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Modelling occupation in a globalised world - continuing the content validation of a conceptual model relevant for multicultural contexts

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Within occupational therapy and occupational science conceptual models have been developed from the basic concept of occupation, since the 1980s, mainly by English speaking Western scholars. Recently models created within the cultural contexts of Asia and Scandinavia have emerged too. However, along with the development of the Kawa model based in the Japanese culture, Iwama rightly criticized model-building within the field for being Western-centred presuming individualism and rationality as normative. What are the consequences of such critique? Do we have to develop a conceptual model for each separate cultural context or is it be possible to develop a model culturally dynamic enough to have relevance and explanatory power within a globalised world?

The Value and Meaning in Occupations (ValMO) model are being developed within a Swedish cultural frame imprinted by immigrants from most parts of the world that recreate the society to an increased multicultural context. Therefore, in the development of the ValMO model the intention has been to make it relevant for humans with diverse cultural narratives and word views. However, the model and its derived instruments have to date only been tested for content validity in a Swedish context. Thus, we see this world conference as an important possibility to present the model in culturally diverse groups of occupational therapists and scientists. Through small group discussions we intend to expose the model's aspects and dimensions to the diverse world views and experiences of the individuals participating in the workshop. Their discussions, critiques and reflections will contribute to the content validity process of the ValMO model.

Learning objective:

- To present the ValMO model in a group of culturally diverse occupational therapists and scientist with an assumed variety of views of occupation and everyday life for the purpose of sharing with the participants a novel conceptual frame of reference that hopefully would be a useful and applicable tool in their different cultural contexts.

Length of time: 1.5 hours

Participants: Maximum 30