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Hellenic Association of
Occupational Therapists

19th Annual Meeting
of ENOTHE

October 2013

York, UK

The Hanneke van Bruggen Lecture

WASH
MADE IN
USA

ENO THE
OT
YORK



The Power of Collective Occupation
and Occupational Therapy:
Supporting the Social Fabric in
Europe Today

Outline

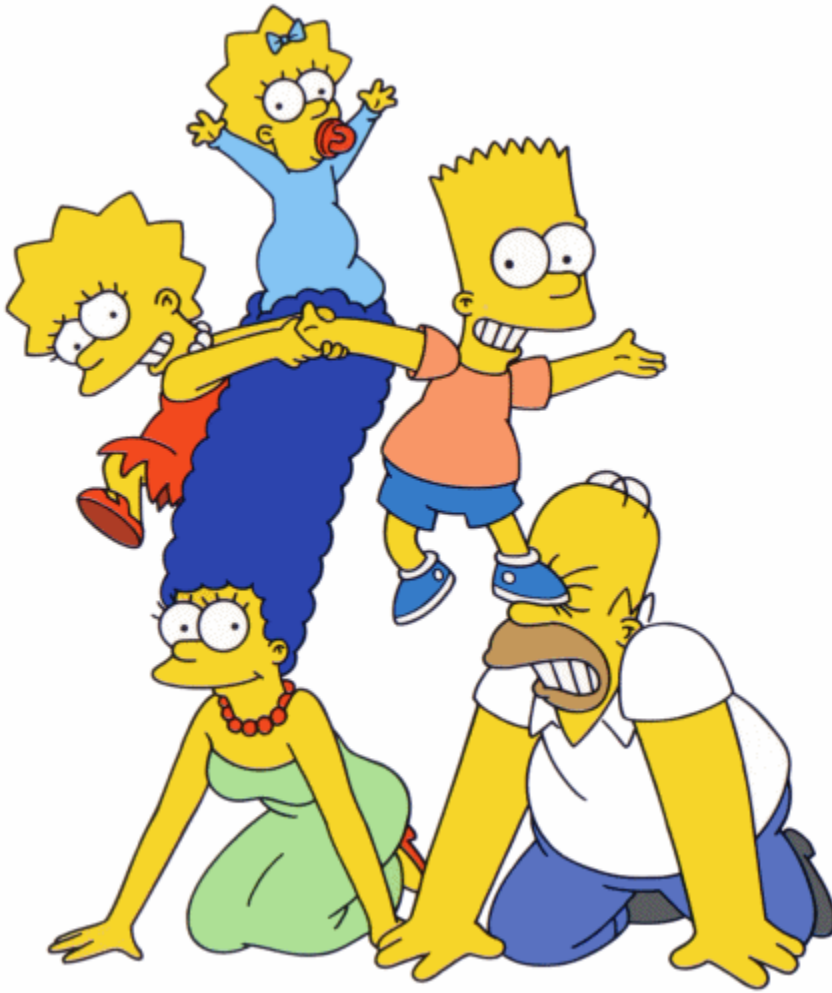
- Introduction To Collective Occupation
- Research Findings
- The Power Of Collective Occupation
- Future Directions and Implications

