The beginning of the VdTMoCA in the UK and Japan

Vona du Toit
1922-1974

1960s

The first Occupational Therapists to train under Vona du Toit at the then named Pretoria College of Occupational Therapy

Elizabeth (Hollie) Holsten – who wrote a presentation paper "Comparison of the Vona du Toit theory with other theories of occupational therapy" (MOHO etc). Holly was our conference Keynote speaker is 2010 and co-authored the chapter describing the manifestation of the levels of creative ability for the fail test (Van der Reyden et al., 2010)

Dain van der Reyden has contributed enormously to both the theory of creative ability and who has become the VdTMoCA

Lyn Watson wrote on the nature of maturity, 1970

1970s

Graduating class under Vona du Toit, 1973

Initiative Participation – preparation for open labour market employment

Exploration with materials

Raine Joubert, has been an inspiring voice encouraging critical thinking about the theory of creative ability, particularly in relation to other theories and philosophies, sensory deprivation and spirituality, the levels of creative ability in wellness, and warning of the dangers of using the theory to promote change and displacement. Our keynote speaker in 2013

Marie du Toit who contributed to thinking about creative ability before being tragically killed in a car crash in 1974

1973/74 Vona commissioned most of the following photos of patients at different levels of creative ability – Welkopies Hospital.
Photo Joseph Ferreira Photos

A person on Vona shows no effort to make contact with his/her world

Incidentally constructive action

Vocational Participation, transitional phase. Beginning of positive connections, more constructive

1980s

1980
First publication of Patient Volition and Action in Occupational Therapy, introducing the concept of patients writing on creative ability – the paper on Initiative by Vona du Toit, plus conference presentations by Vona du Toit.

1991
The revised edition of Patient Volition and Action in Occupational Therapy presents the concept of patients proceeding through levels of creative ability in a more comprehensive "My Story" by Pieta Computer.

Clinicians develop workshops to share experiences of applying the theory of creative ability in practice, e.g. effects of sensory deprivation on creative ability in head injury patients (Joubert, 1986)

1987
The model is presented at the World Federation of Occupational Therapy Congress by Dain van der Reyden.

1989
First text publication of the Model of Creative Ability as a chapter by Pat de Witt (20 years of the model is evaluated by Dain van der Reyden in the South African Journal of Occupational Therapy

1990s

2000s

2010s

2020s

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1995
Research becomes evident, e.g. An investigation into the possible agreement between recovery from head injury and the levels of creative ability (Sandiuk, 1995).

1997
Model is recognised for enabling provision of OT for large numbers of patients (Van der Reyden, 1997) – the beginnings of VdTMoCA-informed care pathways?

2000 – the first important connection
South African OT Carla van Heerden tells Wendy Sherwood about the model, Wendy leaves lecturing to try the model in forensic mental health, St Bernard's Hospital, London. Carla introduces the model to South Cross Partnership Trust where it was embedded and remains the model of choice in mental health and learning disabilities services.

2002 – the most important connection
Wendy contacts Dain van der Reyden by email with questions about the basics of the model. Dain encourages Wendy to explore further. Wendy starts a MSc study on the assessment of creative ability in inpatient forensic services in South Africa. Dain is a constant support through the coming years.

2003 – 2004
Japanese OTs visit the UK to learn about forensic services. At St Bernard's Hospital, Wendy shares the model with them. They decide it is the best model to inform their services and take it back to Japan.

2005
A website for The Model of Creative Ability Interest Group (MCAIG) website arising to share knowledge about the model.

2007
South Cross Partnership Trust becomes a partner of MCAIG and hosts a Partnership Away Days in 2007 and 2008. First UK presentations on the application of the model in practice.

The model is within into the curriculum for the MSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy programme at London South Bank University.

2008
The value of the model in vocational rehabilitation is recognised in the McGee et al. text *Advancing Occupational Therapy in Mental Health Practice*

OTs in Japan have translated information on the model and the Creative Participation Assessment form into Japanese and are implementing the model. Dain and Wendy visit Japan and it is evident there is difficulty in understanding the model's terms and they lack confidence in their knowledge and understanding. Wendy is invited to visit.

