

2378

## **Occupational Aesthetics: Improving the Quality of Occupation Based Interventions by Addressing Specific Practice Challenges Related to Globalization and Modernization**

Shuling Wu, Kyle Karen

*Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, USA*

### **Learning Objectives**

- Explain connections between occupational therapy & aesthetic experiences, and the universal connection between wellness, spirituality and everyday aesthetic experiences.
- Design interventions incorporating *occupational aesthetics* to enhance therapeutic relationships, deepen engagement in occupation, and foster a sense of human connection across cultural boundaries.
- Reflect on methods integrating *occupational aesthetics* into community services relevant to modern global communities

**Time:** 1.5 hours

### **Teaching methods:**

*Occupational Aesthetics* is a theoretical approach informing and enriching occupation-based practice. Through addressing everyday aesthetic experiences, practitioners restore the spirituality of occupations.

The foundation of Occupational Therapy is inextricably linked with the Arts and Crafts Movement in America, in reaction against dehumanizing effects of *industrialization*. *Aesthetic beauty*, a historical concept, preserves the richness of occupations challenged by globalization and modernization.

*Occupational Aesthetics* reintroduces *aesthetic beauty* into contemporary practice as a client-centered approach honoring the innate capacity for aesthetic enjoyment to remedy alienating and dehumanizing aspects of the dominant culture.

Through lecture, dialogue, the examination of case studies and guided self-reflection, participants will identify and connect with their own aesthetic sense, and compose a treatment plan of their own incorporating principles of occupational aesthetics.