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Jennifer Creek, PhD

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Sponsor Profile: Jennifer Creek, PhD



The *Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* (OJOT) is pleased to recognize Dr. Jennifer Creek, PhD, a freelance occupational therapy practitioner based in North Yorkshire, UK, sponsored by Dr. Fred Sammons, for the summer 2017 issue.

Dr. Creek is well-known for her clinical work, scholarship, teaching, writing, and service on national and international levels throughout her 5 decades as an occupational therapist. She trained in the days before occupational therapy education in the UK was at degree level, earning her diploma from the London School of Occupational Therapy in 1970. Dr. Creek began her clinical work in occupational therapy in the psychiatric unit of Hackney General Hospital in London's East End. This was followed by posts in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric units in the UK and Australia and several years working in the field of adult learning disabilities. Since 1999, she has worked in mental health promotion and community development with people at risk of developing mental illness. From 2004 to 2011, she worked for the Care Quality Commission in the UK as a mental health act commissioner.

Dr. Creek has always moved between clinical work and teaching and helped to set up new occupational therapy educational programs in Hong Kong, Scotland, and the north of England. She presents lectures and workshops for occupational therapists across Europe and further afield, and has been a visiting scholar at universities on three continents. She is well known as a speaker and has been invited to give keynote speeches at national and international conferences in several countries. In 2011, she presented the first Hanneke van Bruggen annual lecture at the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE) conference in Ghent. In 2017, she and Dr. Kit Sinclair completed a lecture tour of eight universities in the USA.

In 1998, Dr. Creek completed her master's degree at the University of Manchester, England. The subject of her study was how occupational therapists conceptualize and explain what they do, and occupational therapy language continues to be an area that she has actively pursued in her work. This is evidenced by her definition of occupational therapy as a complex intervention, published in 2003 by the College of Occupational Therapists, and her work with the ENOTHE terminology group, which was published in 2010 as *The Core Concepts of Occupational Therapy: A Dynamic Framework for Practice*. In 2014, she completed her PhD in occupational therapy at the University of Sheffield in England. Her

dissertation, which investigated occupational therapy practice on the margins, was the culmination of many years of practice with marginalized groups, such as people with mental illness and those in chronic poverty.

Dr. Creek is an editor, co-editor, and author of several core occupational therapy textbooks, including *Occupational Therapy and Mental Health*, now in its fifth edition. Her books are included in the professional libraries of students and practitioners around the world. She has also published many theoretical papers in peer-reviewed journals and contributed chapters to textbooks around the world. Her work has been translated into several languages, including Chinese. She has a long-term interest in how occupational therapists think in practice and has published several papers, books, and book chapters on this topic, including a textbook co-edited with Marli Cole, entitled *Global Perspectives on Professional Reasoning*, published in 2016.

Although she retired from full-time work in 2009, Dr. Creek continues to engage in teaching, writing, and consultancy around the world. Since 2014, she has worked with Dr. Kit Sinclair to support occupational therapists in the Philippines in disaster risk reduction and response, and is an adjunct professor at Cebu Doctors' University in Mandaue City in the Philippines. In 2015, she helped to plan and deliver a training program for staff working with child refugees in Northern Uganda.

In addition to her ongoing professional work, Dr. Creek enjoys engagement in her favorite occupations, which include organic gardening, hill walking, embroidery, dressmaking, and traveling.

Written by: [Ben J. Atchison, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA](#)