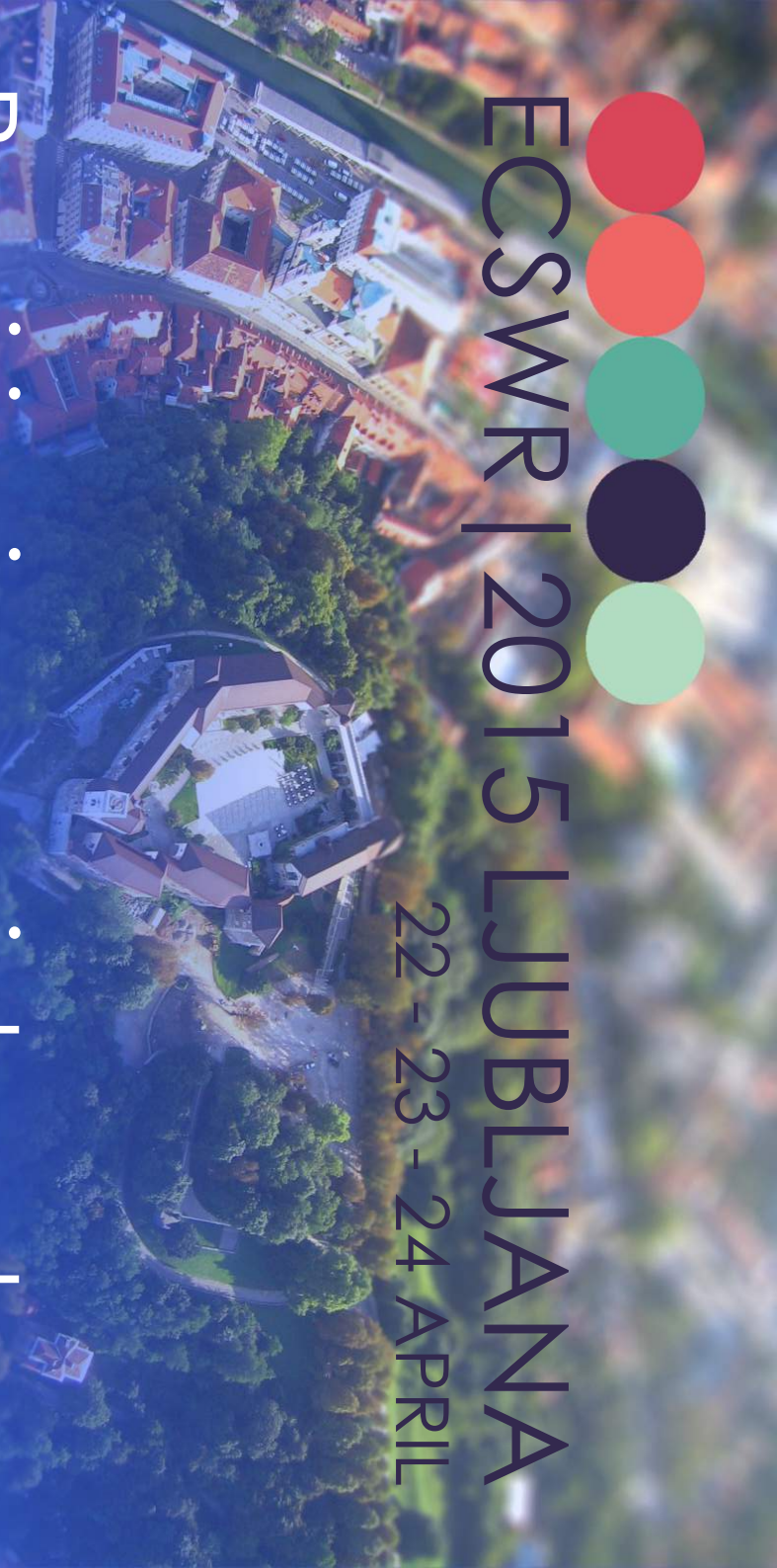




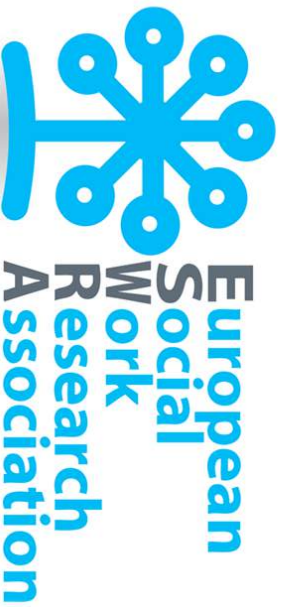
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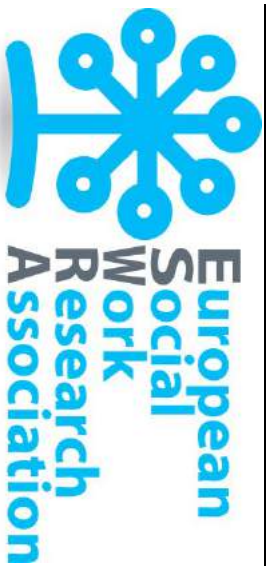


Re-visioning social work  
with individuals, collectives  
and communities:  
social work research

Program Book & Book of Abstracts



5th European Conference for Social Work Research



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Ana Sobočan, Jelka Zorn, Martina Kerec, Petra Videmšek, Romana Židar.

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2015

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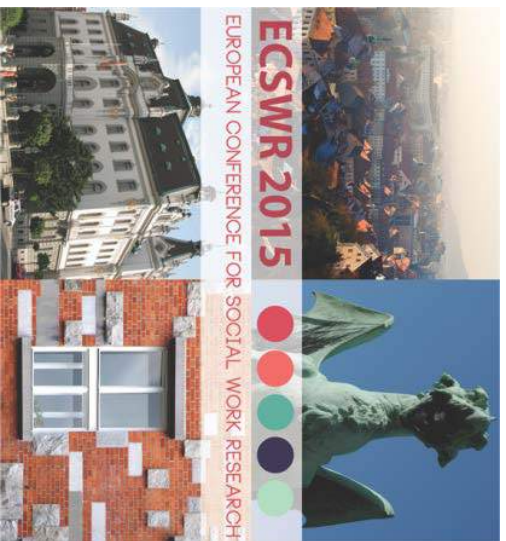
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## INVITATION

Dear colleagues!

The 5th European Conference for Social Work Research (ECSWR) will engage with research on the formation and re-formation of welfare services and institutions, communities and collectives, social work practices and social policies, from Europe and beyond. You are invited to present local, national and comparative transnational research that mobilizes different methodologies and historical-cultural contexts. We welcome research that advances cutting-edge debates and theory building in research methods, social work practice, social networks, social policy and policy practice, and evidence-based practice and scholarship. A special focus will be given to the diversity of unfolding social tensions and widening societal inequities, the transformation of social intimacies and collective relationships, and the political grammar of social protests. The conference is designed as a site for enriching dialogue and networks for scholars of research in social work.

The conference is the annual showcase event of the newly established European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA) and was previously held at Oxford, Basel, Jyväskylä, and Bolzano/Bozen.

A warm welcome to all!



Daria Zavišek

Chair of the Host  
Conference Committee  
and Co-Chair of the  
2015 Conference



Guy Enosh

Co-Chair of the  
2015 Conference  
and Vice-Chair of  
ESWRA



## **MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

Darija Zavišek (Chair) • Ana M. Sobočan • Jelka Zorn • Martina Kerec • Petra Videmšek • Romana Zidar • Nino Rode • Gašper Krstulović

## **MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANNEL:**

Silvia Staub-Bernasconi, Switzerland • Teresa Bertotti, Italy • Daniela Bratković, Croatia • Annamaria Campanini, Italy • Adrienne S. Chambon, Canada • Rebecca Davis, USA • Guy Enosh, Israe • Silvia Fargion, Italy • Allen Feldman, USA • Elisabeth Frost, UK • John Gal, Israel • Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano, Spain • Ruth Grossmass, Germany • Cris Hall, UK • Anne Hjørdis Halvorsen, Norway • Staffan Höjer, Sweden • Elena Iarskaia Smirnova, Russia • Iago Kachkachishvili, Georgia • Theano Kallinikaki, Greece • Mario Kuronen, Finland • Synnove Karvinen-Niinikoski, Finland • Chu-Li Julie Liu, Taiwan • Mikko Mänttysaari, Finland Caroline McGregor, Ireland • Shula Ramon, UK • Fernanda Rodrigues, Portugal • Jonas Ruskus, Lithuania • Mirja Sotka, Finland • Ruth Seifert, Avstrija • Alessandro Sicora, Italy • Kerstin Svensson, Sweden • Monika Vyslouzil, Austria • Berteke M. L. Waaldijk, The Netherlands • Martin Webber, UK • Darija Zavišek, Slovenia • Jelka Zorn, Slovenia



## OPENING WELCOME

DARJA ZAVIRŠEK

Chair of the Host Conference Committee

**Dear conference participants, dear colleagues and friends, Rector Professor Svetlik,**

Welcome to the 5th European Research in social work conference of the European social work research association. This year, the conference is organized by the local committee of the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Work. I am immensely honored to serve as the chair of the local committee, and as co-chair to the conference.

Our conference is taking place in a post-socialist country that is at the same time a country of the European Union periphery, but has a history of social work education that is quite remarkable. Until 1991, Slovenia was part of Yugoslavia, the only communist state in Europe that established, beginning in 1952, a university level education in social work, and with it, continuous research in the field. In the communist countries of the Soviet bloc however, the post-1945 regimes disbanded the so-called "imperialist profession" whose protagonists were seen as "bourgeois women" even as there existed in several instances a sizeable tradition of social work, for example in Hungary, Poland, and Romania. In Slovenia, the communist regime likewise maintained that socialism, a society free of inequality, will have no need for social work other than temporarily, until the society is purged of alcoholics, work-haters and war orphans. Nevertheless, social work was preserved both as an academic discipline and social practice in all the successor states of Yugoslavia.

Socialism social work whose task was to accomplish the "goals of the social policy" of the state was certainly different from its Western counterpart: the collective was seen as more important than the individual; administrative social work was the central concern, while celebrating diversity and universalist particularism was frowned upon. On top of its traditional activities of alleviating the effects of the disadvantaged, socialist social work strove to accomplish other central aims of the communist society programme: thus for instance, the employment of women as part of the communist goal of full employment of women and men as the vehicle of their formal equality. In the European union of today, an identical social goal is known as the "dual earner policy." Ample educational opportunities for women were another important turnout of social work education. Rather than caring for the disabled at home, the women became welfare workers in the newly established long-stay institutions for those defined as "incapable of independent work and life." The socialist-period demand to educate the masses was quite similar to the present EU 2020 goal to have at least 40 per cent of persons in their early thirties completed third level education.

These days, Slovenia is one of the more attractive tourist destinations in Europe; however, in the quarter-century after communism, and 6 odd years into the last global economic crisis, Slovenia is also a model case of a Potemkin's village. As you will stroll around the lovely and safe city of Ljubljana, exploring its rich history going back to pre-Roman times, and making

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use of its many hospitable and cozy coffee shops, perhaps you should keep in mind that there exists a very different social passage behind the facade. Since 2008, austerity policies impacted the citizens on a scale comparable to Greece and Spain. The financial hole in excess of 4 billion Euros drilled by the state-owned banks was socialised among the taxpayers, severely shrinking in the process the budget for social security, public health service and public education. In a nation of about two million, a quarter of the population has become poor, among them all those sustaining themselves on social relief funds; people surviving on minimal wages; retired persons with minimal pensions; the long-term unemployed who lost their legal rights to substitute social service financing, and more. Slovenia's poverty rates among women over 65 years of age are among the highest in the Union, just a tad shy of Lithuania's. No less than 20 per cent of young people between 18 and 25 years of age were unemployed in 2013. A higher share of unemployed young exist only in Greece, Spain, Croatia and Italy. There is little doubt that the fast growing poverty is a consequence of the Slovenian 2012 social reform that was intended to meet the European Commission's fiscal requirements.

Incidentally, it was precisely in this hall that Alexis Tsipras, now the Greek prime minister, addressed the then forming Slovenian New Left coalition in 2014, warning against the dangers of the infamous Troika for the peripheral states of the Union. Tsipras addressed the problem of the so-called casino capitalism; certainly less of an irony and more of a historical regression of the West, given that as early as in 1995, Nancy Fraser for instance warned that recognitional justice must go hand in hand with redistributive justice. During the last decade of the past century, the main concerns in social work revolved around anti-stigma and diversity concerning women, the disabled, ethnic minorities and so forth, while nowadays, we are engulfed with the fast-paced deterioration of our societies in the hands of "finance absolutism" that destroyed the "social civilisation of Europe," to quote the renown Italian public intellectual Franco "Bifo" Berardi. The social civilization of Europe that lies in ruin he describes as "the destruction of democratic values, social solidarity, social welfare system and the legislative system.« All the more so as we stand witness to a time of rise of xenophobic outbursts, gender based violence, terrorism, human rights violence, and poverty that advances with big strides in Europe and beyond.

Despite all these sordid facts, our conference call was answered by 677 abstracts authored by one or more persons. The review panel accepted 468 researchers who will present their work either orally or as poster presentations. A majority of presenters come from Western countries of the EU: 391 in total. Sixty-five presenters come from one of the post-socialist countries, and 78 from outside Europe. Greece, Cyprus, Serbia, Georgia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Kazakhstan are the countries who have one representative each. Nevertheless, assembled here are researchers in social work from no less than 42 countries of the world. Sadly, Professor Birgit Rommelspacher, our invited guest lecturer, will not be with us. Instead, we will honour her life and work with a short presentation, and a reading and excerpt from her work.

The entire organisational work on the conference was done by the team that I would like to thank for their invaluable contribution. My wonderful colleagues Gašper Krstulović, junior researcher and Ph.D. student; dr. Ana Šobočan, teaching assistant; dr. Jelka Zorn, assistant professor; dr. Petra Videmšek, teaching assistant; assistant Romana Zidar and Martina Kelec, librarian. You will meet all these colleagues not only in their on-going capacity as your facilitators in the work of the conference, but also as paper and poster presenters. Nine social work undergraduate and graduate students are volunteer conference guides: Brina,

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Andra , Sandra, Sara, Moja, Manca, Mateja, Klara and Katja. I would also like to direct a warm thanks to the children and young people chorus from the Majda Vrhovnik Elementary School in Ljubljana, and their chorus leader, Ms. Polona Guček Skrbinek. Their performance will enrich our opening ceremony.

Finally, I would like to thank the co-chair of the conference, Professor Guy Enosh, and members of the International Review Panel who evaluated the abstracts; to all our esteemed keynote speakers whose expertise, internationally acclaimed, will help steer our discussions; they are, in order of appearance, professors Michal Kummer Nevo, Guy Standing, Mojca Urek, Sabine Hering, and Paul Stubbs.

Keeping in mind that our conference work concentrates entirely on research carried out within many specialisations in the social work discipline, I am gratified to be able to conclude that ours is certainly a representative forum of people doing indispensable academic research in the discipline across the European continent and beyond, and I certainly wish that the many debates we engage in during the next three days properly reflect not only the diverse essential knowledge we have accumulated, but also the sense of empowerment that is so obviously and rightfully ours.

I wish you all a pleasant conference experience abundant with knowledge sharing and, above all, open-mindedness.



Prof. Darja Zavišek

Chair of the Host Conference Committee







## OPENING WELCOME

IAN SHAW

Chair, ESWRA

We welcome you to the fifth European Conference for Social Work Research and the first that has been held as the conference of the European Social Work Research Association. Speaking on behalf of the Association, I would like to thank all who have been involved in any way with both the launch of the association and the 2015 conference. It has been a remarkable year, in which far-reaching changes and developments have taken place in the Association. It has happened also in a year of some international turmoil.

The European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA) takes forward the development, practice and utilization of social work research, to enhance knowledge about individual and social problems, and promote just and equitable societies.

The goals of the association are:

1. Promote social work research which will have beneficial consequences for practitioners, service users, educators, researchers, graduate students, and those responsible for service development and delivery.
2. Foster and maintain the development of high levels of social work research and knowledge production across the European community of nations.
3. Enhance research capacity and learning opportunities within the European social work community.
4. Provide an environment for the application of research methods and approaches by those from a wide range of disciplines within and beyond the social sciences, in forms which have relevance for social work practice and research.
5. Build and work with networks of social work researchers within Europe and actively foster links between European and wider international research networks.

The Board of your association has met a total of three days since the 2014 conference. What has been achieved so far?

*Benefits and services provided by ESWRA:*

1. The annual European Conference for Social Work Research is the flagship of the Association. Our policy is to ensure that the conference represents the whole of Europe, north and south, east and west. After Italy last year and Slovenia this year, in 2016 we will be in Lisbon, before going to Denmark in 2017.
2. This is part of our commitment to give social work research a presence and identity in Europe, in seeking to promote a social work marked by knowledge, evidence, understanding and justice.
3. We seek to provide a basis for mutual support of and collaboration with 'sister' organizations and networks in Europe and around the world. For example, while we have a different identity to the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) in the USA we have been greatly indebted to their hard-won experience. We are in conversation with



EASSW and also other initiatives across Europe. We so far have given free space on the ESWRA home page to conferences and other opportunities for members.

4. We have actively been exploring opportunities for benefits to members. Benefits at various stages of development include free electronic access to the *European Journal for Social Work* including at the moment the full archive; emerging support and mentoring schemes; Special Interest Groups; and specialized workshops. We plan to have a twice yearly newsletter for members, the second one to follow shortly following the conference. The partnership with the journal has been a fruitful one and we already have had agreement for a number of special issues that draw on the conference presentations. Take for example Special Interest group. We believe that the development of special interest groups in association with the Association and the conference will prove of general value to the future progress of the association in two ways. *First*, they enable the development and progress of issues addressed in the conferences. *Second*, because they act with considerable autonomy within the overall aims of the Association, this enables the development of extensive social and intellectual capital within the Association. Eight groups exist so far and we have for the first time put them into the mainstream conference programme. If you are interested in forming a new one you can find full details about how to do so on the website or you can find and talk to Guy Enosh, the ESWRA Vice Chair, at this conference.

5. Six months ago we set up ESWRA Awards in the form of annual prizes for the finest research article publications by general and doctoral members each year. We are delighted that the first of these awards will be given at this conference.

Further major developments will take place in the coming months in both the form of the association and benefits for members. We thank members for your patience as we have worked to set up systems for easing payments, member registration and online voting. If I tell you that the voluntary time given by the association's officers adds up to at least one full time position, you will realize the efforts and level of commitment that have been made in the last year. We plan to appoint an executive post in the association in the coming year, to make it possible to better manage the volume of present and future work. We also have plans to further develop the association website.

A special offer is extended to all conference delegates who have not so far been members of the Association. You are invited to join the European Social Work Research Association without charge for the period from receipt of a membership form (in your conference pack) until 31 December 2015. I should say that the ESWRA Board does not expect to continue this offer after 2015.

Finally, to say once more, we keenly look forward to this year's conference. Our thanks are due to all who have worked in the host planning committee over the year as they have worked with us in the transition from an autonomous conference to one that speaks for your association.

Prof. Ian Shaw





## KEYNOTE AND MAJOR SPEAKERS OF ECSWR | 2015



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER OF ECSSWR | 2015:



**Prof. Michal Krumer-Nevo** is a faculty member at the Spitzer Department of Social Work at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the director of the Israeli Center for Qualitative Research of People and Societies. During 2013-2014, Prof. Krumer-Nevo was a member at the Eldlough Committee – a government committee on the war on poverty. In 2014 she won the Minister of Welfare and Social Services' prize for academics engaged in social change. During the 1990's she worked as a clinical social worker and specialized in psychotherapy. Her interest in poverty, and specifically in the life experiences of women in poverty, has changed her orientation both in her academic and clinical work, from intra-psychic dynamics to a more feminist and critical perspective. This understanding has guided her work during the last twenty years as an academic and an activist. Her work involves employing and developing critical qualitative research methods, initiating an academic and field program for social workers in *poverty aware practice* (PAP), and being a founding member of a group of critical social workers in Israel. In addition she has been involved in various projects of policy practice.

### **Bringing the political into social work practice, research and theory**

I will explore the relations between social work practice, theory and research. Social work has not developed a strong tradition of studying its theoretical foundations, creating a schism between theory and practice, leaving practice to the narrow and myopic outlook of practice evaluation. Thus, practice has come to be treated as a discrete technology, and questions stemming from different theoretical approaches regarding the desired relationship between social workers and service users have been replaced by studying practice as autonomous behavioral phenomenon. This trend has divorced practice from its political dimensions. In this lecture I suggest to bring the political (back) into social work practice, and to see critical social work as a bridge between theory, research and practice. This move, and what it entails in terms of excavating and exploring the ontological, epistemological and ethical foundations of practice, will be illustrated through the example of an innovative Israeli program for working with people in poverty, titled 'Poverty Aware Social Work Practice'.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER OF ECSWR | 2015:



**Guy Standing** is Professor of Economics at SOAS, University of London, and was previously Professor of Economic Security at the University of Bath and Professor of Labour Economics at Monash University in Melbourne. Before that, he was Director of the ILO's Socio-Economic Security Programme (1999-2005) and Director of the ILO's Labour Market Policies Branch. He is a founder and co-President of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), an NGO promoting basic income as a right, with members in over 50 countries. He has been adviser and consultant to many international agencies, including the UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank, European Commission and DFID, as well as many governments and trades unions. In 1995-96, he was research director for President Mandela's Labour Market Policy Commission, when he co-authored, with John Sender and John Weeks, *Restructuring the Labour Market – The South African Challenge*. Recent books are *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class* (Bloomsbury, 2011), *Social Income and Insecurity in Gujarat* (Routledge, 2010), and *Work after Globalization: Building Occupational Citizenship* (Elgar, 2009). The *Precariat* has been translated into thirteen languages. He is currently working on a large-scale pilot basic income scheme in India, and has been working for 15 years with SEWA, the union representing women 'informal' workers across India. His latest book is *A Precariat Charter: From Denizens to Citizens* (Bloomsbury, 2014).

### **The Precariat: Overcoming Insecurity and Inequality**

Globalisation, technological changes and the neo-liberal economic model have combined to generate a new global class structure, in which the largest rapidly growing class is the precariat. This can be defined in terms of distinctive relations of production, distinctive relations of distribution and distinctive relations to the state. It is a class-in-the-making, not yet a class-for-itself, and it is a dangerous class because it is internally divided into factions and because all three factions are rejecting the mainstream political establishments. What is needed is a new progressive agenda that could unite enough of the component parts of the precariat and offer the hope that the precariat could become strong enough to force the state to abolish the conditions that define its existence. What is needed is a Precariat Charter, outlining policies and institutional changes that would strengthen the precariat's freedom, reduce the chronic insecurity that it faces and redistribute the key assets in order to shape a Good Society for the 21st century. The presentation will draw on a recent book, *A Precariat Charter: From Denizens to Citizens*.

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER OF ECSSWR | 2015:



**Dr. Mojca Urek** is senior lecturer, researcher and currently the vice-dean for postgraduate studies at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Work. Between 2001-2013 she was the Chair of the department of the community mental health at the Faculty. She has undertaken research in the fields of mental health, gender, violence and storytelling in social work. She was taking an active part in the processes of deinstitutionalization of mental health services from the end of the eighties in Slovenia. Together with her colleagues she has founded Women's Counselling Service in Ljubljana at the beginning of the nineties'. She is the author of the monograph "Stories at work: narrating, recording and reporting in social work" and co-author of four other monographs on long-term care, violence against women in intimate relationships and changes of the family life in Slovenia.

### **Unheard voices in social and health care: narrative perspective**

The paper will draw attention to the loss of contract power of people, especially those with mental disabilities in legal proceedings and institutional life. It will show a gap between policies and ideology of participation on the one hand and lived experiences of participation practices in the care proceedings' systems on the other. Users' participation seems to be a trademark of contemporary European social policy or mental health policy and children participation is the most emphasized part of children friendly justice discourse. The question is whether they are really implemented in practice. National and international research projects, conducted by the author and her colleagues in the last years will be used to emphasize the most problematic points, but also innovative social work and advocacy practices. The key note will address the narrative method used in different research projects. In addition, the examples will highlight some of the gender issues and show the need for intersectionality within the narrative research perspective.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER OF ECSWR | 2015:



**Dr Paul Stubbs** is a UK-born sociologist who has lived and worked in Croatia since 1993, combining activism, advocacy, research and consultancy. Since 2003, he is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Economics, Zagreb. His main research interests concern Social policy and social inclusion at global, European and regional scales; activisms and social movements in South East Europe; and Policy translation. He has co-edited (with Alexandra Kaasch) 'Transformations in Global and Regional Social Policies' (Palgrave MacMillan, 2014) and is the author of a new book 'Making Policy Move' (with John Clarke, David Bainton and Noemi Lendvai) to be published by Policy Press in Spring 2015. He is an elected Member of the Croatian Council for Science, Higher Education and Technology.

### **Translating Austerity in the Semi-Periphery: social policy, social movements and the crisis in South East Europe**

This presentation will address the nature and implications of a growing social divide in Europe exploring the complexities of the translation and reception of austerity politics in the semi-periphery. A policy translation perspective goes beyond a crude template of modernisation to explore the dynamic and contradictory nature of these processes, and their paradoxical confluences with tendencies towards repatriarchalisation, new moral conservatism, authoritarian populism, resurgent nationalisms, deindustrialisation, and clientelistic or crony capitalism. The presentation will trace a new wave of social mobilisations emphasising struggles against commodification, corrupt politics, and the erosion of the right to public space. which force us to rethink dominant social, political and economic narratives in and of South East Europe. Above all, they demonstrate the resistance and resilience of ordinary people in the face of social injustice. The presentation will explore the implications of these protests and emergence of new social movements for a new grammar, structure, and content of winnable demands for social justice, for a social policy and social work 'otherwise'.





## MAJOR SPEAKER OF ECSSWR | 2015:



**Prof. Sabine Hering**, born in Hamburg 1947, studied sociology and literature. She worked at several places in the field of social politics adult education and feminist movement. Since 1991 she was Professor at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Freie University Berlin and as tenure in Siegen until 2012. Her denomination is Social pedagogics, Gender and Welfare History. She published many books – for instance about Feminist movement in WWI, about the history of social work in Eastern Europe and about Jewish Welfare. Since 2012 she is living in Potsdam.

### **Comparative methods in historiographic research projects**

The comparative view on the history of Social Work has become one of the most important methodological strategies in the recent years. In my contribution I will discuss the implications of the comparative method analysing the different paths of welfare structures in certain European countries and will particularly compare the development in East and West between 1945 and 1990.



## MAJOR SPEAKER OF ECSWR | 2015:



**Prof. Birgit Rommelspacher (1945-2015)**, social psychologist, professor em. of gender and ethnic studies at the Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin. Her research is focused on right wing extremism, anti-Islamic racism and anti-Semitism as well as intersectionality and intercultural social work. Her recent work is focused on the increasing influence of religion in secular societies. Her last English publication (2010) together with Darja Zavišek and Silvia Staub-Bernasconi: Ethical Dilemmas in Social work. International perspectives.

### Religion and Welfare

Despite the different welfare regimes and religious cultures in Europe (the Lutheran Scandinavian model, the liberal model in the Anglo-Saxon countries, the catholic-shaped welfare systems in Southern European and in some post-socialist countries), there is an increasing importance of church based social services in all these systems. The question therefore is, how does religious based social work challenge scientific based professionalism? There is for example the wide spread opinion, that churches are more sensitive for the needs of the marginalized and the needy; that they can discover more easily new needs and are more flexible reacting on them. The churches as "value gardeners" seem to care whereas the public institutions seem just to do their job. There is a competition between these two approaches not only concerning their share on the market of social services but also concerning their ethics.

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Dear colleagues,

It is with profound sadness that we have to inform you that Professor Birgit Rommelspacher, our invited speaker at the upcoming conference in Ljubljana, passed away on 16 April.