Discussing collective
occupation



Individual focus

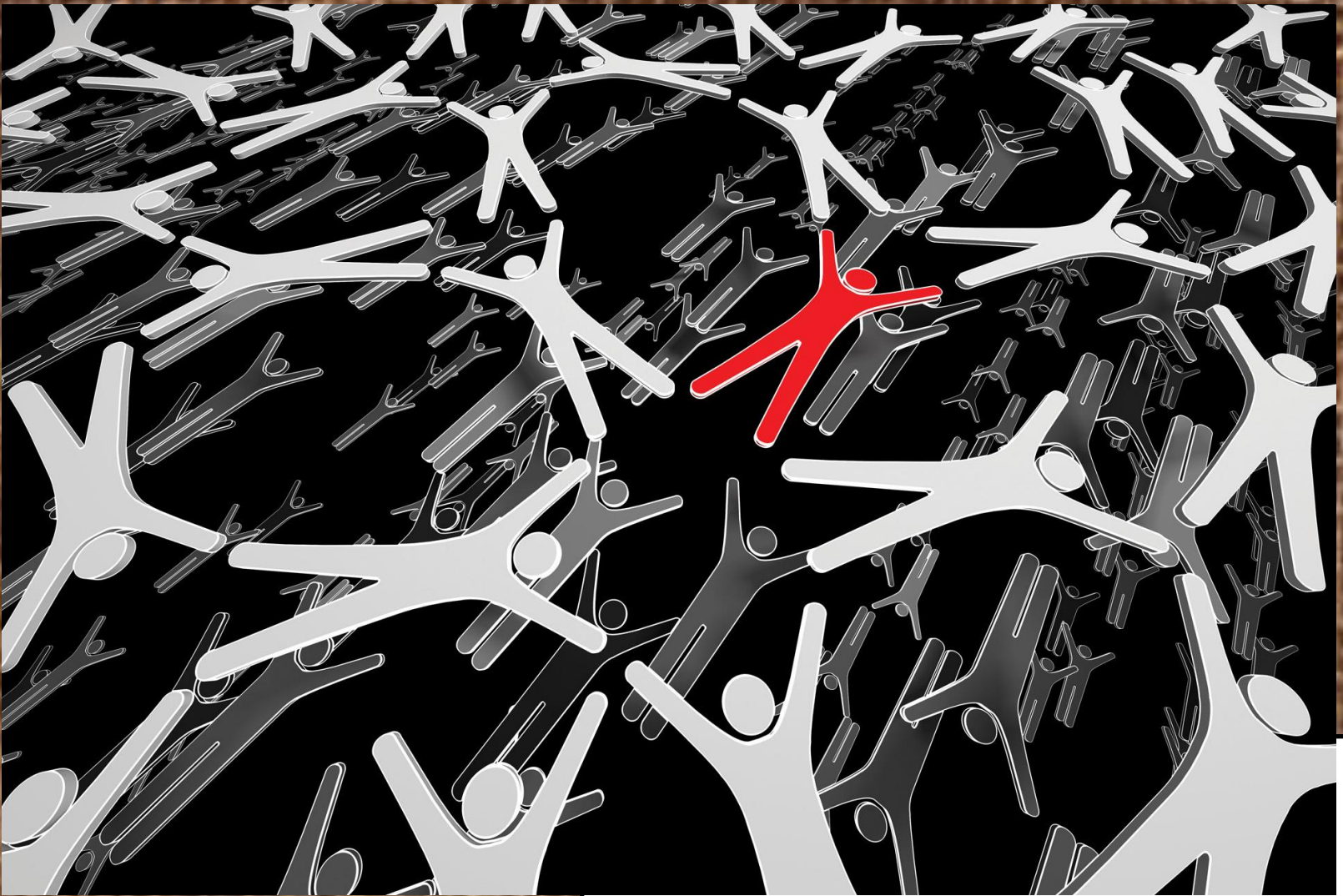




Interrelationships
and
Interconnectedness

Structures and
Institutions





Complexity theory



Transactionalism



Ailey II. Jarvis McKinley and Megan Jakel in Sidra Bell's "La Valse". Photo by Eduardo Patino

Collectively performed occupations =
distributed occupations

Fogelberg, D. & Frauwirth, S. (2010). A complexity science approach to occupation: Moving beyond the individual. *Journal of Occupational Science*. 17:3, 131-139

4 levels of distributed
occupational systems

Population
Community
Group
Individual

Occupation is distributed across the
entirety of the people who are taking part
in their multitude of ways

Collective occupation has a synergistic,
gestalt quality

The intentionality of collective occupation

Ramugondo, E. & Kronenberg, F. (2013). Explaining collective occupations from a human relations perspective: Bridging the individual-collective dichotomy. *Journal of Occupational Science*.

