

GLOBAL OCCUPATIONAL TRANSFORMATION, IN A TECHNOLOGICALLY, CLIMATICALLY AND POLITICALLY CHANGING FUTURE: WHERE TO OT?

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Introduction: This paper explores the implications for occupational therapy of a rapidly changing world where technology, global warming and global conflict are reshaping traditional structures of human occupation. Technology's contribution to the extinction of various occupations and emergence of new ones, global warming's impact upon agriculture and food security, coupled with global conflict causing massive displacement of people in search of security, create potential for occupational injustice, alienation, apartheid and deprivation. Can OT meet the challenges these threats have upon the collective health of the world?

Objectives:

- to explore the impact of technological advances upon human occupation
- to introduce and speculate upon relevant effects of global warming and global conflict upon human occupation
- To explore the implications of these factors upon health
- To suggest transformative approaches as interventions

Approach: an overview of current research related to these factors, using evidence to speculate upon how they are transforming the occupational landscape and how this may impact upon health and wellness.

Practice implications: research (Frey and Osborne in West, 2015) suggests that OT is one of a handful of professions that will survive digitization. The author poses possible ways in which occupational therapy could transform to meet these challenges.

Conclusion: this paper intends to provoke debate, discussion and dynamic, transformative planning within the global profession of OT to prepare it for this challenging, uncertain and rapidly advancing future.