Her life and work will be presented at the conference by Professor Silvia Staub-Bernasconi, and a short excerpt from one of her essays will be read on 23 April, in the time period reserved for her keynote lecture. Her tireless struggle for equality, her noble humanist stance, and her pioneering theoretical work on the cultures of dominance are her lasting legacy, even as she is painfully missed by all who had the privilege of her friendship and generous collegiality.

Prof. Darja Zavišek  
Chair of the host conference committee  
Co-chair of the ECSWR

Prof. Guy Enosh  
Vice Chair ESWRA, Co-Chair of the ECSWR

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### **IN MEMORIAM BIRGIT ROMMELSPACHER**

Dear friends and colleagues of the Birgit Rommelspacher, dear conference participants,

It is an unexpected and a very sad task to stand here instead of Birgit Rommelspacher who would have been one of the keynote speakers at this conference.

For those who may not be familiar with her work, here are a few milestones from her life: She studied psychology in Germany and the US and proceeded to study philosophy, social and economic theory in Munich. Her professional career started with research in youth issues in the capacity of a scientific collaborator at the Free University in Berlin, and the Technical University Berlin where she completed her habilitation in 1992 with the thesis titled "Human Companionship and Surrender." From 1990, she was professor at the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. There she initiated seminars in Gender Studies and Intercultural Social Work and began with her struggle to make Intercultural Social Work a compulsory curriculum-content in Germany, realising very early that intercultural and corresponding social/socioeconomic conflicts are to become central to society and social work at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup>, and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I met with Birgit frequently in different contexts, but the time we worked together intensively, together with Christina Thürmer-Rohr, one of my colleagues at the Institute of Social Pedagogy at the Technical University Berlin - started with curriculum development for the Master degree in "Social Work as a Human Rights Profession" in Berlin. From then on, Birgit was also a lecturer and board member on this master's programme. Aside to that, she also worked in INDOSOW, a European network to promote "International Doctoral Studies in Social Work" initiated by Darja Zavirsek from the University of Ljubljana.

The teaching, research and theory development in social work, the initiation of, and responsibility for joint doctoral seminars especially for women at Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences and the Free University Berlin would have been enough to make a full-time job. But Birgit was one of the few professors I know who combined academic excellence with political engagement – especially in the midst of conflictual, burning issues that shook the fundamental beliefs and positive self-image of Germany, namely: right-wing-extremism, antisemitism, nationalism and migration, as well as women's' and gender issues, and human rights. On top of that, she held many official positions, for instance in a commission on homophilia and migrant families, and in the "Giving Back-Project" – an initiative that strives to return the property of Jews dispossessed during Nazi Germany - using the funds to help young Jewish women to develop competences in science and the arts.

As a theoretician, Birgit Rommelspacher was engaged in:

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***Right-wing extremism, nationalism, antisemitism and the Culture of remembrance:***



Birgit was, jointly with Christina Thürmer-Rohr, the pioneer writer on the collaboration of women during Nazi-Germany. This required a lot of courage and stamina in the face of heavy critique because it was then in almost complete opposition to the self-image of feminism that placed the responsibility for the war only with men and the patriarchal organisation of society. Based on new research we know that many women were not merely "Mittäterinnen" (merely collaborating indirectly), but were also actively engaged in murdering, the poisoning of patients in hospitals, in the concentration camps, and in other contexts.

Furthermore, Birgit developed heavy critique of the explanations that tried to reduce right-wing extremism and violence of young men against foreigners to just the "thrill and the cosyness and sense of belonging" such membership supposedly gives them. According to her research, the main attractions of such membership are the possibility to participate in an organised power structure, and the thrill of using violence without having first to prove competence and success in any area. Violence is accessible to everyone. The right "color" and social origin, meaning German origin, are enough eligibility for these associations. Also, Birgit states, their denial of the Holocaust transforms into a truth without facts, is produced and held by power, and is not accessible to rational argumentation. Any disagreement would result in loss of power and respect from the other group members. I think it is obvious how relevant her theoretical position is in our days, as it contrasts sharply the helpless moral indignation of many politicians and talkmasters who keep repeating the formula that we have to take seriously the anxieties of the population. But they never clarify what anxieties and how they should be taken seriously. Thus the debates become just warm air in such constellations.

What Birgit criticizes, too, on these grounds is that politics delegates these problems to social work or gang-work without readiness to discuss and confront oneself with the content of extremism, racism or nationalism and the contribution of politics to them.

***A second range of topics of Birgit Rommelspacher were the concept of culture of domination, intersectionality and diversity, and feminism:***

She showed how women of the middle and upper classes could study, combine job and family and thus emancipate themselves by engaging – partially also exploiting – female care and household workers from the Global South, and nowadays also from European and Asian countries.

Furthermore, one of her main hypotheses was that tolerance for cultural pluralism and diversity is not the solution to migration problems. If cultural diversity is a dominated diversity which exploits minorities, then tolerance and dialogue is just the wrong social policy. The moral appeal to tolerance – accompanied by the call for a „culture of welcoming migrants“ reduces social problems to cultural ones and is thus the cheapest social policy you can imagine, while the indigenous population as well

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as migrants are anxious about losing their jobs, or about the inability to live decently with their pensions after retirement.

**A third range of topics concerns action theoretical issues and methods.**

such as social justice education, anti-oppressive social work, diversity pedagogy, but also human rights education. For care workers, she demanded the regularisation of working conditions, social security to avoid exploitation, etc. All these practical approaches go way beyond what one calls "empathy" and "sensitivity" for other cultures.

**In fact:**

All the briefly described selected work areas of Birgit Rommelspacher can be summarised as her life-long preoccupation with the "psychology of power" in all its subtle and open forms. More precisely, she inquired into how socio-economic and cultural power structures are translated by the individuals into emotions, cognitions and action, and how these feelings, interpretations and social activities reproduce the power structure. It is also the topic of her last book about "Church, State and Power" she wanted to discuss last week with her students in a seminar at the University of Frankfurt. She started with a well-received introductory evening-lecture. The next morning on April 16<sup>th</sup>, the students waited for her in vain to start the seminar - until they received the sad news.

To close: It is a great tragedy that Birgit's voice, carrying her impartial look at power structures has been silenced. She was showing us, with theoretical and scientific accuracy, the many subtle and manifest aspects of illegitimate power outside and inside the profession of social work. Social work is in need of precisely such a look on the broad silence which is almost endemic in face of the neoliberal management instruments which invade daily practice and dispossess the practitioners of their professional knowledge and the competence of building trustful relationships. From all of her students I know I heard that Birgit was not just preaching and teaching, but actually living a democratic way of life and relationship with them.

Let us hope and make sure that Birgit's heritage does not disappear. I am encouraged to see on the list of speakers and workshop-leaders enough women and men who - I trust - will be willing to keep her central topics and ideas alive, not just theoretically, but in theory AND practice. And for this heritage, dear Birgit, I intended to thank you on your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in July in Berlin. Instead, unexpectedly and in great sadness, I am expressing my gratitude to you today, and hope that all of you will join me.

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April 23rd, 2015

Silvia Staub-Bernasconi



ECSWR | 2015 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## Tuesday, April 21st

10:00 - 16:30  
LECTURES AND WORKSHOP FOR SOCIAL WORKERS  
**SOCIAL WORK ETHICS**  
Sarah Banks, Kim Strom Gottfried, Ed de Jonge & Ana M. Sobočan  
Faculty of Social Work

17:00 - 18:30  
PUBLIC EVENT  
**MEDIA LANDSCAPE OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS**  
Shula Ramon & Miha Lobnik  
Ljubljana City Hall

19:00 - 21:00  
PUBLIC LECTURE  
**JEWISH HUMOR VS ISRAELI HUMOR**  
Gideon Nevo  
Jewish Cultural Center

## Wednesday, April 22nd

8

9  
9:00 - 11:00  
PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM  
**DISABILITY STUDIES IN POSTSOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**  
Darja Zaviršek (chair), Subhangi Herath, Chu Li Lu, Sanela Bašić, Kristina Urbanc, Natalija Lišak, Ana M. Sobočan, Andraž Kapus, Gašper Krstulović, Vjollca Krasniqi, Anja P. Sansoni  
Grand Union Hotel

10

11

12  
12:00  
REGISTRATION

13

14  
14:00  
WELCOME CEREMONY

15  
14:45  
KEYNOTE: Michal Krumer Nevo  
15.45 coffee break

16  
16:00  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 1

17  
17:30 coffee break

18  
17:45  
KEYNOTE: Guy Standing  
break

19  
19:00  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 2

20

21  
20:30 - 22:00  
WELCOME RECEPTION

22

23

## Thursday, April 23rd

8:00  
ESWRA General Assembly  
Meet the editor: Routledge / SAGE

9:00  
KEYNOTE: Mojca Urek

10:00 coffee break

10:15  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 3

break

12:00  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 4

LUNCH / POSTER SESSION  
Meet the editor: Policy Press

14:30  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 5

16:00 coffee break / POSTER SESSION

16:15  
In Memoriam: Prof. Birgit Rommelspacher  
Silvia Staub-Bernasconi, Darja Zaviršek  
Major Lecture: **Sabine Herring**

17:30  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 6

19:00  
SIG - Special Interest Groups

20:30  
GALA DINNER  
ESWRA Prize for the Best Research Paper by a Doctoral Student

## Friday, April 24th

8  
8:00  
SIG - Special Interest Groups

9  
9:00  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 7

10  
10:30 coffee break

11  
10:45  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 8

12  
LUNCH

13  
13:15  
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 9

break

15:00  
KEYNOTE: Paul Stubbs

16  
16:00  
CLOSING CEREMONY  
Best poster prize awards

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

# APRIL 22nd, 2015

12:00-14:00	Registration							THE GRAND FOYER
14:00-14:45	<b>Welcome Ceremony</b>							GRAND UNION HALL
	Professor <b>Darja Zaviršek</b> Chair of the Host Conference Committee	Majda Vrhovnik Choir Choir leader: <b>Polona Guček Skrbinek</b>		Professor <b>Ivan Svetlik</b> Rector of the University of Ljubljana	Professor <b>Ian Shaw</b> ESWRA Chair	Majda Vrhovnik Choir Choir leader: <b>Polona Guček Skrbinek</b>		
14:45-15:45	<b>Keynote Lecture: Michal Krumer Nevo</b> Bringing the political into social work practice, research and theory Chair: Guy Enosh			GRAND UNION HALL				
15:45-16:00	Coffee Break							
16:00-17:30	<b>Parallel Workshops and Symposia 1</b>							
SYMPOSIUM Decision making in social work: Analytic, emotional and moral dimensions	SESSION Child protection services	SESSION Knowledge production, professional culture and policy practice	SESSION Social work research in health area	SYMPOSIUM Media representation of social work: Lessons from a comparative transnational research	SESSION Social Activism and LGBT issues in social work research	SESSION Ethnographic studies in social work	SESSION Economic crisis, austerity, urban social work	
Chair: Brian Taylor	Chair: Teresa Bertotti	Chair: Annamaria Campanini	Chair: Suzy Braye	Chair: Elena Allegri	Chair: Adital BenAri	Chair: Jo Finch	Chair: Theano Kalinikaki	
GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	RED ROOM	SILVER ROOM	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3	
17:30-17:45	Coffee Break							
17:45-18:45	<b>Keynote Lecture: Guy Standing</b> The Precariat: Overcoming Insecurity and Inequality Chair: Darja Zaviršek			GRAND UNION HALL				
19:00-20:30	<b>Parallel Workshops and Symposia 2</b>							
SESSION Poverty, migration, probation	SESSION Recognition, respect and dignity in services for children	SESSION Elderly and residential care	SYMPOSIUM Applying critical realism in social work research: empirical examples	SYMPOSIUM Involving user's perspective in social work research	SESSION Social work students and education	SESSION Consumption, research and prevention		
Chair: Elaine Sharland	Chair: Anna Gupta	Chair: Jana Mali	Chair: Elina Pekkarinen & Monica Kjørstad	Chair: Monique Eckmann	Chair: Staffan Höjer	Chair: Gordana Berc		
GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	RED ROOM	SILVER ROOM	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3		
20:30 - 22:00	Welcome Reception							THE GRAND FOYER



# APRIL 23rd, 2015

8:00-9:00	<b>ESWRA General Assembly</b>				GRAND UNION HALL				
8:00-9:00	<b>MEET THE EDITOR: Gillian Rauch &amp; Juliet Koprowska</b> Journal of Social Work Practice (Routledge)				<b>MEET THE EDITOR: Suzy Braye</b> European Journal of Social Work (Routledge)		<b>MEET THE EDITOR: Steven M. Shardlow</b> Journal of Social Work (SAGE)		
	ROUTLEDGE STAND - THE GRAND FOYER				ROUTLEDGE STAND - THE GRAND FOYER		SAGE STAND - THE GRAND FOYER		
9:00-10:00	<b>Keynote Lecture: Mojca Urek</b> Unheard voices in social and health care: narrative perspective Chair: Jelka Zorn				GRAND UNION HALL				
10:00	Coffee Break								
10:15-11:45	<b>Parallel Workshops and Symposia 3</b>								
	SYMPOSIUM Consumption, research and prevention	SESSION Young people in the communities	SESSION Evaluation, social policy and welfare	SESSION Growing inequalities and action research	SYMPOSIUM Shaping childhood in social work history: changes, controversy and consequences	SESSION Gender based violence	SESSION History, sociology, ecology, narrative	SESSION Children and young people in care	SESSION Social work education
	Chair: Ian Shaw	Chair: Diana Guenther	Chair: Silvia Fargion	Chair: Gordana Berc	Chair: Adrienne Chambon	Chair: Subhangi Herath	Chair: Mikko Mäntysaari	Chair: Kristina Urbanc	Chair: Jason Schaub
	GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	RED ROOM	SILVER ROOM	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3	WEST ROOM
11:45	Break								
12:00-13:30	<b>Parallel Workshops and Symposia 4</b>								
	SYMPOSIUM Beyond poverty: inequality in child welfare	SESSION Antiracist social work	SESSION Critical perspective and political action	SESSION Growing old and social support	SYMPOSIUM Coproduction of social work research with service users and carers	SESSION Researching social work in practice	SESSION Gender perspective	SESSION Child abuse and neglect	SESSION Supporting families
	Chair: Paul Bywaters	Chair: Roli Misra	Chair: Sanela Šadić	Chair: Mojca Urek	Chair: Shula Ramon	Chair: Jenny Fisher	Chair: Vivienne Cree	Chair: Sanela Bašić	Chair: Urban Nothdurfter
	GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	RED ROOM	SILVER ROOM	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3	WEST ROOM
13:30	<b>MEET THE EDITOR: Brigid Featherstone</b> Families, Relationships and Societies Journal (Policy Press)				<b>LUNCH / POSTER SESSION</b>		<b>MID-DAY ADDRESS: Alessandro Sicora</b> Executive Committee member of the EASSW, Chair of the Milan 2015 Joint Conference Organising Committee		
	POLICY PRESS STAND - THE GRAND FOYER				THE GRAND FOYER		GRAND UNION HALL		

14:30-16:00

**Parallel Workshops and Symposia 5**

SESSION International and transnational studies	SESSION Participatory research and human rights issues	SESSION The right for recognition and social justice	SESSION Disabled children and parents	SYMPOSIUM The impact of evaluations in social work research	SESSION Researching social work knowledge	SESSION Social work education and research	SESSION Children and adults at risk	SESSION Parent's responsive welfare services
Chair: Monike Goetzoe	Chair: Zsolt Bugarszki	Chair: Florin Lazar	Chair: Nivedita Prasad	Chair: Jeanne Marsh	Chair: Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano	Chair: Steven Shardlow	Chair: Rebecca Davis	Chair: Johanna Hietamäki
GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	RED ROOM	SILVER ROOM	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3	WEST ROOM

16:00-16:15

**Coffee Break / Poster Sessions**

16:15-17:30

**In Memory of Professor Birgit Rommelspacher (1945-2015)**

Silvia Staub-Bernasconi, Darja Zaviršek

GRAND UNION HALL

**Major Lecture: Sabine Hering**

Comparative methods in historiographic research projects

Chair: Silvia N. Fargion

17:30-19:00

**Parallel Workshops and Symposia 6**

SESSION Supporting children in schools and the role of welfare services	SYMPOSIUM Learning together: New concepts and research methods dealing with direct democracy and community development	SESSION Innovative social work research	SYMPOSIUM Practice research and knowledge production	SESSION Migration research	SESSION Research on employment	SESSION Foster care and adoption
Chair: Gillian Ruch	Chair: Eltje Bos	Chair: Chris Hall	Chair: Mirja Satka	Chair: Jelka Zorn	Chair: Elisabeth Gutjahr	Chair: Nivedita Prasad
GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 3	RED ROOM	SILVER ROOM	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3

19:00-20:00

**SIG - Special Interest Groups**

Social Work History and Research	Arts Based Research	Critical Realism & Social Work Research	PhD students SIG	Sexuality in Social Work
Convener: Stefan Köngeter	Convener: Ephrat Huss	Convener: Elina Pekkarinen	Convener: Sofia Dedotsi, Jon Symonds	Convener: Jason Schaub
GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2

20:30

Gala Dinner  
ESWRA Prize for the Best Research Paper by a Doctoral Student

GRAND UNION HALL

# APRIL 24th, 2015

8:00-9:00

## SIG - Special Interest Groups

Decisions, Assessment and Risk	Sexuality Studies in Social Work	Social Work Practice Research	Social Work with Children and Families across Europe	Social Work Practice with Mothers	Deinstitutionalization and Social Work
Convener: Brian Taylor	Convener: Jason Schaub	Convener: Mirja Satka	Convener: Gillian Ruch	Convener: Einat Peled	Convener: Vito Flaker
GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3

9:00-10:30

## Parallel Workshops and Symposia 7

SYMPOSIUM Transnational social work research history	SESSION Growing old and social support	SESSION Cultural competences in social work	SESSION Social work research in mental health	SYMPOSIUM Arguing over decisions: Social work research in child protection	SESSION Communities, social networks and social activism	SESSION Young people and social services	SESSION Inclusion, ethical dilemmas, human rights
Chair: Köngeter Stefan	Chair: Paula Vasara	Chair: Eugene Tartakovsky	Chair: Chu-Li Liu	Chair: Monika Goetzoe	Chair: Stephen A. Webb	Chair: Elaine Sharland	Chair: Ana Sobočan
GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	RED ROOM	SILVER ROOM	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3

10:30-10:45

## Coffee Break

10:45-12:15

## Parallel Workshops and Symposia 8

SYMPOSIUM Children entering public care on a voluntary and compulsory basis	SESSION Managers in social services	SESSION Social work research	SYMPOSIUM Innovation, intervention and impact: How social work can make a difference	SESSION Researching theory in practice and education	SESSION Residential child care and transition to adulthood	SYMPOSIUM Volunteering from the perspective of social work participants
Chair: Tarja Pösö	Chair: Silvia Fargion	Chair: Jelka Zorn	Chair: Martin Weber	Chair: Nivedita Prasad	Chair: Petra Videmšek	Chair: Judith Metz
GLASS HALL 1	GLASS HALL 2	GLASS HALL 3	SILVER ROOM	WHITE HALL 1	WHITE HALL 2	WHITE HALL 3

12:15

## Lunch

THE GRAND FOYER

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13:15-14:45

**Parallel Workshops and Symposia 9**

SYMPOSIUM  
Historical research on  
social work, services,  
welfare and social  
justice

SESSION  
Service users as core-  
searchers

SYMPOSIUM  
The practice of eth-  
ics in social work

SESSION  
Supporting children

SESSION  
Organisational  
mindfulness in child  
welfare

SESSION  
Counselling loneli-  
ness, support and  
paliative care

Chair: Marjo Kuronen

Chair: Guy Enosh

Chair: Sarah Banks

Chair: Staffan Hoyer

Chair: Juliet Ko-  
prowska

Chair: Johanna  
Hefel

GLASS HALL 1

GLASS HALL 2

SILVER ROOM

WHITE HALL 1

WHITE HALL 2

WHITE HALL 3

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15:00-16:00

**Keynote Lecture: Paul Stubbs**

Translating Austerity in the Semi-Periphery: social policy,  
Chair: Francisco Branco

GRAND UNION HALL  
social movements and the crisis in South East Europe

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16:00-16:45

**Closing Ceremony / Best poster prize awards**

GRAND UNION HALL

# PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## TUESDAY

LECTURES AND WORKSHOP FOR SOCIAL WORKERS:

### **SOCIAL WORK ETHICS**

Sarah Banks, Kim Strom Gottfried, Ed de Jonge & Ana M. Sobočan

TUESDAY, APRIL 21st at 10:00 until 16:30

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA

<http://www.fsd.uni-lj.si>

PUBLIC EVENT

### **MEDIA LANDSCAPE OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Shuja Ramon: Media representations of the social sphere  
&

Mihna Lobnik: Lgbtq issues in media

TUESDAY, APRIL 21st at 17:00 until 19:00 LJUBLJANA

CITY HALL, MESTNI TRG 1, LJUBLJANA

PUBLIC LECTURE

Gideon Nevo: **JEWISH HUMOR VS ISRAELI HUMOR**

TUESDAY, APRIL 21st at 19:00 until 21:00 JEWISH

CULTURAL CENTER, KRI EVNIŠKA 7, LJUBLJANA

## WEDNESDAY

PRECONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM

### **DISABILITY STUDIES IN POSTSOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

Darja Zavišek (chair), Vjollca Krasniqi, Sanela Bašić, Gašper Krstulović,

Ana Sobočan, Andraž Kapus, Subhangi Herath, Chu Li Liu, Kristina

Urbanc, Natalija Lisak, Anja Pirc.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22nd at 09:00 until 11:00

GRAND UNION HOTEL, GLASS ROOM 1

The symposium will present research from the countries which have modest or no tradition of the disability studies so far. Some of the presenters are pioneers of the disability studies in their regions. The joint discussion will focus upon different research traditions, commonalities and differences of the disability studies in different regions.

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 1

## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **Decision making in social work: Analytic, emotional and moral dimensions**

**Chair: Brian Taylor**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 16:00 - GLASS HALL 1**

Analytic dimensions of decision making in social work  
▪Brian Taylor

Troubling narratives the emotional dimensions of practitioner decision-making in social work.  
▪Kate Leonard, Louise O'Connor

The moral economy of practical reasoning: developing a research agenda  
▪Tony Evans, Mark Hardy

Bridging professional decision making and policy formulation – construction and use of the Functional efficiency scale BSM for intensity of support assessment  
▪Miroslav Bkic, Marko Milanovic, Dragana Stankovic

The Use of Discretion by Client Managers in Social Assistance Practice  
▪Marjolijn de Wilde

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## **SESSION**

### **Child protection services**

**Chair: Teresa Bertotti**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 16:00 - GLASS HALL 2**

The logic of the database and responsive social work  
▪Jochen Devlieghere, Rudi Roose

Governing Ideas of Risk in Child Protection Services  
▪Veronica Haug

Research on practice in the child protection agencies in Norway  
▪Siv Schröder

Research action as a way to support guidelines in child protection  
▪Teresa Bertotti

Methodological Issues in Casebased Surveillance Study of Child Abuse and Neglect Cases in Croatia  
▪Ivan Rimac, Jelena Ogresta

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## **SESSION**

### **Knowledge production, professional culture and policy practice**

**Chair: Annamaria Campanini**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 16:00 - GLASS HALL 3**

Social workers and policy practice in Italy: a memory of the past?  
▪Annamaria Campanini

Public governance constraints and challenges for social work practice  
▪Jorunn Jessen

Discovering professional culture of specialists in social work in Russia: quantitative analysis  
▪Evgeniya Podstreshnaya

Towards thematic knowledge creation in Praxis-network  
▪Laura Yirulka, Laura Rapo, Auri Bützow

Enhancing resilience in student and early-career social workers: evaluating multi-modal interventions  
▪Louise Grant, Gail Kinman

**SESSION**

**Social work research in health area**

**Chair: Suzy Braye**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 16:00 - RED ROOM**

Relationship-based practice and service delivery in self-neglect  
▪Suzy Braye, David Orr, Michael Preston Shoop

Reducing health inequalities as a major recommendation in fighting poverty: A case study of recommendations of a national committee in Israel

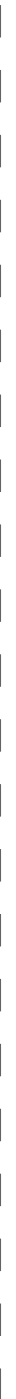
▪Varda Soskolne

Rethinking social work with the nursing mother

▪Miri Kestler Peleg

Discourse, Power, and Social Work: Using the Tragic Death of a Young Girl in Taiwan as the Starting Point for Investigation

▪Yi-Shih Cheng



**SYMPOSIUM**

**Media representation of social work: Lessons from a comparative transnational research**

**Chair: Elena Allegri**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 16:00 - SILVER ROOM**

Recent Media Representation of Social Work and Domestic Violence in Italian Newspapers

▪Elena Allegri

Recent media representation of the Rotherham Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): methodological and content issues

▪Shulamit Ramon

We won't tolerate any violence against asylum seekers": Refugees, Social Work and the Media

▪Maria Do Mar Castro Varela

PhotoVoice: Effective and Innovative Applications to Social Work Community Practice

▪Mieko Yoshihama

**SESSION  
Social Activism and LGBT issues in social work research**

**Chair: Adital Ben-Ari**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 16:00 - WHITE HALL 1**

"That does not play a role here!" Institutions and Social Work: How they deal with LGBT youths  
▪Davina Hoeblich

Doing diversity or neglecting difference? An exploratory study of UK social workers' knowledge and views of self, sex and sexuality in contemporary life

▪Paul Willis, Jason Schaub, Priscilla Dunk West

The Governmental Welfare System and Social Workers Involvement in Social Activism

▪Ayellet Makaras, Merav Moshe Grodofsky

Promoting research skills and ethical values through Service learning

▪Violeta Quiroga, Josep Maria Mesquida

Dialectics between mainstream and marginality: Experiences of spouses of mixed orientation relationships

▪Adir Adler, Adital Ben Ari



## **SESSION**

### **Ethnographic studies in social work**

**Chair: Jo Finch**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 16:00 - WHITE HALL 2**

A Practice-Near, Ethnographic Study of Group Decision Making about Social Work Students Failing in Practice Learning Settings

▪Jo Finch

Ethnography, discourse analysis and phenomenology

▪Elisabet Serbo

Understanding needs: a challenge for ethical social work

▪Vera Grebenc

The Consequences of the Mining Industry for Disadvantaged Groups in Northern Finland and Northern Odisha

▪Satu RantaTykkö

Sifting historical sources – the thought of social work pioneers on the relationship social work & social policy in the Progressive Era

▪Francisco Branco

## **SESSION**

### **Economic crisis, austerity, urban social work**

**Chair: Theano Kallinikaki**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 16:00 - WHITE HALL 3**

Families at risk and child protection in time of crisis

▪Theano Kallinikaki

The political and personal dimensions of (non) take-up of monetary social benefits: case of Slovenia

▪Romana Zidar

Juvenile delinquency in postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina – Involving the user's perspective in social work research

▪Esmira Avdibegović, Meliha Bijedić, Miryam Eser, Barbara Schurch, Hariz Šarić, Mirna Dahić, Šuada Selimović

Inter-generational solidarity and the changing profile of the Cypriot family. The effects of the financial crisis and the role of the welfare state.

▪Christos Panagiotopoulos

Transmigration as a methodological challenge to urban social work

▪Mieke Schrooten, Sophie Withaecx, Dirk Geldof

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 2

**SESSION**

**Poverty, migration, probation**

**Chair: Elaine Sharland**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 19:00 - GLASS HALL 1**

"The Relation between Social Work Practice and Science" – Analysis of Scientific Reasoning of Probation Officers and Social Work Student

•Christian Ghanem, Sabine Pankofer, Frank Fischer, Ingo Kollar, Thomas Lawson

From Probation Work to Criminal Sanctions work: Key changes in social work with offenders in Finland from the 1960s to today

•Timo Harrkari, Kristina Westerholm

The role of migrant organizations in combating poverty: networks and challenges for collaboration

•Sylvie van Dam, Peter Raeymaeckers

Social exclusion among migrating communities: the case of Bathore, a suburb of Tirana

•Bejko Erika, Elona Dhembo

Social work and integration of migrants: Mainstreaming Qutomo project's culture and gender sensitive integration model

•Margarita Saklajay Latvala, Marianne Nylund, Amiiirah Salleh Hoddin

**SESSION**

**Recognition, respect and dignity in services for children**

**Chair: Anna Gupta**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 19:00 - GLASS HALL 2**

Poverty, Shame and Child Protection Practice in England

•Anna Gupta

The practice of giving voice in Swedish disability organizations: from political social movements to lobbying professionals?