Ubuntu

“I am because we are, and because we are, therefore I am”



Working definition of collective occupations: “...are engaged in by individuals, groups, communities and /or societies in everyday contexts; these may reflect an intention towards social cohesion or dysfunction, and/or advancement of or aversion to a common good”

Collective occupations: Indigenously
African

Fasloen Adams
University of the Witwatersrand
Keynote Address: OTARG 2013
Harare, Zimbabwe

Mutuality, connectedness and co-creating as
interconnecting elements of collective occupation

Introducing the town of
Melissa

A narrative of occupation

Occupation as fluid, dynamic and multidimensional process , coordinating the multiple elements of the situation

Three plots

Maintaining the self-in-the-world

Maintaining the family, and

Maintaining the social fabric

The social fabric

NPR

For Greeks, Painful Cuts Keep Tearing At The Social Fabric

by Silvia Poggioli. 4 Feb 2013

20 Sep 2013

Greece: 'social fabric is fraying':

CNBC's Julia
Chatterley reports
from Athens

SOCIALISTWORKER.ORG

Greece's social fabric unravels

Veteran socialist and author Charles-André
Udry looks at the scale of the crisis in
Greece today--and its impact on politics and
social struggle. 10 Jan 2013

- Informal daily encounters in public spaces
- Participation in associations and organisations
- Community celebrations and events

Maintaining the
social fabric

- Informal daily encounters in public spaces

Maintaining the
social fabric

The *triví* – the rubbing
together



- Participation in associations and organisations

Maintaining the
social fabric

Associations representing
particular populations

Association representing
commercial interests:

Commercial Association
Farmers Cooperative
Beekeepers Association
Livestock Association

Supporting children's
education and activities:

Parent-teachers Association
Scout group

The Folk Law Association
preserving the local heritage

Associations for
recreational activities:

Ski and Hill Walking
Association
Athletics Association
Sky Club

New associations emerging

Public action

- Community celebrations and events

Maintaining the
social fabric

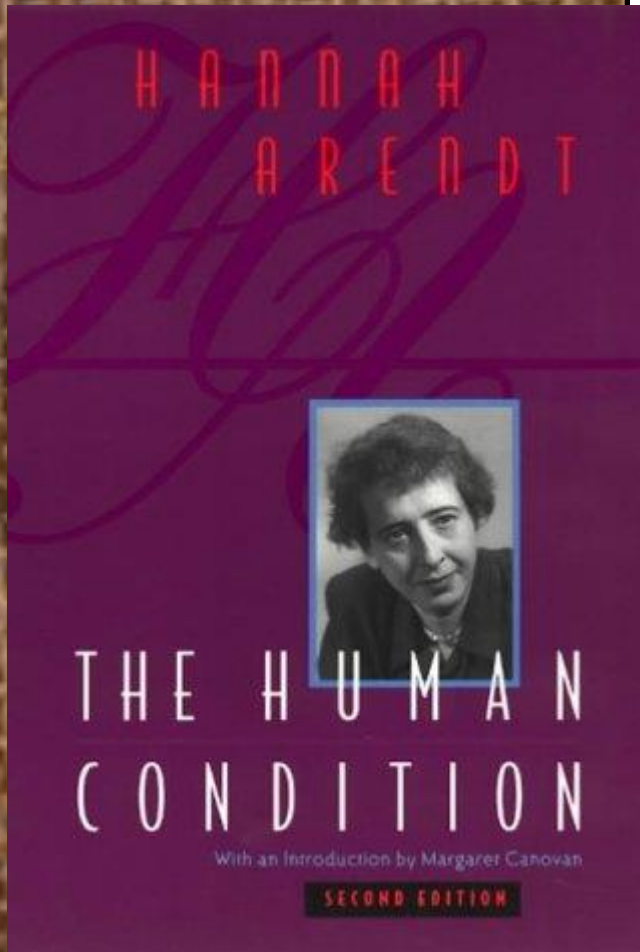


<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bw/2516456728/in/photostream/>

The polis



Athens (undated drawing)



Labour:

activity for survival

Work:

creates the artificial world
of 'things'

Action: ...

Action:

The action and word of
political life

The human condition of plurality

“the fact that men, not Man,
live on the earth and inhabit
the world”

(Arendt 1958)

Power:

The potential of people acting together
A non-hierarchical and non-instrumental
power

The power of consent and rational
persuasion.

“sheer human togetherness”,

- Networks of informal occupation embedding experiences of trust, reciprocity, information exchange, resilience and belonging;
- Beyond-the-everyday occupation embedding experiences of enhanced emotional expression;
- Formally and informally organised occupation embedding experiences of protest, support and organisation.

