



2023

Envisioning the Future
of **Occupational Science**

OCTOBER 19 -21

Union Station Hotel

St. Louis, Missouri

Welcome Note from Conference Chair



Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Guests,

It is with immense excitement that we extend a heartfelt welcome to the 2023 annual conference for the Society for Study of Occupation: USA. We are excited to gather in St Louis to celebrate and explore the transformative power of occupational science.

This conference is a testament to our shared dedication to improving the lives of individuals through the insights of occupational science. This conference is also a platform where experts, practitioners, educators, and innovators come together to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and ignite the spirit of collaboration.

Over the course of the next three days we will delve into a multitude of topics, from the educational and research hurdles to the ethical challenges that our profession faces. Our esteemed lineup of speakers, comprising pioneers in the field, will lead us through thought-provoking discussions and enlightening presentations.

In addition to the enriching sessions and workshops, this conference also provides a valuable opportunity for networking and building lasting connections. We have built in balance breaks throughout to encourage time to connect. We invite you to engage in conversations, share your experiences, and foster collaborations that will drive our profession forward.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

Sincerely,
Maren Wright Voss, ScD, PhD



Governance

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Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

SSO:USA is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within our discipline and communities. Since our 2020 Virtual Event, "Racial Equity in Occupational Science: A Virtual Conversation for Strategy-Building," we have been discussing ideas and developing action plans to address societal injustices. Our most recent directive includes the creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee on Equity and Inclusion.

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF OCCUPATION: USA MISSION STATEMENT

The SSO:USA is a research society that strives to build the body of knowledge in occupational science to benefit humanity.

The society values:

- Collegiality
- Collaboration
- Critical discourse
- The development of researchers
- The application of knowledge within a variety of professions
- Shared occupational experiences
- Operating in ways that are open, transparent, fiscally responsible, and member and data-driven
- Researchers, students, and practitioners
- Members who are formally trained in occupational science
- And members who are formally trained in other disciplines and whose work integrates well with occupational science.

The Objectives of SSO:USA:

- To form a national community of scholars to engage in the dynamic exchange of ideas to support the global discipline of occupational science
- To provide a forum to promote and disseminate research in occupational science to the public
- To foster cutting-edge theory and research of occupation through the establishment of networks, resources, collaborations, and other identified supports.
- To explore and expand the knowledge of occupation, the application of occupations to understanding of the human condition, and to foster understanding the fundamental nature of occupation in health and well-being
- To study the interrelationship of the discipline of occupational science and the profession of occupational therapy
- To address the quality of the occupational experience of participants in its events

Hotel and Conference Venue

The conference will be held at two venues

The St. Louis Union Station Hotel
1820 Market Street St. Louis, Missouri, 63103



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Saint Louis University

Drop Off: 38°37'23.4"N 90°14'04.9"W

S Theresa Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104



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Occupational Balance:

One of the unique features of SSO:USA conferences is the attention devoted to balance and the quality of participants' experiences. Researchers should leave an SSO:USA conference refreshed, stimulated, and energized to return to their work. Shared meals, conference break blocks, and a range of balanced activities encourage attendees to rejuvenate, network, and explore unique aspects of local culture.

Things To Do In St. Louis

Go to the City Museum

Visit one of the many local wineries

Eat Italian food at "The Hill" in St. Louis

Take a tour of Anheuser Busch

Visit the Soulard Farmer's Market nearby

Go to the Botanical Garden

Go to a St. Louis Blues hockey game

See the Cardinal's Hall of Fame

Indulge at a St. Louis favorite, Ted Drewes

See the Clydesdales at Grant's Farm

Listen to Blues music

Visit Forest Park



Conference Theme: Envisioning The Future of Occupational Science

Pre Conference Institute - Special Session

“The Teaching of Occupational Science”

In this special session, attendees will learn about the historical and contemporary perspectives of teaching occupational science, the teaching of occupational science compared with the teaching of occupation, and how occupational science has been applied across occupational therapy curricula. After a brief panel presentation, there will be a facilitated exploration and discussion of teaching occupation and occupational science across undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate curricula. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences learning and teaching occupational science. Participants will leave with strategies to infuse occupational science into the classroom as well as having access to resources that can be applied to courses that center on occupation and occupational science.

