

THE OCCUPATIONAL CHOICE OF PARENTING: THE BLACK PARENT EXPERIENCE

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Background

- Current occupational science research is focused on white, middle class families and an individualized view of occupational choice
- Social environment together with collective and contextual histories influences the manner and types of occupational choices made¹
- Occupational choices that are inhibited due to uncontrollable contextual factors represents occupational injustice²

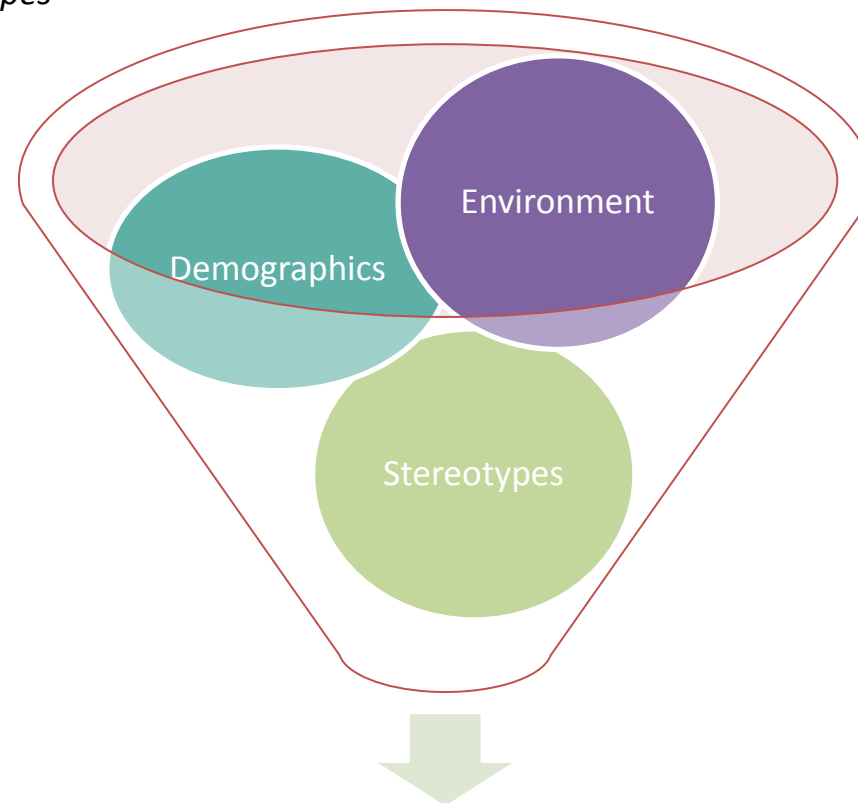
Research Aim: To explore influences on the occupational choice of parenting of Black Parents

Methods

- Qualitative Study
- Semi-Structured Interviews
- Convenience Sampling
- 3 Black parent participants
- Thematic Coding & Analysis

Results

- P1: "Most of my family is from the north so when they see my child and she's able to do certain things or not do certain things and they think about their culture and their environment and their situation is very, very different" – Environment*
- P2: "There are things that we wouldn't even have to talk about if we were the same race and that can be tough for us, but we embrace it"- Demographics*
- P3: "She doesn't fit the stereotypical idea of beauty because she's black and thicker and I had to raise her to be beautiful, smart and strong"- Stereotypes*



Major Influences on the Occupational Choice of Parenting

Discussion

- The Black parental experience is characterized by how race is situated throughout the larger contextual themes
- Black parents define successful parenting as their child being "safe, happy, as valuable citizens"
- Equipping Black children with life skills (resiliency, adaptability, etc) serves as protective mechanisms to foster engagement in meaningful occupations

Implications for OS/OT

- Black parents have unique motivations and values
- The occupational choice of Black parents is rooted in combatting occupational justice
- Further research: generational differences

References

1. Roshan Galvaan (2014) The Contextually Situated Nature of Occupational Choice: Marginalised Young Adolescents' Experiences in South Africa, *Journal of Occupational Science*, 22:1, 39-53, DOI: 10.1080/14427591.2014.912124
2. Bailliard, A. L., & Aldrich, R. M. (2011). Occupational Justice In Everyday Occupational Therapy Practice. In *Occupational Therapies Without Borders* (1st ed., Vol. 2, pp. 83-94).