•Malin Arvidson, Håkan Johansson

Building a Sense of Coherence and Wellbeing through Inclusive Music Classes: reimagining the social work role in supporting disabled children and young people to see alternative futures

•Susan Levy

Labour Market Integration of Youngsters Leaving Foster Care Centers: The Romanian Case

•Dana Eremia, Simona Ilie, Maria Iordache

**SESSION**

**Elderly and residential care**

**Chair: Jana Mali**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 19:00 - GLASS HALL 3**

Researching the role of social work in providing autonomy and empowerment of residents in homes for older people in Slovenia

•Jana Mali, Nina Žitek

Observing Successful Care Homes

•Helky Häiki

Collaboration between health care and social care but without trained social workers! An implementation of multiprofessional teams for coherent care of multihill older people

•Jilla Melin Emissson

Whose evidence is it anyway?

•Sigrid James

## **SYMPOSIUM**

**Applying critical realism in social work research: empirical examples**

**Chair: Elna Pekkarinen & Monica Kjørstad**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 19:00 - RED ROOM**

Effecting Change in Social Life: Critical Realism, Action Research and Social Work

▪Stan Houston

What is the use of critical realist theory in ethnographic research?

▪Harry Lunabba

Reflections of using CALMERtheory as theoretical, methodological and analytical framework

▪Anu Riina Svenlin

Knowledge Forms and Empirical Research Concepts in Social Work

▪Arno Heimgartner

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## **SYMPOSIUM**

**Involving user's perspective in social work research**

**Chair: Monique Eckmann**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 19:00 - SILVER ROOM**

▪An intervention research with Roma living in extreme poverty Methodological and ethical challenges  
Monique Eckmann

The client's view on cooperation in the context of social welfare

▪Miryam Eser

Isolated elderly – difficult access to a vulnerable group

▪Milena Gehrig

Mothers with a mental illness as users of the public welfare system

▪Renate Gutmann

Back to everyday life – The perspective of mothers with an alcohol dependence

▪Silvia Gavez, Samuel Keller

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## **SESSION**

**Social work students and education**

**Chair: Staffan Höjer**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 19:00 - WHITE HALL 2**

Educating against all odds: The content and context of social work education in times of national crisis in Greece

▪Sofia Dedotsi, Alys Young, Karen Broadhurst

Social Justice is the rock: Social work students' learning about social justice on placement

▪Justine O'Sullivan

Considerations for Choosing Social Work Profession and Professional Preferences of Retraining Program Students in Israel

▪Ahuva Even Zohar, Ateret Gewirtz Meydan

Supervision buddies - transforming social work students' identity in the first year of the programme

▪Kirsteen Laidlaw

Master Social Work Students' Orientation Toward the Evidencebased Practice Process: A Comparison With Social Workers

▪Renske van Der Zwet, René Schalk, Deirdre Beneken Genamd Kolmer, Joost Welling

**SESSION**

**Consumption, research and prevention**

**Chair: Gordana Berc**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd at 19:00 - WHITE HALL 3**

User Involvement and Changes in Professional Attitude

▪ Sigrid Nordstoga

Social Work Assessment of Adolescent alcohol consumption Non-specialised public social service comparison between Italy and Sweden

▪ Paolo Guidi, Matteo Di Placido

Promoting Mental Health Minimising Mental Illness and Integrating through Education: Development of the Program in the field of Alcohol and Drug Use and Addiction

▪ Amra Šabić

The experience of stigma among drug addictive mothers

▪ Vesna Mejak

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PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 3

## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **Consumption, research and prevention**

**Chair: Ian Shaw**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - GLASS HALL 1**

Forms of practitioner research

▪ Ian Shaw

Social Work Practitioners and students in an evidence based practice partnership

▪ Fiona McDermott, Rachel Corea

Unpacking the complexity in practice (research). The contribution of participant observation and a multi-stakeholder-perspective.

▪ Roos Steens, Koen Hermans, Tine van Regenmortel

Interdependence the reflexive practitioner and the reflexive agen

▪ Torunn Alise Ask, Solveig Sagatun

Social work in involuntary transactions : qualitative meta-analysis of existing research in the last decade in Slovenia

▪ Lea Šugman Bohinc

## **SESSION**

### **Young people in the communities**

**Chair: Diana Guenther**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - GLASS HALL 2**

The impact of privatization in social/youth service delivery a policy analysis study of the social/youth service sector which works with street involved/ homeless youth in Vancouver, BC, Canada

▪ Diana Guenther

Gendered participation in Flemish Youth Centres: a multilevel analysis of causes and consequences

▪ Hans Vermeersch

Violence in youth work institutions a survey of young people in Germany

▪ Arne Schäfer

"I know what I do but do I know who I am?": The Exploration of Identity Development in Young Adult Carers Living in the United Kingdom and United States

▪ Feylyn Lewis



## **SESSION**

### **Evaluation, social policy and welfare**

**Chair: Silvia Fargion**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - GLASS HALL 3**

Social workers role in promoting participation in social policy

▪ Silvia Fargion

Evaluating Large Scale Welfare Reforms an analysis of the evaluation of the NAVreform in Norway

▪ Anne Halvorsen

EVALUATING THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN POLAND

▪ Jerzy Krzyszowski

Mere objectives or hard law? A case study on the EU's social policy and the implementation of social justice principle in the supranational law

▪ Izabela Jędrzejowska Schiffauer

What do social workers say about social policy and reforms in Europe and the BRICS?

▪ Alessandro Siorra, Giulio Citroni

**SESSION**

**Growing inequalities and action research**

**Chair: Gordana Berc**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - RED ROOM**

Social Workers' Role in Tempering Inequality in Healthcare in Hospitals and Clinics

▪Neharni Baum, Hani Shalit, Yishoy Kum, Malka Tal

"Actor-Network Theory", Use of Actor-Network Theory to help make the "social" in Social Work visible

▪Gunn Strand Hufchinson, Jorid Krane Hanssen

Voices of Newly Qualified Social Workers: Job Precarity and Alternatives in Social Work in Bosnia-Herzegovina

▪Gorana Panić

Well being among community activists: What is most crucial to enhance it?

▪Lea Zanbar, Haya Itzhaky

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**SYMPOSIUM**

**Shaping childhood in social work history: changes, controversy and consequences**

**Chair: Adrienne Chambon**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - SILVER ROOM**

Caring for the children and caring for the city: A historical intervention spanning two cities (UK and Canada)

▪Adrienne Chambon, Julia Winckler, Ernie Lightman

Studying the Needy Child: Social Work and child study movement at the beginning of the 20th century

▪Florian Esser

The Crises of Legitimation in Residential Child Care: Institutional practices, Expectations and Visions of Childhood in Social Work Training Schools in Switzerland (1940-1990).

▪Gisela Hauss

The Pedagogical Poem through the gender perspective: a historical case study research on children and childhood under communism

▪Darja Zavišek

Maximising the Potential for History of Child Welfare to Inform Present Transformation

▪Caroline McGregor

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**SESSION**

**Gender based violence**

**Chair: Subhangi Herath**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - WHITE HALL 1**

CPS workers' decisions in cases of domestic violence: a Classification and Regression Tree Analysis

▪Mara Sanfelici

Adult Social Care, Domestic Violence and MultiAgency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACS)

▪Hugh McLaughlin, Rachel Robbins, Claire Bellamy, Concetta Banks, Debbie Thackray

Coping strategies of women experiencing of gender based violence in Sri Lanka and the Consequences – Implications for action

▪Subhangi Herath

Attitudes Towards Professional Interventions of Social Workers, Police Officers and Judges in Different Patterns of HusbandtoWife Violence in Palestinian Society

▪Muhammad M. HajYahia



**SESSION**

**History, sociology, ecology, narrative**

**Chair: Mikko Mäntysaari**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - WHITE HALL 2**

Social worker as a sociologist — Pioneer from the 1950's

▪Mikko Mäntysaari, Jorma Hänninen

Sociological and historical reflections about forms of knowledge in social work

▪Inge Bryderup

(Re) Interpreting Narratives and Discourses of Welfare: A study of Jewish Women Welfare Activities in Sarajevo Inbetween Two World Wars

▪Sanela Bašić

Conceptual and historical analysis of ecological social work

▪Kati Nähti, Ailaleena Matthies

Construction of reality based on memory and their (possible) deconstruction as a basis for the improvement of care quality

▪Andrea Brunner, Isabelle Mariot, Claudia Moharitsch Behofsits

**SESSION**

**Children and young people in care**

**Chair: Kristina Urbanc**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - WHITE HALL 3**

Students, care takers and decision makers perception of higher education for students with incare experience

▪Kristina Urbanc, Branka Sladović Franz, Vanja Branica

Continuity and discontinuity in the transition from care to adulthood

▪Katharina Mangold, Tehila Refaeli, Koengeter Stefan, Anat Zeira

Children's multilocal residency in the context of Finnish inhome child welfare social work

▪Hannele Forsberg, Aino RitolaKoskinen

Custody of the children in Europe: a comparative research

▪Vittorio Vezzetti

**SESSION**

**Social work education**

**Chair: Jason Schaub**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 10:15 - WEST ROOM**

Using Projective Identification to Explore Practice Educators' Experience of Failing Social Work Students in Practice Learning Settings

▪Jason Schaub, Jo Finch

Teaching as Conversation: The methods adopted by an inside inquirer of social work relationship based education

▪Sharon Walker

Managing the interface: promoting experiential learning of social work law

▪Alison Brammer, Jane Boylan

Mirror mirror on the wall... Reflection in Social Work

▪Tamara Loohuis, Margriet Braun

Researching 'authentic professional learning' how social work students develop professional judgement skills

▪Joanna Rawles

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 4

## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **Beyond poverty: inequality in child welfare**

**Chair: Paul Bywaters**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - GLASS HALL 1**

Child welfare interventions: reducing, reflecting or reinforcing social inequalities?

▪ Paul Bywaters

Inequality matters for child welfare

▪ Brid Featherstone

Poverty and decision making in child welfare and protection: deepening the bias-need debate

▪ Lieve Bradt, Griet Roets, Rudi Roose, Maria BouverneDe Bie

Deinstitutionalization of services for children with mental health problems in Ukraine: professional capacity and needs

▪ Nadia Kabachenko

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## **SESSION**

### **Antiracist social work**

**Chair: Roli Misra**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - GLASS HALL 2**

Never again? The growth of antisemitism in Europe: contradictions and complexity

▪ Barrie Levine

Responses to Racism Among Ethiopian Adolescent Girls in Israel An Empirical Study

▪ Racheli Shenhav Goldberg, Zion Barnett, Karni Ginzburg

Nation State, Identity and Struggle for Livelihood: A Case Study of Informal Waste Pickers from Assam, India

▪ Roli Misra

Family Group Conferences and Child Protection: A Review of International Research on Outcomes

▪ Kate Parkinson

Homelessness Among Immigrant Youth: Transitions Between Inclusion and Exclusion

▪ Marija Katisko

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## **SESSION**

### **Critical perspective and political action**

**Chair: Sanela Šadić**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - GLASS HALL 3**

Collective political action in the neoliberal welfare state

▪ Anna Ryan Bengtsson

Austerity, Social Work and the "backwardness" in intervention: is there a return to assistencialism?

▪ Maria Inês Amaro

Solidarity and Trust-Challenges of Bosnian Society

▪ Sanela Šadić

(Re) Politicising social work: Reclaiming the political role of social work in public social services.

▪ Johan Vandenbussche, Rudi Roose, Ilse Derluy

Social services for older people in the Czech Republic: Towards deinstitutionalization or marketization?

▪ Jana Havlíková, Kateřina Kubalčíková

**SESSION**

**Growing old and social support**

**Chair: Mojca Urek**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - RED ROOM**

Organizing aging transnationally

▪Cornelia Schweppe, Désirée Bender, Vincent Horn

Growing old and queer in Taiwan: Torn between two worlds of family and gay lives

▪Frank Wang

Personal social networks of Portuguese childless elder people and older parents

▪Sonia Guadalupe, Patrícia Gomes, Fernanda Daniel, Júlia Cardoso, Henrique Testa Vicente

Ageing in drought – A longitudinal thematic analysis of older women's experiences of drought in Australia

▪Jane Rich, Deborah Loxton, Sarah Wright

Documentation practices in need assessment: an analysis of descriptions of older people in social work case files

▪Anna Oldison, Sandra Torres, Emilia Forssell

**SYMPOSIUM**

**Co-production of social work research with service users and carers**

**Chair: Shula Ramon**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - SILVER ROOM**

On being a social work researcher and a service user: insights and tensions

▪Joanna Fox

Introducing service user co-researchers into social work education research

▪Carolyn Gutman

The complexity of co-producing research with mental health service users

▪Petra Videmšek

The art of recognition – user involvement and collaboration in the Norwegian Qualification Programme

▪Helle Cathrine Hansen

The reflective participants: When participants join in the production of knowledge in qualitative research

▪Guy Enosh, Adital Ben Ari, Chaya Possick

**SESSION**

**Researching social work in practice**

**Chair: Jenny Fisher**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - WHITE HALL 1**

Caring and volunteering in domestic spaces: an evaluation of a UK Home Start organisation

▪Jenny Fisher, Teresa O'Neill, Zinnia Mitchell Smith, Rebecca Lawthorn, Hugh McLaughlin

Social responsibility and social work practice: contexts and challenges

▪Hernano Carmo, Ana Esgaio

A 'nudge' in the right direction: Small scale incentives to encourage compliance with social work regulatory and professional standards

▪Lel Meleyal

Social workers' and General practitioners' perceptions of non-problematic situations

▪Devin Rexvid, Lars Evertsson

Bringing the family back in. On role assignment and clientification in the Swedish social services

▪Lennart Nygren, Evelyn Khoo, Ahmet Gumuscu

**SESSION**

**Gender perspective**

**Chair: Vivienne Cree**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - WHITE HALL 2**

'Khaki fever' and its management: the moral panic about young women's sexuality in Britain during the First World War

•Vivienne Cree

Developing agency in the margins of the motherhood myth: A call for social work researchers

•Einat Peled

The gender related experience of frontline male social workers: What kind of man am I?

•Einav Segev, Alvin Lander

Experiences of teenage mothers: A narrative rural perspective of South African teenage mothers in Limpopo Province and Slovenia

•Glory Mmasetsjana Lekganyane

**SESSION**

**Child abuse and neglect**

**Chair: Sanela Bašić**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - WHITE HALL 3**

Gatecrashing and Gatekeeping: Knowledge Sharing in Children's Safeguarding

•Sue White, David Wastell, Chris Hall, Suzanne Smith, Emily Whitaker

Researching 'child sexual exploitation': a comparative perspective

•Barry Luckock, Kristine Hickle

Child abuse and neglect among Arab Palestinians in Israel

•Haneen Karram Elias, Raghdad Einblisy

Fairy or Monster: An attempt to Evaluate the Romanian Child Protection Response to Violence Against Children

•Maria Roth, Imola Antal, Gabriella Tonk

Savile at Duncroft: Contesting high profile allegations of historical sexual abuse at a residential school

•Steve Kirkwood, Mark Smith, Ros Burnett, Clare Lewellyn

**SESSION**

**Supporting families**

**Chair: Urban Nothdurfter**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 12:00 - WEST ROOM**

"From Cradle To Grave"? Supporting Economic and Financial Transitions Following Family Bereavement:

Comparing Policies and Practice in Britain And Israel

•Roni Holler

Research in Social Work Intervention With Families

Josefa Fernandez I Barrera, Irene de Vicente, Paula Duran, Ariadna Murte, Violeta Quiroga, Josep Maria

•Torralba, Rosa Alegre, Adela Boixadós, Eveline Chagas, Ana Maria Novellas, Belen Parra, Candida Palacin

Translating Intensive Family Support Lessons for Social Work Practice

•Berni Smyth, Mary Shannon

Research into the Usefulness of Contemporary Family Social Work Concepts and Developing New Knowledge through Practical Learning

•Nina Mešl, Tadeja Kodele

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 5

**SESSION**

**International and transnational studies**

**Chair: Monike Goetzoe**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - GLASS HALL 1**

Social Boundary Work - Social Work and "Transnational Studies"

▪Schröer Wolfgang, Cornelia Schweppe, Claudia Olivier, Adrienne Chambon, Sofiya An, Königeter Stefan

Child and Youth Welfare: Research and Teaching Across Borders

▪Anat Zeira, Alice Altissimo, Schröer Wolfgang, Stefan Königeter, Silvia Farjion

Is this research? Yes, it is! Four grounded variations on Action Research in the ETFU project

▪Michel Tirions, Henk Pennings

Cultural Hegemony: How can it be mitigated in Educational Exchange?

▪Janet Walker

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**SESSION**

**Participatory research and human rights issues**

**Chair: Zsolt Bugarszki**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - GLASS HALL 2**

Participation and participatory research in the field of disability and recover

▪Jean Pierre Wilken, Zsolt Bugarszki, Mariju Medar

Participatory Methodologies in Community Projects

▪Helena Neves Almeida

Learning Together

▪Eitje Bos

Use a participatory approach in research needs in housing – are we ready?

▪Vendula Gojova, Monika Bjelancikova

Human rights and social work: an individual and collective learning process

▪Siebren Nachtergaele, Didier Reynaert, Rudi Roose, Nadine de Stercke, Hildegard Gobeyn

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**SESSION**

**The right for recognition and social justice**

**Chair: Florin Lazar**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - GLASS HALL 3**

Recognition Theory and Social Work: Justice, Misrecognition and LGBTQ Surrogate Decision Makers

▪Dance Dotolo

Research on social work participants, cultures and contexts, including comparative research

▪Nina Skjefstad, Mari Nordstrand

Stigma layers and resilience among people living with HIV from Romania

▪Florin Lazar

Review of Food Security as a Social Justice measure in Kenya

▪Josephine Misaro, Mellitus Wanyama, Fred Jonyo

## **SESSION**

### **Disabled children and parents**

**Chair: Nivedita Prasad**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - RED ROOM**

Healthy child of parents with hearing difficulties – a new social work client group

▪Eva Klimentová, Vít Dočekal

Evaluation of a program designed to support parents of children with special needs and create an empowering dialogue between them and professionals

▪Atalja Mosek, Ayala Cohen

Children with disabilities in Croatia a three-point perspective

▪Maja Lakija, Marina Milić Babić

From the Hospital towards Social Reintegration: the Support Path for People with Severe Acquired Brain Injury and their Families

▪Carla Moretti

Physically disabled young adults 'Taking On and Taking Over' their care and support arrangements: experiences and practice implications

▪Wendy Mitchell, Jenni Brooks, Caroline Glendinning, Bryony Beresford, Nicola Moran

## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **The impact of evaluations in social work research**

**Chair: Jeanne Marsh**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - SILVER ROOM**

WHAT WORKS? A HARD LOOK AT IMPACT EVALUATIONS IN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

▪Jeanne Marsh

The Cultural Adaptation of Evidence-Based Interventions

▪Mark Fraser, Knut Sundell

Design and Effectiveness of Impact Evaluations in Prevention Research

▪Jeffrey Jenson, Kimberly A. Bender

In Pursuit of Excellence: Developing a Research Strategy for Social Work and Social Care in Northern Ireland

▪Anne McGlade

Evaluation in Social Work as a source of profession building

▪Armin Schneider

## **SESSION**

### **Researching social work knowledge**

**Chair: Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - WHITE HALL 1**

ORANGE TIDE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: How social workers get organized to claim for citizenship rights in a context of welfare retrenchment reflections about the "orange tide" movement

▪Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano

Diversity as the Condition of Democracy: Reflective versus conformal action in National Social Services in Sweden

▪Rúna Í Baianstovu

Researching co-created processes of help using the new language of social work

▪Gabi Čačinović Vogrinčić

Back to the future of social work: The empirical reconstruction of craftsmanship in generalist social work practice in a transformational context

▪Ard Sprinkhuizen, Tine van Regenmortel

Re-Visioning Emotion in Social Work: Developing New Discourses for Social Work Education and Practice

▪Louise O'Connor



## **SESSION**

### **Social work education and research**

**Chair: Steven Shardlow**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - WHITE HALL 2**

Interprofessional education for social workers

▪Steven Shardlow, Cath Bücher, Katie Maddock, Robert Meredith, Andrew Morris, Alison Pooler

Next Generation Social Work Education: Transdisciplinary, Translational, Globally Connected

▪Paula Nurius, Susan Kemp, Sarah Gehlert

Education as an indicator of the quality of social services

▪Andrea Banovicinova, Jana Levická, Michaela Hromková, Katarína Levická

The social work research in Portugal: Opportunities and limits

▪Maria Irene Carvalho

The dilemmas of contemporary social work: a case study of the social work degree in England

▪Martyn Higgins

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## **SESSION**

### **Children and adults at risk**

**Chair: Rebecca Davis**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - WHITE HALL 3**

Qualitative Case Studies: Assessing Child Welfare Workforce & Service Gaps Through Multiple Lenses

▪Rebecca Davis

How and why a holistic multidisciplinary collaboration makes a difference for children at risk

▪Anne Marie Villumsen, Louise Austeen Leth

Poverty and decisions to place in care (residential and foster care): Mapping placements in care using

street level deprivation indices

▪Donna O'Leary, Alastair Christie

How is parental substance misuse associated with child protection threshold decisions made by social workers? The findings of a retrospective cohort study

▪Jessica Roy

Narrative Inquiry as Social Work Research Methodology- Example of Life Course Event History Model in the field of Disability

▪Natalia Lisak, Daniela Bratković

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## **SESSION**

### **Parent's responsive welfare services**

**Chair: Johanna Hietamäki**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 14:30 - WEST ROOM**

Family Group Conferences and Cultural Competence in Social Work Mode of presentation

▪Ravinder Barn

Mapping social work practice: an interactional perspective on engaging fathers

▪Jon Symonds

Mothers of persons with Down's Syndrome as clients of social services – Norway and Poland

▪Marta Sotkowska

Assessment in child welfare: Parent's perspective

▪Johanna Hietamäki

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 6

## **SESSION**

### **Supporting children in schools and the role of welfare services**

**Chair: Gillian Ruch**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 17:30 - GLASS HALL 1**

How do we know we've connected? Exploring communication between children who are looked after and their social workers

▪ Gillian Ruch, Mark Hadfield, Fiona Morrison, Sophie Hallett, Sally Holland, Karen Winter, Vivienne Cre

Consequences of availability of social work support in a school context: 'Extended' pupil welfare interventions and effects on school performance

▪ Anette Bolin, Emma Sorbring

Social Work in Schools – (un)acceptance of School Social Worker as challenge of social work science and practice – example of Republic of Srpska

▪ Vesna Sucur Janjetović

Evaluation of an innovative school-based social work project

▪ Elizabeth Fern

Predictors of Resilience in Child Protection Social Work: Challenges and Opportunities for Organizations to

Create Conditions for Workforce Resilience

▪ Paula McFadden

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## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **Learning together: New concepts and research methods dealing with direct democracy and community development**

**Chair: Eltje Bos**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 17:30 - GLASS HALL 3**

Shifts in behaviour: direct democracy/community development

▪ Jeroen Gradener, Eltje Bos

Fieldlabs in Amsterdam: Experiments in new deliberative skills for social professionals in local communities

▪ Eltje Bos

Citizen Driven Change: Findings in 3 Amsterdam neighbourhoods - working with the Kwanda method of civil involvement

▪ Pieter van Vliet

'100 talks about ageing': New ways of finding out how elderly want to live as they grow old.

▪ Mike de Kreek

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## **SESSION**

### **Innovative social work research**

**Chair: Chris Hall**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 17:30 - RED ROOM**

Discourse and narrative approaches to social work research

▪ Chris Hall, Steve Kirkwood, Stef Slombrouck, Tessa Verhallen

Culture and positionality in trauma research: A bicultural perspective

▪ Roni Berger, Michal Shamai

Mothers Apart: Working with Birth Mothers who have had children serially and permanently removed from their care

▪ Linda Bell, Sarah Lewis Brooke, Rachel Herring, Lynne Lehane, Sioban O'Farrell Pearce, Karen Quinn, Theresa So

We aren't orphans. Children's experience of everyday life in institutional care in Mexico

▪ Evelyn Khoo, Viktoria Skoog, Sandra Elizabet Mancinas Espinoza

Trauma Resilience and a Life Lived in the Shadows of Terrorism and War

▪ Ron Marks, Charles Figley

**SYMPOSIUM**

**Practice research and knowledge production**

**Chair: Mirja Satka**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 17:30 - SILVER ROOM**

How to teach practice research and facilitate the creation of research minded expertise in MSW education?

- Mirja Satka, Aino Kärriäinen

What do social workers gain from a practice research project?

- Helle Schjellerup Nielsen

An exploration of the factors that contribute to or impede research activity among social work academics in the UK

- Barbra Teater, Michelle Lefevre, Hugh McLaughlin

Making research matter: International literature reviews and their use in social work practice, a case example

- Helen Cosis Brown

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**SESSION**

**Migration research**

**Chair: Jelka Zorn**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 17:30 - WHITE HALL 1**

▪Parenting in exile: Refugee parents' constitution of own parenthood while resettled in Norway

- Kari Bergset

Integration of the Sons and Daughters of Immigrant Families: Two Case Studies of Caritas Social Centers in Barcelona

- Violeta Quiroga, Eveline Chagas

New Rights in a New Destination: Undocumented Youth in South Carolina and the Quest for Social Inclusion

- Benjamin Roth

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**SESSION**

**Research on employment**

**Chair: Elisabeth Gutjahr**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 17:30 - WHITE HALL 2**

The Dynamics of Poverty, Family and Employment: Findings from a Longitudinal Panel Study Conducted in Switzerland

- Elisabeth Gutjahr, Jean-Luc Heeb

New precarious and invisibilised forms of work within Slovenian social services

- Barbara Samaluk

Active labour policies revisited by social workers

- Tabin Jean Pierre, Perriard Anne

Motivation, Responsibility and Reenforcing Agency: Governance of Clients in Social Work with Activation of Unemployed People

- Ida Solvang

Path-analyses estimating re-employment effects of close and comprehensive follow-up of welfare recipients. A cluster-randomized study.

- Iira Malinberg Heimonen

## **SESSION**

### **Foster care and adoption**

**Chair: Nivedita Prasad**

**THURSDAY APRIL 23rd at 17:30 - WHITE HALL 3**

Utilizing visual methods to explore young people's experiences of foster care

▪Justin Rogers

Promoting constructive relations between children in foster care and welfare official

▪Anders Bruhn, Erik Flygare, Robert Lindahl

How do social workers think about adopted children's contact with birth relatives, and are their ideas evidenced based?

▪Elsbeth Neil

Evaluating foster care projects. From a literature review of researches on foster care to the creation of a success factors scheme in order to evaluate participated foster care projects.

