



Health Professionals Working With Displaced Persons

Nadine Blankvoort MOT
MSC. GH



Outline

- **Is it our role?**
- **Human displacement from a occupational perspective**
- **OT Through the Eyes of Refugees – Co-creating Practices**
- **OT Europe Expert Group**
- **Current State of Practice**
- **Gaps through the eyes of those in the Field**
- **Moving Forward: Call-to-Action**

Is it our role?

- Jane Adams: Social worker and winner of Nobel Peace Prize 1931: cofounder of Hull House Settlement Home in Chicago for new migrants
- Major concepts underlying the development of occupational therapy: **social, critical and community discipline.**
- Jane Addams supported Eleanor Clarke Slagle in candidacy for president of *National Society for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy*
- Pushed profession to a **social and critical focus**: Over years was lost to mechanistic and reductionist paradigm
- Attention for social in OT as therefore not emerging and new, **but re-emerging and returning to the roots of the profession.**
- **OT has always been social and always been political**
- Morisson, 2016



Human Displacement in European Context

- 71.4 million people suffering from displacement end of 2017 (UNHCR, 2018)
- Fleeing national and international conflict, persecution, food insecurity, environmental catastrophe, climate change and economic insecurity
- 2015-2016: 2,4 asylum applications in Europe
- Restriction in border crossings – increase in trafficking and smuggling
- Burden falling on Southern European countries

Human Displacement from an Occupational Perspective

Occupational disruption: situation of upheaval, adapting to new contexts and managing uncertain situations

Occupational deprivation: Restrictive environments (detention centres) and lack of access to cultural occupations

Occupational Injustice: Exclusion from participation in occupations due to larger system of government policies



Co-Creating Practices



My dutch language



OT Through the Eyes of Refugees

Definition of OT from Refugees

- Occupational therapy is a discipline which investigates the causes of issues in participation, confirms the desired end results of the client and from there, together with the client, searches for solutions to these issues in order to improve participation in society.

A new you: A collaborative exploration of occupational therapy's role with refugees

Nadine Blankvoort, Muzeyyen Arslan, Ani Tonoyan, Ahmad Q. Damour & Liliane Mpabanzi

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in-your-own-way

activity all-ages
continuing-together break-in-ability
nice-job body-structure-problem work direct-referral
work-where-people-rest function
occupatoins support-in-ADL abilities
barriers public-sector health-condition
voluntary
participation
guide solve group
support first private social rehabilitation
line profession occupation school
people seniors
treatment solving-together independence
environment participatoin
occupations

A New Me

- Matchmaker, Translator and a Connector
- *As an occupational therapist, you need to understand that individuals who don't verbalize goals may not be unmotivated, but instead may be in a position where they have no choice, or don't feel secure or able to set goals. We summarize this by saying: you may be asking someone what they want to do, in a system that actually encourages people to wait and do nothing.*

A New You

- *The father, though home, was in no way expected to provide any kind of personal care for the mother. This would have been inappropriate. Here it was the expectation that the daughters would fulfil this caregiving role. If an occupational therapist fails to recognize this, or attempts to force individuals into other roles without an open discussion on role expectations, then this can result in negative feelings from the refugee and the refugee's family.*

Current Practices

- The Participatory Occupational Justice Framework (Whiteford et al., 2017): WHAT, WHY, HOW and WHERE
- Can be used to examine the role of OT with marginalized groups
- Requires OT's to 1) Develop a critical viewpoint, 2) recognize power practices and 3) focus on the environment: beyond the physical to include institutional, political and legal.

