

# English Matters



ALZBETA

CLAUDIA

MARTA

FRANCE



# WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THE COURSE

COURAGE AND BRAVE TO SPEAKING

DIFFERENT EUROPEAN CULTURES



HISTORY



FOOD



LEGENDS



MUSIC



LANDSCAPE

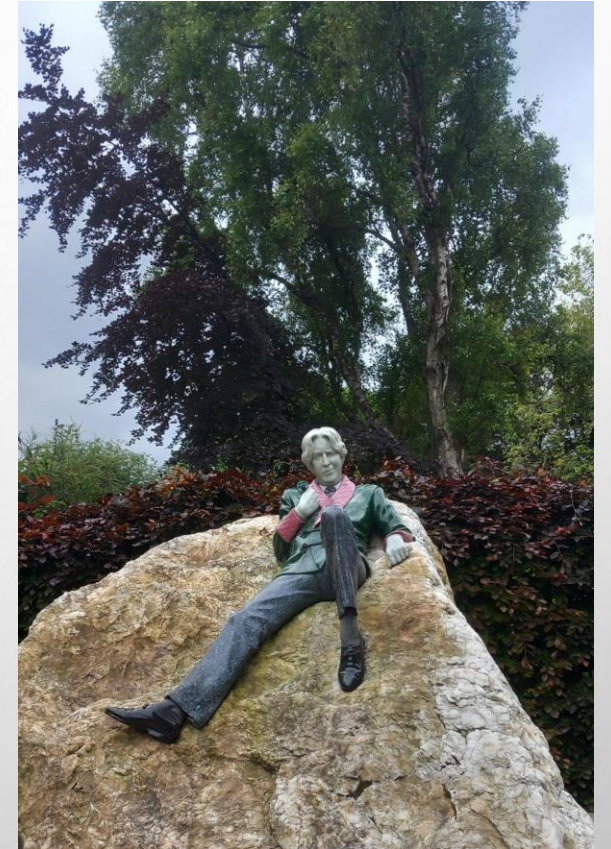
# THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE PICTURES OF OUR EXPERIENCE



PUB



MUSEUMS

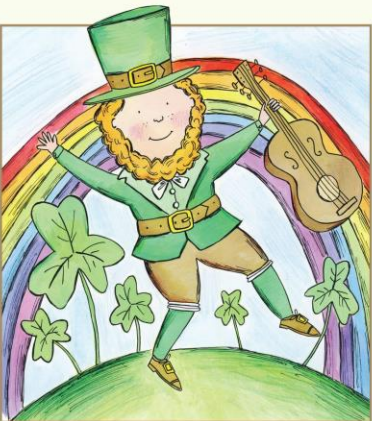


OSCAR WILDE

GLENDALOUGH

# HOW WILL WE SHARE THIS WITH OUR STUDENTS, COLLEAGUES AND GENERAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY

## FAIRY TALES



## LEGENDS



## IMPORTANCE OF CONTEXT FOR CONTENT

### Analysis

### Will occupational science facilitate or divide the practice of occupational therapy?

Nick Pollard, Dénes Szellényi, Anne Lennson-Parker

**Background:** Prompted by a study day at last year's European Network of Occupational Therapists in Higher Education conference, this article explores the relationship between occupational therapy and occupational science in the context of the future development of the profession.

**Content:** The authors consider some of the challenges currently being expressed within occupational therapy, particularly the move to define the profession in terms of its 'origins in social transformation', and the difficulties arising from its position in relation to a biomedical hierarchy.

**Conclusions:** The authors conclude that occupational science may have much to offer but this underpinning knowledge base is not without additional challenges for a profession which is concerned with aspects of doing.

**Key words:** # everyday life # everyday life # occupational science # occupational therapy # rehabilitation  
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The professional practice context of occupational therapy is developing and expanding. The recognition of cultural and other aspects of social diversity is driving the agenda for practitioners, educators and researchers, but the definition of occupational science, as well as the constantly evolving focus of occupational therapy, appear to generate difficulties in the synthesis between research and its application in practice. Occupational science actually emerged from occupational therapy, when it was recognised that there was a need for the study of the human as an occupational being, including the need for and capacity to engage in and orchestrate, daily occupations in the environment over the lifespan' (Yerna et al., 1989: 6). Occupational therapy is described by its international governing body, the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (2009), as 'a profession concerned with promoting health and well-being through occupation [whose] primary goal ... is to enable people to participate in the activities of everyday life'. Occupational science then, has a far wider remit than occupational therapy, although the profession is able to draw on the former as a knowledge base. The relationship between science and profession contains questions which require some critical exploration. In a conference of educators and students of occupational therapy, Hanson (2008) was quoted as saying that 'occupational scientists

research, while occupational therapists practice'. This article is the response of the authors to this statement, and our professional position on this issue of professional identity that has been concerning the field of occupational therapy for two decades. This article discusses the relationship between occupational therapy and occupational science in the context of the future development of the profession. The origins of the profession and the alliances it established are outlined before exploring some of the challenges currently being expressed within occupational therapy. The article concludes with revisiting the question posed in the title and discussing the potential contributions of an occupational perspective in developing culturally and politically savvy occupational therapists.

#### What is occupational science, and how does it relate to therapy?

Occupational science is essentially about studying what people do (Wilcock, 1991), an interest the emerging discipline shares with sociology, cultural studies, anthropology, psychology, history and other disciplines. The study of occupation entails interdisciplinarity and its scholarship is characterized by diversity (Hocking, 2000). This can either work well, harnessing the strengths of several disciplines to the task, or work incoherently because many of the concepts they appear to share are used inconsistently. For example, Iwama (2006) has explored

## PRACTICAL ASPECT

