

VIRTUAL

DATE AND TIME

Sunday, June 28, 2026
10:00am – 11:30am - PST

- This session will not be recorded.
- PDUs will be entered into your OTAC account. (Be sure to complete the post-event questionnaire to be eligible for PDUs.)

REGISTER BY

Friday, June 26, 2026

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When Statements of Neutrality Fall Short: Occupational Therapy, Moral Courage, and Common Good (1.5 PDUs)

Presenter Frank Kronenberg, PhD, BSc (OT), BA (Ed)

Occupational therapy has long claimed a commitment to justice, inclusion, and being of service to society. Yet in moments of political and social crisis, professional associations, academic institutions, and workplaces often retreat into neutrality statements, procedural language, or symbolic DEI initiatives that can unintentionally silence difficult but necessary conversations.

In this invited special forum, Frank Kronenberg and OT colleagues will explore the tensions between political neutrality, professional responsibility, and “occupational justice” in today’s world. Drawing from international experiences, contemporary global events, and OT’s historical mandate toward “serving vital needs of society through occupation” (Reilly, 1961), participants will critically examine whether current JEDI/DEIJAB approaches are sufficient — or whether meaningful change requires greater moral courage, accountability, and action in everyday practice, education, and professional leadership. This conversation invites participants to sit with complexity, grapple with contradiction, and reflect on what it truly means for occupational therapy to serve society.

Learning Objectives

1. Critically examine how political neutrality, institutional policies, and contemporary DEI/DEIJAB frameworks may shape or limit occupational therapy’s responses to social injustice and collective harm.
2. Explore strategies for fostering moral courage, reflective dialogue, and socially responsive action within clinical practice, education, professional associations, and everyday occupational engagement.



Frank Kronenberg, PhD, BSc (OT), BA (Ed), who originates from the Netherlands, is a director and co-founder of Shades of Black Works, a Cape Town, South Africa-based social enterprise with a triple social mission: strengthening places of origin; forging connections, and collective story-making. Kronenberg is the chair of the Board of Directors of the Khayelitsha-Cape Town based NPO Grandmothers Against Poverty and AIDS (GAPA). He is an activist co-founder of the movement ‘Occupational Therapists without Borders’ which inspired a number of international groundbreaking publications which he co-edited and co-authored. Kronenberg works as an international guest lecturer and consultant at universities in South Africa, North and South America, and Europe. He is formally affiliated with University of Cape Town (South Africa); University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa); Zuyd University (Netherlands); Universidad Santiago de Chile (Chile); Saint Louis University, Touro College, Stony Brook University (United States), and Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Mexico (Mexico).

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