

Foregrounding Asia-Pacific perspectives in the study of occupations

Developing a protocol for a scoping review of multilingual studies

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Across development in occupational science - understandings of “occupation” have been debated



occupation

Specific “chunks” of activity within the ongoing stream of human behavior which are named in the lexicon of the culture.

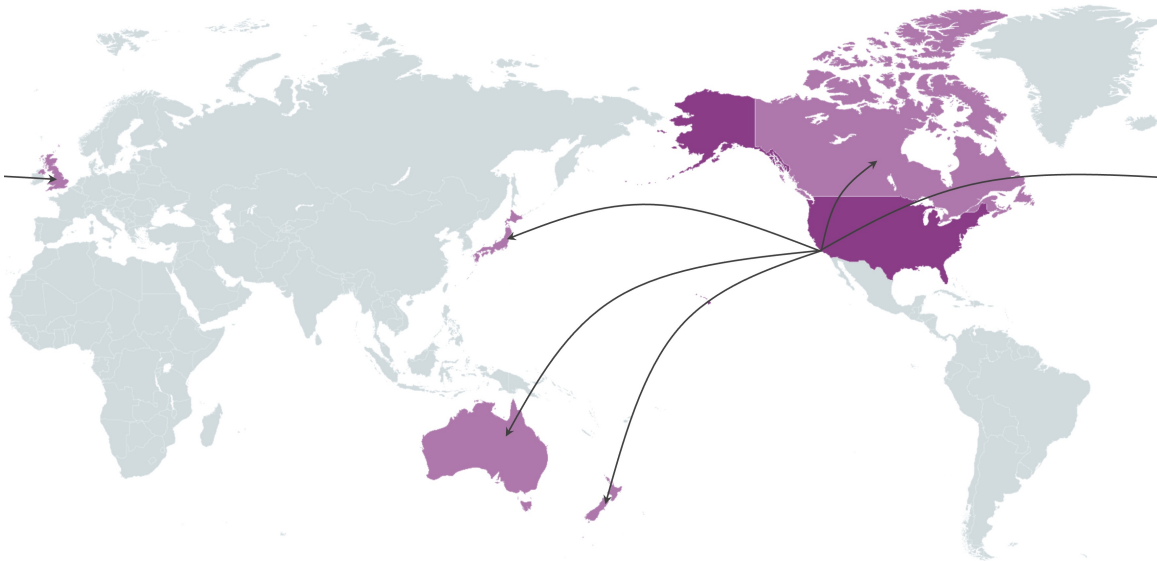
(Yerxa et al., 1990, p. 5)

Occupation as *doing, being, becoming*.

(Wilcock, 1998)

Occupation can be relevant and inclusive if understood in terms of *person-experiences related to anything they do in everyday life* rather than categories of self-care, productivity, and leisure.

(Hammel, 2009; Jonsson, 2008)



Anglophonic / Eurocentric conceptualizations of occupation dominate occupational science.

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A descriptive review of occupational science publications in English since 2007: Key trends and challenges

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ABSTRACT

As occupational science approaches its 35th year as a discipline, it is important to take stock of the state of the science. This review provides a comprehensive update on the state of English-language journal publications overtly labeled as occupational science from January 2007 to June 2022. The research aims included: 1) characterize occupational science journal articles, including population, methodology, and funding status; and 2) describe the sources of occupational science publications, including which journals are publishing occupational science content, abstract translations, and where authors are affiliated. Seven databases were searched, and a hand-search of the *Journal of Occupational Science* and other journals conducted. Extracted information from articles was analyzed using quantitative and qualitative content analysis. The final analysis included 634 articles, primarily sourced from the *Journal of Occupational Science* (71%). Authors contributing to occupational science publications spanned 40 countries. Funding was reported in 25% of the articles. Empirical studies constituted most articles (58.7%), with qualitative methods used most frequently (84.7%). Most research focused on the general population (41%), particularly adults (54%). Notable findings, key trends, and challenges within the field are discussed in four categories: (1) publications, journals, and keywords; (2) methodology and funding; (3) populations studied; and (4) author

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The top represented countries were from North America and Europe.

Language barriers hinder flow of knowledge, with non-English speaking countries being underrepresented.



There has been movements challenging these dominant perspectives.

Valoramos la diversidad, pero
esperamos que se hable Inglés
[We value diversity, but
we expect it to speak English].

Farias, 2025, p. 5

Theories of occupation
“belong” to white, middle-class,
English-speaking Western theorists
(theoretical imperialism).

Whalley Hammel, 2011, p. 31

Occupational polyglossy can lead to a healthy heterarchy of perspectives and cultures but the hegemonic group of a society often appropriates cultural discourse, while all other groups become problematized in varying degrees.

