

Book Projects in the Global South: Advancing Knowledge Democratization in Occupational Therapy

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Who writes OT shapes what OT becomes

The Issue

- Book projects focused on the Global South play a crucial role in:
 - Knowledge democratization
 - Professional identity formation
 - Decolonizing OT education and practice
- They challenge whose voices are treated as authoritative in occupational therapy.

Why the Global South?

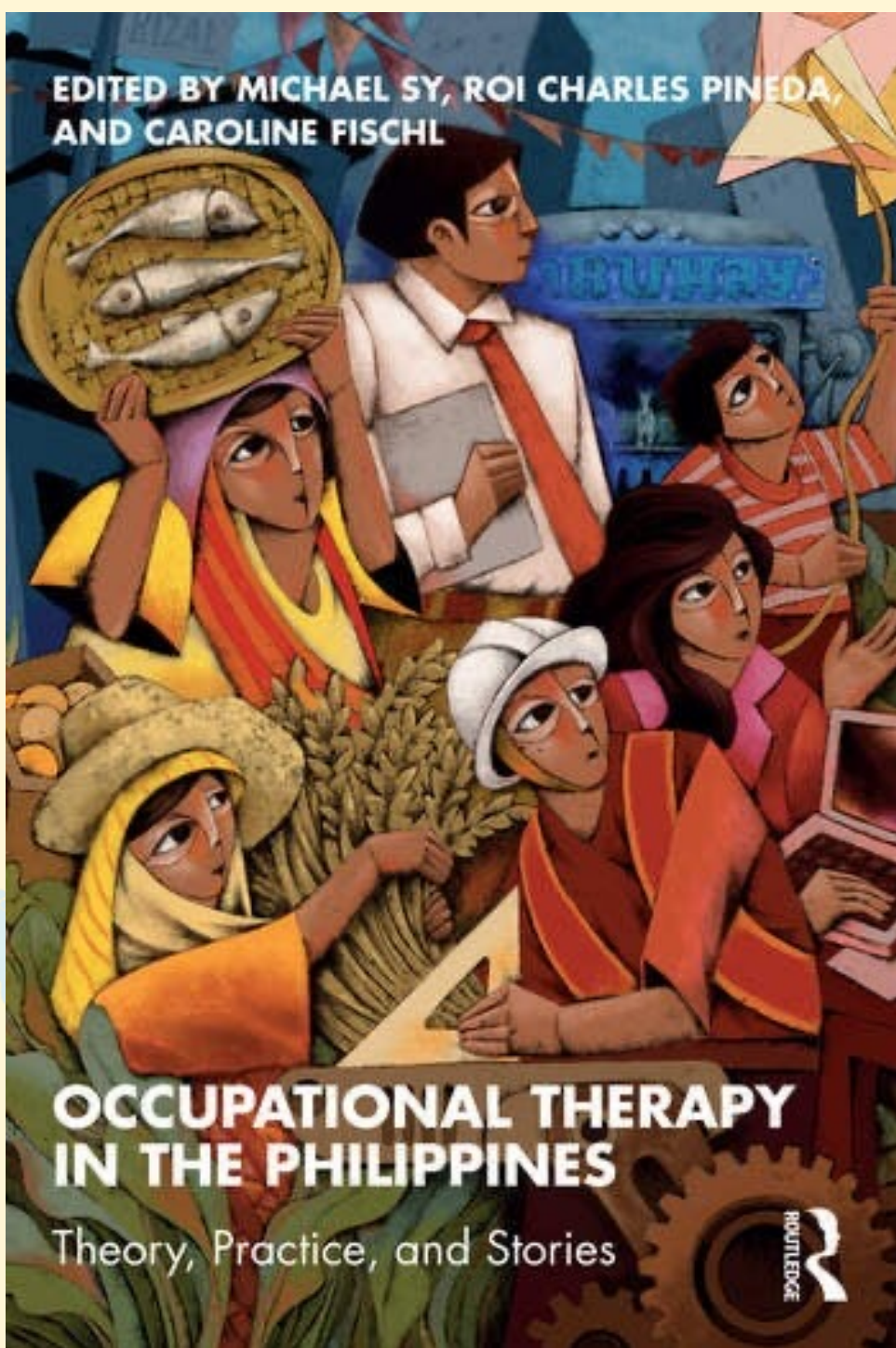
- Occupational therapy is practiced worldwide, yet:
 - Most OT theory and publishing is controlled by the Global North
 - Many communities, traditions, and practices remain invisible
 - Migration, colonial histories, and local cultures shape OT in the South
- The Global South is not peripheral – it is foundational.

Why Knowledge Democratization Matters?

- When knowledge is shared more equitably:
 - More voices shape OT theory and practice
 - Local expertise becomes visible
 - The profession becomes more inclusive, relevant, and just.
- This is not just about representation – it is about the future of the profession.

