUSTICE SYSTEMS: BENEFITS IN OCCUPATIONAL PARTICIPATION AND WELL-BEING OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

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INTRODUCTION

Forensic Occupational Therapy



Specialty related to the collection, analysis, and presentation of occupational performance evidence for legal purposes" (Martínez Cosme, 2021).



Objective: Restore dignity and prevent recidivism through meaningful occupation.

Key Areas of Practice:

- * **Criminal Investigation and Profiling.**
- * **Occupational Criminodiagnosis.**
- * **Occupational Autopsy.**



STUDY I – OCCUPATIONAL PATTERNS

Objective:

To identify habits, roles, and routines prior to internment.

Methodology:

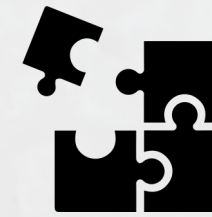
Descriptive and cross-sectional study (n=61).

Instruments:

MOHO-based (Role Checklist, Routine Questionnaire).

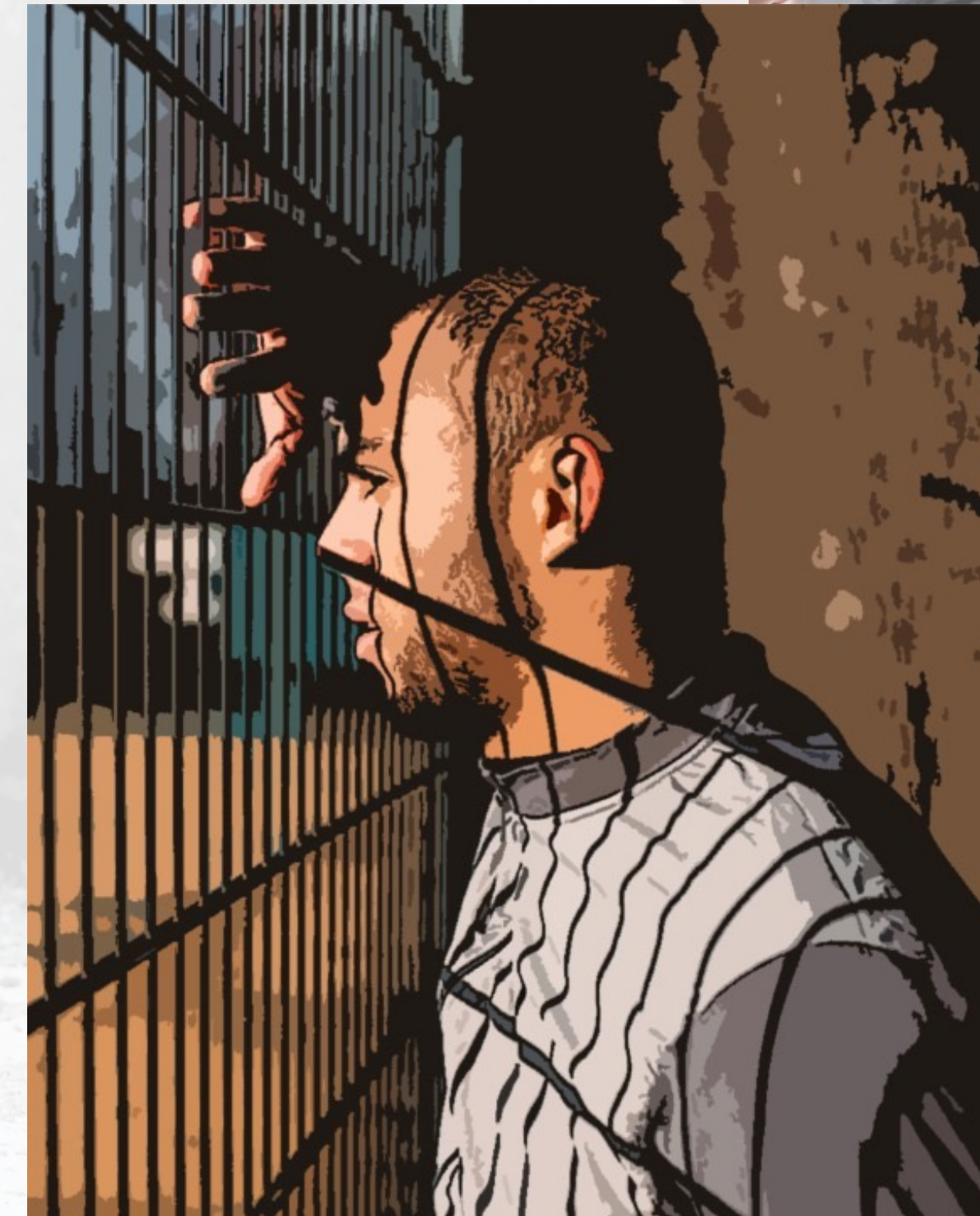
Key Finding:

20% of adolescents identified with the "Offender Role" before being judged.

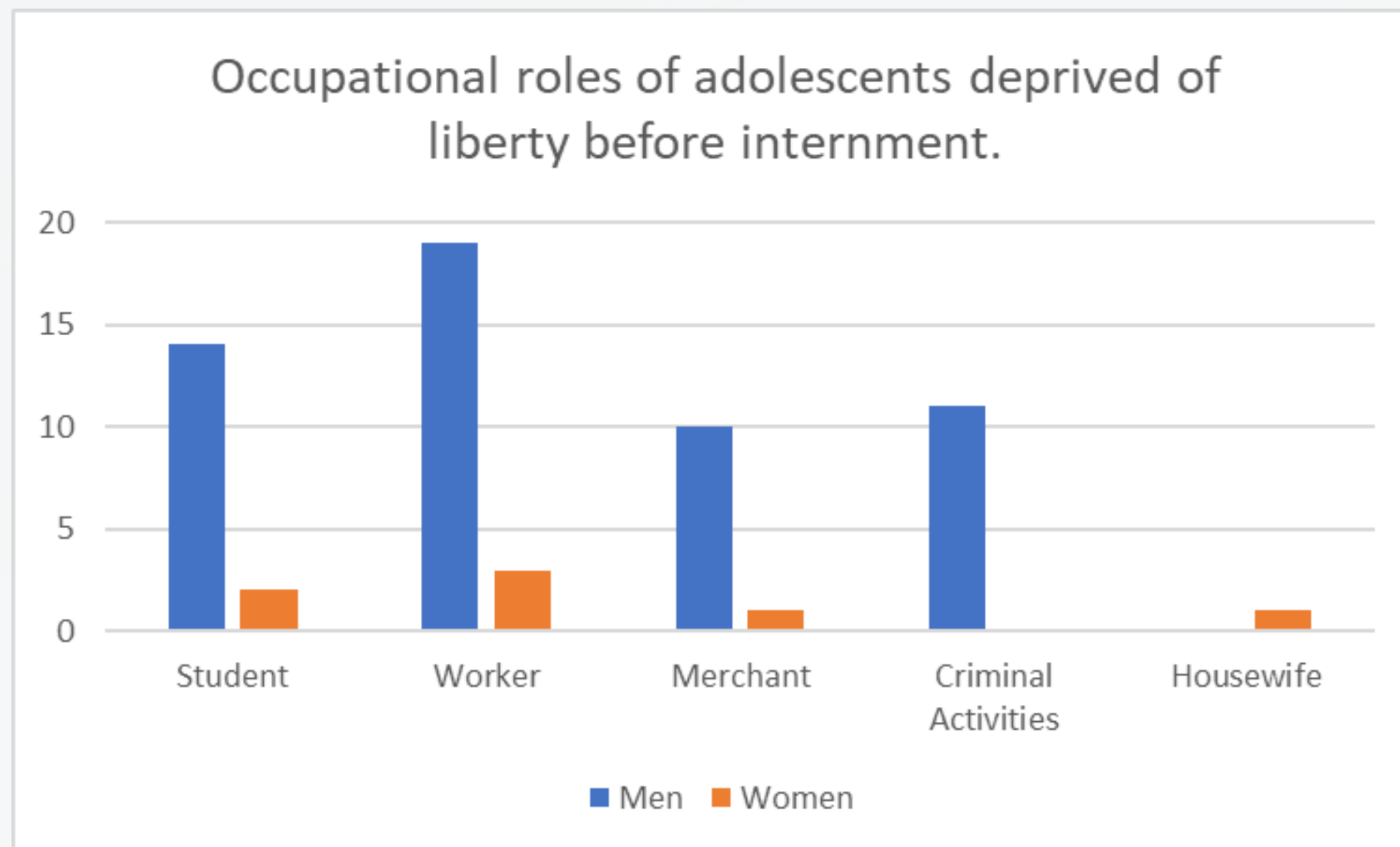


Conclusion:

Antisocial behavior arises as a response to the lack of productive roles and a deviated occupational identity.



