

**Exposing the Emperor.
Meditations on credulity and occupational therapy**



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Occupational therapy's theories and practices are underpinned by specific assumptions. These include the premise that occupational therapy is a client-centred profession, and the assertion that occupations are all divisible into categories of self-care, productivity and leisure. This paper highlights the reality that dominant theories and models have been articulated by privileged, able-bodied, white, English-speaking, middle-class, urban-dwelling residents of the minority, or "first" world. Their specific cultural perspectives are unlikely to be shared by the majority of the global population, and evidence shows that they are not. This paper argues for a passionate commitment to creating and fostering an intellectual environment in which questions can be asked, challenges raised and different perspectives acknowledged and addressed; and also contends that our profession needs to generate evidences that will enable assumptions to be replaced with knowledge. The overall aim of the paper is to encourage occupational therapists to believe less, and think more.