Panel Speakers



Thomas Mernar, PhD,
OTR/L



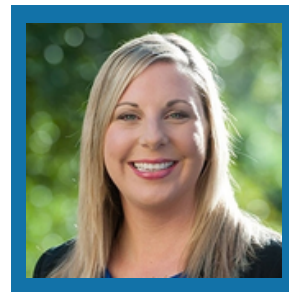
Bonnie L Kennedy, PhD



Sheama Krishnagiri,
PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA



Ashley Mason, PhD,
OTR/L



Karen McCarthy, OTD,
OTR/L



Wendy B. Stav, PhD,
OTR/L, FAOTA

Conference Theme: Envisioning The Future of Occupational Science

Occupational Science has undergone remarkable transformations over the years, and the future holds even more possibilities. In light of this reality our conference theme for 2023 is "Exploring the Future of Occupational Science" as we hope to examine the emerging trends, interdisciplinary insight, and global impact of our dynamic and evolving field. We hope the 2023 SSO USA Conference serves as a platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners to collaborate, learn, and shape the future of occupational science.

Pre Conference Institute

"Decolonizing Epistemologies, Pedagogies, and Methods for Occupational Science" Dr. Aissetu Ibrahima



This workshop will assess decolonization as a paradigm, a construct, and an approach that can be used to study and understand humans and their context. The workshop will highlight the importance of decolonizing epistemologies and pedagogies to have a deeper understanding of what we "see" in the world and why these situations/contexts are framed as such. It will also demonstrate how we can use decolonization as a tool for providing space for various tools, approaches, and methodologies that were once misinterpreted, forgotten, misplaced, deleted, or erased.

Aissetu Ibrahima, Ph.D, is an Associate Professor and Director of the Master of Social Work Program at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). Aissetu is also part of the NEIU team that leads the Center of Genocide and Human Rights Studies in Africa and the Diaspora. Her research focuses on Decolonization, Indigenous social work, community-based grassroots development, international health policies, and maternal health behavior and practices. She is involved in different Afro-centered programs that engage the African Diaspora, immigrants and refugees in the Chicago area. She is on the executive board of the African Diaspora Sixth Region Association of Illinois. She has published numerous articles and book chapters. She has also led various trainings and workshops on Decolonization, Indigenous methodologies, and Trauma Informed Care. Ibrahima earned her PhD at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), MSW at Addis Ababa University, and her BA in Sociology and Social Administration at Addis Ababa University.

About The Dr. Ruth Zemke Lectureship in Occupational Science

In recognition of Dr. Ruth Zemke's mentorship, questing intellect, and ongoing efforts to foster an occupational science community of researchers, this lectureship was named in her honor. The Lectureship is "designed as a forum to present visionary, theoretical, and critical analyses of occupational science." (Larson, 2002). The recipients of the Ruth Zemke Honorary Lectureship are given an engraved kaleidoscope in recognition for their contribution to the study of occupation. Occupation is made up of simple, everyday actions that can be combined in an infinite variety of ways. This variation creates complexity that requires examination from many perspectives in order to understand its many facets and meanings in people's lives. According to Dr. Zemke, the kaleidoscope serves as a metaphor for occupation. It is a collection of simple, everyday items that can create beautiful and often complex images. People change their perspectives by rotating the kaleidoscope to see the endless variety of images created. Indeed, the kaleidoscope is a well-chosen keepsake for the recipients of the Ruth Zemke Honorary Lectureship.



Ruth Zemke Lecture in Occupational Science

"Occupational Consciousness: Theorizing to Dismantle Systemic Racism and Dehumanization" Dr Elelwani Ramugondo

Professor Ramugondo is currently Deputy Vice Chancellor for Transformation, Student Affairs & Social Responsiveness at the University of Cape Town (UCT). She has over 20 years of academic experience in a research-intensive university environment, having previously worked as a clinician in rural South Africa and the United States of America. She established the first OT Department at Tshilidzini Special School, in Limpopo Province, South Africa.



She was appointed special advisor on transformation to the Vice-Chancellor at UCT in 2015, following calls for decolonisation by the student-led Rhodes Must Fall movement. She served in this role with remarkable integrity during a turbulent time and a historical moment of change in the higher education sector in South Africa.

Professor Ramugondo is a founding member of the UCT Black Academic Caucus. She has also served as chair of various bodies within and outside the university, including UCT's Academic Freedom Committee and the Rhodes Scholarship Western Cape and Northern Cape Selection Committee. In her role as Deputy Dean for Postgraduate Students in UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences, she served as a member of the executive for the South African College of Health Sciences Deans (SACOHSD). In this role, she played a strategic part in SACOHSD forging effective relationships with national professional bodies for health sciences disciplines/professions.

She has published numerous peer-reviewed research articles and chapters in books, as well as book reviews. She is a long-standing member of the International Advisory Board for the Journal of Occupational Science. She co-edited a book titled *Concepts in occupational therapy: Understanding Southern perspectives*, as well as two special issue editions on decolonising the academy for Critical African Studies. She has supervised numerous student research projects to completion, including 13 master's dissertations and seven PhD theses. She is frequently asked to present keynote addresses, both within and outside occupational therapy and occupational science.