**Biographies of speakers (2019)**

**Ley Robinson (workshop)**

After a career teaching in Higher Education, Ley changed course entirely and retrained as an occupational therapist. She studied full time as a mature student and completed the Brighton University course in 2007 with a PG Dip in Occupational Therapy. After graduating, Ley started on an NHS mixed rotation and moved from that into mental health services. She worked in a variety of specialist and community MH teams both as an OT and care co-ordinator in East Sussex and York. Ley left the NHS in 2017 and started her current part time post in Ways to Wellbeing – a social prescribing project based in the York Centre for Voluntary Services. Ley live in York and love doing all sorts of crafts and gardening.

Ley’s workshop will provide an overview of social prescribing in the UK, with a focus on how we deliver social prescribing at Ways to Wellbeing. This will be followed by an interactive session exploring the place of occupational therapy and other therapeutic disciplines in this emerging area.

**Rachel Boothman**

Rachel qualified as an OT in 2002 and worked mainly in mental health settings before moving to the charity sector in 2009. She is currently Head of Education and Information at the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Rachel facilitates learning for health and social care professional and co-chairs the Allied Professionals Forum, an international conference on MND. She is also a qualified life coach.

**Majella Brennan**

Majella Brennan, Neuro Navigator. Prior to this role, Majella has had over 10 years’ experience within the acute hospital environment primarily within Stroke Rehab. Majella is a member of the RCOT Specialist Section Neurological Practice (SSNP).

**Luci Carnall-Moore**

I am really thrilled to be part of the Diverse Settings Conference again this year and I’m looking forward to meeting you all. I completed my MSc in Health Through Occupation here at Brighton University in 2003 and gained employment in a traditional Community Mental Health Team setting. As my OT skills and knowledge developed, I applied them to voluntarily setting up projects in my local community where gaps were identified.

Throughout this journey I maintained my links with Brighton University and returned to deliver teaching sessions and to provide supervision to students during their diverse placement. This supervisory role has been one of the most valuable and progressive that I have undertaken and now that I am in a permanent position at the University as a Lecturer it is one that I have been able to develop and promote with both BSc and MSc students. This presentation captures the experience of two dynamic MSc students I supervised during their placement in a drug and alcohol service and the impact that they made.

Please do contact me after the conference if you would like to:

[L.Carnall-Moore2@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:L.Carnall-Moore2@brighton.ac.uk)

**Jodie Carolan**

Jodie is a Clinical Manager for the South East London Neuro Navigation Service. Prior to the neuro navigator role, Jodie has over 10 years of OT experience in acute neurosciences and neurorehabilitation in Australia and London.

**Trish Chipman**

I’ve had a diverse Occupational Therapy career in acute and community care, in military rehabilitation, NHS and project management. I have worked in the UK and in Africa, as well as completed several short charity trips to countries such as Greece, Albania and South Africa.

I am the treasurer and longterm member of OT Frontiers, a network of OTs who support the development of Occupational Therapy in low and middle income countries and a part of the group, Farnham Help for Refugees in Surrey who collect aid for refugees in the UK and abroad.

**Channine Clarke**

Welcome to the conference, I am the Academic Lead for the Occupational Therapy courses here at the University of Brighton. My interest in diverse settings started the day I qualified in 1998 when I was employed as rehab specialist. Looking at the job description it was clear that my core OT skills would enable me to develop this role in a new community forensic hostel. From there I spent a year at the College of Occupational Therapists as clinical governance officer before returning to practice and then moving to become placement tutor here at Brighton.

My PhD study explored students’ experiences of role-emerging placements and the impact of these placements on their professional identity development. It was great to hear how they found these placement one of the most important learning experiences of their training.

Sarah and I set up this conference in 2016 and are delighted that we are growing our community of practice and that we are now in our third successful year. We have also developed the COPOTDS website to help you in your role and would value your contributions to make the website even more useful for all that visit it. Please do email me any time: [C.Clarke@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:C.Clarke@brighton.ac.uk)

**Faye Dunford**

I worked across a range of adult mental health services before my passion for research led me to my current role as a research practitioner within NHS mental health research delivery. I have been fortunate to lead the delivery of research projects such as Valuing Active Life in Dementia (VALID): a randomised controlled trial of Community Occupational Therapy in Dementia for Devon Partnership Trust. I am committed to building organisational research capacity and seize opportunities to achieve this. I have completed an HEE/NIHR Internship and plan to progress as a clinical academic. My research aims to develop the role of occupational therapists working within Crisis Resolution Teams. Find me on Twitter @FayeDunford email: [faye.dunford@nhs.net](mailto:faye.dunford@nhs.net)

**Amanda Henderson**

Amanda has always worked across both adult and older adult settings within mental health services for many years.  Having a specific interest in Healthy Lifestyles she became a facilitator in the STEPWISE trial (Structured lifestyle Education for People With Schizophrenia) in 2015/16. This sparked her interest in research and the following year she joined the Research and Development team within Devon Partnership Trust, leading both dementia and mental health trials.

Outside of work Amanda is involved in a number of activities including running and swimming, volunteering at the local homeless hostel and the annual pantomime, alongside relaxing with her family. Email: [amanda.henderson2@nhs.net](mailto:amanda.henderson2@nhs.net)

**Sarah Meharg**

Sarah Meharg is an occupational therapist and personal trainer. After 12 years working within the NHS and 5 years in university mental health support she decided to take the leap and set up her own private practice incorporating psychical exercise with wellbeing and mental health strategies.

