

## Editorial

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# Work Transitions: Knowledge Synthesis and Student Reflections

### 1. Introduction

This special issue has two exciting sections all with a focus on advancing knowledge and research on work transitions. The first section is comprised of papers promoting knowledge syntheses relevant to advancing knowledge in work. There are three scoping reviews on work transitions and assessment. The second section is a first for the journal – a graduate student led section with a mini-editorial followed by eight peer reviewed reflections on the study of work transitions in a Chilean context.

### 2. Scoping review section

In section one, Antao et al. have synthesized knowledge on strategies to support work participation for persons with an intermittent work capacity (IWC) underscored by chronic pain and episodic illness. This paper is the first synthesis of the knowledge on intermittent work capacity and suggests avenues for practice, policy change and education focused on knowledge transfer for workers with IWC and for stakeholders such as employers and coworkers in the workplace. Cronin et al.'s scoping review of work capacity assessments also offers a synthesis of research on work capacity assessments and their links to supporting return to work. Findings suggest that it is time to move forward and develop tools and assessment processes that enable a comprehensive assessment of person resources and a more contextual approach to evaluating and understanding how people can work in different environments. Bryson-Campbell et al. present a synthesis

and analysis of the literature relevant to occupational identity and brain injury. Their findings suggest that current work rehabilitation neglects the use of strategies to help redevelop an occupational identity. Areas to advance research and the adoption of strategies to redevelop an occupational identity are forwarded.

### 3. Student-led section

This section begins with a Master's student-led editorial to capture the range of topics on student perspectives and reflections on work transitions. Students explored international perspectives and developed in-depth knowledge on work transitions using *WORK* Volume 32, Issue 4 (2009) by Drs Shaw and Rudman, titled "Using occupational science to study occupational transitions in the realm of work: From micro to macro levels and experiential experiences in Chile in 2010". This special issue presents a unique contribution by graduate students offering them a voice and place to participate in the discourse and dialogue in the literature on work transitions.

This special issue offers researchers, educators and clinicians and providers some articles to shift thinking about the focus and study of work transitions needed to advance knowledge and practice as the 'world of work' transforms around us. We hope that this issue prompts further dialogue and new directions. Enjoy.

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