WHAT

Sarah Novak: Berlin Germany

Café Breakout

- **Model of café based on occupation-based theories and models**
- **Recognized a gap in services between school and work: nothing to do**
- **Refugee run café, open to public but run by youth, including refugees**
- **Refugees work 6 months and while working receive training to help pursue future career opportunities**

WHY:

Theodoris Bogas: Athens, Greece

Promoting Occupational Justice in a Refugee Camp in Greece

- **Solidarity Now: Programing focused on children to promote psychosocial wellbeing, education and reiliance**
- **Advocate for social inclusion of refugees, providing platform for voice of service users in the design of programs**

WHERE

Nadine Blankvoort: The Netherlands

Discourse on Integration in Programs for Refugees in the Netherlands


- **Researches integration programs to explore how integration is being promoted in practice, comparing government programs to those which have been started by refugees**
- **Aims to understand in what why the context promotes “good” citizenship and “successful” integration to refugees and what impact this has on their day-to-day life and occupations**
- **Community of inquiry with refugees and service providers to inform practice development**

HOW

Virve Vijanen: Finland


Enablement Approach in Cultural Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic

- **PhD research on the perceptions of occupation for people seeking asylum in the UK.**
- **Raises connections between seeking asylum and low self-worth, particularly through reduced access to occupational opportunities**
- **Low demand, low status occupations reduced a sense of purpose and well-being**
- **Waiting, Waiting, Waiting Quote**




Gaps: Through the Eyes of Those in the Field

- “*Not enough research* is done in this field altogether. There is some done in the community-based treatments or therapy, but assessment, evaluations and intervention and the *ways we need to see the human uniqueness is missing*, and in this case it's really uniqueness. Since we don't have the assessment methods - *we miss information* - something more solid to the reality of the immigrant and refugee.”




Gaps: Through the Eyes of Those in the Field

- “For example, I found that occupations that are *allowed, obligatory, forbidden or gender-based are important to understand*. This is important as part of your activity analysis. You need to understand the gender rules in other cultures which shape these activities and occupations that are meaningful, which also *questions our occupational therapy point of view of what a “normal” ADL is*. We need to redefine these because they are *not the same all over the world.*”



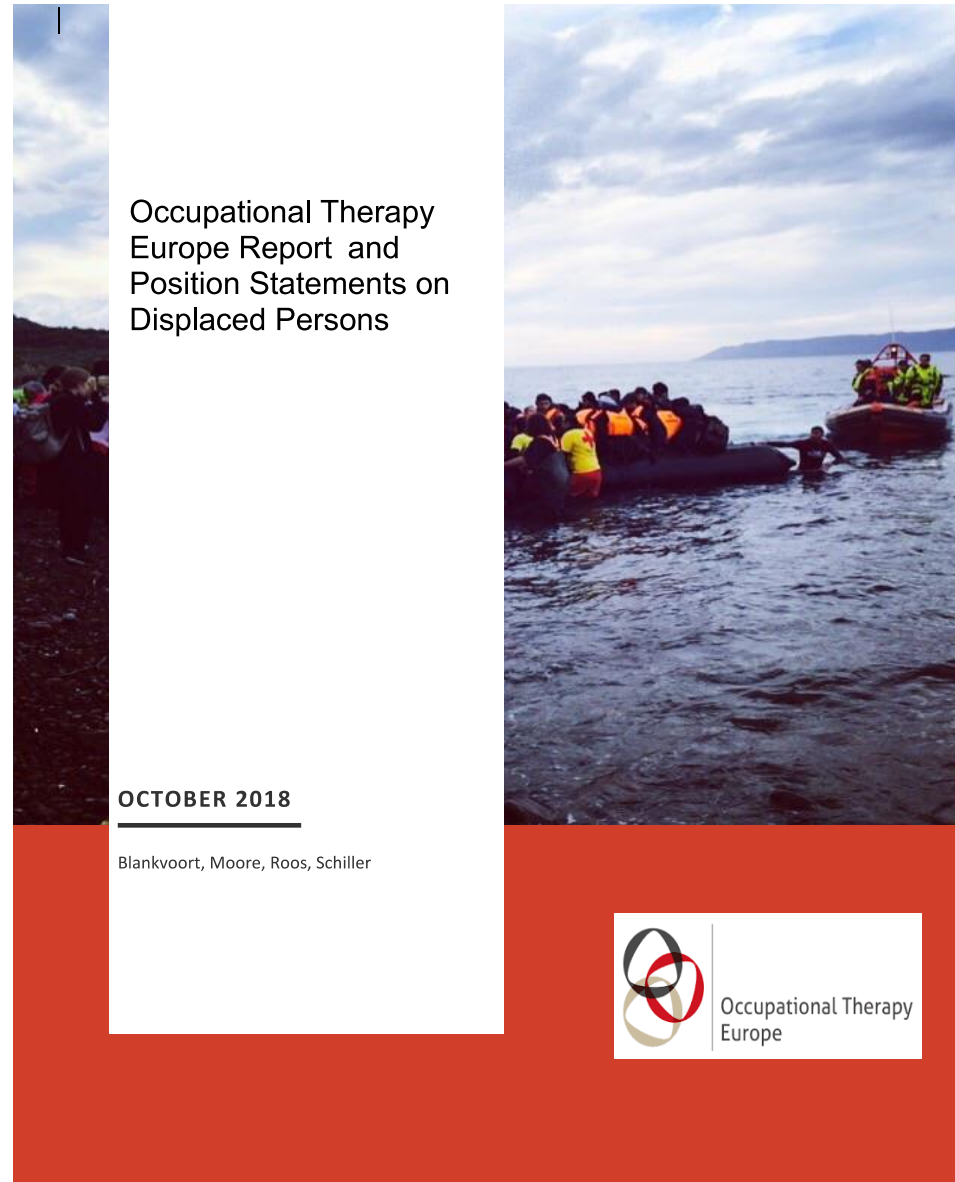
Gaps: Through the Eyes of Those in the Field

