The shaping of social identity among OT students in USA and Denmark
Who are we

- Professor and Chair of OT Department at Creighton University, USA
- Research interest
  - Evidence based practice
  - Evaluation and assessment
  - International OT
  - Interprofessional Education
Who are we

- Lecture at university college south Denmark Dr. Kim Lee
- Research interest
  - Environmental health
  - Social identities among healthcare workers
  - Organizational culture & sickness absence
Who are we

- Research assistance Pia Ilvig
- MSc in Health (Occupational Therapy)
- Research interest
  - Obesity intervention
  - Complex interventions
  - Evidence based practice
We want to explore the process that our students undergo during the education in becoming an OT.

Going from student to become educated OT.

Empirical object is OT students in DK and USA.

The cultural background of the students.

The aim of this study is to compare the Danish and American students and uncover if the contextual background influences on the shaping of identity.
OT education in Denmark

- The education for occupational therapist is nominated to 3½ year. It is a bachelor degree

- Master (2 years) and Ph.d (3 years) program at university of south Denmark

- The education is divided into internship and theoretical teaching

- The internship is 32 weeks all together placed at 4 different semesters
OT education in Denmark (2)

- OT`s in Denmark is mostly employed in the public sector
- The education is free and the government supports the student financially
- Social mobility
- Diversity in background
OT education in USA

- Currently two levels of entry to the OT profession
  - MSOT MOT and OTD
  - Entry OTD requires undergraduate study
- Mandate: doctoral degree entry by 2027
- Current education trends
  - Distinct value of OT
  - IPE and IPP
  - OT role in primary care
  - Important force in Triple Aims
Theoretical Framework

- Everyday practice is about navigating the social landscape (Whyte, S 2007)
- The end goal is known but the way can be diverse
- Crossroad and cross pressure (Barth, F 1986)
Method

- Questionnaire to all before internship and then again after return from internship
- All 4 internships (Denmark and all four level-one, two level-two, and one DEC USA)
- Questionnaire covering 5 areas
  - 1 contact to clients
  - 2 professional knowledge
  - 3 clinical reasoning
  - 4 what the student think how other students will perceive the students professional skills
  - 5 Sociodemographic background variables
- Followed up by narrative interview
Preliminary (Ucsyd)

- If the student is married the less cross pressure they experience
- The older the student are at the beginning of the study the more insecure they feel
- Educational level doesn't influences on the concerns or the insecurity of the student
- Cross pressure is mostly a question about loyalty between, self, family, friends and educational obligations
Future plan

- Survey OTD students in USA
- Examine the differences and similarities among different years of students
- Examine the differences and similarities between Danish students and American Students
- Examine the impact of cultural factors
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