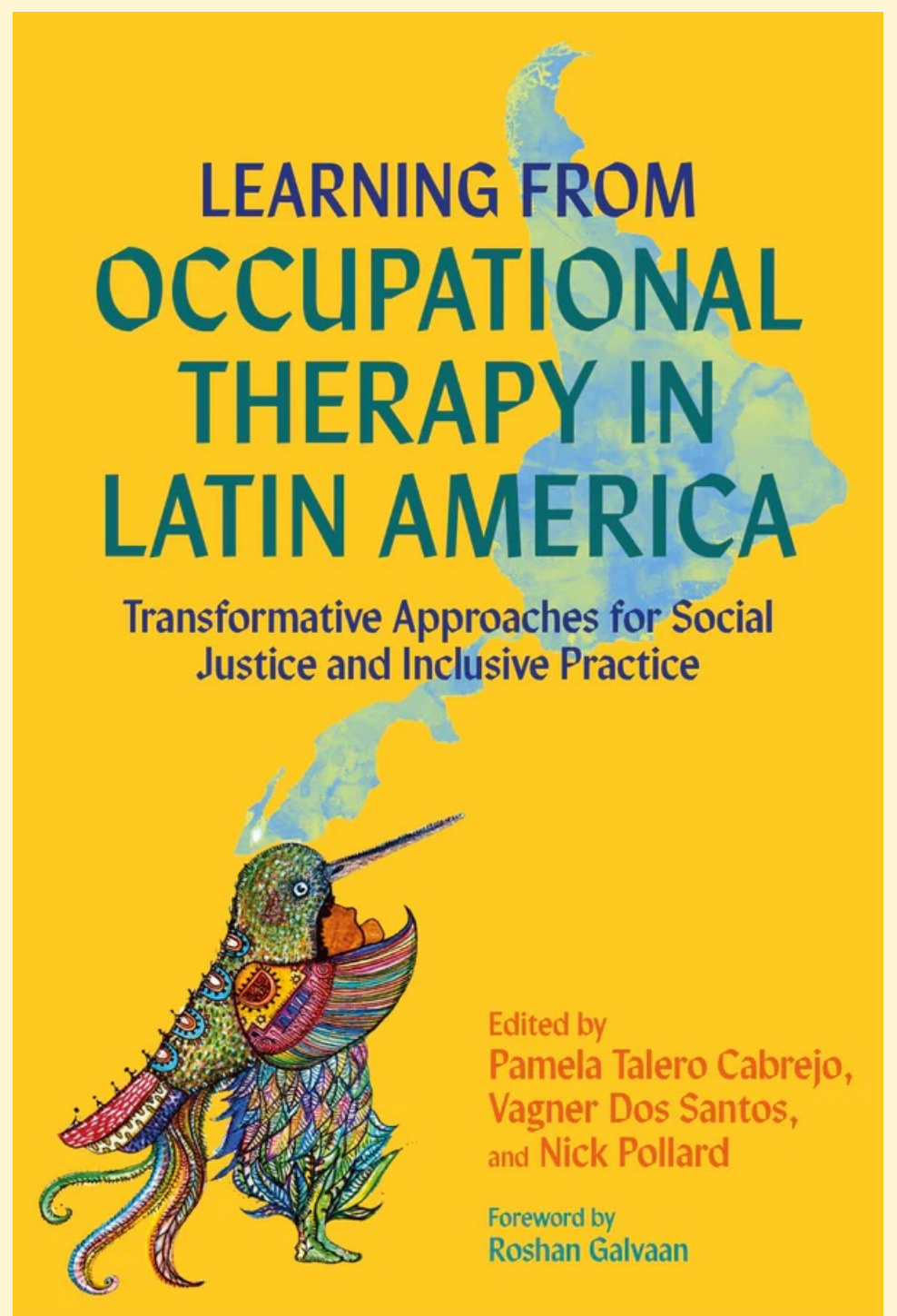
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Two Editorial Projects from the Global South



Sy, M., Pineda, R. C., & Fischl, C. (Eds.). (2025). *Occupational Therapy in the Philippines: Theory, Practice, and Stories*. Routledge

- Integrates professional history, theory, and lived practice.
- Practice chapters across community, justice, disaster, technology, and social care.
- Includes education pathways, ethics, and research development.
- Uses Filipino cultural concepts to explain what occupation is and why it matters.



Talero Cabrejo, P., Dos Santos, V. & Pollard, N. (Eds.). (2025). *Learning from Occupational Therapy in Latin America: Transformative Approaches for Social Justice and Inclusive Practice*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers

- Structured around Lifeways, Identities, Territories, and Arenas—linking occupation to place, power, and relational life.
- Case studies connect occupation to inequality, migration, and social struggle.
- Reflection points support critical pedagogy and ethical reasoning.
- Frames Latin American OT as a source of theory, not just application.

What Global South Book Projects Do



Knowledge

- Expand what counts as OT theory.
- Link history, epistemology, and ontology to everyday practice.
- Make local, cultural, and political realities legible and citable.

What we know about occupation changes.



Power

- Shift who gets to define what counts as knowledge
- Turn practice into theory.
- Build epistemic justice through authorship and publishing.

Who gets to speak changes.



Profession

- Strengthen OT's global identity.
- Support plural, decolonial futures.
- Align with social justice.

What OT stands for changes.