- *“It is difficult for professional organizations; they want to write position papers but there is a lot of discussion around it, so it takes a long time. Other professions have had their papers out quicker and now **occupational therapy is missing from the discussions**. They are in a difficult political situation in our country, so the professional association wants to play it safe.”*



Gaps Gaps: Through the Eyes of Those in the Field

- “Students need to understand the *culture first*: interview, discuss, question which we can use to understand the background of people and only then can you start to evaluate what it means now in the reality they are in now and what this means for the matching of the occupational roles here and there.”



Occupational Therapy
Europe Report and
Position Statements on
Displaced Persons

OCTOBER 2018

Blankvoort, Moore, Roos, Schiller



- Analysis of displacement from European and occupational perspective
 - Collection of what is currently happening in OT
 - Practice examples of OT with displaced persons
 - Implications for future OT practice, research and education
-

Report



OT-Europe Interest Group Displaced
Persons Position Paper for
Occupational Therapy Research,
Practice and Education

Nadine Blankvoort, MOT MSc. GH, Temple Moore MSc. OT, Kim Roos, MSc. OT, Sandra Schiller, PhD

- Based on implications from report
 - Intended audience OT education, research and practice
 - Position statements on what is required to develop OT role in this field
-

Call to Action



Position Paper Template for Professional Organizations

Nadine Blankvoort, MOT MSc. GH, Temple Moore MSc. OT, Kim Roos, MSc. OT, Sandra Schiller, PhD

- Intended for audience beyond OT
 - Allows professional organizations to adapt to their local context
 - Facilitates the ability for further development of position statements in Europe
-

OT-Europe Interest Group
Template Professional
Organizations



- <https://sites.google.com/site/oteudisplacedpersons>

Website OT-EU Displaced Persons!!

OT Europe Interest Group Displaced Persons

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Report](#)

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[Discussion Forum](#)

[Tools for Educators](#)



This site aims to serve as a tool for occupational therapy and occupational science practitioners, researchers, students and educators who are aiming to work with displaced persons in their specific countries.

In May 2017, during the ENOTHE-COTEC conference in Galway, Ireland, it was recognized that there was a need to build a network of OT's in Europe who are interested in working with displaced persons. This site aims to contribute to this next by providing a map and description of current practice examples, a report and position paper of OT in Europe with displaced persons, discussion forums and resources for researchers, practitioners, students and educators.

