

EDITORIAL

Occupational Therapy in Brazil: expanding the fields of practice according to historical, theoretical and methodological perspectives

The first courses in Occupational Therapy in Brazil emerged in the 1950s, influenced by the international rehabilitation movement and by their insertion in psychiatric institutions.

In 1969, by means of the Decree-Law No. 938, of October 13, 1969, the profession was recognized as a higherlevel course and finally regulated once and for all. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, professionals in the field of Occupational Therapy questioned the reductionist and often exclusionary view of their practices, especially in institutional contexts, based on and influenced by positivist theoretical contributions¹⁻².

In search of answers to these questions, the profession approached other fields, such as the social and human sciences, and collective health, with theoretical and conceptual influences from humanism and historical materialism. In Brazil, from 1980 to 2000, the profession allied itself to the democratic rights movements, against authoritarian governmental guidelines, engaging in the fight for rights and for the establishment of public policies, such as the consolidation of the Unified Health System (SUS), the National Mental Health Policy, the Statute of the Child and Adolescent, the Statute of the Elderly, the school inclusion of people with disabilities, the National Social Assistance Policy (SUAS). The participation in these movements has driven the expansion of the field of Occupational Therapy beyond the health area, namely: education, social, art and culture, among others, towards the proposition of emancipatory practices³.

In this scenario, practices in territorial and community spaces have been a priority, in search of the production of life and care, valuing the daily experiences of people in their contexts, the struggles for the guarantee of human rights and power relations, and the rescue of history, values and culture. From this perspective, theoretical references such as Epistemologies of the South, Decolonial Thought and Decolonialization are significant contributions to the deconstruction of the logics of domination (colonialist, capitalist and patriarchal) with a view to the emergence of knowledge and production of life in the daily lives of people under occupational therapy care in Brazil⁴.

Alongside this movement, the influence of other theoretical contributions has also emerged in the practices of Brazilian occupational therapists, such as: the structure and practice of Occupational Therapy proposed by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the Canadian Model of Occupational Performance and Engagement, the Human

Occupation Model, the Kawa Model, Evidence-Based Occupational Therapy, Occupational Science, among others.

In this context, the articles in this issue of the Journal Family, Life Cycles and Health in the Social Context illustrate the movements of Occupational Therapy and its insertion in different fields and practice settings subsidized by theoretical contributions that support its methods, techniques, approaches and perspectives, with highlights to: identification and publication of scientific productions that show the advances over time, helping to understand the actions and importance in the various practice settings and the points of interest and trends of the profession.

Goog reading!

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