▪Valentina Calcaterra

Adoption support services in Wales: Challenges and opportunities for the new National Adoption Service

▪Heather Ottaway, Sally Holland

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### **SIG - Special interest groups**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23rd at 19:00 - various rooms**

Social Work History and Research

Convener: Stefan Köngeter

GLASS HALL 1

Arts Based Research

Convener: Ephrat Huss

GLASS HALL 2

Critical Realism & Social Work Research

Convener: Elna Pekkarinen

GLASS HALL 3

PhD students

Convener: Sofia Dedotisi, Jon Symond

WHITE HALL 1

Sexuality in Social Work

Convener: Jason Schaub

WHITE HALL 2

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 7

**SIG - Special Interest groups**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 24th at 08:00 - various rooms**

Decisions, Assessment and Risk

Convener: Brian Taylor  
GLASS HALL 1

Sexuality Studies in Social Work

Convener: Jason Schaub  
GLASS HALL 2

Social Work Practice Research

Convener: Mirja Satka  
GLASS HALL 3

Social Work with Children and Families across Europe

Convener: Gillian Ruch  
WHITE HALL 1

Social Work Practice with Mothers

Convener: Einat Peled  
WHITE HALL 2

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**SYMPOSIUM**

**Transnational social work research history**

**Chair: Köngeter Stefan**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 09:00 - GLASS HALL 1**

Europe's transnational social work research history

▪Köngeter Stefan, Marjorie Johnstone, Elena Iaraskaia Smirnova, Valentina Yarskaya, Sofiya An, Maria Isabel Rodrigues Dos Santos

The internationalization of leftleaning social work in the 1930s: Margaret Gould and her European tour

▪Marjorie Johnstone

Social work education and practice in Russia: challenges from inside and outside

▪Elena Iaraskaia Smirnova, Valentina Yarskaya

The Founding of Portuguese Social Work Training (1935): a Communion of National and Transnational Efforts

▪Maria Isabel Rodrigues Dos Santos

Knowledge from below, knowledge from above: Emerging multiple social work fields in post-Soviet Eurasia

▪Sofiya A

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**SESSION**

**Growing old and social support**

**Chair: Paula Vasara**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 09:00 - GLASS HALL 2**

'That's just the way it goes' – perceptions of moving in old age

▪Paula Vasara

Measuring personal outcomes from community interventions to address social isolation and loneliness in older age

▪Janet Anand

Age and Relationship Satisfaction: An International Study of Perceptions about Intimacy

▪Jill Chonody, Priscilla Dunk West, Jacqui Gabb

Narrative identity work in couples living with dementia: A relevant perspective for social work practice

▪Elin Nilsson

Managing Organized Insecurity on Unrestricted Working Hours and Restricted Relationships in Elderly Care

▪Lena Ede, Ulla Rantakaisu

**SESSION**

**Cultural competences in social work**

**Chair: Eugene Tartakovsky**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 09:00 - GLASS HALL 3**

Social Workers' Value Preferences and their Opinions on the Immigration Policy for Asylum Seekers in Israel  
▪ Eugene Tartakovsky, Sophie Walsh

"We have inspection from the county governor". The tension between the institutional and the professional voice in conversations between social workers and unaccompanied asylumseeking minors in the Norwegian Child Welfare  
▪ Irmelin Kjelaas

Should we be talking about what we'd rather not talk about in social work research and practice?  
▪ Ibiyemi Kate Nnadede

Supporting returnees: the perspective of social workers  
▪ Ine Lietært, Ilse Derluyn

School Social Work Practice with Roma  
▪ José Luís D`almeida, Paula Sousa

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**SESSION**

**Social work research in mental health**

**Chair: Chu-Li Liu**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 09:00 - RED ROOM**

'Supportive' versus 'Demanding' Intervention Models: What are the best practices for promoting Independence among Young Adults with Severe Mental Illness in the Community?  
▪ Chen Lishitz, Or Catz

Mental Health and Mental Capacity assessments: Social Workers making Best Interest Decisions  
▪ Jane Shears

Mental health problems in Taiwan from a gender and anti-oppressive perspective: a human right issue  
▪ Chu-Li Liu

Exploring the tensions involved in service user and carer involvement in social work students' assessments at Continuing Professional Development (CPD) level in England  
▪ Ann Anka

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**SYMPOSIUM**

**Arguing over decisions: Social work research in child protection**

**Chair: Monika Goetzoe**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 09:00 - SILVER ROOM**

Foster children's voices: placement and foster family care in the eyes of foster children  
▪ Monika Goetzoe

Critical Incidents Matrix: a tool to support the multidisciplinary team within decision making process in child care and protection  
▪ Diego Di Masi, Marco Tuggia, Serbati Sara, Ombretta Zanon, Marco Ius, Raffaele Tangorra, Adriana Ciampa, Paola Milani

Retaining child welfare and protection workers: Messages from a longitudinal study of 'stayers'  
▪ Kenneth Burms, Alastair Christie

Factors Influencing Social Workers' Judgement and Decision Making in Child Protection: Substantive and Methodological Implications of a Systematic Literature Search and Synthesis  
▪ Joel Gautschi



**SESSION**

**Communities, social networks and social activism**

**Chair: Stephen A. Webb**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 09:00 - WHITE HALL 1**

Entanglements, Issues and Spatial Enactment: Rediscovering Community for Social Work

▪Stephen A. Webb

Growfunding/BXL or how to connect social network in segregated urban environments

▪Frederik Lamote

Critical Practice for Challenging Times: Social Workers' Engagement with Community Development

▪Catherine Forde

PRONET: Professionalization of networks

▪Opstaele Veerle

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**SESSION**

**Young people and social services**

**Chair: Elaine Sharland**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 09:00 - WHITE HALL 2**

Outcomes of Social Service Contact with Teenagers in England

▪Elaine Sharland, Morag Henderson, Jonathan Scourfield, Sin Yi Cheun

Young people and family violence in the Norwegian multicultural context. An exploratory study.

▪Margrete Aadnanes

Understanding Suicidal Groups of Young People

▪Stephen Briggs

Professionals' perceptions of 'young' in young motherhood

▪Marjike Snelkers

What We see and what we say in social work: Rational for using images in practice and research of youth

▪Ephrat Huss, Najia Massey, Dorit Segal Engelchin

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**SESSION**

**Inclusion, ethical dilemmas, human rights**

**Chair: Ana Sobočan**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 09:00 - WHITE HALL 3**

Depicting social aspects: The inclusion chart (IC) as an instrument of social diagnostics

▪Peter Pantuček Eisenbacher

Interprofessional Negotiation and Resistance

▪Dorte Caswell, Tanja Dall

Is everyone on board and does everyone agree? Ethical issues in human rights research with people with mental health issues and people with learning difficulties

▪Reima Ana Maglojlic

Exploring the ethical implications when involving research participants who lack the capacity to give informed consent: A perspective from mental health social work research in the UK

▪Charlotte Scott

Revitalization of social work with groups a service developed in collaboration with users

▪Anne Moe, Inger Marit Tronvoll, Riina Kilk

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 8

## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **Children entering public care on a voluntary and compulsory basis**

**Chair: Tarja Pösö**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 10:45 - GLASS HALL 1**

At the Interface of Voluntary and Involuntary Care Orders Dynamics of Decision Making in Finland

- Elina Pekkarinen, Tarja Pösö

Using Population-Wide Administrative Datasets to Uncover a Hidden Population: birth mothers who lose successive children to public care and adoption

- Karen Broadhurst

'Voluntary care' – the perspectives of judges and lawyers in England and Sweden

- Judith Masson, Gustav Svensson

Arguing over decisions. When laymen decision-makers in Swedish child protection go against the proposals from professional social workers

- Staffan Höjer, Torbjörn Forkby

Runaway behavior among adolescents in residential care

- Shalhevet Attar Schwartz, Mona Khoury Kassabri

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## **SESSION**

### **Managers in social services**

**Chair: Silvia Fargion**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 10:45 - GLASS HALL 2**

Thinking of who will (not) come: access to public social services and the imagination of the "ideal" user

- Urban Nothdurfter, Elisabeth Berger, Andrea Nagy

Constructing the bridge: The experiences of Norwegian managers in health and social services in research partnership with higher education – implications for social work education

- Elisabeth Willumsen

The advanced middlefielder: middle managers in social work

- Vincent de Waal

Opportunities and threats of voluntary engagement of citizens

- Elke Plovie

Implementing evaluations in organizations that provide social protection programs

- Tamara R. Zibena

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## **SESSION**

### **Social work research**

**Chair: Jelka Zorn**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 10:45 - GLASS HALL 3**

Emerging Approaches to the Analysis of Secondary Databases

- Christopher Hudson

Ethical issues in the Croatian Qualitative Social Work Research with People with Intellectual Disabilities

- Marko Buljevac, Zdravka Leutar

Diversity of work biographies and measures for workplace integration of persons with disabilities: Contradictions and potentialities

- Anne Parpan Blaser, Angela Wyder

Defining the Context of Intervention Within the Casework Intervention: Analysis of Practice in Mallorca

- Cardona, Guillermo Morales, José Francisco Campos, María Elena Cuartero Castañer

Innovative research methods in comparative research on social work practice

- Kerstin Svensson, Johan Boxstaens

## **SYMPOSIUM**

**Innovatiolin, intervention and impact: How social work can make a difference**

**Chair: Martin Webber**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 10:45 - SILVER ROOM**

Innovation, intervention and impact: how social work research can make a difference

▪Martin Webber, Lynette Joubert, Meredith Newlin

A Social Network Intervention : improving outcomes for women with gynaecological cancer

▪Lynette Joubert

Social work interventions: mobilising community resources to support people experiencing mental distress in

Sierra Leone

▪Meredith Newlin

A new method for quantifying homelessness

▪Veera Viitanen

Exploring [Human] Subjectivity Using QMethodology: A Powerful Research Tool for Exploring Hidden Meanings In Social Work and other Practices

▪Steve Hotherhall

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## **SESSION**

**Researching theory in practice and education**

**Chair: Nivedita Prasad**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 10:45 - WHITE HALL 1**

The intellectual life of social work: researching theory in practice and education

▪Stephen Hicks

Theorising recognition and shame for social work practice

▪Elizabeth Frost

Teaching sustainable development to an international class of social work masters students

▪Carla Pinto

Ways of thinking....Ways of doing: Reading Bourdieu for Social Work

▪Raluca Bejan

"It's easier to jump right in" Research for Home –Visiting Work

▪Barbara Braeutigam, Matthias Mueller, Sarah Lungen

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## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **Volunteering from the perspective of social work participants**

**Chair: Judith Metz**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 10:45 - WHITE HALL 3**

Volunteering from the perspective of social work participants

▪Judith Metz, Simona Gaarhuis, Charlotte Kemmeren, Rosine van Dam, Roeland van Geuns, Lucas Meijs

Strengthening volunteer-professional collaboration

▪Simona Gaarhuis, Charlotte Kemmeren

Who works what? Division of roles and tasks in social work debt counselling

▪Rosine van Dam, Roeland van Geuns

Non-Governmental Social Work in Russia: Professional Values

▪Rostislav Kononenko, Radik Sadykov, Alena Lubimova

Europeanization of voluntary organizations in the social welfare area?

▪Anna Meeuwisse, Roberto Scaramuzzino

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PARALLEL WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA 9

## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **Historical research on social work, services, welfare and social justice**

**Chair: Marjo Kuronen**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 13:15 - GLASS HALL 1**

Exploring the relevance of the 'presence paradigm' for historical research on social work: the case of the

Ghent orphanages

▪Lieselot de Wilde, Griet Roets

Evolving Empowerment in two Online Communities Collecting Memories of Amsterdam

▪Mike Kreek

History, Memory and Practice of Social Work in Kosovo

▪Vjollca Krasniqi

Learning from the past to prevent future abuse: children's services workers' experiences of residential care in Scotland: 1960-75

▪Julie Shaw

Historical Inquiry on Child Abuse and Neglect in Child Protection Institutions and Foster Homes in Finland

▪Marjo Kuronen, Paula Salenius, Kirsi Maria Hytönen, Janne Haikari, Antti Malinen, Piijo Markkola

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## **SESSION**

### **Service users as co-researchers**

**Chair: Guy Enosh**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 13:15 - GLASS HALL 2**

Abstract: Userperspectives as a driving force in practice research in social work

▪Kirsten Henriksen, Kirsten Mejvåg, Maaja Andersen, Lars Uggerhøj

Shared Decision-Making in Social Work Practice in Israel: Exclusive Inclusion

▪Talia Meital Tayri Schwartz, Lia Levin

Codesigning collaboration: the partnership framework as a dialogical method for service user involvement in local communities

▪Erik Jansen, Martha van Biene

Participatory research and theory building: understanding adults with Asperger's syndrome

▪Jackie Robinson

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## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **The practice of ethics in social work**

**Chair: Sarah Banks**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 13:15 - SILVER ROOM**

Everyday ethics in social work practice

▪Sarah Banks

Addressing Professional Misconduct

▪Kimberly Strom Gottfried, Melinda Manning

Engaging in data analysis with research participants?

▪Julia Franz

Managing conflict of interests in setting participative evaluation research

▪Teresa Bertotti

Ethical practice of social workers in Slovenia

▪Anna Sobočan

**SESSION**

**Supporting children**

**Chair: Staffan Hoyer**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 13:15 - WHITE HALL 1**

Perceptions about well being: from a child's to their parent's perspective

▪Eneida Zalli

Challenges of participation for children in contact with child

▪Tor Stettebø, Sissel Seim

Exploring the personal narratives of social workers engaged in pre-proceedings child care practice: an English case study

▪Kim Holt, Nancy Kelly

Decision making and user involvement in child protection cases in a Norwegian context

▪Tone Jørgensen

Evaluation of Diversion and Mediation Program for Juveniles in Georgia

▪Darejan Dvalishvili

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**SESSION**

**Organisational mindfulness in child welfare**

**Chair: Juliet Koprowska**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24th at 13:15 - WHITE HALL 2**

Analysing talk in child protection social work

▪Juliet Koprowska

Talking of social workers work conditions: data, opinions and perceptions in child protection

▪Elena Cabiati

Professional Boundary Crossing and Interprofessional Knowledge Development

▪Ilse Julkunen, Elisabeth Willumsen

Child welfare and Social Media – citizenship practice in the digital public sphere

▪Edda Stang

Child protection case conferences made strange

▪Janice McGhee, Lorraine Waterhouse

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**SESSION**

**Counselling loneliness, support and palliative care**

**Chair: Johanna Hefel**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24th at 13:15 - WHITE HALL 3**

How to find Words for the Unspeakable? The Power of Language at Death's Door

▪Johanna Hefel

Research of the Palliative Care Development in the Altai Region

▪Tatiana Mazailova, Tatiana Sirofina

Overcoming loneliness and social isolation

▪Margriet Braun, Jurjen van Der Heijden, Melke Heessels

Understanding Online Disclosure. A triangular multimethod research concept on anonymous chat help in primary care

▪Vanhove Tim, Bocklandt Philippe



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  - Manuela A. Fernandez-Borrero
- Understanding Meaningful Involvement: An Exploration of the Involvement of Older People in Adult Safe-guarding
  - Sarah Finlay
- Transition into adulthood of youth with intellectual disabilities in Slovenia
  - Gašper Krstulović
- What do the social workers think about the family foster care unaccompanied foreign minors in Italy?
  - Serennella Oletto, Stefania Sguera
- Left Behind After Adoption: Maternal Perspectives on Termination of Parental Rights
  - Sharon Borja
- How do safeguarding Social Workers approach and resolve the conflicts between rights and protection presented when an adult at risk lacks mental capacity?
  - Cat Meredith
- Young people's experiences of epilepsy: A review of qualitative studies
  - Judith Chew
- Children's Acquisition of Lifeworld in Disadvantaged Urban Quarters: Potentials and Constraints of the Method Subjective Map
  - Peter Rahn
- Ethnocultural differences in infant vaccination in Israel
  - Yanina Shraga
- Exploring the role and experiences of Approved Mental Health Professionals
  - Sarah Matthews
- Between private and public – power, emotion and agency in the preadoption services
  - Pia Eriksson
- Social workers and professional values: ethical reflection using focus group method
  - Annalisa Pasini
- The Process of Identity Formation in the Dominant Culture
  - Sara Verderber
- Discourse, Power, and Social Work: Using the Tragic Death of a Young Girl in Taiwan as the Starting Point for Investigation
  - Yi-Shis Cheng
- Social worker's experience of applying mental capacity legislation – issues of promoting autonomy
  - Carole Southall
- New Realities for Social Work in a Global Context: Foreign Underage Mothers in a Country of Migration
  - Pablo Álvarez Pérez
- The welfare centers experts experience on interventions for child protection in high conflict divorce situations
  - Maja Laklija, Slavica Blažeka Kokorić, Iva Žic, Lidija Špančić
- Multi Cultural Perspective of Alcohol Use among High Risk Youth in Israel: Implications for Social Policy and Program Development
  - Alexander Reznik
- Intercultural training for workers involved in hiv care practices
  - Serennella Oletto, Stefania Sguera, Osvalda Rampon, Valentina Boscolo, Carlo Giacchino

Repeated Entries to the Swedish Addiction Compulsory Care System: A National Register Database Study

- Robert Gröhn

Elderly Social Policy in Albania

- Alba Dhima

Roles and social workers: the case of social work and networks with prisoners in Brussels.

- Peter Raeymaeckers

Elderly In Estonia: Coping And Possibilities of Support

- Mariju Medar

Reproductive technologies and social work: Models of psychosocial counseling

- Sandra Bregar

"Shall we talk about sexuality?" Children's perspective on sexual advice and sexual education in residential care units

- Dominik Mantey

Resilience towards social problems: a study of interracial couples

- Fernando Relinque

Rainbow Ljubljana

- Simona Topolinjak

Bridge over troubled water – How do drug cope with the transition from institutional rehabilitation to everyday life?

- Brit-Marie Follervåg, Svanhildur Gudmundsdóttir

Globalization and the quality of life of seniors

- Katarzyna Jagielska

Institutionalized Children Inter independence Competences and Social emancipation in the Real World – A case study

- Clara Santos

Case studies of community participation in Luxembourg. An analysis of community participation process in local level

- Anola Bracaj

The Politic Social Work in Small Local Government of Estonia: The Configuration between the Structural Power and The Performance of The Social Services

- Vaike Raudava

Social Work in Housing Policies in a Economic Crisis Context

- Octavio Vazquez Aguado

Forensic psychology curricula, as professional training opportunity for the staff of multi-disciplinary equip in prison, to treat individuals with mental health problems.

- Nevila Koollari

Social Workers' Views of Their Workspaces

- Alix Walton

ABSTRACTS OF ECSWR | 2015



## Analytic dimensions of decision making in social work

Brian Taylor

University of Ulster, Northern Ireland

The demands on social workers to make decisions grows ever more pressing as social welfare systems move towards greater state intervention to protect the most vulnerable from abuse and neglect, and as the development of social care services requires clearer prioritisation of those most in need. Such decision making in the complexities of social work involves analytic, moral and emotional dimensions. Within the Symposium this presentation on analytic dimensions of decision making will consider the need for people ('social workers') who will act on behalf of society or charitable bodies within it with both confidence and compassion to protect the vulnerable and to prioritise the allocation of social care services. This task, it is argued, is expected to be carried out with knowledge and skill, thus justifying qualifying training programmes; giving credibility to the role; and justifying the support of society. The application of a knowledge base to professional judgement in social work will be considered particularly in the context of threshold decisions. The concept of a 'threshold' is the link between the knowledge base and decision making, the point at which the evidence is regarded as changing the outcome from one alternative to the other. This is a critical issue in the judgement process involved in deciding, on behalf of society, to intervene to protect a vulnerable child or adult, or to provide public or charitable services. This paper within the Symposium will outline and discuss an analytic approach to decision making in social work. It will use as an example material from a review of models of decision making within published research on child protection threshold judgements. This paper will draw on research on decision making and risk undertaken at the University of Ulster Social Work Research Cluster on Decision, Assessment, Risk and Evidence Studies ([www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/decisionmakinginsocialwork.html](http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/decisionmakinginsocialwork.html)).



Troubling narratives - the emotional dimensions of practitioner  
decision-making in social work

Kate Leonard  
University of London  
Louise O'Connor  
University of London

This paper will focus on the emotional dimensions of practitioner decision-making, drawing on a two-stage exploratory qualitative study. This study explores what informs, hinders and enhances practitioner decision-making in child and family social work, identifying similarities and differences between pre-qualifying students and qualified practitioners. Stage 1 of the study explored the voice of frontline practitioners and students on placement. Four self-selecting focus groups were undertaken with participants at differing career stages, recruited from pre- and post-qualifying University cohorts. Stage 2 is in progress and aims to further illuminate practitioners' narratives regarding the complexities of decision-making. Participants for three further focus groups have been recruited from University cohorts and employing organisations. A grounded theory approach is used to analyse the data. Findings at stage 1 highlighted the complex and multi-layered factors which influence decision-making processes. Six core categories emerged - the impact of emotions, passing of time, strength of voice, ownership, management and the developing role of a social worker. Ambivalence about professional voice is interwoven with developing expertise, levels of discretion and emotional responses. This paper will draw on stage 1 and stage 2 findings to focus on the troubling and troublesome emotional complexities which are illuminated in practitioners' narratives of day-to-day decision-making. Findings demonstrate the multi-faceted role and influences of practitioner emotions. We will explore these findings within the context of organisational and professional discourses regarding emotions and decision-making. This empirical study provides insight into the emotional dimensions involved for practitioners and how these interface with organisational, professional and personal factors. We will explore the implications for social work education and practice pre-and post-qualification.



## The moral economy of practical reasoning: developing a research agenda

Tony Evans

Royal Holloway University of London

Mark Hardy

University of York

Social work is under sustained scrutiny regarding the quality of decision-making. Our understanding of the processes through which practitioners make judgments will be enhanced by the incorporation of the role that ethics plays in decision-making. However, there is also a risk that the ethical dimension of decision-making can be confused with moralizing. Although there has been significant work in social work regarding the role of values and ethics in practice, this work has tended to idealise morality setting-up external standards by which practice is judged. We will argue that while external standards have a role to play these standards need to be considered alongside the ethical principles and concerns that permeate the culture of practice. Furthermore, ethical principles in practice need to be understood as more than simply seeking to operationalise ideal standards. They also reflect critical engagement with ethical issues in practice and can challenge formal statements of values. We argue that understanding practitioner decision-making is enhanced by an explicit research focus on the moral economy of practical reasoning. In this paper we will explain why this is the case - what we mean by 'moral economy', its potential utility in social work and its relation to professional discretion, judgments and decision-making. Although decision making is a practical task, it is also an analytic one, and we will specify how our understanding of the intersections between thoughts, feelings and actions can be enhanced by the research agenda we are developing. This is a resolutely empirical agenda but draws upon theory and literature that is rarely utilized in social work. Via direct engagement with the work of Hume, Wittgenstein, Oakeshott and Williams this agenda will enable us to bridge the worlds of morality, judgement and action, in ways that - we hope - will have practical significance for social work.



Bridging professional decision making and policy formulation - construction and use of the Functional efficiency scale BSM for intensity of support assessment

Miroslav Brkic

Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade

Marko Milanovic

Centre for Research and Social Development

Dragana Stankovic

Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade

Social reforms in Serbia have focused on improving accountability of social protection system. In order to support evidence-based decision-making and person-centered planning in determining the level of intensity and type of support needed for independent life, the FES-BSM scale was developed. Scientific approach was used in operationalization of bylaws with goal to create reliable and short, multidimensional assessment scale which is universal for all beneficiaries. The aim of this study was to examine psychometric properties of FAS-BSM as precondition for use of the scale in individual decision making, resource allocation and get deeper understanding in use of FAS-BSM for policy planning. Study was conducted on the sample of 304 beneficiaries of system of social care in Serbia, from five subgroups: children without parental care, children with behavioural problems, persons with disability, mentally ill persons and elderly. During first phase factor structure and interrater reliability was assessed. Each participant was rated by two independent ratters. In second phase feasibility of scale for evidence based planning of services for elderly was assessed on the sample of all users of social care services for elderly in one municipality. Exploratory factor analysis (WLSMV) suggests that 4-factor solutions are adequate: activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, social skills and mobility (RMSEA=.06, SRMR=.02, CFI=.99 and TI=.99). Interrater reliability of subscales and instrument was good with kappa in range from .78 to .83. Scale was useful in planning of services and two areas of unmet needs of elderly was identified as well as imbalance in currents structure of support where increasing severity of functional limitations was followed with increasing family participation as care providers and decreasing use of services. Research provides evidence that FES-BSM have very good psychometric properties and can be used for individual assessment, allocation planning and policy formulation.





## The use of discretion by client managers in social assistance practice

Marijlijn de Wiilde

Centre for Social Policy - University of Antwerp

**Objectives:** To study the variation in case managers' treatment of claimants concerning eligibility to benefits and activation practices. **Design:** A factorial survey in which case managers are presented with 12 stories (vignettes) of claimants. The vignettes consist of 12 experimentally varied categories (e.g. gender, mental health, attitude...). Vignettes are treated as the first level in the multi-level analysis, respondents as the second level. **Setting:** Seven social assistance agencies in Belgium. **Subjects:** 170 case managers (90% response rate of all case managers in the municipalities). **Main outcome measures:** The likelihood of clients: (1) receiving a financial benefit, (2) being withdrawn if declining a job offer and (3) not receiving activation offers. **Results:** Large variation exists between the case managers participating in the survey, both in a general way (intercepts) and in responses on specific client characteristics (slopes). The VPC's of the multi-level null models range from 0,35 to 0,5, meaning that more than one third of the variation is explained by respondent and not by client characteristics. Respondent's characteristics that may explain this variation are the municipality where one is working, the gender of the case manager and resemblance between the respondent and the client. Furthermore, specific client characteristics influence the variation between respondents. Respondents react differently to client characteristics such as parenthood, addiction, housing situation, ambition and attitude. **Conclusions:** This study shows, for the first time quantitatively, that similar clients do not receive a similar treatment from different case managers in different municipalities. This might raise concerns about the fairness of the social assistance offered.



The logic of the database and responsive social work

Jochen Devlieghere

Department of Social Welfare Studies at Ghent University, Belgium

Rudi Roose

Department of Social Welfare Studies at Ghent University, Belgium

Over the last decade, western child welfare and protection has been subjected to many reforms. This is no different in Flanders - the Dutch speaking part of Belgium - where child welfare and protection has been reconstructed by integrating the various child welfare and protection services into one shared organisational framework. This reform has been defined as a way forward to a more emancipatory and needs-driven instead of supply-driven youth care system and even has been called a Copernican Revolution towards more responsive social work, stressing the welfare logic above the protectionistic logic. In order to realize this Copernican Revolution, the Flemish government invested to a great extent in the enhanced introduction of more and better information and registration tools to better capture and respond to the needs of children and families. In this presentation we draw on preliminary results of an empirical study where we performed 1) a conventional qualitative content analysis of policy documents relating to the subject of information and registration tools in child welfare and protection and 2) qualitative semi-structured interviews with key policy actors in the field of Flemish child welfare and protection in order to gain insight into the governmental logics and goals for installing information and registration tools. These results show that there are various “underlying” governmental logics regarding the use and installation of these information and registration tools. In this oral presentation, we will argue that these various underlying logics raise severe questions concerning the development a Copernican revolution towards responsive social work, as these instruments are mainly driven by a protectionistic logic rather than child welfare logic.



## Governing ideas of risk in child protection services

Veronica Haug

UiT The Arctic University of Norway / Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences Norway

This presentation explores issues related to current ideas of risk and governing in modern welfare state institutions. This is also the thematic focus in my Ph.D project, where the empirical material is collected in the field of Child Protection Services in Norway. Data consist of 22 interviews with child protection workers, 25 reports from investigation and care order cases, and selected government documents. The analysis indicates that ideas of risk have created grounds for knowledge presented as positivistic and objective, such as calculation and prediction. On this basis I put forward the claim that ideas of risk do influence and govern practices in Child Protection Services. The presentation traces the rise of the governing idea of risk and the different logics and values which underpin it, showing that it has less to do with real dangers than we might imagine, and more to do with institutional accountability and legitimacy. Furthermore, ideas of risk can be understood as part of political rationality which have the effects of surveillance and shaping of identities and conduct in the welfare state. One of the questions under discussion is whether current ideas of risk may in fact have the effect of reinforcing ruling definitions of normality and creating more bureaucracy instead of using resources on protecting children in need or danger. Using a frame drawn from theories of governmentality, this qualitative study aims to deepen our understanding of how ideas of risk have become pervasive components of practices, technologies and rationalities concerned with governing in the welfare state.