Contact email [hello@moodlifter.co.uk](mailto:hello@moodlifter.co.uk)

**Jane Moseley**

I am currently undertaking an 18 month Secondment as a High Intensity User Lead working for East Sussex County Council, which commenced in December 2018. This role involves working with people who attend A&E frequently, identifying the real underlying reasons for the attendances and supporting them to bring about changes in their lives in a non-judgemental and creative way. It is a service supported by NHS Rightcare that is being rolled out nationally.(<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/high-intensity-user-service-resource-pack/>)

Prior to this role I spent 18 months working as a Proactive Care Practitioner, supporting people to manage their long term physical health conditions, working closely with GP Practices. I qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1998, and have since undertaken a Post Graduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy. My previous roles have been as a senior Occupational Therapist in the Wheelchair Service, Clinical Lead Occupational Therapist in Acute and Community Stroke rehabilitation and various roles as an Occupational Therapist in inpatient and community rehabilitation.

**Emilie Papadopoulou**

My name is Emilie Papadopoulou and I am an OT student from the University of Brighton. I learnt about OT through some volunteering at a paediatrics institute and fell in love with how we can help people through so many means, achieving something they want. I truly enjoy how in OT you can work in various diverse settings and looking at the person holistically. I was attracted to this University's course due to the skills sessions it offers as well as the diverse placements. I believe these are highly focused around what we could do in practise, offering new perspectives and opportunities. My diverse placement with Odile Rapoport was at the Drug and Alcohol Services in Brighton with Luci Carnall Moore being our supervisor, motivation and support throughout this process. This was a truly unique experience for me which I will never forget. It was the first time they had OT students and gave us free reign to do anything, leaving Odile and I to become creative with our assessments and interventions. We found the positive impact we had on both the staff and clients was immense, with both colleagues and service users being very grateful. OT is so relevant in that setting helping in so many different ways, clients with physical and/or mental health problems. Exploring with them new activities they could adopt, coping strategies for anxiety or sleep hygiene and many more. This experience was very new and exciting with so many possibilities and this is why we wanted to share this experience with you

**Aelfrida Palmer**

I am an Occupational Therapist who trained on the MSc Health through Occupation course at Brighton University in 2001-2003. Initially starting her career working in palliative care and then gravitating towards her focus of interest; mental health. Having experienced post natal depression which impacted on her own occupational functioning and gaining increased insight, she wanted to utilise this in her own working practice. Working in a variety of settings including both inpatient and community, adult services and older adult services she made a decision to specialise in Psychiatric Liaison work. Identifying that her occupational therapy skills in assessing how the biological, psychological and social environment impact on a person would be of value in this setting. Showing a keen interest in research she was asked to lead the interventional arm of the HOME study. This is an Oxford University multisite study comparing two different ways of looking after older people in hospital to see if the intervention can improve the care people are provided and leave hospital in a more timely way. She does her best to keep occupational balance in her life enjoying walking the hills and beaches of South Devon with her girls, baking and enjoys curling up with a good book and an excellent cup of coffee. Contact on Twitter: @AelfridaP or email: [aelfridapalmer@nhs.net](mailto:aelfridapalmer@nhs.net)

**Odile Rapoport**

I have had a varied working life which includes working independently as an artist-blacksmith and a gardener. I have volunteered with the Travellers’ School, teaching children how to weld sculptures and at Brighton’s Centre for Ecotherapy, supporting people who experience mental ill health to enhance their wellbeing through nature. In 2017 I stopped working in the garden at the Centre for Ecotherapy, to train as an occupational therapist. I remain as a director at the Centre and after graduation, I hope to be getting my hands dirty again. Crafts and nature are two powerful restorative elements I want to incorporate into my future professional practice. As an occupational therapist, I want to enable people whose mental health causes them problems to do more and suffer less, challenging stigma in the process.

The Diverse Placement in drug and alcohol services has been the highlight of my OT training so far and it is a privilege to get to share some reflections on that experience with you today.

**Pam Toothill**

Pam has worked in higher education since 2005. Her first post was as placement tutor where she was introduced to the concept of role-emerging placements. These placements have been a continuing area of interest since then, and in her present post she is joint module leader for the role-emerging practice placement which takes place in the students’ final year. Last year she completed her Master’s dissertation at the University of Plymouth on the above topic.

**Sarah (Warren) Mead**

Sarah is state registered for OT practice in France and the UK and a member of OT professional organisations in both countries (ANFE France and RCOT UK). She works variously as an OT lecturer, researcher and sculptor. In the UK, she works with the University of Brighton on the Conference for Occupational Therapists in Diverse Settings and the COPOTDS website. In France she works for OT schools in Toulouse and Tours, produces CPD training for ANFE and writes articles for the French OT journal ErgOThérapies on the role of OT in diverse settings. Before moving to France in 2018, Sarah was Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at the University of Brighton and an independent supervisor for HCPC registered occupational therapists working in diverse practice settings and OT’s with disabilities. Sarah’s main areas of specialism are: OT CPD and registration in diverse settings, practitioner resilience, vocational rehabilitation and bariatric care with a psychosocial focus. She is also an author for the COT Work Matters online Resource and of a chapter on vocational rehabilitation in “Diverse Roles for Occupational Therapists” (Clewes/Kirkwood, 2016, M&K Publishing).