



Hanneke van Bruggen lecture
26th Annual ENOTHE meeting 2022, Tbilisi- Georgia

Dr Debbie Kramer-Roy

Title: “The Occupational Therapy Profession(al) in Transition: a case of Opening, Closing and Revolving Doors”

Abstract:

In this year’s Hanneke van Bruggen Lecture, Dr Debbie Kramer-Roy will highlight and reflect on the global developments in the occupational therapy profession during the past few decades, by linking these to her own professional journey. This will highlight many interconnected transitions in paradigms, approaches, professional ethics and roles within the profession. While new paradigms and research evidence in the areas of occupational science and occupational therapy have provided open doors for emerging roles, some other doors may have been closed too hastily or firmly, leading to some reflections on whether we may have lost some crucial elements along the way.

Debbie will argue that an open yet critical stance is needed to maintain integrity across personal, clinical, educational and research aspects of every occupational therapists’ professional journey. In addition, a spirit of participatory and inclusive collaboration within the profession and with practitioners, researchers and service users beyond the profession, is essential for the profession to continue to flourish.

Biography:

Dr Debbie Kramer-Roy is a Dutch occupational therapist, who has spent 30 years of her career living and working abroad in the UK and Pakistan. Debbie is an experienced children’s occupational therapist, who aims to continually integrate her work as a practitioner, academic and researcher. Using participatory and collaborative approaches in all these roles has resulted in contextually relevant

and applicable outputs, related to inclusive education and community- and family-based interventions.

Debbie is the Director Education of the European MSc in Occupational Therapy (OT EuroMaster), which is continuing to grow in numbers of students as well as published thesis projects in international peer-reviewed Occupational Therapy, Occupational Science and interprofessional journals. The relationship between the OT EuroMaster and ENOTHE has played a major role in this contribution to the evidence-based for occupational therapy, as well as in Debbie's personal professional development.

Debbie is also a lecturer at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen, the Netherlands, where she is part of the curriculum development team for the new BSc in Occupational Therapy programme, which just completed its first academic year successfully.

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