Collective occupation

Networks of informal occupation



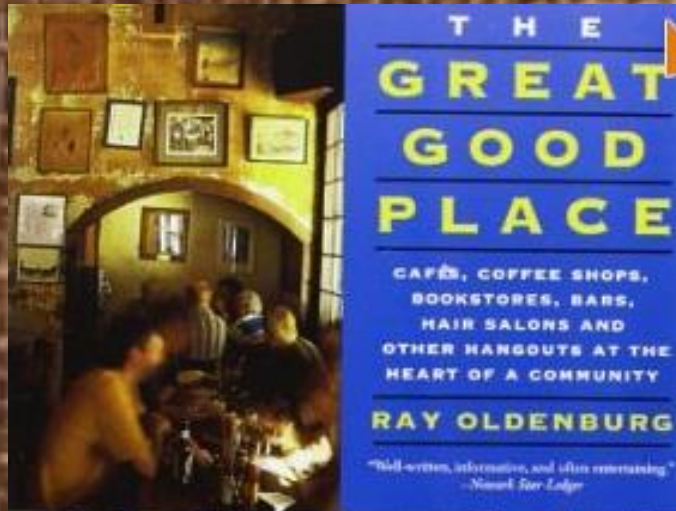
Belonging and support

Social capital -
Trust
Support
Reciprocal exchange
Access to information
Social norms



Features:

- flexible and long opening hours
- located close to home
- a good number of regulars
- a fairly plain physical appearance
- a playful atmosphere.



Important for:

- Equality of relationships
- Removed from the intensity of the family
- Developing social contacts
- Promoting active citizens in the community

- Neighbourhood, local shops, post office, bank, hairdresser, gym
- The local pub or coffee shop
- Work places, shared office and coffee spaces
- Conferences and meetings
- Social media – Facebook, Twitter
- ...

Opportunities for informal collective occupation





Pol Parol Café,
Leuven, Belgium

- Sharing and exchange of skills, knowledge and/or emotions.

- Equality, and respect for diversity

- Knowing the 'other'

Quality of relationships

- Increasing mobility
- Increasing emigration
- Closure of local shops and businesses
- Technology for everyday transactions
- Unsafe neighbourhoods, unease at hanging-out
- Discrimination and exclusion

Challenges to informal occupation



Informal occupation
as sites of
discrimination and
exclusion



Building networks of
informal occupation





Beyond-the-everyday
occupation embedding
experiences of enhanced
emotional expression



KUNST IN DE STEIGERS



Een kunstfestival
in en rond de **Sint-Jacobskerk**
in Leuven van **8 tot 10** oktober 2010

Een filmfestival en een dubbeltonstelling in het Administratief Centrum
van Kortenberg het UPC Sint-Jozef
in Kortenberg van **11 tot 15** oktober 2010