## Research on practice in the child protection agencies in Norway

Siv Schroder  
University of Agder

The Norwegian child protection agencies get in contact with tens of thousands of children each year. When someone contacts the agencies with a concern for a child's well-being the employees have a week to decide if they will follow up the referral or dismiss the case. On average 20 percent of the referrals get dismissed. There are however large differences between the child protection agencies in the rate of dismissal. What can explain the differences in amount of cases dismissed? One of few studies in Norway occupied with the topic referrals to the child protection agencies are conducted by Kjaer and Mossige. They find that the arguments used by the agencies to validate the dismissal of referrals are based on the workplace standards rather than the law and that the decisions to dismiss seem somewhat arbitrary. Another topical study was conducted in 2011/2012 by the Norwegian supervisory authority. They carried out an inspection of the child protection agencies fulfillment of their obligations. The authority concluded that many referrals to the child protection agencies were too often dismissed. When cases wrongly were dismissed it resulted in children not getting the help they needed. Suggested explanations for the high rate of dismissal were too few employees, inadequate routines and poor follow-up from the managers. In this article I will explore the correlation between the number of referrals to Norwegian child protection agencies and the resources available for each agency. I will use a quantitative approach where the number of educated employees and economical resources are used as explanatory variables.



## Research action as a way to support guidelines in child protection

Teresa Bertotti  
University Milano Bicocca, Italy

Child protection is highly complex work in relation to the changes in the representation of childhood, the role of the family and the role of the state. Frequently, social workers have been criticised and accused of setting arbitrary or disparate interventions. Guidelines are often established in order to orient and harmonise child protection work interventions. However, such guidelines have the double risk of being just dead letters and failing to homogenise the interventions. On the other hand, they have the risk of binding practitioners and limiting their space for autonomy and discretion, transforming professional work into a bureaucratic task. The paper will present research action aimed at supporting the implementation of guidelines on child protection and family support adopted in a large town in Southern Italy. Frontline social workers have been involved in testing guidelines through three different types of research: evaluating the guidelines as a whole, using a grid for the assessment trying new kinds of intervention for families and reflecting of their impact. The paper will present the methods used and the results obtained in term of action, learning outcomes for the people involved and the increase of knowledge,



Methodological issues in casebased surveillance study of child abuse and neglect cases in Croatia

van Rimac

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Case-based surveillance study present useful tool to identify research priorities and assists in the evaluation of the uptake of research evidence. The child abuse and neglect surveillance data provide necessary information to support decision makers in setting priorities for planning, policy development and resource allocation in child protection. The validity and reliability of data should be priority in evidence based practice if we want effectively address the needs of maltreated children. However, the data are often fragmented, biased, not comparable and compatible. This review address some of the methodological problems and solutions associated with implementation of first nationwide incidence study on child abuse and neglect in the Croatia, relying on data from Centres od Social Welfare. This study was part of Balkan Epidemiological Study on Child Abuse and Neglect, were 8 participating countries applied research similar to Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect which, together with US National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect, presents comprehensive and methodologically well established case-based surveillance studies. The main research questions are: 1) How to conduct child abuse and neglect surveillance study when files are not organized by child? 2) What is a case and is it appropriate unit of analysis for this type of research? 3) How to ensure probabilistic coverage of population of reported child abuse and neglect cases? and 4) How to adjust research protocols to be suitable for monitoring social services interventions and measuring their outcomes? Although specific in terms of covering Croatian social services system, procedures applied are transferable to other countries with similar social services systems as adoptable solutions. Given recommendations emphasize need for general improvements such as the implementation of standard measure instruments, case definition, and management of data derived from social services databases in order to enhance usefulness of data.



## Social workers and policy practice in Italy: a memory of the past?

Annamaria Campanini  
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Political commitment has been a specific attitude of Italian social work from this beginning to the 70s, but what is now the situation? Is only a memory of the past or there is a truly political engagement in the social workers activity? The paper will present the results of a pilot quantitative research that has been conducted in two Italian regions: Lombardia and Sicily. Using the same questionnaire that has been created by Israeli researchers (Gal, Weiss-Gal, 2013) through a snowballing sample, 71 social workers employed in social services of municipalities have been interviewed. The results confirm a general impression that social workers are now much more oriented to work with individual problems, instead to engage themselves in collective actions towards the community, as it was also found in a previous research (Facchini, 2010). Some significant differences between social workers with few or many years of carrier, orient also to consider the relationship between the motivation of the new generations of students that are enrolled in social work education, their distrust in the politics and public institutions (Facchini, Campanini, 2014) and the very poor activities oriented to policy practice. In the presentation some of the more interesting results will be analysed, as well as some correlations between the findings of this questionnaire and the outcomes of previous researches conducted in Italy on social work profession and student motivations.



## Public governance constraints and challenges for social work practice

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In the wake of public sector reforms, the work environment of professionals is changing. Management tools and managerial power have increased; there is more prescription of results and outputs and tighter requirements of front line work. The changes taking place are characterised as a shift in ideology towards new forms of governance and organisational control. This paper investigates the impact of bureaucratic control and new public management strategies on social work practice within the structural frames of the Norwegian welfare administration. A main concern is to investigate the influence of public governance rules and directives, performance measurements and defined targets compared to the professional norms of social workers. The empirical data come from a survey conducted among social service workers (N=627) in the Norwegian labour and welfare administration in 2011. While bureaucratic rules and agency procedures set constraints for social work practice, the impact of politically defined goals and performance measures is statistically non-significant. However, collegial support and peer advices seem to play a significant role in providing professional standards for discretionary judgements and decision-making. Finally, the paper discusses some of the implications and challenges for professional knowledge and social work practice.





Discovering professional culture of specialists in social work in Russia:  
quantitative analysis

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Until recent professional culture of specialists in social work in Russia had been formed on the horizontal level, but now the situation has changed since the process of standardization and regulation from top to down was introduced. To study professional culture of this group that undergoes processes of formation and re-formation seems to be a useful task in order to increase the effectiveness of social services in Russia. In my work I study the complex phenomenon of professional culture basing on empirical research of the professional group of specialists in social work conducted in 2013. The main method of research was a questionnaire, 1124 specialists in a number of Russian cities were interviewed. Quantitative data analysis using SPSS was carried out, including factor analysis, cluster analysis, t-test, ANOVA, and others. Operational definition of professional culture is based on the model of "cultural web" provided by Nord et al. In the center of this web is the paradigm (the core set of values and beliefs of professionals), and this paradigm is mainly reflected in two elements: - symbols (motives of choice of profession, the evaluation of other people's attitudes towards this profession, the steadiness of intention towards profession); - rituals and routines (the authorities of a particular specialist divided into two parts, according to Hughes: licenses that are ways to limit access to the professional group, i.e. special education, and mandates that embrace the whole gamut of professional activities that can go beyond the scope set by license). Four groups with different types of motivation are revealed and some differences between them are drawn in relation to power structures (attitudes of administration towards workers' initiative) and control systems (autonomy in conduction of professional tasks). Regarding rituals and routines several types of tasks with different levels of symbolic value are disclosed.



## Towards thematic knowledge creation in praxisnetwork

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Today expertise is understood as a collective ability of networks and actors in organisations to solve together new and changing problems. This means that also small analyses of everyday life and co-development of work as small, but continuous practice research processes can be a solution for knowledge and know-how needs of social work organisations. Collaborative practice research process can enhance the role of social workers and service users as co-partners of research processes alongside academic researchers. This way they are co-learners. We have started a thematic knowledge production as a collaborative effort between communities of Metropolitan Helsinki Area and the University of Helsinki within the Praxis work of the Heikki Waris Institute. It is based on the idea of triological learning (Hakkarainen & al. 2003). Our common theme during years of 2014-2016 is "Preventing intergenerational negative transmission of marginalization". This theme connects social workers, university teachers, service users, students and managers, social work practice courses and the social work practice. One of the main tools of the Metropolitan Praxis network is learning network meetings. They can be conceptualised as agora of mutual knowledge creation, triological learning. In our presentation we will show how this work is organised by utilising abductive, dialogical research process: 1) practice knowledge of social workers is gathered methodically from the "field" and analysed by social workers. 2) it is analysed whether there are existing relevant research, 3) during the multi-voiced network meeting synthesis of practice knowledge and relevant studies is presented to participants and reflected in dialogue. 4) This dialogue is then recorded and transcribed and again analysed together with social workers in the field. In our presentation we will reflect our experiences both about the outcomes of the process, and the process itself, through the analytic lens of robust knowledge building.



Enhancing resilience in student and early-career social workers: evaluating multi-modal interventions

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Gail Kinman  
University of Bedfordshire

Research conducted in several countries has documented high levels of stress and burnout and retention difficulties amongst social workers. Although employers have a duty of care to safeguard the mental and physical health of their staff, it is widely recognised that social workers need to increase their emotional resilience to protect their personal wellbeing. Resilience also has important implications for other key outcomes such as retention and job performance. Little is known, however, about how resilience might be enhanced in social work contexts. A long-standing programme of research conducted by the authors has identified some of the competencies that underpin resilience and the methods by which it might be increased. This presentation draws on two studies that evaluated interventions that aimed to build resilience and associated competencies in student and early-career social workers. The first study used a mixed-methods approach to explore the impact of an intervention designed to enhance inter-personal and intra-personal emotional competencies (i.e. emotional intelligence, reflective ability and empathy) in student social workers. Levels of reflective ability and empathy increased significantly following the intervention and psychological distress decreased. Content analysis of reflective logs also found evidence for enhanced emotion management skills in some students. The second study utilised a wait-list controlled design to evaluate a multi-modal intervention for newly-qualified social workers employed in children's services. Benefits were found for key competencies, such as emotional self-efficacy, self-compassion and psychological flexibility, as well as resilience and psychological wellbeing. The findings of these studies indicate that carefully targeted interventions have strong potential to foster emotional resilience and wellbeing in social workers that are generally maintained over time. The implications of the findings for supporting the wellbeing of student and early-career social workers are considered.



## Relationship-based practice and service delivery in self-neglect

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University of Sussex

David Orr

University of Sussex

Michael Preston-Shoot

University of Bedfordshire

A key challenge in social work decision-making lies in balancing two potentially competing mandates: respect for individual autonomy, and a duty of protective care. Nowhere is this challenge more acute than in work with people who, through their own choice, live in circumstances posing severe risks to their own health or safety - either through neglect of their personal care or health or through neglect of their domestic environment by hoarding or living in squalor. While self-determination may be approached in different ways in different countries, in some national contexts its recognition is both - a professional and a legal obligation, yet such situations can result in death or serious harm to the service user if no intervention can be agreed, and social workers are criticised for failing to protect. Thus self-neglect severely exercises practitioners' decision- making discretion, and requires creative approaches to service delivery. This paper draws on an evidence base from 3 studies conducted by the authors over 4 years (2010-2014), combining systematic review of the international literature with empirical evidence from England on social work practice and service delivery to people who self-neglect. It prioritises findings from the most recent 2014 study, which explored - from the perspectives of service managers, professionals and service users themselves - what makes for effective practice. Drawing on the analysis of a large qualitative data set of 91 interviews across 10 different municipalities, the paper discusses, first, how self-neglectful behaviour arises, situating it within service users' life stories and relationships. Second, it identifies the significance of practice approaches that build trust-based relationships: these emerge merge as the single most effective means of engagement and intervention to mediate risk. Finally, the organisational policy implications are outlined, emphasising the value of workflow pathways that support relationship-based practice rather than time-limited care management in achieving positive outcomes.



Reducing health inequalities as a major recommendation in fighting poverty: a case study of recommendations of a national committee in Israel

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Background: Poverty and economic inequalities remain a persistent problem in Israel. The rate of relative poverty (20.9%) is the highest among OECD countries (11.3%) and higher than that of the EU (9.4%). In an effort to tackle the problem and declaring that there is a political will to reduce poverty, the Minister of Social Welfare and Social Services appointed a public Committee to Fight Poverty in November 2013. It was commissioned to recommend state-wide strategies to fight poverty in a wide scope of life and environment areas, with the purpose of reducing poverty rates to the OCED average within 10 years. Aims: To present the process in the sub-committee on health as a case study of developing anti-poverty strategies directing scarce resources more effectively toward poor people and making health services more accessible to them. Process: The sub-committee was guided by the Social Determinants of Health approach adopted by the World Health Organization as a basis for overall policy aiming to decrease social inequalities in health. National data on health inequalities and evidence from social work practice in health care, from focus groups of patients living in poverty, from NGO's and civil and patients' rights organizations served as the basis for the sub-committee's report. I will present the process of prioritizing recommendations, showing the conflicting approaches to tackling health inequalities (universal vs. population specific) among sub-committee members. The final recommendations included anti-poverty strategies for health policy changes targeting people living in poverty, focusing on better access to information and utilization of health rights and making health services financially and physically more accessible to them. Implementation: The sub-committee's recommendations were part of the Committee to Fight Poverty's report which was submitted to the government. So far, only a small budget was allocated without a comprehensive anti-poverty program.



## Rethinking social work with the nursing mother

Miri Kestler-Peleg  
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In light of health organizations' recommendation of breastfeeding as the best method of feeding infants, this practice has become widespread across the globe, 91% of Israeli women beginning to breastfeed after birth. While most public and professional attention focuses on the physical and psychological affect breastfeeding has on babies, the proposed lecture turns the scholarly and clinical spotlight on to the mothers' emotional needs and the complex context in which the latter arise. It examines the way in which the Self-Determination Theory concepts of autonomous and controlled breastfeeding motivations predict the wellbeing or distress of nursing mothers. It also investigates female personality infrastructure prior to giving birth, exemplified in attachment tendencies, as a predictor of breastfeeding motivations and wellbeing/distress. Data was collected from 543 women who completed self-report questionnaires during pregnancy, around eight weeks after birth, and approximately five-month after birth in a longitudinal quantitative study. The findings indicate that breastfeeding motivations that were most autonomous in nature were linked to high levels of wellbeing, controlled motivations being linked with low levels of wellbeing and high levels of distress. Anxious attachment predicted the majority of variables in the study, including controlled and autonomous breastfeeding motivations and wellbeing/distress. Examining the subjective aspects of nursing women, the study enabled the identification of strengthening and enervating factors with respect to wellbeing/distress. It recommends that social workers' be made aware of these factors and promote policy-practice with them in mind in order to develop services and modes of interventions sensitive to the varied needs of nursing women. They should also be encouraged to legitimize and support the informed choices made by new mothers whether they choose to breastfeed or not.



Discourse, power, and social work: using the tragic death of a young girl in  
Taiwan as the starting point for investigation

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Social workers are the primary professionals who specialize in social work. Similar to other social actors, the social workers infer numerous discourses based on the effect of power. The purpose of this study was to construct a suitable framework for the social work field to critique discourses by interpreting, comprehending, and reflecting the theory and methodology of critical discourse analysis (CDA). We aimed to then implement this framework to elucidate and reveal which discourses influence social workers, as well as the manner in which the influence is exerted. Only through such elucidation and revelation can social workers rediscover their personal subjectivity, thereby allowing resistance, that is, strategies for resistance, to occur. This study comprises 2 phases. The first phase involves understanding the essence and limitations of CDA by interpreting, comprehending, and reflecting this model and developing an analytical framework. The second phase involves applying the analytical framework to analyze the tragic death of a young girl in Taiwan in April 2010, which served as the subject for investigation. Analysis of this incident was conducted for CDA and to determine the significance of this analytical framework for the knowledge production and professional practice of social work.



Health promotion as an action and research field for social work: promoting health equity through mobilizing local health assets

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"Poor die earlier", say health reports. But "Health for All in the 21st century", says Agenda 21 from WHO. So why there is still observable this gap in health and how can it be reduced? One of the primary goals of actual WHO's strategies is, to reduce health inequalities and to promote health equity. The actual crisis of welfare states, the rising savings in the social and health sector and current demographic trends bring us to a reflection about how we can deal with this issue. Also in wealthy European welfare states there is a strong connection between health perception, health (or ill) status, life-expectancy and the so called social determinants of health, the social resources and conditions, which have a significant impact on human's health. Social inequality leads to health inequality and vice versa. Health equity becomes a task for all policies (health in all policies) and promoting health equity has to become a main goal for Social Work Research and Practice. This research project deals with the issue of health (in)-equity in South Tyrol, a trilingual border region in Northern Italy. It is a community-based participatory research project, which has the aim to show how to mobilize local health assets for health equity. As community-based participatory health research has the intention to explore the causes of health problems and to develop strategies for action it is an approach which is especially suitable for developing action strategies for promoting health equity. The paper presentation will give an overview about the theoretical background, the methodology and some first outcomes of this research project.





## Recent media representation of social work and domestic violence in Italian newspapers

Elena Allegri

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The media plays a central role in shaping and reflecting public opinion, including the views of politicians and other key groups engaged in social policy on the diversity of unfolding social tensions and widening societal inequities, the transformation of social intimacies and collective relationships, social work decision making about welfare, and the implementation of such decisions. This paper is focuses on the media representation on Social Work and Domestic Violence in two important Italian newspapers covering the period from 2012 to 2013 which differ in values, reading population, style. Methodologically, categories for analysis of newspapers' items on domestic violence towards women and men are: section of the newspaper in which it appears, style of the newspaper article, type of violence, relationships background between victim and perpetrator, if were children involved, descriptions and opinions on the victim, description and opinions on the perpetrator, descriptions and opinions on social workers' performance, descriptions and opinions on other professions. In this way, a thematic analysis was applied to include the representation of the victims, parents, assumed perpetrators, police, social services, health services, voluntary sector organisations. Finally, comparison of the perspectives of the different newspapers, and of intersectional factors follows. Two questions will be raised: what are the lessons from the research's report vs. the media coverage? How can social workers and social work researchers work with the media?



Recent media representation of the Rotherham child sexual exploitation  
(CSE): methodological and content issues

Shulamit Ramon  
University of Hertfordshire

This presentation is part of the proposed symposium on Media Representation of Social Work: Lessons from a comparative transnational research, co-ordinated by Dr. Elena Allegri. The recent Rotherham CSE has erupted dramatically at the end of August 2014. Its scale, the level of sexual exploitation, the systematic cover up, the racial issue and the views attributed to social workers require attention to by social workers and researchers. This paper focuses on the very early media representation of this case by several Sunday newspapers and one television programme, following the publication of an official invited inquiry report by a professor of social work. Methodologically, a thematic analysis was applied to include the representation of the victims, parents, assumed perpetrators, responses by the police, social services, health services, voluntary sector organisations, and politicians. Comparison of the perspectives of different media and of intersectional factors follows. Although the newspapers and the television differ in their ideological preferences and are aimed at different population groups, on this occasion the similarities in the content of the coverage were considerable, while their styles remain different. Yet some distinctly divergent foci emerged in some media, such as the impact of growing up in a culture of shame as perceived by a survivor of such an abuse. Several questions will be raised in the presentation: Does the media representation of this case amount to another instance of moral panic in the making? What lies behind the lack of appropriate action by the council, the police and social services? What are the lessons from the inquiry report vs. the media coverage?



"We won't tolerate any violence against asylum seekers": refugees, social work and the media

Maria Do Mar Castro Varela  
Alice Salomon University

This presentation is part of the proposed symposium on "Media Representation of Social Work: Lessons from a Comparative Transnational Research co-ordinated by Elena Allegrì. My paper will analyse the recent cases of violence perpetrated by private security guards in asylum seekers centres in North-Rhine-Westphalia against refugees and engages with the media representation of both the refugees as well as social workers. In the past years, protests by refugees in Germany (for instance in Berlin, Hamburg, Munich) have succeeded in bringing to the attention of the state and the media, discrimination and violence against asylum seekers and undocumented migrants. This has raised awareness regarding their plight, even as dominant discourses claim that refugees remain "unwelcomed" in Germany. Images depicting recent acts of violence against refugees in asylum seekers centres have initiated a fresh debate on the right to asylum and the role of social work in the context of the current global refugee crisis. Employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), the paper will explore the paradoxes and contradictions in the media reports about refugees in Germany. Focusing on publications in both conservative as well as progressive German newspapers, my talk will analyse how spokespersons of reputed NGOs like Pro Asyl and Amnesty International positioned themselves within this public debate. Unfortunately local social work actors were mostly absent in these media reports. Drawing on postcolonial perspectives, I will historically situate the violence against migrants in general and refugees in particular, while highlighting the possible critical role social work could play in intervening in dominant media representations.



Media of social work in Germany

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This presentation is part of the proposed symposium on Media Representation of Social Work: Lessons from a comparative transnational research, co-ordinated by Elena Allegri (sub. ID 129) In the theoretical debates in Germany, the issue of media representation, public and social work is very little although the media has a crucial impact on shaping and reflecting the public opinion. This paper focuses on the media presentation of social work under two points of view: first the manner in which social work is represented in different types of media (TV and newspapers), and secondly on the subjective perception of social workers and clients in relation to the representation of social work. Methodologically, under the first focus categories a content analysis was applied to include the representations of clients, of social topics, of social organisations, of social workers being in charge of, and politicians. Comparison of the perspectives and emphasis relating to social work issues of the different media follows. Under the second focus expert interviews and a focus group interview were applied to include the self-perception of social workers and clients in the media. Several questions will be raised: From the viewpoint of the interviewees, there is only a marginal connection between the medial presentation of social work and their personal reality. The clients (with mental disabilities) felt that they were not medially represented; they find that their problems are not to be found in the media. Instead, they saw lack seriousness in relation to the subject matter and a general trivialization of mental illness. Further more: how should social works deal/communicate with the media?



PhotoVoice: effective and innovative applications to social work community practice

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University of Michigan

This workshop is aimed at strengthening the knowledge and skills in applying the PhotoVoice methodology to social work community practice, including community assessment, engagement, organizing, and development; program development and evaluation; social/policy planning; and political and social action. PhotoVoice is grounded in Freireian participatory and transformative traditions. PhotoVoice combines photographs and small group discussions in the critical examination of, and formulation of solutions for, a social condition/issue by engaging the very people affected by it. Participants take photographs of their lives and community conditions and share and discuss them in a small group repeatedly. The ongoing discussions foster inclusive learning about, and intersubjective interpretations of, their own and others' experiences in the socio-cultural and political context, which leads to critical analyses of their community and society as a whole. Researchers (often facilitating the group discussion) participate in the discussion, furthering the learning of the participants while learning from them at the same time. These reflective and dialectic discussions serve as participatory community assessments, based on which community members and researchers explore and formulate alternative and/or more effective policy and practice approaches and strategize toward their implementation. In addition, the presentation of the photographs and associated narratives ("Voices") through various media, such as exhibits, community forums, and the internet, informs and influences policymakers, administrators, and practitioners. It also works to raise consciousness among a larger segment of the society and promote their engagement in social and political action. This workshop presents the history, theoretical foundations and tenets, and methodologies of PhotoVoice and emphasizes participants' skill development. This workshop will engage the participants in a collective and reflective learning using various interactive and participatory pedagogical approaches, experiential exercises, as well as case examples (e.g., a project with refugee women residing in the U.S. and another with disaster-affected individuals in Japan).



"That does not play a role here!" Institutions and social work: how they deal with LGBT youths

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Approximately 5-10 % of all people regard themselves as being lesbians, gay, bisexuals or transidents, thereby opposing the concept of heteronormativity. Often, LGBT-youths are hardly supported by their social environment and are frequently discriminated as others bully them, make fun of them or even lay violent hands on them. Marginalization and discrimination among crucial socialization centers such as family, school, peer group, leisure activities (clubs, associations, street work etc.), apprenticeship companies or the work place prevent LGBT-youths from admitting their sexual orientation as they are afraid of sanctions and reprisals. So far, institutions providing social work did hardly make adequate allowance for the needs and living situations of LGBT-youths (Rommelspacher 2007). Furthermore: Because LGBT Youth are afraid of discrimination they often stay invisible (Mesquita 2008) in institutions of Social Work. Therefore Social Workers often think that LGBT does not play a role in their work. The research project aims to reconstruct and analyze everyday microaggressions (Sue 2010) and prejudices amongst social workers towards LGBT-youths and reveal the paradoxes between normative (ethical) standards of social work and structural discrimination via "Othering" processes and ignored LGBT-identities along the following questions: What do social workers know about LGBT youth and their needs? How do they think their services can provide adequate support? How do they think they can make an adequate allowance for the needs and living situations of LGBT-youths in youth welfare? How can we educate the professionals for reflexive practice that prevents microaggressions towards LGBT-youths? The research shows the power of stereotypes and microaggressions of social workers and their impact in dealing with LGBT-youths. Furthermore the research shows how important a reflexive education is, that provides social workers with knowledge and skills to work with LGBT-youths. Therefore we ask how social workers can be educated for a non-discriminating practice with LGBT-youth.



Doing diversity or neglecting difference? An exploratory study of UK social workers' knowledge and views of self, sex and sexuality in contemporary life

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The social work profession struggles to engage with sexuality as deftly as it does with other types of social difference, such as ethnicity, disability, age, class and gender (cf Morton, et al 2013), in spite of contemporary emphasis given to the paradigm of anti-oppressive practice. This struggle is likely to cause inequality in the construction and delivery of social work services. Despite some theorizing and empirical work about sexuality in social work, relatively little is known about social workers' perceptions, knowledge and values about sexuality in contemporary professional practice. Public perception and societal attitudes towards sexuality are not consistent, but can appear to be inflexible, and rooted in deeply held belief systems. Conducted in 2013, this exploratory study set out to examine social workers' beliefs and values about sexuality in relation to everyday professional interactions within the UK. The primary aim is to better account for the ways sexuality is constructed and understood by social workers in interactions with colleagues, services users and other stakeholders. This study used an online survey instrument to examine 115 respondents' perceptions about sexuality, incorporating the Heteronormativity Attitudes and Beliefs Scale (Habarth, 2014) as a validated instrument and open-ended questions exploring how social workers acquire formal knowledge about sexuality within educational settings. Respondents were qualified social workers from Wales, England and Scotland. Findings were generated through interpretive thematic analysis and through Independent T-Tests and ANOVA. In this presentation we present qualitative and quantitative findings and discuss the implications for enhancing social work thinking about the connections between anti-oppressive practices, sexuality and everyday interactions with users of social work services. In particular we focus on the ways on which practitioners discuss sexuality through a diversity lens and in doing so negate divisions and inequalities embedded within sexuality as a social structure.



The governmental welfare system and social workers involvement in social activism

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**Purpose and Background:** In the summer of 2011, Israeli citizens participated in a widespread social protest, aimed to influence social and economic priorities and bring about changes in areas such as education, health, housing, and welfare. The present qualitative study examined the experiences of social workers who participated in the protest. **Method:** Research data were collected through a focus group interview. The sample consisted of 11 social workers (9 women, and 2 men). Six of the participants were community workers. Two were caseworkers. Three defined themselves as both caseworkers and community workers. The number of years in the present workplace ranged from one to 20 years ( $M = 6$  years), and the number of years of professional experience ranged from one to 40 years ( $M = 11$  years). Data analysis was carried out in three stages: Open coding, Axial coding and integrating the data for main themes (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). **Results:** The findings highlight the complexities experienced by social workers who protested against the system that employs them through three primary themes. First, the participants chose to participate in the protest as volunteers and to hide their professional identity. Second, the social workers had difficulty receiving approval from their superiors to join the protesters' encampments. Third, the social workers felt that they were used by the system. Applications: Research findings reveal the gap that exists between the professions' stated commitment to social change and the degree to which such action is actually supported by professional bodies. Findings contribute to the discourse regarding the extent of legitimacy that the local and national welfare system gives to social workers who participate in social protests.





## Promoting research skills and ethical values through service learning

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University of Barcelona

The aim of this paper is to share the service learning experience we are carrying out with a group of social work students attending the subject of Applied Research to Social Work at the University of Barcelona. Community engagement pedagogies, often called "service learning," combine learning outcomes and community service in ways that can promote both student learning and the common good. We will present how we are using the service learning methodology to assess the LGBT community when they get older, enhancing at the same time, students' research skills and social commitment values. We are in the first phase of our research, gathering information by using qualitative research methodologies. The collaborative character of the service learning methodology has required to formalise a cooperation agreement signed by the University, a non- governmental organization and the local authority of Barcelona.



