

# Evolution of Occupational Therapy Practice: Life History of Jaime Munoz, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

Kaitlyn Berglund, MOTS, University of North Dakota Department of Occupational Therapy



## Introduction

- This life history is one of 30 life history interviews which are part of a larger project, *Histories of Individuals Who Have Been Influential in Developing Occupational Therapy (OT) at the National Level and Beyond*.
- The purpose of this study is to provide current and future generations of occupational therapists a view of the history and how occupational therapy practice has evolved from its inception to current practice through the life history stories of occupational therapists who have held leadership roles at the national level and beyond. It is anticipated that the life history process will be a powerful way to gather this information.
- The Kawa Model was used to guide this project. It uses a metaphor of a river to understand a person, their environment, and their occupations through the lens of a collectivist culture. The river can also be used to describe a person's life history (Turpin & Iwama, 2011).

## Description of Participant

- Dr. Jaime Munoz is an occupational therapist of over 30 years and a teacher of over 20 years.
- He has practice experience in pediatrics, mental health, community-based employment, and community re-entry in Boston, Chicago, and Pittsburgh (Duquesne University, 2019).
- Currently, Dr. Munoz is the program director of the occupational therapy department at Duquesne University.
- In addition to his identity as an occupational therapist, he also is a husband and enjoys participating in environmental groups.

## Timeline Literature Review

- Dr. Jaime Munoz began practicing as an occupational therapist in the early – mid 1980s.
- 1980 – 2000
  - The historical context included the introduction of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (Christiansen & Haertl, 2014).
  - In occupational therapy, there was a focus on advancing research and education. The occupational science movement began, focusing on humans as having an occupational nature. The Model of Human Occupation was also developed. During this time period there was a reduction in employment growth (Christiansen & Haertl, 2014).
- 2000 – Present
  - In occupational therapy, the American Occupational Therapy Association has established the Centennial Vision. There has been a focus on population health and occupational justice (Christiansen & Haertl, 2014).

## Methodology

- Qualitative research using a life history approach which allowed the focus to be on the participant's involvement in the evolution of occupational therapy practice.
- The participant was selected from a participant list compiled through purposive sampling by the project directors. Because initial contact was made by the project directors, there were no specific gatekeeper issues.
- Informed consent was obtained prior to the interview and the project was approved by the UND Institutional Review Board and because of the study design the formal IRB process was waived.
- The semi-structured interview was guided by an interview schedule prepared by the project directors; the questions on the interview schedule were designed to be used with all the individuals interviewed as part of the larger project. The student researchers were allowed to modify or add interview questions as needed for each specific interview.
- Types of data collected include biographical information and the interview transcription. Data was collected via internet search and Zoom interview.
- The interview took place via Zoom and lasted 1hr 50 mins.

## Data Analysis

- The interview was transcribed verbatim and initial memo-ing was completed. The transcription was coded and 3 categories emerged from the data. Themes were developed with supporting quotes for each category.
- The Kawa Model and the timeline literature review were used to guide the data analysis process.
- Trustworthiness was established using a reflexive journal, member-checking, supervision by an advisor, and obtaining data from multiple sources.



## Findings

- Education
  - Dr. Munoz believes that ongoing education is critical for providing the best care for all clients.
  - He is an advocate for life-long learning and views it as a dynamic process.
  - Jaime Munoz identified barriers to occupational therapy education including OTD and costs of education.
- Advocacy
  - Dr. Munoz emphasized the importance of occupational therapy and why we need to be vocal in developing programs that meet the needs of clients in the community.
  - He was an early champion for diversity within the occupational therapy profession.
  - Jaime Munoz is an advocate for improving access to occupation for marginalized populations.
- Leadership
  - Dr. Munoz has held numerous leadership positions within the profession and was honored when he met others who are building on his early efforts.
  - Jaime Munoz sees leadership as fostering environments in which others can flourish.

## Conclusions

- Dr. Jaime Munoz demonstrates a strong desire to have a positive impact on the occupational therapy profession through providing quality education opportunities, minimizing barriers to education, and promoting access to service for marginalized populations. He emphasizes the importance of fostering opportunities for nurturing other leaders.
- Dr. Munoz's dedication to providing quality education and minimizing barriers to education reflect the attitudes of the profession in his early years of practice while his service to marginalized populations is congruent with the profession's contemporary focus on occupational justice.

## References and Acknowledgements

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