STATISTICS



22% were students, 20% already fully identified with the role of 'offender'. This indicates that the justice system often arrives when the occupational identity is already fractured



STUDY II – PREVENTION & PERCEPTION OF INSECURITY

Objective:

To evaluate the impact of OT on environmental fear and participation.

Methodology:

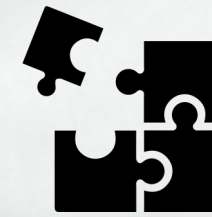
Pre-test/Post-test cohort design (n=134).
38 intensive sessions.

Instruments:

COMP

Key Finding:

- Occupational Performance: 4.3 → 7.8 ($p < 0.001$).
- Significant reduction in global perception of insecurity.



Conclusion:

OT reduces environmental fear, allowing the regain of public space and social roles.



STUDY III – MENTAL HEALTH

Objective:

To analyze the impact of OT on substance users in contexts of abandonment

Methodology:

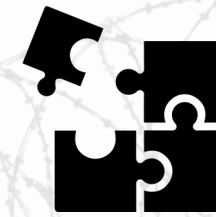
Pre-test/Post-test design (n=17).

Instruments:

Goldstein Social Skills Checklist.

Key Improvements:

- Skills Related to Feelings: +25.18%.
- Stress Management: +20.88%.



Conclusion:

- Meaningful occupation channels impulsivity and strengthens resilience in high-complexity profiles.



STUDY IV – OCCUPATIONAL JUSTICE (CASE REPORT)

Subject:

J.D.F.M. (Spinal Cord Injury C7-T1).

Methodology:

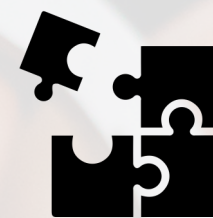
4-year qualitative single case study.

Intervention:

Functional rehabilitation + Volitional strengthening (Life Project).

Results:

- Independence (SCIM): 41 → 70 points.
- Life Project: Transitioned from uncertainty to University (Tourism/Design).



Core Message:

Occupational Justice ensures the right to rehabilitation within the justice system.



STUDY V – IDENTITY & FUTURE PROJECTION

Objective:

To reconfigure occupational identity post-OT intervention.

Phases:

1. Exploration,
2. Competence,
3. Achievement (40 sessions).

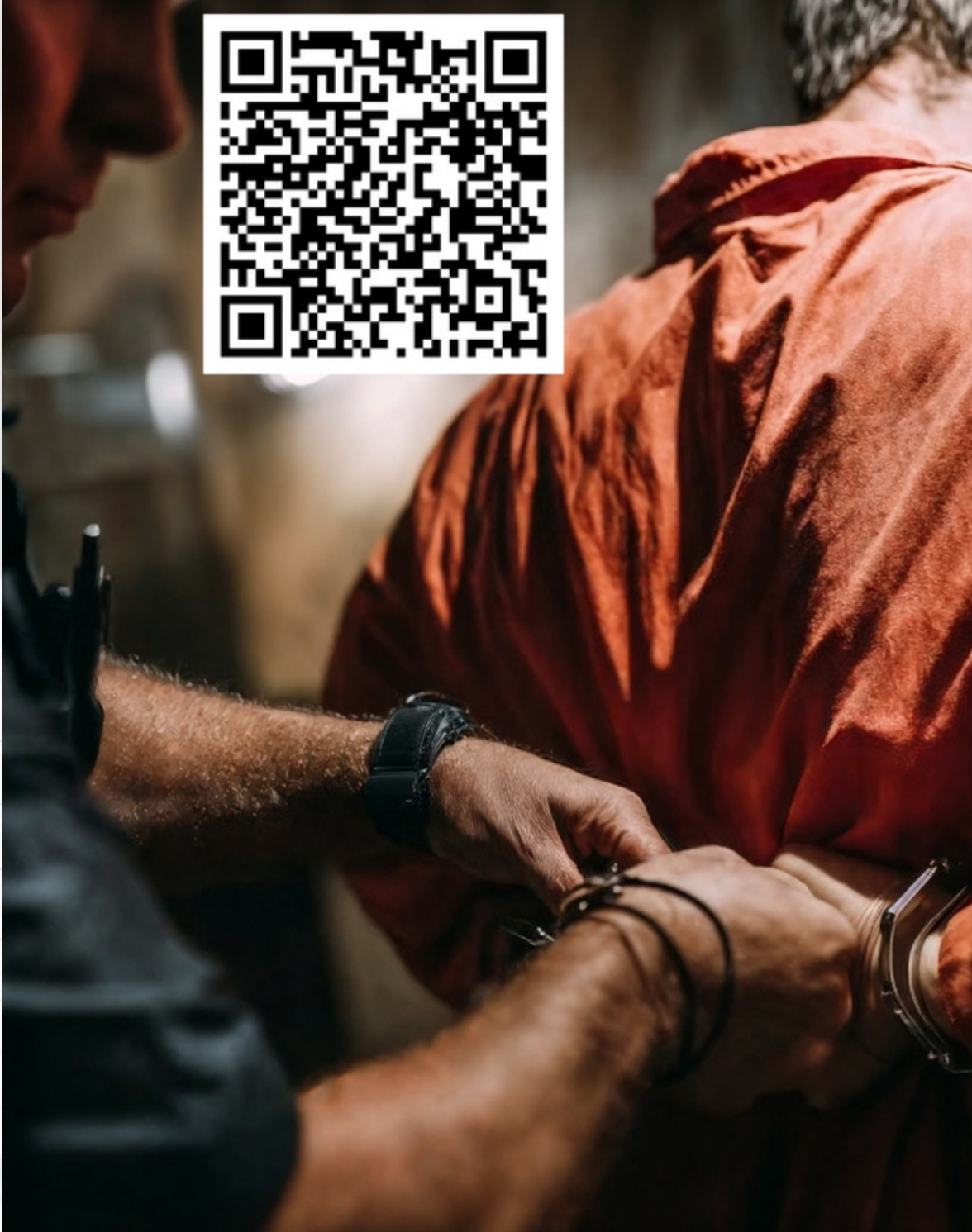
Identity Shift (Table):

- Student Role Interest: 22% (Pre) → 78% (Post).
- Worker Role Interest: 45% (Pre) → 90% (Post).
- Occupational Satisfaction: 2.5 → 8.5 points.



Conclusion:

Occupation allows the redesign of personal narrative and future projection.





FINAL CONCLUSIONS

- From Statistics to People: Shifting from recidivism data to life projects.
- Justice Tool: Forensic OT is an essential pathway for social justice and human well-being.
- Global Impact: Integrating OT into judicial systems promotes dignity and effective reintegration.



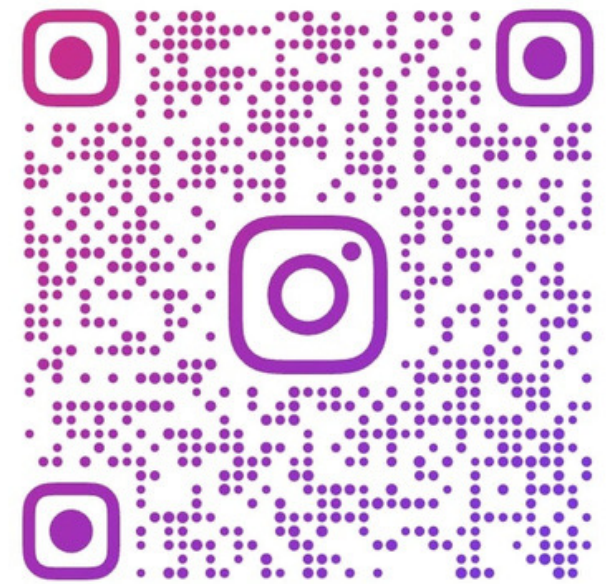
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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