

Peer Review

Review of: "Evolution of Occupational Health: From Industrial Medicine to the Digital-Era"

Sanja Stojković Zlatanović¹

1. Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

The paper addresses the current topic of the historical development of occupational health, providing an insightful view into its origins and evolution. It is highly readable, well-organized, and logically structured. The manuscript offers a clear overview of occupational health through a policy lens within its historical context and, importantly, provides recommendations for its further development in the era of digitalization and AI-driven workplaces.

As a review article, the manuscript is satisfactory; however, to enhance its academic value, it is recommended that the authors strengthen the theoretical framework by linking occupational health with public health and human rights. This could be achieved by expanding the Introduction to incorporate a human rights-based approach, discussing occupational health in terms of socio-economic rights (so-called “second-generation rights”), and referring to the long-standing debate regarding first- and second-generation human rights. Emphasizing the intersection between the right to health and the right to work in the context of occupational health could further enhance the paper’s scholarly impact.

Regarding the reconceptualization of occupational health in light of digitalization, automation, AI development, and emerging psychosocial risks, the manuscript would benefit from referencing psychosocial assessment and management as tools for preventing occupational injuries, highlighting their integration into traditional workplace safety and health practices. For instance, in Spain, the concept of “fatiga informática” (digital fatigue) has been introduced as a novel psychosocial risk within the framework of disconnection laws, which could serve as an illustrative example of legislative adaptation to evolving technological, scientific, and socio-economic environments.

Finally, addressing demographic changes in the workforce—particularly the expectations of younger generations such as Gen Z, who prioritize autonomy, work-life balance, and flexible working

arrangements—would add further value. This discussion could highlight how these shifts influence standard occupational safety and health procedures, thereby situating the paper within contemporary workforce dynamics.

Overall, the manuscript presents a valuable and timely contribution to the literature on occupational health. Strengthening the theoretical grounding and incorporating contemporary psychosocial and demographic considerations would further enhance its academic rigor and practical relevance.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.