Dialectics between mainstream and marginality: experiences of spouses of mixed orientation relationships

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The phenomenon of mixed-orientation relationships, in which one of the spouses is heterosexual and the other is homosexual, is invisible, yet not insignificant. The scant literature that deals with this phenomenon focuses primarily on individual and marital aspects. Our study, which derives from the theory of Social construction, illuminates social aspects related to this system of relationships. Based on the phenomenological paradigm, we conducted in-depth interviews with 38 homosexual and bisexual men and 8 heterosexual women, which currently are in such a relationship. The findings clearly indicate that the phenomenon of mixed-orientation relationships does not exist in a void. The social discourse regarding mixed-orientation relationships was interwoven within participants' narratives. Relatives' and friends' attitudes, religious beliefs, culture of origin and the dominant culture - all of the above affect the ways in which participants experience and perceive themselves, their spouses, and their intimate relationships. Moreover, societal and cultural elements shape the relationship between spouses and their social environment and the extent to which the spouses expose the unique nature of their relationship to others. In this presentation, we will illustrate and discuss the dialectics between mainstream and marginality, between the wish to be a part of society and the need to stay away as an 'outsider', between the wish to be open about some aspects of the relationship and the necessity to remain secretive about other aspects.



A Practice-Near, ethnographic study of group decision making about social work students failing in practice learning settings

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The paper links to the conference theme on research in social work education and pedagogy by focusing on university decision making processes in respect of students failing on placements. Undertaking an assessed placement has long been a feature of social work training internationally. Recent developments in England have emphasised the importance of practice learning although concerns have been raised about the robustness and quality of practice assessment (Finch & Taylor, 2013). For example, a perception of low failure rates and practice educators' (field supervisors) reluctance to fail students. Whilst there is a growing international research base that explores practice assessment, it centres on practice educators rather than key sites of decision making within universities, which in the UK, is the practice assessment panel (PAP). The study utilised a mixed methods approach; an online survey and an ethnographic, pilot study of PAPs. The PAPs took place in 4 universities in England and were attended by a range of professionals. Between them, the panels discussed 9 students who had failed the placement. The ethnographic data was analysed using practice-near and psychoanalytically informed methods (Cooper, 2009; Hollway, 2009; Briggs and Hingley-Jones, 2012), thus the researchers own emotional responses were used in the subsequent analysis. Key findings to emerge from the ethnographic data concern the unconscious and painful emotional climate that such decision making appears to prompt in panel members, resulting in a range of defensive behaviours, including deferring difficult decisions and story making. The paper concludes that whilst there is a need for a larger, more representational study, the findings suggest that PAPs, although on the surface, appearing to enable robust quality assurance and assessment mechanisms, unconsciously may provoke defences against anxiety in panel members, which potentially impacts on decision making. This has wider implications for decision making in social work across Europe.



## Ethnography, discourse analysis and phenomenology

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This on-going PhD-project is concerned with hospital social workers. My focus is on their day-to-day professional practices and my study has an ethnographic approach. I am shadowing hospital social workers, following their movements on hospital floors while recording some meetings and conversations on audiotape. The overall focus of my research is negotiations, between individuals as well as individuals and institutions, asking questions such as: how is the hospital social worker profession being constructed? How are patients constructed in relation to this profession? How can this be understood related to overarching perspectives of power, institutional logics/practices and the organization of healthcare in the Swedish context? Theoretically, an interactionist approach and Gubrium & Holsteins understanding of institutional identities inspire me. I am also interested in exploring concepts such as alienation, habitus and durable inequality, as elaborated by Tilly. Methodically I am struggling to make good use of the observations, making them as "tangible" or "legible" as the audio taped and transcribed word. I am elaborating with the possibility of combining discourse analysis with (queer) phenomenology, as described by Ahmed. By doing so I hope to be able to relate to the bodily movements of the hospital social workers (as well as their patients and colleagues) in a similar way as the word in discourse analysis, by understanding movements as directions that can be understood as having intentions, but also an embeddedness in the context at hand. For this conference my primary interest is therefore discussing methodical questions regarding the possibility and potential of combining phenomenology and discourse analysis in ethnography, as well as theory building relating to the concepts of alienation and durable inequality in institutional contexts.



## Understanding needs: a challenge for ethical social work

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Needs are quite a popular and widely used term in social work and social policy. Meeting people's needs has always been an important task for social work professionals. This is also bringing the challenge to social work of how to understand and to research the needs of people in a way to hear people's voice during the research process as well as in the planning of responses to their everyday needs. On the examples of researching needs of older people, drug users, people with mental health problems, and women and children who were suffering from violence is explained how important is to understand people's needs in the context of everyday life, including position of people in the society, their social and health context, types of risks they face, and the assessment of existing services. In researching the needs, the premise that needs are a socially constructed concept was followed, thus expressing them and discussing them would be the first step to people getting heard, to having a voice in planning services and for the planners to get the knowledge from people's experiences, to come closer to users' worlds and their immediate experiences. Ethnographic approach to research gives fascinating advantages. It gives the possibility to record events, moments and situations of needs on one hand and local legends, mythology and beliefs on which social representations of needs and everyday life are constructed on the other. It gives also the possibility to get in contact with special knowledge that a particular community/group/individual have developed and experienced. The results demonstrate that people expressed the most varieties of needs when talking about daily routines and the necessary chores of the day, while the greatest worries were conveyed about changes in the future, mostly related to conditions that maintain an independent life.



The consequences of the mining industry for disadvantaged groups in  
northern Finland and Northern Odisha

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In the midst of the globally on-going resource commodity boom, also interpreted as the race for diminishing raw materials and energy resources, extracting non-renewable resources often competes with other uses of local environments and their resources. While environmental policy should balance the clash of interest between short-term resource mining and longer-term sustainability, underpricing of the environmental resources and their value for local communities is common. The particular expertise that social work has over 'the social' offers unique angles to understand how social and environmental sustainability, as well as social and environmental disadvantage are interlinked. Accordingly, social work has a role to play regarding the socio-environmental impacts of the natural resources management, among other things by working towards effective responses to the social and environmental justice issues that accompany natural resources management. Based on my on-going post-doctoral research (2014-2017), the presentation focuses on the mining industry and its consequences for local people and the environment in two distinct contexts, Northern Finland and Northern Odisha (Eastern India). While the data acquiring through ethnographic participant observation and interviews is still going on during the spring 2015, I will utilize the until then accumulated data as a basis for a tentative analysis and discussion on whether and how the mining industry influences local social work needs and practices in these two regions. I will also shortly deal with the methodological challenges and possibilities of the approach. In the end, the aim is to produce knowledge about the actual and possible roles and responsibilities of social work in situations of conflict over the use of environmental resources. Moreover, the aim is to contribute to the effort to find working approaches to the social and environmental justice issues prevalent in mineral extraction, and generally in resource conflicts.



Sifting historical sources - the thought of social work pioneers on the  
relationship social work & social policy in the progressive era

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Stefan Königeter  
Universität Hildesheim

This workshop focuses on the origins of social work research at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. It aims to reveal the dynamic evolution of the field of social welfare when boundaries between the various compartments of social work were volatile. By presenting and analyzing primary sources from the National Conferences of Social Work (NCSW) in the US (former: National Conferences of Charities and Correction), we aim at reimagining the interconnections of allegedly different strands of social work, such as community work, group work and social case work. The NCSW is a conference series started in the 1880s in the US and became the pivotal forum for social work research, social welfare and social policy in the US, but also internationally. The conference series was a central hub for professionals and academics from various disciplines to discuss the further development on social welfare and social work issues, including educational sciences, sociology, and political sciences. The workshop consists of a presentation of Francisco Branco who will present primary sources of the conference series from Mary Richmond, Jane Addams and other protagonists of the charity organization societies and the settlement movement. These sources will give rich insights into the intersecting discussions of the two supposedly different strands of social work and will show both conflicts and common convictions at the time, particularly that related with social reform debates and perspectives. Stefan Koengeter will also make use of primary sources of this conference and will particularly focus on the relationship between the idea of the individuum, the community and the nation state as three normative ideas directing social work research. The workshop intends to give time for elaborating on the presented sources and will invite participants to join into the reimagination of social work history.



## Families at risk and child protection in time of crisis

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Children rearing and wellbeing in Greece has been deeply affected by the bailout program agreed between Greece and the IMF-EU-ECB, which causes dramatic growth of unemployment, poverty, inequality, racism and of social disorganization. Considerable numbers of the traditional middle-class strata (self-employed, small entrepreneurs, public sector employees) decimated and sunk into the ranks of the new poor. In 2014, official unemployment is 27%, and between youth it is 60,4% (Hellenic Statistical Authority, 2014), while only about 20% of the unemployed get a slim benefit for a period up to 12 months maximum, depending on the time worked before unemployment. Health, insurance and welfare provision has collapsed under the acute pressure for the public cost reduction, while pensions reduction and massive youth immigration has weakened the existed "family based" welfare. Complete overthrow of the life conditions and social values affect mental health by weakening the protective factors that contribute to its development and maintenance (accessibility to adequate resources, safety, dignity) and by increasing the high risk factors (job insecurity, unemployment, increasing social inequality, poverty, social exclusion, criminalization about the situation, particularly of vulnerable groups, the inability to control one's life and uncertainty about the future) for the occurrence of interfamily violence, child neglect and abuse, and mental disorders. Last three years there is a dramatic increase of out-home care provision. This paper traces pressing priorities for specific clinical-family crisis, and foster care interventions, and community interventions in schools and neighborhoods and for particular action recommending and policies targeted to preventing children vulnerabilities and to compacting poverty and educational, health inequalities.





The political and personal dimensions of (non) take-up of monetary social benefits: case of Slovenia

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In 2013 European Commission launched Social Investment Package (SIP), non-binding policy framework seeking to encourage Member States to enhance people's capacities and support their participation in society and the labour market. One of measures is to invest more in the proper design, implementation and assessment of social policies, through compensatory or preventative actions, such as improving the take-up of monetary benefits for vulnerable groups. It seems that this otherwise important SIP measure is not taken seriously by some member states, including Slovenia. In 2012 Slovenia introduced important policy measure influencing take-up levels of beneficiaries, two new acts, significantly changing the landscape of social benefits and rate of take-ups of few benefits such as: child allowance, financial social assistance, income support for pensioners and people who are long-term unable to work for health or other reasons and state scholarship. Research presented will: 1. Show some significant trends regarding take-up and non-take-up in Slovenia. 2. Identify specific groups or individuals who are at-risk of poverty or social exclusion where non-take up pattern appears, and reflect on political, cultural and economic reasons behind non-take up. 3. Suggest interventions to increase the level of take-up among individuals and groups who are at-risk of poverty and/or social exclusion, which will follow SIB measures.



Juvenile delinquency in postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina - involving the user's  
perspective in social work research

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The level of development and availability of various social services in the community in general appears to be a significant factor in the juvenile delinquency. The aim of this study was to analyse influence of social work practice and service delivery for the development of juvenile delinquency in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. The sample of this study included 38 juveniles; 31 parents/guardians of juveniles and 44 representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations working in the field of juvenile delinquency in Tuzla Canton. A qualitative research method was used in this research. Data obtained have been processed in a computer program ATLAS.ti, version 6.2.18. Findings of this study indicate that the availability of social services to juveniles is difficult due to the location of social services, the lack of staff capabilities and overload with other numerous cases as well as with various administrative activities and due to scarce of material resources. These characteristics of social services affect the promptness of responding to juvenile delinquency. Interventions that are most frequently implemented are counselling and educational work with juveniles and families. Juveniles and parents have both positive and negative experiences in relation to social worker's interventions. Most juveniles describe interventions as being called by social workers for a talk, and several spoke of social worker's visit to their home. A handful of juveniles talked about the usefulness of talking to social workers. Also, our results suggest that insufficient prevention activities, inflexibility of social services, absence of programs for intervention, inadequate allocation of resources, no application of legally permitted alternative measures of intervention are circumstances that contribute to insufficient integration and re-socialization of juveniles. In conclusion, our findings suggest that underdevelopment of financial and human resources in social services and inadequate network is context that indirectly affected the development of juvenile delinquency.



Intergenerational solidarity and the changing profile of the Cypriot family:  
the effects of the financial crisis and the role of the welfare state

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This article presents findings on how the financial crisis that has affected Cyprus for the past 3 years may change the profile of the Cypriot family and the way the current generation and the previous one are interrelated. **Methodology:** The sample of the study was welfare benefits' recipients, aged 21 to 56, who had been unemployed from 2-5 years old on average. Participants (n=150) were approached during their training in regaining their social skills in order to be able to return to the market and face the difficulties crisis has caused. Results: Findings indicate that due to the strong relationships that still exist among parents and their married children the latter are still coping with the down effects of this unprecedented socio-economic crisis such as long term unemployment and high dependence to welfare benefits. However the future is not looking that bright if we take in consideration that the unemployment rate among young people in Cyprus is over 17%, the cost of life is still high and families dysfunction due to the effects described above. Therefore this study is showing that issues such as housing or land given as dowry, financial support from the parents towards their married children and family instability due to the crisis are affecting the current status of Cypriot family and the Cypriot society too. In particular this study shows how important is the support of the family to their adult children as they are key providers in a variety of welfare domains (Allen, 2006; Minas, et. al, 2012) such as housing and children care and how this may change in the future due to the fact that the current generation might not be able to support their children to the extent that parents are currently supporting their married children. (Allen, 2006).



## Transmigration as a methodological challenge to urban social work

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This paper engages with the changes in and current methodological approaches to social work with migrants. By demonstrating how the trajectories of many contemporary migrants are marked by an on-going mobility, it further complicates previous linear and unidirectional models of migration and demonstrates that there is a difference in perspective between the translocal and transnational lives of these 'transmigrants' on the one hand versus the locally rooted practices of social workers on the other hand. The authors illustrate how many contemporary migrants come and go, not always being sure how long they will stay in the different stop-overs on their trajectories, when they will stop migrating, or where they will eventually settle. The social life of these transmigrants is not only oriented towards their new countries, but consists of complex networks and contacts beyond boundaries. They constantly shift between different modus operandi and between different visible and invisible, local and global networks. Because of the temporality of their residence in a certain country, many transmigrants are not only faced with the same problems and challenges as other migrants, arriving newly in another country and rebuilding social networks, but are additionally confronted with a number of risks that are related to their mobile life style. While globalization and the porosity of nation-state borders facilitate transmigration, they also result in juridical and practical complexities, reflected in transmigrants' everyday struggles. Although much research has been done on transmigration on the one hand, and on international social work on the other hand, the effect of transmigration on social workers and on social work practice is still under-investigated. Based on social work research in Brussels and Antwerp, the authors discuss the challenges transmigration poses to social work.



"The relation between social work practice and science" - analysis of scientific reasoning of probation officers and social work students

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Evidence-Based Practice is a crucial topic in Social Work research. The epistemology of most of the corresponding studies defines "knowledge as product", although many scientists emphasize the importance of a process-oriented understanding of knowledge (McCracken & Marsh, 2007; Nutley & Davies, 2009; Petr & Walter, 2009; Webb, 2001). In line with these criticisms, our study focuses on reasoning processes of Social Workers, and how they include scientific theories and (experiential and scientific) evidences. Furthermore, we aim to identify hindering and supportive psychological conditions of Social Workers for "science-based reasoning in practice". This term is based on the theoretical background according to Fischer et al. (2014). They define scientific reasoning as a process of eight epistemic activities (problem identification, questioning, hypothesis generation, construction/redesign of artefacts, evidence generation, evidence evaluation, drawing conclusions, communicating/scrutinizing). As antecedents of scientific reasoning, we consider (a) participants' problem-solving scripts (Schank & Abelson, 1977) and (b) their attitudes towards social work as a scientific discipline. Our samples contain 25 probation officers and 25 social work students. The participants think aloud while verbally 'solving' a typical counselling case. In the second instruction they are confronted with scientific evidence which they can include in their elaboration. A content analysis is conducted to identify the problem-solving scripts of the participants, with a particular focus on what epistemic activities they engage in and on what quality level they do so. Furthermore, we developed a questionnaire which measures the participants' attitudes towards social work as a scientific discipline. We are currently analyzing these data and expect results within the next weeks. Besides the empirical findings we are going to focus on the potential of the mentioned concept of scientific reasoning, as well as our research design for social work contexts and present current developments of evidence-based Practice in the German Probation Service.



From probation work to criminal sanctions work: key changes in social work  
with offenders in Finland from the 1960s to today

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The paper addresses key changes in Finnish probation work's rationalities, mentalities and technologies from the 1960's to the present, examining them within a wider governance theory framework. In this paper we ask how the following aspects of probation work have changed: (1) the conditions of probation work, (2) its institutional self-understanding, (3) its work methods, and (4) its objectives. The primary data consists of the annual reports of the Probation Association, the Probation Service and the Criminal Sanctions Agency from 1971-2012. In order to illustrate the arguments presented, we have complemented our primary data with national policy documents and to place our results in context, we have utilized some excerpts from these organizations' trade journals. The thesis is that since the late 1960's, we can distinguish at least two, even three historical layers and governmental strategies in social work with offenders. The latest changes have been connected to several synchronous and multi-layered developments, such as globalisation, a re-orientation of Finnish social policy and the introduction of new methods and tools within probation work. The presentation is based on the article accepted in October 2014 to be published in European Journal of Probation.



## The role of migrant organizations in combating poverty: networks and challenges for collaboration

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Poverty rates among people with a foreign background in Europe are increasing exponentially. Meanwhile, we notice that traditional public services fail to resolve the complex demands of these vulnerable target groups. Literature however points out that migrant organizations can play a central role to combat poverty. We observe, however, that scientific evidence on their specific role in the provision of service towards people in poverty is lacking (Dierckx et al, 2009; Heyse, 2008; Spencer and Cooper, 2006: 51). To effectively combat poverty, these organizations have to collaborate with public services providing crucial services such as financial and material aid. In this presentation we use a mixed method social network analysis to investigate the networks among migrant organizations and public service organizations. The quantitative social network analysis is conducted in a deprived neighbourhood in Belgium. We map a network among both migrant organizations and public organizations. The findings show a gap between migrant organizations at the one hand and public service organizations at the other. The qualitative research is used to explain the lack of collaboration in the network. Our findings detect crucial challenges that must be overcome when bridging the gap between migrant organizations on the one hand and public services at the other, to fulfil the aim of combating poverty of people from vulnerable and foreign target groups.



Social exclusion among migrating communities: the case of Bathore, a suburb of Tirana

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Social exclusion is a new paradigm; however, in the last decade, it has become a subject of major importance in contemporary social work and a core feature of social policy developments. Social exclusion is closely related to individual participation (being economic, social or/and political), power, integration, and social capital rather than with solely economic income. This paper aims to further contribute in the area by looking at the issue of social exclusion among migrants. The target of our research is Bathore, one of the largest squatter settlements, formed in the early 1990s, in Albania. We explore on its socio-demographic characteristics as well as on the dimensions that social exclusion takes for the individuals of this migrating community. A cross-sectional survey was employed during 2012 to generate quantitative data from a sample of 600 household, out of a total of 6546. The descriptive dimension of the study pictures the profile of Bathore population. The explanatory dimension aims at identifying the relations among a selected set of indicators including individual capabilities, economic status and role of social capital - measured as frequency of participation in social and kinship networks. It is found that education is a key factor in social, cultural and political participation. Education is also crucial for the overall socialization process. Findings show that in terms of social capital primary networks (family/kinship) predominate over secondary networks (friends and acquaintances). Poverty is a key word and unemployment is often a precondition for social exclusion. However, even when employed, incomes are insufficient to cover individual and family needs. Permanent unemployment deprives individuals from social participation. We conclude highlighting the main determinants of social exclusion for this migrant population - employment, education, and civic/cultural participation. Finally, the paper provides a set of recommendations for policy-making and further research in the area.





Social work and integration of migrants: mainstreaming Qutommo project's culture and gender sensitive integration model

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The European Union defines integration as a two-way process in which both the migrant and the receiving society have to adapt to, and accommodate, each other. In Finland, the current integration policies and indicators of integration focus on employment and the learning of the Finnish language. Other indicators of integration beyond those two aspects are often quite difficult to measure or paid any attention to. In line with the dialogue platforms recommended in the European Commission's Handbook on Integration, Qutommo Project organises "cooperation forums". Utilizing the concepts of participatory action research, the forums are organized to facilitate integration of migrants through dialogue with the different sectors (government officials, NGOs, academics, and third-country nationals) with emphasis on promoting active participation of migrants and the development of an innovative culture and gender sensitive model of integration. Unlike other dialogue platforms, migrants are viewed as equal partners in the dialogue and more importantly, as a valuable resource for the development of integration services. Based from the data gathered in the forums, the project has published: "Towards a culture and gender sensitive integration path: a handbook for integration service providers". This handbook as well as the model, is currently being mainstreamed in the City of Vantaa through a series of workshops offered to a pilot group that consists mostly of social workers and other integration service providers from the City. The workshops encourage the participants to first, reflect on their own practices in providing social services for migrants; second, build a functioning cooperation network for promoting best practices and information exchange (practical and research-based) and lastly, to ensure that the culture and gender sensitive integration model will be mainstreamed in the City's integration services. The Qutommo Project has already been cited as a good practice at both the national and local level in Finland.



## Poverty, shame and child protection practice in England

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This presentation discusses the findings of Giving Poverty a Voice, a collaborative project with ATD Fourth World, an international human rights organization working with families living in poverty. The project brought together family members living in poverty with experience of child protection services, academics and practitioners in four workshops. The aims of the project are to develop a training programme for social workers on work with families living in poverty to be delivered by the family members, and also to contribute more widely to the development of critical social work practice. The theme of this presentation is poverty and shame. Family members identified that living in poverty was more than just lack of resources, but was also about being treated with a lack of dignity and respect. Shame is regarded as individually felt but socially constructed and imposed on people living in poverty by the hegemonic narrative of general public discourse and their dealings with others around them. Drawing on Lister's theory of the politics of redistribution and recognition & respect, family member's narratives of their experiences of social work practice were analyzed and 'Othering' processes identified. The feelings of shame associated with poverty were compounded by experiences of a child protection system that left many feeling powerless, voiceless, unfairly blamed and on occasions 'set up to fail'. Social work, however, can also be experienced differently through practice that recognizes the complex interactions between personal problems and structural inequality and pays attention to the use of professional power in ways that promote rather than diminish human dignity and family members' capabilities.



The practice of giving voice in Swedish disability organizations: from political social movements to lobbying professionals?

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Research on advocacy in the context of disability organizations has directed focus to the politics of disability and to what extent advocacy reflects an inclusive strategy practiced by disability organizations. In this paper we highlight somewhat different perspectives of advocacy and political voice as practiced by disability organizations. Based on survey material from Swedish non-profit disability organizations we investigate how factors linked to relational, organizational and environmental aspects may lead to Swedish non-profit organizations holding back in their critique towards local government. Recent research on advocacy and non-profit organizations (NPOs) suggests that resource dependency can be an incentive to engage in advocacy. However, research also points at the difficulties in exploring the nature of advocacy, and in assessing whether advocacy has been compromised as a consequence of, for example, resource dependency. The paper reports from an ongoing project on Swedish disability NPOs. Preliminary results support discussions about both nature and content of advocacy in the wake of a changing social welfare state. In spite of some degree of resource dependency, organizations do not hold back in their critique of the local municipality that fund their activities. Results also reveal that advocacy is primarily exerted through informal contacts with local politicians and officials. While this can be interpreted as a sign that these civil society based organizations are indeed an important critical voice in the context of social welfare policy, it also suggests that the means through which voice is expressed are not transparent. Based on a historical perspective of changes within the disability movement in Sweden, the paper discusses the meaning of the survey results and raises questions regarding the future function and representative role of Swedish disability NPOs.



## Access to justice for children with mental disabilities

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The research conducted focused on the rights and participation in the decision making process of children with mental disabilities (mental health problems and intellectual disabilities) in judicial and non judicial procedures regarding their place of living, education and criminal justice, in ten European countries. The project has been founded by the EC and has been produced based on findings generated in conjunction with MDAC in Budapest. The main research questions were: how can children with mental disabilities choose where and with whom they live, how can they access inclusive education and get the support they need, and how are they protected by and supported in the criminal justice system as victims, witnesses and defendants. The research has been held in three phases; desk research, deeper desk research and empirical field research. The phases followed one another so we could also compare the availability of data to the general public to how much data is not accessible. The results of the research in Slovenia have shown that on the declarative level children with mental disabilities overall have a lot of rights, especially since Slovenia has ratified the Convention of children rights and the Convention of the rights of people with disabilities. But in everyday life these rights amount to very few. There has been a lot of experimentation in this area and a lot of projects conducted by NGO's, but none of them were later integrated in legislation. The prevalent model of care and education for children with disabilities is still segregated and institutional. The most progressive judicial system in terms of protection of children rights is probably the criminal justice system, but even there it was noticed that the professionals involved in these proceedings have very little knowledge and experience working with children with disabilities in general.



Building a sense of coherence and wellbeing through inclusive music classes: re-imagining the social work role in supporting disabled children and young people to see alternative futures

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This paper presents findings from a study on the social impact of participating in inclusive music classes (Play On) on the lives of disabled children and young people. Qualitative data were collected for the study through observation of Play On classes and performances, talking to the participants about their experience of Play On, parent/carer questionnaire and a focus group with Play On staff. Involvement in the inclusive music classes was found to impact on the self-esteem, achievement and overall wellbeing of the disabled children/young people. The development of these transferable life skills was seen to be contesting and layering the identities of the children and young people, replacing a narrow vision centred around their disability, with more positive identities that included being a musician and being motivated to achieve in other areas of their lives. The findings are interpreted through an assets-based approach and Antonovsky's sense of coherence in the context of wellbeing and having a purpose to one's life. The findings are further explored within the current and changing landscape of Scottish social services. Personalisation, co-production and inclusion are key policy drivers that are re-shaping social work practice in Scotland as new ways are sought to engage with and address the marginalisation, isolation and alienation experienced by the people who connect with social services. It will be argued that social work must move away from traditional service provision to engage with creating opportunities to support service users to lead meaningful and full lives through access to activities that are available to the majority population. Inclusive music classes is used as an example of ways for disabled children and young people to develop transferable life skills and meaning in their lives that can support them in imagining and working towards a future that is not circumscribed by their disability.



Labour market lintegration of youngsters leaving foster care centers: the  
Romanian case

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The study addresses to labor market integration moment of youngsters leaving foster care centers. The study data are the result of a qualitative research conducted in 2014. The research had as a target group experts and specialists whose work interferes with youth from placement centers or youth over 17 years old who have experienced foster homes. Following a brief overview of the social protection system, particularly the one of residential type in Romania, this study focuses on the issues that may occur in the labor market integration of youth; professional supply of young people, the mediation and employment available services (both public and private sector) as well as the demand that these youth come into contact. Against the backdrop of a severe trauma as a result of temporary or permanent separation from their biological family; at the end of an irregular period of education and training, youth relate in different ways to the labor market. Thus, there are several sub-groups of young people with different socio-economical trajectories. The research identified an overprotection approach of children's rights as long as they are under the protection measure, a protection that doesn't appear in further relationships. After the age of 18, often the first contact with the labor market takes even less than a month. From that moment, the preparation for socio-economical integration follows new rules and takes more several years until the young (re)defines his relationship with society and labor market. Nowadays, the social protection systems, including the one dedicated to young people are faced with challenges coming from economical trends, from labor market and from social dynamics they generate. Successful initiatives in youth employment as well as the main findings of this research will underline a possible solution for youth protection policy in front of this challenge.