2009
As a keynote speaker at the Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa national conference, Dain van der Reyden presents the model of the model, pointing out that there were 5 names for the model were in use, causing confusion and undermining confidence in it; inadequate literature explaining the model and there was a need for UK/South Africa collaboration to form a Community of Practice.

First London conference dedicated to the Model of Creative Ability – 'Transformation', Keynote speaker: Dain van der Reyden.

Kuba Zuberian presents on using the model with people with severe learning disabilities – a field that has grown significantly in the UK

Recognising the alignment of the levels of creative ability with the Food Activity Behavior Checklist supports occupation theory

2010
The work on the model in the UK and Japan is acknowledged in the Colloquium for Serious Discussion of Dain van Der Reyden

The Activity Participation Outcome Measure is developed (Castelnuovo, 2010)

2010
International Model of Creative Ability Conference – 'Building Capacity'

The work on the model in the UK and Japan is acknowledged at the Colloquium to honour the career of Dain van Der Reyden, recounting South African OTs.

2011
A manuscript of the potential of the model in Japan is in the hands to a conference dedicated to it, at which UK OTs present and submit posters

2012
MCAIG transforms into the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability Foundation (UK)

2013
International Model of Creative Ability Conference – 'Contribution Through Waves of Change'.
Keynote speaker Dr Robin Joubert.

Dr Sue Griffiths is invited as a Critical Friend, finding that the model provides detailed data in a way that no other model does, giving OTs confidence in what they're doing, and puts the 'O' back into occupational therapy.

2013
First VdTMoCA Foundation (UK) Centre of Excellence opened, hosting Open Days to share information.

2014
Jennifer Creek, a long advocate for the model, completes her Creek's occupational therapy and mental health, 5th edition, Chp. 12 Creative activities (Mathers et al, 2014).

Work starts on revising the model, beginning with agreeing on its name – the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability, with the aim of process of creating the 3rd fail test on the model including its graphic
Dain van der Reyden, Dr Sioban Cantelejo, Dr Wendy Sherwood and Pat de Witt).

2014
Left to right: Julia Walters, Helen Manos, Dr Jennifer Creek, Wendy Sherwood

2015
The model is presented at the Singapore Association of Occupational Therapists' national conference

Carole Pearson and Dain van der Reyden provide a workshop on understanding creative ability, using the 'creative' and learning platform (in progress).

First grant dedicated to VdTMoCA research is awarded

2015 – 2017
Publications by the VdTMoCA Foundation (UK)

Creating the evidence: Research priorities for VdT Model of Creative Ability informed practice (Sherwood et al, 2015)
Foreword by Dr Jennifer Creek

The first survey of research priorities for the model in the UK – document presents a broad range of interesting research questions inspired by occupational therapists.

2017
5th International Model of Creative Ability Conference
'Making a mark: doing, being, becoming'.
Keynote speaker: Dr Margot Graham.

First presentation on using the model in a forensic mental health setting – Dr Katrina Bowlingue.

Conference Critical Friend: Dr Katrina Bowlingue.

2017 – 2018 VdTMoCA is taught in pre-registration OT students in Singapore

2018
Presentations on the model given at WFOT

Japanese OTs present on the model at their own national Occupational Therapy Conference.

2019
Nurses at the Institute of Mental Health, in Singapore, get seriously involved with the model, including doing activities with patients supervised by VdTMoCA-informed OTs.

2019
6th International Model of Creative Ability Conference. Keynote speaker – Dr Fastvem Adams presents on possibility that a community can be a level of creative ability

First presentation on using the model in mental health in Singapore, on wards with 25-55 patients, 75 nurses and 1 OT.

2021
First book integrating theory, philosophy and practice

2022
7th International Model of Creative Ability Conference
Keynote: Dr Wendy Sherwood
prompts thinking on individual and model development for the future.

4th International Model of Creative Ability Conference: making connections, making a difference.
Keynote speakers, Carole Pearson.

Second Centre of Excellence
– Robinson Ward, an MHU ward at St Andrew's Healthcare