Pollard & Sakellariou, 2012, p.36

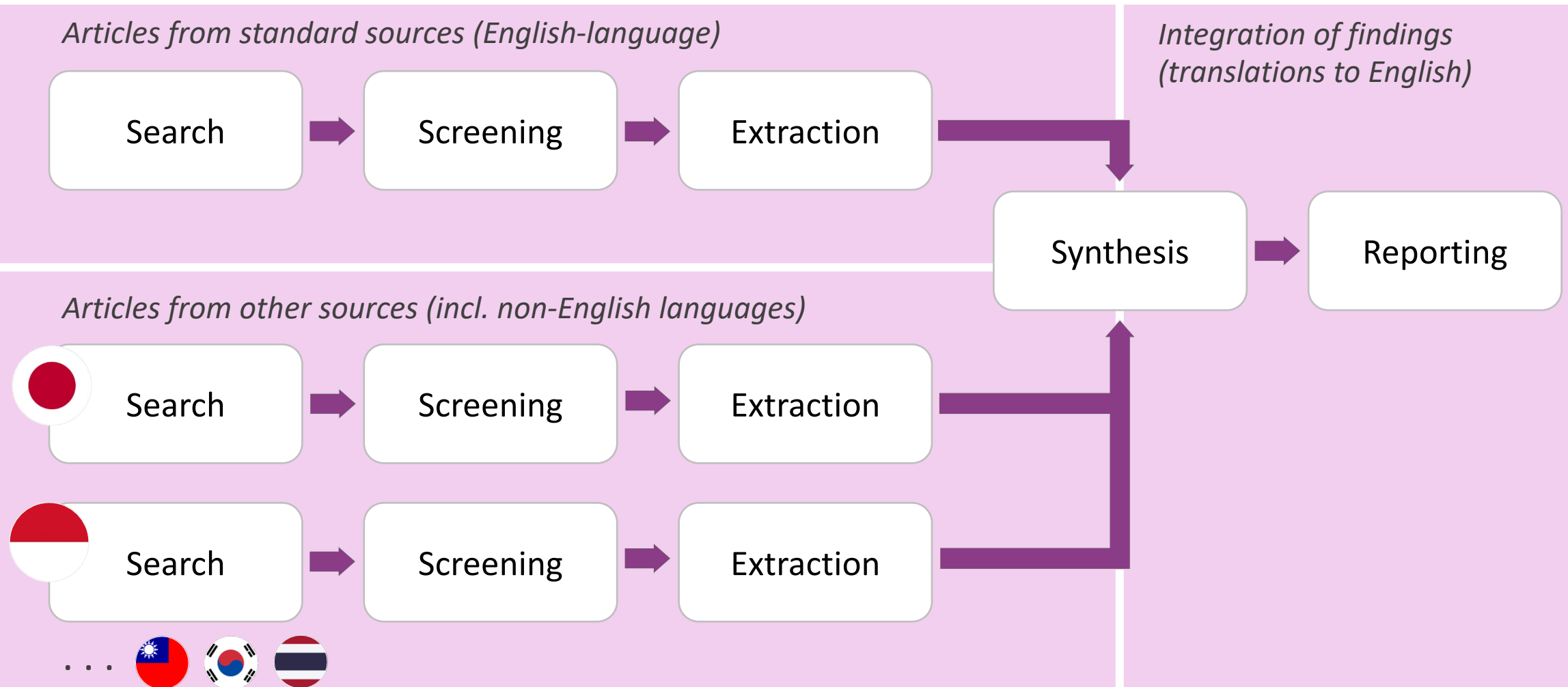


How is occupation conceptualized and used in language/country contexts of the Asia-Pacific?



2024 Asia-Pacific OT Congress
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We adapted Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) guidelines for scoping review protocols.



A key step is understanding knowledge sources across the different country/language contexts.

Search

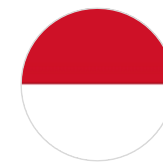
Identify publication practices and volume for each country context and adapt the search strategy accordingly.



- Publications in Japanese, which are indexed in Japanese databases
- High volume of local material in Japanese



- Publications in English, incl. articles and student theses
- Moderate volume of local material in English



- Publications in Bahasa, mostly as student thesis
- Low volume of local material in Bahasa

A key step is understanding knowledge sources across the different country/language contexts.

Screening

Acknowledge that many of the articles' primary objective is not specifically to theorize about or conceptualize "occupations."

Pilot run screening with the whole team to explore patterns among searched articles.

Create clear screening instructions beyond just the matrix of inclusion/exclusion criteria.

More inclusive discourse about occupation would require a shift in practices.



Be deliberate in including non-English and non-European languages in reviews.



Facilitate stronger intercontinental collaborations to foster teams of multilingual occupational scientists.



Greater institutional support for multilingual reviews.



Current Team Composition



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