Researching the role of social work in providing autonomy and empowerment of residents in homes for older people in Slovenia

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Institutional care for older people is the most developed and widespread form of care for older people in Slovenia. In 2008, Slovenia achieved the socio-political goal of ensuring institutional care for 5% of people over 65. Social work in homes for older people aims to prevent categorization and stigmatization of senior citizens. The conceptualisation of social work enables social worker to consider residents as equal partners and participants in institutional life, which is an approach that enables shifts in the operation of such an institution towards greater adjustment to residents' individual needs. It modifies the institutional regime whose founding concept is such that it restricts and neglects older people and their interests. We researched the realisation of such practices in qualitative research with 58 residents and 24 social workers in 2013. We sought to establish how much control over their own lives residents had and whether they were able to exert influence to improve the quality of care, achieve greater autonomy and increase participation. We found that social workers played an important role in providing good quality of life, by developing personalized, integrated care with emphasis on providing autonomy and participation of residents. The foundations for changes are in place. Individualization of care could be achieved with the method of reminiscence - listening and writing down the residents past life. This approach enables us to research key events in lives of older people and the changes brought about by these events, the sources of power and ways of reorganizing the lives of the residents. The stories can become an important part in a working relationship. With their stories the residents get their chance to be heard and empowered in their institutional life. But for social workers the residents stories are the instruments for achieving individualised care.



## Observing successful care homes

Helky Häkli

University of Jyväskylä/Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius, Finland

The public media and studies in Finland have recently revealed serious problems in residential care. According to them, the every day life is often very routine and inflexible and lacks stimulation. Positive activities can be so few, that they are only "like colour spots in the dead sea", as anthropologist Erving Goffman argued. There is sufficient data about poor care, but not much about good. That's why this research seeks to address question: what kind of place seems to be a successful care home? In my presentation I will analyze and evaluate my ethnographic field work in those Finnish care homes that are considered to be successful. Previous studies have noted, that studying frail elderly is a relatively challenging task with traditional interviews. The major problem has been how to give "voice" to the frail residents living in care homes. Fore that reason I came up with the conclusion to use alternative methods like observation and Photo Elicitation. The latter contains photos and videos and interviews based on them. According the results, a good, successful care home offers such concrete things as enough staff, possibility to have life outside the nursing home and visitors passing at any time, and cozy furnishing. Still, non-material factors seem to be more important than the material. Many of those non-material things together can be defined as "authenticity". As conclusion it seems, that successful care home is neither overwhelming nor expensive for care partners. The factors described above may be crucial in terms of how successfully nursing home works as a transitional phase towards the end of life. To see happy and safe life endings can bring hope and empower for the younger generations.





Collaboration between health care and social care but without trained social workers! An implementation of multi-professional teams for coherent care of multi-ill older people

Ulla Melin Emisson

Linnæus University and Lund University, Sweden

The lack of cooperation between welfare state organisations is a well-known problem of significance for the weakest groups in society. Difficulties with coordination, continuity, information transfer and collaboration between professions are problems not only in Sweden. In order to mend the gap and improve the care for multi-ill older people a series of projects was applied in 19 counties financed by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. One of the ways that would solve the collaboration problems was the creation of multi-disciplinary teams. By following one of those projects focused on multi-professional work the implementation and effects were studied. Data consisted of event diaries, observations, focus groups, structured questionnaires to the elderly and interviews. Findings showed that multi-professional teams certainly were established, but did not last. However without trained social workers, which is interesting as health care social workers with a holistic approach as the main hallmark usually represent the contact between the health care and social care for the elderly. Among the obstacles reported the various professions own organizations and territorial thinking were the most prominent. The elderly with multiple illnesses witnessed no increased cooperation between the municipal-based care and the county council based health care system. Despite considerable funding and staffing the elderly did not experience any improvement of the care they received. One question that remains for future studies is whether qualified social work could make a difference?



Whose evidence is it anyway?

Sigrid James

University of Kassel and Loma Linda University

The evidence-based practice (EBP) movement has had a significant impact on social work practice and policy in many Anglo-American countries and beyond. While EBP was originally conceived to be the integration of solid research evidence, best clinical practice and client preferences (Sackett et al., 1996), it has come to be increasingly identified with specific practices, which have been established as effective through scientific research according to a clear set of explicit criteria (Drake et al., 2001), i.e., standardization, evaluation through a controlled research design, use of objective measures, and confirmation of findings through different research teams (Torrey et al., 2001). Various entities and organizations, i.e. clearinghouses, professional associations, play a significant role in appraising the degree of research evidence (e.g., promising, effective) of specific practices, and disseminating this information to practice communities. Yet which practices deserve to receive the evidence-based label remains a matter of much discussion and disagreement, and there is indication that divergent conceptualizations exist between practice, policy and research communities about its appropriate use (DiGennaro Reed & Reed, 2008). Using two studies a) one national and one regional, b) that were conducted in the United States to examine the use of EBP in residential care settings, this workshop has the following aims: (1) It will introduce participants to the process of reviewing and rating practices as 'effective,' using the example of one clearinghouse site's evaluation process. (2) Comparing two different data collection methods used in the studies to elicit information about providers' use of EBP, participants will have a chance to discuss each method's advantages and limitations. (3) Lastly, findings of the two studies will be discussed in light of what they reflect about providers' conceptualizations about EBP and what the implications may be for the implementation of EBP in practice communities.



Effecting change in social life: critical realism, action research and social work

Stan Houston  
Stan Houston, Queen's University Belfast

There is a growing interest in critical realism and its application to social work. This presentation makes a case for adopting this philosophical position in qualitative social work research. More specifically, it suggests that there is a concordance between critical realist premises and action research. In this context, the retroductive approach in critical realism is examined and applied to the action research process of cyclical inquiry. This combination of philosophy and method, it is argued, promotes anti-oppressive social work research. Overall, the presentation underscores the importance of 'depth' in qualitative inquiry by conceiving the social world as stratified in terms of a number of interlacing domains, all with underpinning mechanisms that can potentially help or hinder social change.



## What is the use of critical realist theory in ethnographic research?

Harry Lunabba

Swedish School of Social Science at University of Helsinki

It is rather uncommon to have an articulated theory orientation in ethnographic research. Post-modern ethnographers tend to emphasize open-ended empirically grounded approaches with the aim to represent the complexity and subjectivity of the social reality. However, whereas post-modern ethnography acknowledges the subjectivity of social reality, it fails to set any standards for what is a legitimated account of the social world. If social reality is a matter of subjective interpretation, it is fair to ask: what makes a scientific and ethnography based statement legitimated as scientific? In my presentation I will address how the use of critical realist theory, particularly the work of Derek Layder, can support scientific argumentation in the line of ethnographic research. Referring to critical realist theory, social structures are considered 'real' and it is possible to demonstrate through scientific and ethnographic means how social structures condition social activities. A key assumption is that critical realist theory provides not just a frame of thought to understand the complex links between social actions and underlying social structures. Critical realist theory gives also methodological tools to explore and illustrate the connections between structures and actions through adaptive research practice. The empirical examples in the presentation are based on an ethnographic study conducted in two upper-level compulsory schools in Helsinki. I will also present how I will implement critical realism based methodology in an upcoming ethnographic study on psychosocial work with boys and young masculinities.



Reflections of using CALMeR-theory as theoretical, methodological and analytical framework

Anu-Riina Svenlin

Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius, University of Jyväskylä

The topic of the Phd research project is how support family as child welfare intervention is constructed and functions. Support family is a way to provide regular one weekend in a month-respite care for the parent and new contacts and a safe environment for the child in a stressful life situation. Support family is a voluntary family, providing social support to another family. A host of small scale studies have affirmed that the intervention is popular among service users, social workers and volunteers. But the intervention has never been evaluated, even if a wide definition of evaluation is used. (Brännström, Vinnerljung & Hjern 2013.) It can thus far been described as an essentially faith-based intervention. The research questions are following: 1) What are the basic presumptions guiding the implementation of support family as intervention, 2) What kind of effects has the support for the children and parents, 3) What kind of mechanisms and contextual factors can explain the effects of support family intervention? The theoretical and methodological framework of the research is grounded on critical realism and the CALMeR-theory (Blom & Morén 2010). The aim of the CALMeR-theory (Context-Actor-Intervention-Mechanism-Result) is to create explanative knowledge: how and why results emerge from the content of an intervention. It provides a holistic approach to research social work practice and social work interventions. In empirical work the model can be combined with different type of qualitative and quantitative data: journals, interviews, questionnaires and diaries etc. In the research project CALMeR-theory is applied to study and open up one singular intervention and its "black box". In the presentation experiences and first steps of a CALMeR-theory based data collection and analysis will be reflected and discussed.



## Knowledge forms and empirical research concepts in social work

Arno Heimgartner  
University of Graz

The contribution deals with knowledge forms and the possibilities of empirical research in Social Work. Different authors discuss the question which knowledge forms researchers use (c.f. v. Spiegel 2004, Höder 2010, Heimgartner 2011). Examples are existence, description, evaluation, explanation, effect or planning. Little attention is dedicated to the connection of knowledge forms and research concepts. Although single research concepts are often discussed (e.g., evaluation, ethnography, case studies, effect analysis), a collection of research concepts for Social Work is not given. The contribution tries to counteract against that scientific situation and tries to present a collection of research concepts. Besides, it is considered, which knowledge forms by which research concepts are accented. This analysis is embedded in a typical course of studies, for which, moreover, different dimensions of quality can be defined. Different empirical research examples are given to illustrate the relationship between knowledge forms and research concepts. The research examples refer especially to an ethnographic study in the area of after-school clubs (Gpurning, Heimgartner, Leitner & Sting 2011), a social planning study in the area of the children and youth help (Heimgartner & Scheipl 2013) and an evaluation study in the area of school social work with ten different empirical modules (Bugram, Gspurning, Heimgartner, Hofschwaiger, Pieber & Stigler 2014).



An intervention-research with Roma living in extreme poverty -  
methodological and ethical challenges

Monique Eckmann  
University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, Geneva

Since Free Movement of Persons for European Citizens to Switzerland was implemented, extremely poor Roma from Romania come to Geneva expecting to earn some money. They live outdoors, the municipality only providing shelters during the winter. Their presence in Geneva provokes the same hostile reactions as have been observed all over Europe. In view of the severe daily difficulties experienced by the Roma and regarding the paradoxical reactions of the local population and of the authorities, a network of social workers and local authorities is attempting to find pragmatic local solutions. The research presented here works alongside this network and seeks to contribute to public policy in a context in which experts and politicians address "the Roma problem", without taking into account the voices of the Roma themselves concerning the problems they face. When undertaking research with underprivileged groups, researchers cannot restrict themselves to collecting data, they also have to heed the possible impact of research on the persons themselves. As a group difficult to reach, a proximity approach is needed, including a significant period of local immersion and trust-building; especially because the Roma constitute a highly marginalized population discriminated against not only by public services, but also by social workers, in the past as well as and in present. The research team has opted for a methodology based on group discussions for persons not familiar with articulating life-stories and experiences; following the principles of community action, they combine social intervention with tools for collecting research data. The presentation will focus on methods, results, and discuss dilemmas and challenges related to the enormous inequality of power between the researcher-team and these Roma.



## The client's view on cooperation in the context of social welfare

Miryam Eser

Zürich University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work

This study focused on the cooperation of professional social workers with their clients in the context of social welfare with the intention to give both perspectives the same weight. There were 12 users and their social workers in three different social services involved. The sample was formed by cases indicated by the social workers, which the characterized as a difficult cooperation or with difficulties in the past - from which we have chosen a smaller sample (N=12) respecting different criterias. We observed and registered (audio) a consultation and interviewed individually the users as well as the professionals to point out their perceptions and views of their interaction and cooperation including the institutional frame. The qualitative analysis of the collected material was put in connection and led to a typology of patterns of interaction as well as a model of fields of tensions caused by the needs and life problems of the clients and the institutional conditions of social work. The user's view with their definitions, interpretations and explications of the difficulties regarding the cooperation with their social workers showed that they fear for their dignity, the pressure of financial problems, their helplessness to fulfill the expectations etc. and the gap with the requirement of the social services. Due to the status difference and cognitive resources/skills of users and professionals, the research process required challenging confrontation of the two perspectives to give them the same weight and to treat the two groups as "equally" as possible.





## Isolated elderly - difficult access to a vulnerable group

Milena Gehrig

ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work

The resources available to cope with different burden change and capacity for action is limited as people age. Therefore social inclusion in the neighbourhood is becoming increasingly important. The presented two studies are dedicated to elderly people in domestic care settings and elderly migrants, two particularly vulnerable groups about whose social integration little is known. To understand the living situation of elderly migrants in their neighbourhood and their networking needs, personal interviews with elderly migrants were conducted and ideas for intervention to enhance social integration of elderly migrants in their neighbourhood were developed and implemented in a participatory process. The study on elderly people cared for at home by relatives focussed narratives of family carers, of elderly who need care and of professional care givers about their experienced challenges in the specific situation of domestic care. Whereas findings from both a users' and professionals' perspective show that a relationship of dependence turns out to be a risk factor for violence in domestic care, isolation and not accepting help are specifically addressed by professionals. By presenting the findings of both studies I would like to discuss the importance of including the perspective of elderly and the challenges to gain access to the particularly vulnerable group of isolated elderly. Due to limited access to the target group in both studies data was collected only on well integrated people who accept help and support. At the workshop I would like to discuss the impacts on the results of the study and on the practical implementations when no data could have been gathered on people considered to be the main target group.



## Mothers with a mental illness as users of the public welfare system

Renate Gutmann  
University of Zürich

In a qualitative study mothers suffering from a mental illness were asked about their needs, their strategies in the communication with the professional welfare system, and the provided help. The sample frame consists of 14 guideline based interviews with mothers suffering from a mental illness. The applied research method for the analyses is guided by Grounded Theory. The results consist of case studies and a comparative study over the 14 cases. The findings show individual strategies of the mothers to address their needs and to communicate with the professionals. In most cases the women's communication is influenced by ambivalence between the hope of getting support and the fear the authorities may take action over an alleged lack of parenting skills. This is particularly visible when they are asked about their children. Many of them wish for more practical help in everyday life, instead of screenings and normative guidelines. Some of them show considerable difficulties to make sense of the many different professionals and their functions in the big public welfare system. A key factor for successful support can be found in long term contacts, where a trusting relationship between users and professionals of the public welfare system can be established. Often it takes a long period of time to strengthen the sense of being supported and weaken the sense of being controlled. Existing data gives insight into how the communication is seen from the perspective of professionals, yet to date the views of the mothers have not been looked at a great deal. The aim of this research is to fill this gap and connect the two perspectives. To understand the view of the users can help to professionalize the work with and support for this target group.



Back to everyday life - the perspective of mothers with an alcohol  
dependence

Samuel Keller

Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work

Silvia Gavez

Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work

The presented study is dedicated to alcohol-dependent women with children with the aim, to investigate the impact of motherhood as a factor in the treatment of alcohol. All mothers in the investigated study have undergone in-patient treatment or have attended on a day basis in the "Forel Clinic", Competence Centre for the treatment of alcohol, medication and tobacco dependence. Studies show that alcohol dependent mothers have a relatively high rate of relapse. But little is actually known about specific challenges in everyday life of mothers after having received treatment of alcohol dependence. To understand individual meaning of motherhood and alcohol dependence, the qualitative study focussed mothers' narratives about their experiences and changes after treatment of alcohol. There were two meetings questioning the clients, the first one at the end of treatment, the second about six months later. At the workshop we want to show the importance of involving the users' perspectives in social work research and to discuss main challenges within narrative data in and after clinical interventions. On the basis of the results of the qualitative study we will show that there is a gap between the clinical context and the day-to-day living. In the clinical context focus is on intra-personal issues, whereas in the everyday live after treatment inter-personal experiences and expectations (of mothers' family) are of main importance. By presenting findings in users' perspectives we want to discuss how to assess the challenges of the mothers and how to optimize translation into therapy-settings and the afterwards care.



Educating against all odds: the content and context of social work education in times of national crisis in Greece

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Background Greece is four years into a socio-economic crisis where oppression has increased as a result of austerity measures driven by the political parties in governance and Troika. In a context of attack in social care and social work (recent abolition of the Social Work Department in Patras), the pursuit of anti-oppressive practice is more crucial than ever. Reflecting on this need, a doctoral research project was carried out asking: What is the role of social work education in influencing students' ability to manage value tensions in relation to anti-oppressive practice within the current context of social work education in Greece? Methods: Using a qualitative case study methodology, the research was based in Patras - one of the four national Departments of Social Work (subsequently abolished). Semi-structured interviews from social work students pre and post professional education (n=32) and academic staff/placement supervisors (n=10). Data analysis was informed by a ground theory approach. Results: The study revealed social work education's failure in stimulating the development of an anti-oppressive self in students, based on outdated and ineffective educational policies. This presentation will focus on: (i) social work education's content on anti-oppressive values; (ii) the conditions and the context of social work training. The perspectives of staff and final year students will be compared and contrasted in each case. Conclusions and Implications: Social work's commitment to challenging oppression and the promotion of social change are crucial principles especially in times of crisis. These need to be reflected in social work practice and education as both have a significant role to play in current climate of fiscal constraint in Greece.



## Social justice is the rock: social work students' learning about social justice on placement

Justine O'Sullivan

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Social justice is a core principle of social work and a social justice framework underpins the knowledge and teaching in social work education programs in Australia. Field education offers students the opportunity to discover the complexities of social work practice. While field education is an integral component of social work education, there is insufficient research on the inclusion of social justice principles within field education. This under-researched area was explored in my doctoral thesis and is the focus of this presentation. Students' understandings of social justice and observations of learning about social justice during field education were sought and discussed. This qualitative study involved in-depth interviews of 32 social work students, new graduates, field educators, managers and academics each with an acknowledged interest in social justice in social work placements. Using a critical theory perspective, these interviews were thematically analysed. The key findings will be discussed: Field education was viewed as central to students developing practice with a social justice focus. Students and new graduates understandings of social justice and the significant influences on these were identified. Key sites of learning and the struggles engaged with were also identified. Field educators, agency managers and academics described how they assisted students to link their experiences to theoretical models and the challenges that they observed. In using a critical theory perspective this study affirms the central importance of field education for learning about social justice and exposes tensions between field education, campus learning and the social context for future social work practitioners with a social justice focus.



## Considerations for choosing social work profession and professional preferences of retraining program students in Israel

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**Background:** Retraining learning programs of social work are designed for BA graduates who have studied other subjects, and take place in various forms. This study aims to examine the considerations of choosing a social work profession as a career among retraining program students, and their professional preferences, in light of the increased number of such programs in Israel. In the current study a comparison was made between 56 retraining program students and 69 regular program students in their final academic year. Research Questions: 1. Are there differences in considerations of choosing social work profession, and professional preferences among retraining program students compared to regular program students? 2. Would there be a connection between the activities of students during their field work training, and professional preferences? Instruments: 1. Demographic questionnaire. 2. Questionnaire of considerations and factors that influence choosing the social work profession. 3. Questionnaire of students' professional preferences regarding client populations, social services, welfare sectors, and intervention methods. Results and Conclusion: Retraining program students attributed greater importance to considerations of choice of profession for personal development, satisfaction, and interest in therapy; while working conditions were more important for regular program students. In addition, previous contact with a social worker as a family member or friend, and personal experience related to the profession had more influence on retraining program students; whereas military service or voluntary national service had more influence on regular program students. The retraining program students preferred to engage in direct intervention with individuals, and in policy practice more than the other students. Several correlations have been found between various preferences of populations and services, and field work training. The practical conclusion of the study is that the retraining program curriculum, both academic and practical, should be better adapted to the needs of contemporary social work.



## Supervision buddiestransforming social work students' identity in the first year of the programme

Kirsteen Laidlaw  
University of Cumbria

As an academic social work team we have based our current programmes on three 'signature pedagogies' (Shulman, 2005). Two of these are constructivist, transformative learning and practice based professional learning. The statement "All learning is change but not all change is transformative" (Mezirow, 2004) resonates with our approach. The transformation we strive for in our first year students is from 'fresher' to student social worker, becoming aware of the requirements of professional behaviour as well as beginning to form their social work identity and understanding of the values and knowledge required to be an effective practitioner. As a development from this, the focus of developing our pedagogical delivery is to recognise the practice related skills students can begin to develop whilst on campus, which will also enhance their practice learning and ensure that as students they begin to integrate theory into practice from the beginning of the programme. One initiative we have established in our pre-registration programmes is that of a 'supervision buddy'. Tutors allocate buddies to ensure there is an unusual dyad, a buddy that students would not normally socialise with outside of class. Time is allocated within the timetable for weekly sessions. Tutors spend time delivering the concept and parameters of supervision. Students choose from a variety of quiet areas within the campus and floating tutorial support is on hand during the allotted time. The initial focus of these sessions is to enable students to discuss their learning from taught sessions and identify how this relates to the module learning outcomes and both formative and summative assessments. Students will be able to discuss their transition to student social workers to support their assessment as 'Ready for Direct Practice' by the end of the first year of the programme.



Mater social work students' orientation toward the evidence based practice process: a comparison with social workers

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**Background:** In the Netherlands, social workers are now increasingly being urged by policymakers to engage in EBP (Evidence-based Practice). However, we found that Dutch social workers have a relatively low acceptance of and engagement in the EBP process (Van der Zwet, Beneken genaamd Kolmer, & Schalk, 2014). In 2009, a new Master Social Work (MSW) program was initiated, to create new professionals who focus on the effectiveness of interventions. Until then, we only had Intermediate Vocational Education and Higher Vocational Education. Aim: Recognizing that the EBP process can only be successfully implemented if social workers believe it is both important and feasible; the current study assesses whether MSW students are more oriented to the EBP process and are more engaged in the EBP process than social workers. Methods: Data were collected from 341 Dutch social workers and from 32 MSW students. The survey included several background / demographic questions and Dutch translation of the original EBP Process Assessment Scale (EBPPAS) (Rubin & Parrish, 2011), which includes five separate subscale constructs: (1) familiarity/self-efficacy with the EBP process, (2) attitudes toward the EBP process, (3) perceived feasibility to engage in the EBP process, (4) intentions to engage in the EBP process, and (5) actual self-reported EBP behaviors. Results: MSW students are more strongly oriented toward the EBP process than social workers, they have more positive attitudes toward EBP, they are more familiar with it and have more intentions to engage in it. However, MSW students are less positive about the feasibility of implementing EBP in practice than social workers. Although MSW students are more engaged in the EBP process, there is a need for improvement. Conclusion: We recommend policymakers to consider focusing on MSW level social workers when developing future initiatives to improve the implementation of the EBP process in practice.





## User involvement and changes in professional attitude

Sigrid Nordstoga  
University of Agder

This paper is based on a preliminary evaluation of a program on Knowledge-making Networks, tending to understand the impact of "user's knowledge" in services given in mental health care and drug abuse. For a period of three years, users worked with professional staff to raise the awareness of users' participation. All participants collaborated on programs in their own organisations or public services. Teaching and tutoring were provided by university, and participants could obtain academic credit. Two years after, I am in the process of reinvestigating the impact of this cooperation between professionals and users, and the possible consequences. A segment of the participants were subject to an in-depth interview on the influence of the program and the relevance to professional social work. The professionals tended to elaborate on the necessity of change in attitude vs. the users after having involved them in the professional context. These changes were related to a stronger personal engagement, a more emphatic relation in general, and a more open and wider perspective from the professionals in the program. Some of them singled out the need for "a tabula rasa", starting with empty sheets. The professionals focused on being open to a range of new topics which were brought into discussion by users themselves. They seem to touch upon more existential problems in a widened perspective than previously acknowledged. From the perspective of the users, they emphasized on a significant recovery by participating in this cooperation. They considered themselves as useful, giving their own input and thereby creating a higher level of equality. Some of them returned to normal jobs by the end of the program. The paper has its main focus on changes and reorientation among staff, as a result of user involvement in social services.



Social work assessment of adolescent alcohol consumption non-specialised  
public social service comparison between Italy and Sweden

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Matteo Di Placido  
Lund University

Alcohol habits are of major social and public health concern. Adolescents in Europe experience alcohol use at an early age, and often this behaviour is perceived as problematic because of its health and social consequences (Rolando & Kaitainen, 2014). This has obvious repercussions on professionals working in public social services for families, in particular when the problem of alcohol consumption is not the central focus of intervention. The present study develops from previous broad research on assessment among Nordic countries (Blomberg et al., 2012) successfully extended to Italy, and analyses and compares Italian and Swedish social workers' responses to a given vignette-case focusing on underage alcohol consumption. The hypothesis of the study is that national drinking culture and their socialisation processes primarily influence social workers' practices and attitudes towards underage alcohol consumption. Social workers socialised in a particular drinking culture embed certain aspects of it during their professional life, hence influencing their judgement of a given social work case, the risks they associate with drunken teenagers and the types of intervention envisioned. The following research questions have been developed in order to guide the research: Is the situation proposed in the vignette regarded as a social work case? What risks do social workers associate with drunken teenagers? What kinds of interventions are suggested? Results show significant variations between Italian and Swedish social workers' assessments. Italian social workers are, in general, more worried and interventionist than are their Swedish counterparts. However the Italian social service mandate appears to be fragmented among different service units. The assessment implemented by social workers appears to be informed by cultural understandings of alcohol consumption which permeate and reveal predominant tendencies in the two groups of professionals. Further elements influencing the assessment are found in the legislative framework and in the social and health services network.



"Parachuting in"? Research into practice as cultural outsiders

Sarah Galvani

Manchester Metropolitan University

Annette Fleming

Aquarius

Historically UK alcohol service provision has been dominated by individual counselling approaches and a clientele that is primarily white middle aged men. Such provision has been criticised for being inaccessible to many people from black and minority ethnic communities and for adopting intervention methods or 'talking therapies' that are not culturally comfortable. Previous attempts by specialist alcohol agencies to access these communities have been met with accusations of "white" services "parachuting in" existing models of practice rather than consulting and working with the community to develop appropriate service models. Aquarius, an England-based alcohol charity, sought to address its growing concerns about alcohol-related harm within a Punjabi Sikh community in Birmingham. In particular, older Punjabi Sikh men were presenting to emergency hospital services with latter stages of alcohol-related health problems. Aquarius' concern was that its existing services were not reaching the community and not identifying these men early enough to minimise their alcohol-related health problems. Given the prohibition of alcohol consumption among baptised Sikhs and the heavy drinking culture among Punjabi men, the tensions and sensitivities around this topic were highly evident from the outset. This paper begins with reflections from an exploratory research project that used ethnographic methods to establish the views of people within this Punjabi Sikh community about its alcohol use and service needs. This paper will outline the key lessons learned from the research process, the tensions and challenges of researching as cultural outsiders, and the steep learning curve of the research team. It will then outline the transferable lessons from the research to practice development and how such lessons underpinned the next steps in Aquarius' work with the community. Implications for social work community and practice development with a minority community in any geographical context will be highlighted.



Promoting mental health minimising mental illness and integrating through education: development of the program in the field of alcohol and drug use and addiction

Amra Šabić

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Work

Concept of health promotion is becoming increasingly visible in the Slovenian as well as in European political and social life. The author will present the role of Faculty of social work (Slovenia) had in European project called PROMISE, which aimed to build upon the achievement of previous relevant public mental health promotion projects on uniform guidelines for the training of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses and social workers. The aim of the guidelines is to provide a series of recommendations in the form of best practice indicators to help professionals and communities to develop and evaluate quality training programmes for professionals in the area of alcohol and drug use and addiction prevention in Europe and it was a base for preparation of the Resource Kit, training material and module training. Guidelines were created through three stages of research: evaluation of the key European documents, revive of the current state on promotion and prevention, case study and final external evaluation. On the base of collected information we identified key categories, which can be used as sensitivity topics for development training guidelines. Added value was supplied through collaboration with European level health and social service professional bodies, university networks, civil society organizations and non-traditional actors (users) to identify gaps in existing training programs. Based on analysis of different types of European policies, as well as exploring the gaps in existing training programs and in the cooperation with scientific comity, we developed Training Guidelines on alcohol and drug use and addiction. The presentation will outline the steps performed in the process where the main message is this need for continues education of professionals.