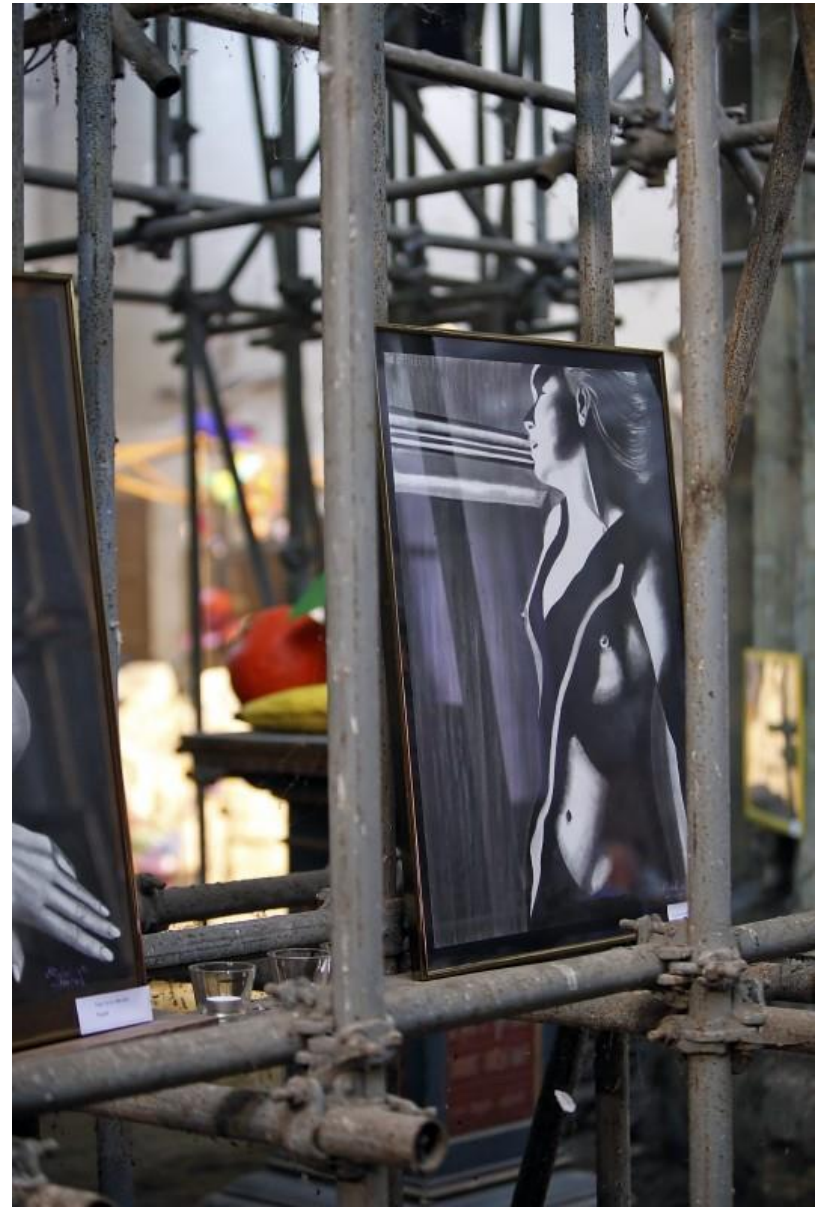
Alle informatie vind je op: www.dehulster.be en www.sacredplaces.be

Art in the scaffolding

a socio-cultural project

Initiatives sheltered living
for psychologically
vulnerable people 'De
Hulster'

Saint-Jacobs church in the scaffolding







Formally and informally
organised occupation
embedding experiences of
protest, support and
organisation





Medieval Guilds







World Federation of
Occupational Therapists



easa

European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux



British Association of Occupational Therapists
and College of Occupational Therapists



COUNCIL of
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPISTS for the
EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES

ENO^{THE}

Europe Today



24th July 2013

Message of the President of the Hellenic
Democracy, Karolos Papoulias,
on the 39th anniversary of the restoration of
democracy.

The current economic collapse quickly became a political, institutional and cultural crisis, a tornado that dragged everything with it... The battle is not only to ensure economic self-reliance, national dignity and social justice, but is also a battle against the decline of democracy...hatred and violence is not the solution or the answer to the problem but perhaps the darkest part of it.

Greece

Impact of the crisis

Increased alcohol
consumption

Increase in suicide rate

12% adults symptoms of
major depressive disorder

(EIPSI, 2013)

Unemployment

Greece - 27.6%

Spain - 26.3%

Youth unemployment (-25 yrs)

Greece- 62.9%

Spain - 56.1%

Croatia - 55.4%

(Eurostat – May 2013)

Impact in Greece

1/3 in poverty

500.000 no income

20,000 homeless

- 60% in last two years

- 47% with children

Increase in children to
orphanages

(NGO Klimaka)



250.000 meals a day in soup
kitchens



The potato “revolution”



Anti-racism festival



John Kolesidis

Emerging collective
occupation



Increasing number of collectives offering affordable and accessible:

- elderly care
- energy, food,
- insurance and
- infrastructure

Tine de Moor

“Homo Cooperans. Institutions for Collective Action and the Compassionate Society”

Inaugural Lecture, University of Utrecht. August 2013



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



Open source software

Collective occupation

- is an essential part of our everyday lives

- can be defined by the quality of the experience and the power of the potential that is embedded in it

- cannot always be bounded and named either as a specific event or organisation. It is also the web of intertwining doing ...

Discrimination and inequality restrict people's opportunities to engage collectively



THANK YOU