Practice Examples Map

[← Theo Bogaes](#)

Name
Theo Bogaes


Email
bogeast@solidaritynow.org

Location
Greece

Latitude
38.325

Longitude
23.319

Description
Solidarity Now: Occupational programming
for children in refugee camps



Map data ©2018 Google, INEGI [Terms](#) 500 km

Practice Examples

Research



[Nadine Blankvoort](#)

Critical discourse analysis of integration programs in the Netherlands and their impact on daily lives

Practice



[Temple Moore](#)

Volunteer with refugees and unaccompanied minors in Greece. Development of strength-based narrative story telling



Tools for Practitioners

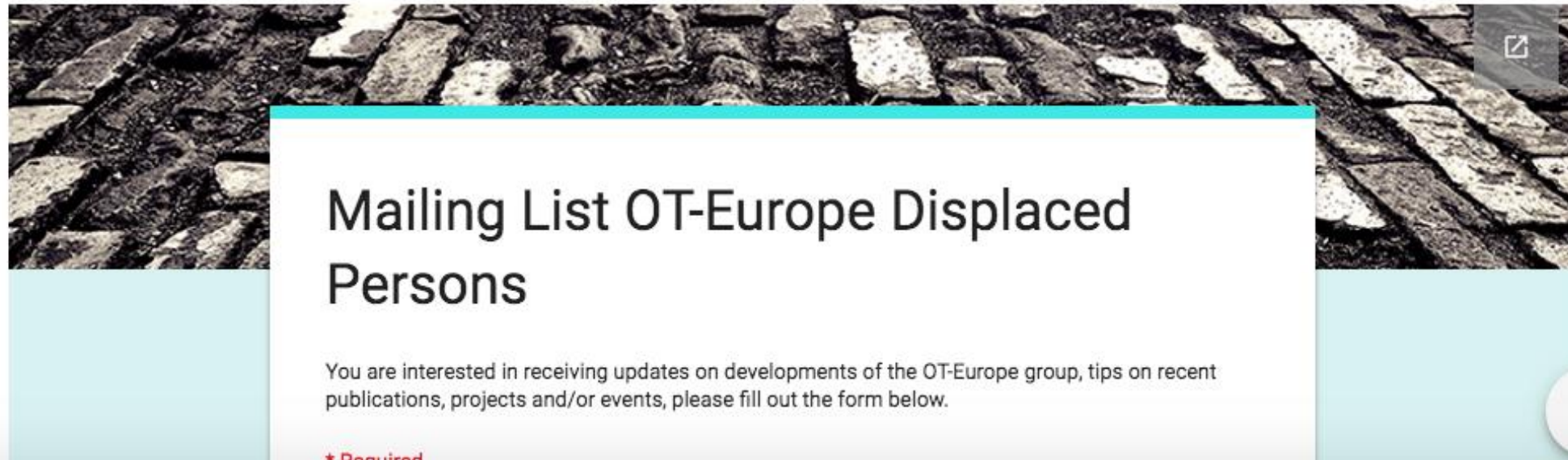


Strength-Based Narrative Storytelling

[https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14473828.2017.1298557?
journalCode=yotb20](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14473828.2017.1298557?journalCode=yotb20)

Contact and Mailing List

For more information, please contact Nadine Blankvoort at nblankvoort@gmail.com. If you are interested in joining our mailing list for updates, please fill out the form below.



Mailing List OT-Europe Displaced Persons

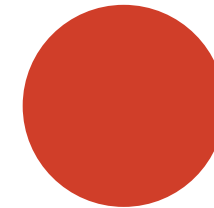
You are interested in receiving updates on developments of the OT-Europe group, tips on recent publications, projects and/or events, please fill out the form below.

* Required

- As active work form can have people go to website and review the call to action in three groups (for each area)
- If not, then can briefly present a summary with 1-2 examples per area



Call-to-Action



Call-to-Action Discussion

- Are there things that surprise you?
- Are there things you agree or disagree with?
- What are important steps we can take to meet this call?
- What can you do in your own practice?
- What will you do differently after reading this?
- What do your individual professions have to embrace, learn or change in order to embrace these calls to action



Thank you for your attention!

- N.L.BLANKVOORT@HVA.NL
- @OTNadine
- @OTEUDisPersons