ACOTUP Researcher Profile

Name of researcher: Claire Dumont, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Degrees and professional qualifications (including fellowships):
PhD (Public Health); MSc (Public Health); BSc (Health Sciences, OT)

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Area of research: Development and validation of the Assessment of Computer Task Performance; Technologies to improve the participation of people with cognitive disorders (traumatic brain injury, autism spectrum disorder, and others); Positive approaches to health (empowerment, self-determination, sense of self-efficacy); Clinical and evaluative research, and health and social technology assessment.

Research related awards and honors:
- Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation Award, Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation Research Grant ($5,000) (2005)
- Summer Institutes 2003, training organized by the Canadian Health Research Institute (CHRI) and the FRSQ ($2,000) (2003)
- Quebec Health Research Fund (FRSQ) Fellowship for the completion of a PhD (excellence fellowship) ($78,646 for two years) (2001)

Grants/funding history:
- Kalubi, Jean-Claude; Beauregard, France; C. Moreau, André; Caouette, Martin; Chatenoud, Céline; Couture, Germain; Couture, Mélanie; Dionne, Carmen; Dugas, Claude; Dumont, Claire; Fecteau, Stéphanie; Joly, Jacques; Kassi, Bernadette; Loirdighi, Nadia; Lussier-Desrochers, Dany; Maïano, Christophe; Mihalache, Iulia; Ndengeyingoma, Assumpta; Nolin, Pierre; Normand, Claude; Paquet, Annie; Rousseau, Myriam; Ruel, Julie; Sabourin, Guy; Stipanicic, Annie; Tremblay, Karine (2014-2019). Une société inclusive pour une participation citoyenne (Institut universitaire en DI et TSA), Subvention infrastructures. Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture (FRQSC) - ($1 343 761,00 Dollars canadiens).
- Carbonneau, H., Dumont, C., Dugas, C., Roult, R., & Trudeau, F. (2012-15). Choosing to Win; The Challenge of Healthy Habits for Youth Living with a Disability. Evaluation of the Alter Go Athletic Challenge Program, the Chagnon Foundation ($318,000).
- Dumont, C. (2011-14). The Use of Information Technology to Improve Social Participation of People Who Have an Autism Spectrum Disorder. New Researcher Program, Quebec Society and Culture Research Fund (FQRSC) ($39,600).
- Lefebvre, H., Vanier, M., Dutil, E., Pelchat, D., Swaine, B., Gélinas, I., Fougeyrollas, P., Pépin, M., Rainville, C., Michallet, B., Denis, S., McColl, M.A., Dumont, C. (2006-08). Social Integration of People with Accidental Trauma: Individuals', Family Members', Clinical Practitioners', Regulators', and Community Organizations' Point of View. FRQS ($75,000).
- Gélinas, I., Lefebvre, H., Blanchet, S., Dumont, C., McKerral, M., & Rainville, C. (2005-06).

Systematic Review of Writings on Interventions and Health Services Offered to Seniors with Head Trauma. <u>Quebec Auto Insurance Corporation Adaptation and Rehabilitation Network – Quebec Physical Disability Re-Adaptation and Rehabilitation Association (SAAQ-REPAR-AÉRDPQ), Supported by the FRQS</u> ($32,425).

- Lefebvre, H., Gélinas, I., Pelchat, D., Swaine, B., Dumont, C., Michallet, B. (2005-06). Matching Family Members of People with Head Trauma to Services Offered by the Care Continuum. <u>SAAQ-REPAR-Ministry of Health and Social Services (MSSS)</u> ($87,500).

Research collaboration: The development and validation of <u>the Assessment of Computer Task Performance</u> has been an opportunity to work in collaboration with many researchers and clinical practitioners. There are versions for adults and for children, in English and in French. Publications take into account researchers who have been associated with this production at one stage or another. Researchers from other countries have asked to translate it into their language (Hebrew, Dutch, Chinese). The establishing of norms by age in the children's version has required the recruiting of many participants, in several regions of Quebec. Many students have worked as research assistants in data collection. Some have worked in compilation, analyses, and the preparation of the final report.

One of the main results of my doctoral studies is that self-determination and the sense of self-efficacy are the best predictors of social participation among people with head trauma. These results have brought a closer relationship with researchers with a positive perspective on health (positive psychology, ecological approaches, etc). I published a book with some of these researchers and some collaborations have happened as a result.

As a professor at l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, I have grown closer to teams of researchers in place at this university. The Mauricie and Centre-du-Quebec Centre for Rehabilitation from Intellectual Deficiency and Autism Spectrum Disorders has university institute status, and is affiliated to the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. Many Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières researchers, as well as those from other universities in Quebec, are therefore associated with it. As a researcher associated with this Institute, several collaborations are therefore possible. This Institute has for example an infrastructure to support researchers and several funding programs are available.

What is the most important thing in mentoring graduate students? To get involved in research, the necessary path is through doctoral studies. Funding for these years of intense work is one of the conditions of success. The person who is headed towards a research career needs to plan these activities as soon as possible. While still enrolled in undergraduate studies, the person needs to participate in summer research initiation internships. He or she needs to identify professors and researchers who can let him or her participate in writing articles and other opportunities to share knowledge which can add to their resume. The person must also apply for awards related to student research and merit. Competition is fierce for scholarships with a significant reward; therefore it is primordial to have a maximum of items which can be considered according to criteria that funding organizations use (publications, summer research internships, awards, etc). It is equally important that students be exposed to different research approaches and paradigms over the course of their studies.

Most significant publications:
- Dumont, C., & Mazer, B. (2013). Assessment of Computer Task Performance for children: standardization, validation and reliability. <u>Technology and Disability</u>, 25, 27-35, DOI

10.3233/TAD-130364.
Several publications have come from the development and validation of the Assessment of Computer Task Performance. This publication is the most recent, crowning over 10 years of work. This assessment is centered on occupations and exists in a modern paradigm, namely competent use of information technology.

- Dumont, C., & Kielhofner, G. (Eds.) (2007). Positive Approaches to Health. New York: Nova Science Publishers Inc., 218 p.
Publishing this book has been an opportunity to create collaborations with researchers in different countries. (Canada, the U.S., Europe) and different horizons.
- Dumont, C., Gervais, M., Fougeyrollas, P., & Bertrand, R. (2004). Toward an explanatory model of social participation for adults with traumatic brain injury. Journal of Head Trauma and Rehabilitation, Vol. 19, No. 6, p. 431-444.
This publication presents the main results of research done in my doctoral studies. This is a publication in a prestigious international interdisciplinary journal.

Tips would you give for new investigators:
- Take advantage of opportunities offered in research centres and university institutes.
- Use support resources available in universities, research centres, and different organizations involved in research.
- Get to know the different funding programs that are available, funding organizations, evaluation criteria for awards, etc.
- Understand the priorities of funding organizations and adjust your research program accordingly.
- Check success rates for different programs and awards, currently funded teams, to see who the competitors are and their caliber.
- Grasp the primary needs of the population and adjust your research program accordingly, which will add pertinence to the projects that are submitted.
- Get in touch with a team or teams who have proven themselves, which allows for mentorship, co-application on a grant application, or co-signatures on scientific articles.
- Aim for interdisciplinarity, as more and more organizations only finance interdisciplinary projects.
- Aim for projects which include several partners or have multiple focuses, as more and more organizations will not fund one-focused projects, and value collaboration between several departments.
- Persevere despite refusals, consult to adjust the application as required, change focus if necessary.
- Create relationships with the director of the research centre and other key people in your field.
- Create a collaboration network by associating with groups of researchers in your field, and get involved in these organizations.
- Take advantage of opportunities offered by summer research initiation internships offered by organizations, the researcher who puts a research program in place gains support for the completion of their works.
- Get in contact with researchers who use different approaches and various paradigms; do not corner yourself into a restricted department that will not be productive.

Resources/supports/training programs for new investigators? Grant organizations regularly organize training activities, usually announced in universities. Universities generally have a

research support department which can keep up-to-date information in this matter and share it. It is important to get into contact with people in this service to benefit from their expertise.