## The experience of stigma among drug addictive mothers

Yesna Mejak  
University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana

The addictive mothers fail to conform to societal ideals of a good mother or even good enough mothers. The addictive mothers are the most vulnerable group and we often talk about multiple stigmatized group. Stigma has important implication for the mental health and recovery efforts of drug addictive mothers and their children. In this presentation I will represent how stigma influences of their lives in the period of pregnancy, childbirth and the role of mother and what kind experience they have of stigma and discrimination.



## Forms of practitioner research

Ian Shaw  
Universities of York and Aalborg

Based on a review of practitioner research in the social care field with adults. 72 papers published in English 1990-2012. They were analysed by affiliation and country of researchers, research problem, research participants, and methods employed, attention to research quality, attention to research ethics, reported benefits, and utilization evidence. This presentation focuses on evidence that suggests there are two very different kinds of practitioner research (Type 1 and Type 2). A common term for both types of inquiry ought to be adopted with extreme caution. They differ in: 1. Occupational roles of researchers 2. Working relationship between researchers 3. Focus of the research questions and problems. 4. Research methodology 5. Extent to which benefits and utilisation of the research are addressed 6. Writing 'voice' in published outputs E.g. Type 1 and 2 studies contrasted sharply in terms of research methods employed. The former, conducted often in a health service setting and clinical researchers, gave weight to quantitative methods and measurement scales, while the latter were predominantly qualitative in approach. In Type 1 almost no-one reported active steps to work with practitioners or service users in relation to the practice implications of the research. No-one made direct claim to any evidenced benefits of the study. The writing style and voice of the Type 1 articles were similar to mainstream academic articles. Literature reviews figured almost universally. There was minimal engagement with wider audiences. This raises questions of how plausible it is to describe some of Type 1 studies as practitioner research - practice research more broadly, but less clearly practitioner research. Conclude: (1) Practitioner research is not a homogenous form. (2) Resist distinctions of naive versus mature; small versus large; and practitioner versus practitioner+academic models. (3) Value of methodological diversity. (4) Importance of understanding the experience of doing practitioner research.



Social work practitioners and students in an evidence based practice  
partnership

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The Evidence Base Bank at Monash Health contains more than 80 systematic reviews, built up since 2012, documenting the current state of evidence for key social work interventions in health. Social work students on placement each year have compiled and critiqued these systematic reviews which evaluate the evidence in relation to specific interventions identified by social workers in our health network as central to their practice. We have implemented and evaluated a number of strategies designed to encourage and support the practitioners themselves in using the Bank. These strategies include education, guidance and mentoring. In this paper we will discuss the findings from our evaluation which detail the outcomes attained by social workers, the ways in which they are utilising the Bank to further their research understanding and inform their own practice and practice-based research, and the strategies which have been most effective in achieving these outcomes.



Unpacking the complexity in practice (-research): the contribution of participant observation and a multistakeholder-perspective

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The move towards evidence-based practice has been accompanied by a lot of resistance inside the social work profession. Researchers are criticized that their research projects don't take into account the complexity, uncertainty and doubt that is inherent to social work. Practitioners are criticized that they fail to implement the findings from academic research. To close this gap, new concepts as 'co-creation' and 'mode 2 knowledge production' and a realist perspective entered the discipline of evaluation research. However, arguments about which particular methods can be applied and the possibilities and barriers of these methods are rather rare. Inspired by the insights of responsive evaluation (Guba & Lincoln, 1989; Abma, 2005; Abma & Widdershoven, 2008; Abma & Widdershoven, 2011) this presentation will focus on the added value of participant observation combined with a multistakeholder-perspective in the area of evaluation research. Within a partnership between the University of Leuven and a social service agency, 46 homevisits were observed and used as a departure point for a negotiation process with multiple stakeholders (practitioners, users, managers, policy makers and researchers). Insights in how and why a program and its various components are successful (like the impact of the 'tuning' between a practitioner and a family, the power-dynamics between different program-actors, ...) were carefully gathered and embedded in a broad view of evidence based practice (Hermans, 2008). During the presentation the chances, pitfalls and bottlenecks of our method will be discussed and embedded in a broader discourse of different types of knowledge, knowledge creation and power dynamics.





## Interdependence the reflexive practitioner and the reflexive agency

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University of Agder

Policy documents, like White Papers and Official Norwegian Reports, express expectations towards social workers becoming knowledge producers in their fields. At the same time practitioners' professional autonomy and discretion seem to be increasingly restricted, especially within a bureaucratic framework. How is this to be interpreted - and handled? We pose such questions in our research, part of the project "Innovation and Service Development through evolving Forms of Collaboration" (2013-2017), where we explore processes and transitions from knowledge production to organisational learning and professional practices. Social workers from the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Services (NAV) and the Child Welfare Services (CWS) are participating. The aim is to enhance interprofessional/-organisational cooperation and develop better services for families with children (aged 0-18) who are receiving social benefits and assistance measures simultaneously from these services. The concept "wicked issues" is appropriate to describe the challenges expressed. Methodologically we are inspired from action research. Along with interviews, seminars / workshops are used in producing and analysing data. In this presentation we will highlight viewpoints from the practitioners. CWS states "empowered employees" as their fundament and value. NAV emphasizes that they will create arenas to enhance reflection, and to share competencies both vertically and horizontally between colleagues. The practitioners experience barriers, conflicts and contradictions when it comes to realising the ideals mentioned, both inside their own organisation and between the organisations. Producing knowledge and exchanging competencies is not enough to change practice. In the practitioners' conversations about these issues their official mandate, public and professional ethos, and the matter of agency are at stake. We analyse these themes in terms of social worker as a street-level-position, professionalisation/de-professionalisation and the demanding interdependence between the reflexive practitioner and the reflexive agency. We draw upon theories of professions and organisations to discuss and create meaning of what is described.



Social work in involuntary transactions: qualitative meta-analysis of existing research in the last decade in Slovenia

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Social work in involuntary transactions, reflection on the epistemology of roles of participants, challenging scientific, professional and ethical dilemmas brought along by the constructivist-based, collaboratively-oriented "science of doing" with its practical consequences in contexts with service users' involuntariness as their entering condition - these are some of the issues addressed in the paper, its background. Its main purpose is to suggest some answers to the following questions referring to the empirical data gathered in social work research in Slovenia within the last decade: What is the state of the art on the conceptual and methodological guidelines as well as the existing practice of social work in involuntary transactions in Slovenia? Where do we go from here in order to do more systematic research and develop potentially more effective models of social work in involuntary transactions? A qualitative meta-analysis of 5 different empirical research studies (2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012), 4 of them qualitative and 1 quantitative, conducted by 6 social work graduate students under the supervision of the author are presented. The meta-analysis takes into consideration the source of empirical data (social workers, managers of social care institutions, service users), the research questions and methods, the main findings, the suggestions for the future research and practice models as well as social work education. The results confirm the % of "involuntary" service users in comparison to the "voluntary" ones found in international literature; managers are unaware of the high ratio of service users who enter the system involuntarily; involuntariness as entering condition is daily experience of social workers but is not reflected as such and they need further training; service users report of how their past experiences with social care system as well as their present, initial contact with social worker and institution influence the development of individual working relationship.



The impact of privatization in social/youth service delivery - a policy analysis study of the social/youth service sector which works with street-involved/homeless youth in Vancouver, BC, Canada

Diana Guenther  
Simon Fraser University (Alumni)

I will present on the history of services for street youth in Vancouver, Canada and the policy context in which street youth services in Vancouver operate. The history and development of street youth services in Vancouver over longer periods of time is not well researched and hence my research came from an exploratory perspective. I have pursued my research primarily through semi-structured interviews with key informants. I investigated the development of street youth services through three dimensions. The first dimension of my research project focused on issue recognition and looked at how street youth are configured as a social problem. The second dimension traced the history of the sector serving street-involved youth and is framed through an analysis of policy context. The final dimension of my research is a stakeholder analysis. A stakeholder analysis is commonly done in policy analysis to understand to what extent important stakeholders have influenced policy making in the sector. Of particular interest is how the policy and service-delivery context for street youth services has been shaped by policies which have been implemented and pursued by British Columbia's provincial government since the 1980s. My paper will analyse the implications of privatization of service delivery and in particular the impact this has on policy development. Implied in the trajectory of my research is a bigger question: how have neoliberal policies translated into a bigger environment which is fragmented, hides its politics and is less interactive, responsive and co-operative than one would hope for?



## Gendered participation in Flemish Youth Centres, a multilevel analysis of causes and consequences

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**Background:** In the Flemish part of Belgium, more than 500 'Youth Centers' (youth-based voluntary organizations) exist. Surveys show that up to 9% of youngsters between 15-35 describe themselves as 'participants' of a youth centre. Several studies have confirmed that participation is highly gendered with males being overrepresented among visitors (66%) and voluntary staff (75%). Substantial differences in gendered participation exist, however, between Youth Centres. To our knowledge, few studies exist that have analyzed the causes and consequences of gendered participation in forms of youth based voluntary organizations. Objectives: This study analyses within an 'organization-person-fit' perspective (i) the relationship between 'gender composition' of youth centres and satisfaction among participants, and (ii) the role of 'music culture' as an organizational characteristic in explaining differences between youth centres in gendered participation. **Methods:** A multi-level approach was used, based on quantitative data obtained from 73 youth centres (245 volunteers and 795 participants), using MLWin. **Results:** (i) gender composition (the percentage of female visitors) was associated with higher 'satisfaction' among male, but not female participants, (ii) gender differences in music preference were found, confirming results of earlier studies, (iii) male and female participants with a more 'typically male' music preference, were more satisfied with participation, when 'typically male' genres were programmed more often during youth centre activities, (iv) female participants with a more 'feminine' music preference, compared to other female participants, were more inclined to quit participation in youth centres that programmed 'typically male genres' more often during youth centre activities. **Conclusion and discussion:** Results are discussed with respect to the consequences of and difficulties in maintaining a 'gender balance' among participants of voluntary youth organizations, and with respect to informal and/or group dynamical barriers that may hinder such a balance.



## Violence in youth work institutions - a survey of young people in Germany

Arne Schäfer

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The presentation provides insight into the ongoing research project entitled "Violence in open child and youth work institutions - a survey of users in North Rhine-Westphalia". Within the scope of the research project, approx. 850 juveniles between the ages of 12 and 25 were asked about their own acts of violence and how they have been affected by violence in youth centers, by means of a standardized survey. Furthermore, the survey addressed the relationships between the juveniles and the social workers, the potential for co-determination and the question as to which help juveniles receive in youth centers. The investigations involved around 50 youth institutions located across North Rhine-Westphalia, the most highly-populated Federal German State. The survey focused on acts of violence and the experiences of violence of juveniles who regularly visit youth centers and youth clubs in their leisure time. Here the term 'violence' is used in the broad sense and refers to both instances of verbal aggression (e.g. insults and verbal humiliation), as well as physical confrontations (e.g. punch-ups between juveniles). In addition, questions were asked to determine the social contexts in which the reported acts of violence and experiences of violence took place (e.g. school, youth center, on the street). In order to guarantee professional, recipient-oriented social work with juveniles, we must acquaint ourselves with the perspectives, attitudes and motives of the juvenile participants. Against this background, the survey makes an empirical contribution to the scientific further development of social work with juveniles, whereby violence in youth work institutions is highlighted from the perspective of the participants. The initial results of the research project are presented in the presentation.



## The contribution of a key scenario to care leavers' transition to adulthood

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Young people leaving care are amongst the most vulnerable in society, facing a rapid and risky transition to adulthood. Care leavers are proportionally underrepresented in higher education and there has been little research on those who have succeeded in integrating into higher education and on the factors contributing to their success. This qualitative study examined the factors relating to care leavers' successful integration into higher education in Israel. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with 20 alumni of educational residential settings in Israel who integrated into institutions of higher education. To allow cross-cultural comparisons, the young people had three cultural origins - Israel, former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. The interviews revealed that the Israeli key scenario for the transition to adulthood (which includes higher education) played a major role. The young people entered higher education out of the desire to conform to this scenario and not to differ from other young people, perceiving higher education as a tool for progress and success. There were three main narratives: 1) Those who brought this scenario from home and their stay at a residential care facility promoting education became a tool for implementing it; 2) Those who did not bring this scenario from home but staying at a residential care facility promoting education allowed them to change their scenario to include higher education; and 3) Those who stayed at a residential care facility that failed to emphasize education but the scenario they brought from home helped them integrate into higher education. Residential care facilities can change a young person's key scenario or help implement it. Such facilities should make great efforts to promote education and to impart a key scenario for the transition to adulthood that includes higher education. These could be important steps in improving services helping care leavers integrate successfully into society.



"I know what I do but do I know who I am?": the exploration of identity development in young adult carers living in the United Kingdom and United States

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The ability to exercise free will, unhampered by authority figures and societal pressures, in selecting a life course is ideal for defining our identity, yet the reality of life often means that restrictions and limitations will present themselves and thus provide hindrances. The reality of life's limitations may not feel more salient than for those young adults aged 18-24 who provide care, assistance, and support to other family members on an unpaid basis (Becker and Becker, 2008). Such care includes daily living activities like feeding and giving medicines, mobility aid, and financial support (Ireland and Pakenham, 2010). Currently, there are approximately 3.9 million to 5.5 million young adult carers in the United States and approximately 229,318 young adult carers in the United Kingdom (Levine et al, 2005; Becker and Becker, 2008). Despite their large numbers, historically, this population of carers has not received much scholarly attention. This paper is a report of an ongoing research project (in the context of a doctoral dissertation) that aims to deeply explore the impact the caring role can have on the identity development of the young adult carer currently living in the United States and United Kingdom. The research involves the use of semi-structured face to face interviews with young adult carers living in the United States and in the United Kingdom to explore the manner in which the role as carer has affected their lives, with particular attention given to their ability to make self-determined choices, live authentically, and how their identity may have been shaped by their role as carer. Initial research suggests that when young adults devote a significant amount of time to caring activities, the likelihood of having sufficient time available to explore their beliefs, values, and goals by engaging with society - necessary for successful identity achievement - is diminished.



## Social workers role in promoting participation in social policy

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**Introduction:** In Italy in the last fourteen years a new system for social service planning has been introduced by law (L328/2000). The new system entails a participatory process through which social interventions should be planned at a local level with the contribution of all the stakeholders. Social services and particularly social workers could play a very relevant role in this process. Opening up opportunities for marginalized groups to express their voice, provide room for service users participation is at the core of social work mission. This presentation introduces some reflections from a research over the implementation of the law. It focuses on how social workers are perceived, and perceive themselves, in the development of participatory processes. **Research Methods:** The research financed by the ministry of University, studied 15 cases of local planning both with qualitative interviews and documentary analysis. In all 75 qualitative interviews were conducted with different subjects involved in the planning processes (policy makers, social service managers, social workers, representative of service users and representative of NGOs). **Outcomes:** The analysis of the interviews yields the identification of different representations of the role that practitioners play in promoting participation in social planning. At one extreme we found the idea that practitioners' task is to take advantage of their contact with service users for developing ways to involve the population and particularly marginalize groups in defining new local policies. On the opposite extreme, we found representations in which practitioners are seen and see themselves just as mediators between single citizens and policy lines, which are in fact defined from above. These different representations appear to be connected to different views on what participatory processes in social policy consist of, and allow considerations on possible challenges and controversies on social work role.





Evaluating large scale welfare reforms - an analysis of the evaluation of the  
NAV-reform in Norway

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As member of a Scandinavian expert team I have participated in an analysis (meta-evaluation) of the evaluation of the merger of the national employment agency, the social insurance administration and local social services into (what presents itself as) one organisation, NAV (Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration). It is both an organisational and a social policy reform, and one of the largest welfare reforms in Norway ever. It has affected services that in one way or another have implications for most citizens in the country, as well as the working conditions and practice of large groups of professionals. The evaluation of the reform was administered by the Norwegian Research Council (NRC), and followed the implementation of the reform for more than eight years. It was carried out by an inter-disciplinary team of researchers from universities and research centres, and it was completed in June 2014. The goal of the evaluation was, broadly speaking, twofold: giving feedback to the implementation process and long-term knowledge building. Judging from the substantial number of publications from the evaluation, and from the data we gathered in the meta-evaluation, the latter goal got more attention than the former. The way the evaluation was organised may be one reason for this, its scope and resources another. The dialogue between the researchers and central actors in the implementation organisation was halting all the way through the evaluation process, and the latter found the results of the evaluation less useful than they had planned for. The meta-evaluation resulted in a list of questions fundamental to evaluations where conflicts of interests are involved, and which need to be dealt with in the process of designing the evaluation.



## Evaluating the potential of social welfare in Poland

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The transformation of the political and social system in 1989, after the dissolution of the Soviet block, led to fundamental changes in the structure of social welfare provision based on the decentralization of the state and the revival of local governance. The seminal public administration reforms of 1990 and 1999 were crucial in the formation of the new social welfare institutions. The 1990 legislation concerning social welfare and local government resulted in the establishment of welfare institutions with decentralized organizational structures. Communal (local decentralized social welfare agencies) became partners of central and regional state institutions. The second major reform of public administration in 1999 introduced the full-scale decentralization of state welfare, the enhanced autonomy of local communities, the development of self-governance among service users, the privileging of the family as the subject of social policy, and the reconstruction of civic society in order to develop the principle of subsidiarity. Two new tiers of the local-government were introduced and the parameters of the social welfare system expanded by adding care and the welfare of children and young people to the range of activities. The Social Welfare Act of 2004 enacted in 2004 was aimed at building a welfare state through the introduction of community representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and volunteers into the sphere of public social welfare organizations, through stimulating labour market activation for the long term unemployed, and finally, by implementing "contracts" setting out the conditions under which financial aid might be delivered. This was intended to encourage inactive beneficiaries to participate in the process of aiding local communities through voluntary work. The paper will attempt to judge the effectiveness of these reforms. The fundamental question remains whether the policy changes meet social needs, in particular, have they alleviated poverty and social exclusion.



Were objectives or hard law?: a case study on the EU's social policy and the implementation of social justice principle in the supranational law

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In Article 3 TEU the Union commits itself to combating social exclusion and discrimination as well as to promoting social justice. This does not change the fact, though, that the ability and/ or commitment to create a truly inclusive society varies considerably between the EU Member States (cf. e.g. Schradd-Tischler and Kroll Social Justice in the EU - A Cross-national Comparison 2014). Furthermore, in the recent years the European Council's agenda was dominated by the economic and financial crisis in a manner, that somewhat marginalised the Union's social policy and social investment. The structural reforms and austerity policies pursued during the crisis with a view to stabilize national economies and budgets have had by and large negative effects with regard to social justice, undermining national social security systems, aggravating social divide and pushing youth unemployment to ever-new record highs. However, Europe-wide social investment, be it by private and public sector, is crucial in order to counter the increasing risk of poverty and boost the employment potential, notably in times of crisis (to this effect, see the EESC-Opinion of 26/3/2014 on the impact of social investment on employment and public budgets; it calls on the Commission to provide for a more ambitious and longer-term policy roadmap to implement the social investment package by at least 2020). The proposed contribution will analyse selected EU law relating to social policy with a view to determining its potential effects and/or effectiveness with regard to promoting social justice. In particular, the author will attempt to synthesise measures undertaken in response to the economic and financial crisis, including the missions of the European Social Fund (ESF, see Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of 17 December 2013) so as to identify potential fields in which further action would be desirable for more social justice and inclusion.



What do social workers say about social policy and reforms in Europe and the BRICS?

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Giulio Citroni  
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This contribution focusses on features of contemporary professional debates and reactions to social policy and reforms in five European countries (Italy, Spain, Turkey, Portugal, United Kingdom) and in the five so-called BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. The "Civil Engagement in Social Work: Developing Global Models" project, funded by the European IRSES - Marie Curie program (contract n. 318938), is aimed at exploring the relationship between social work and civil society, through the perspective of social policy structures and reform processes. The objective of the research presented is to identify the presence, the debates and the reactions of the social workers to social policy as they appear in different national arenas, for instance professional bodies, associations and journals/newsletters specialised on social work. A questionnaire submitted to project experts from the ten countries guided both the data collection, as well as the qualitative review on literature and grey literature (internet, official documents, etc.). Initial findings highlight the diversity of the countries and of their degree of social work development as a professional community. There appears to be a link between formal structure of the profession and the degree of the debate undertaken in this occupational group. Some of the so-called BRICS countries, key developing and newly industrialised economies, have only recently started to define a specific role of social workers in the implementation of social policies. In contrast the other five countries have a stronger tradition in social work, of which four are from Southern Europe and the Mediterranean (Portugal, Spain, Italy and Turkey), while only the UK represents a different European history and development.



Social workers' role in tempering inequality in healthcare in hospitals and clinics

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The paper presents the first empirical examination of the role social workers play in tempering inequality in medical care. Sixty social workers employed in hospitals and clinics in Israel and selected through purposive sampling were interviewed in 2011. The findings show that all the social workers were acutely aware of the inequalities in their places of work, regarded reducing the inequalities as a major part of their role, and made efforts to do so. They facilitated communication between doctors and patients from low SES groups and advocated for such patients with medical staff and administration, as well as with the country's medical and social welfare bureaucracies. The paper details the means they used and the challenges they faced. The study highlights the important role that social workers play in reducing inequality in health care.



"ActorNetwork Theory", use of ActorNetwork Theory to help make the "social" in social work visible

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It is being argued that the 'social' in social work, and in what we used to know as social policy, is about to disappear in many countries (Kam 2012). Not only is the concept as such about to disappear in the naming of policies, perspectives and institutions, such as is at least the case in Norway, but also the social dimension is said to being diluted through processes like individualization, standardization and the demands for evidence based practice. There is no doubt that these changes are real and that they have profound implications for social work, but do they actually entail a deterioration of the social? In professional social work discourses there is a contemporary debate about what the 'social' in social work is. Programmatic statements from key organizations in the field point to the political aims and duties when emphasizing the importance of the social, while others are more concerned with the relational aspects of social work practice. The meaning of the social has also been questioned in resent sociological debates, not least by representatives of so called action-network theory (ANT). One who has questioned the obvious understanding of the social is Bruno Latour, particularly in his book Reassembling the social (2005). We will, in this paper, discuss what a recasting of the notion of the social by using ANT could mean for social work.



Voices of newly qualified social workers: job precarity and alternatives in  
social work in Bosnia-Herzegovina

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This ongoing emancipatory action research explores newly qualified social workers' (NQSWs) lived experiences of transition from higher education to work. The study is focused on social work career-related transition in a specific historical-cultural context of Bosnia-Herzegovina (B&H). However, the case of these NQSWs could be compared to some extent with the current precarious situation of young, highly educated people across Europe. Today, B&H is still under the international supervision and an EU-periphery potential candidate country. Years of war and long lasting transition in this former socialist state have resulted in crony capitalism, patricocracy and a majority of impoverished citizens. Moreover, B&H has one of the highest rates of overall and youth unemployment in Europe. The aim of this doctoral research is to contribute to the recognition of career-related transition and job precarity among NQSWs as a public issue. Currently, these young, high skilled tertiary graduates are left to deal with it as if it is their private problem. This presentation will discuss preliminary research findings of the first phase of action research cycle - diagnosis of the existing situation. The individual interviews with NQSWs were collected in spring 2014. Many of them have reported on limited and unequal access to the existing work structures with social work degree on one side, and imposition of temporary, low paid and insecure work outside of social work profession. The aim of the presentation is to inform the international social work research community about current scenarios of social work career-related transition, as well to discuss possible alternative scenarios considering specific historical-cultural context of B&H and South East Europe, along with global discussion on re-visioning social work.



Well being among community activists: what is most crucial to enhance it?

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Hayva Itzhaky

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Macro-intervention social workers attempt to improve the coping abilities of neighborhood residents, playing role as community activists, as well as to enhance their well-being. Therefore, social workers utilize the community and personal resources possessed by community activists in an attempt to broaden the scope of community activity. Thus, instead of being recipients of social services, these residents become community leaders and actively participate in solving problems in their communities. A review of the literature indicates there is a dearth of research on the contribution of community resources and community activity to promoting personal resources and well-being among activists. In an attempt to fill this gap, path analysis were conducted to examine the nature of the relationships between these variables. The dependent variable well-being was considered the "target measure". That is, all of the independent variables: community resources (e.g., social support, community belonging), community-activity variables (e.g., the effectiveness of the interventions) and personal resources (e.g., mastery, self-esteem), were examined in relation to this measure. The sample consisted of 163 activists from low-SES populations (new immigrants, single mothers, residents of low-SES neighborhoods, and people with disabilities). The findings indicate that in the first level of the path analysis, community activity variables mediate the relationship between community resources and personal resources. In the next level of the path analysis, the personal resources mediate the relationship between community activity variables and well-being. That is, community resources alone are not sufficient to enhance one's personal resources or well-being; individuals also need to be involved in community activity. By doing so, they can enhance their personal resources and as a result, also increase their well-being. The findings emphasize the positive outcomes of community activity and it also may facilitate the recruitment of community activists. We will discuss the implications of these findings to macro-intervention social work.





Caring for the children and caring for the city: a historical intervention  
spanning two cities (UK and Canada)

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Julia Winckler

University of Brighton

Ernie Lightman

University of Toronto

From its early development social work was concerned with saving children given the negative consequences of urban industrial life. In this presentation we question representations of children in public spaces through historical reconstruction and intervention. Historical reconstruction assumes that archival materials are selective traces of the past, created, preserved under particular circumstances. We deconstruct these materials, reactivating archives to elicit an active understanding of history, to link with present-day concerns. Our interdisciplinary team of social work, visual studies and photography scholars examined documentary photographs taken by professionals and amateurs in streets and other public places in Brighton (England) and Toronto (Canada) in the early 20th century, complemented by textual documents (surveys, health reports, media coverage), and existing oral history interviews with former residents. Our materials show that children spent a lot of their time on the streets, in lanes and back alleys, with limited presence of adults. Children appear engaged as participants and as witnesses of an urban world undergoing rapid transformation. They had agency: they played, took care of younger children, engaged in monetary activities (newspaper boys, singers), and were keen observers of urban destruction and construction in their environment (construction sites, street cars development, surveying activities). We find amazing parallels along with divergences between the cities in the children's activities, the constraints they encountered, and their use of such spaces for their own interests. We also present the plans for a multi-site exhibit-as-intervention using photographs, artifacts, video and interactive techniques which will reactivate the question of how caring for public spaces and caring for children can become part of a single social work endeavor to modify social relations in the present and in the future.



## Studying the needy child: social work and child study movement at the beginning of the 20th Century

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Though child welfare has a longer history in modern Europe the professionalisation and institutionalisation of child protection and child welfare services was strongly supported by the scientificisation of childhood at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Namely the international child study movement helped to shape the modern understanding of childhood and legitimated children's need of special awareness and care. The paper will present an analysis of articles published in the "Journal of Child Study" ("Zeitschrift für Kinderforschung") between 1896 and 1914. This has been a central journal of the German strand of child study. It had been founded to support the scientific research on children and thus put Special Needs Education and Social Work practice on more solid grounds. But however powerful natural sciences and their developmental notions of childhood might have been, the argument is not that Social Work has been simply 'hijacked' by them. Moreover the paper reveals how religious, literary and pedagogical notions of childhood have been taken up and have been transformed to gain scientific knowledge about the child's nature. From a Childhood Studies' perspective children and their nature are not simply given but are constructed through discursive and material practices. The paper will reconstruct these practices through which a child that had to be protected and looked after by welfare services has been produced in the beginning of the 20th century in contrast to a normally developing child. In doing this the analysis may show how the scientific discovery of childhood and the foundations of modern child welfare are historically related.



The crises of legitimization in residential child care: institutional practices,  
expectations and visions of childhood in social work training schools in  
Switzerland (1940 -1990)

Gisela Hauss

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In my paper I will present an analysis of the efforts to professionalize residential child care in the post-world war II period. Since the 1940s, staff shortages, financial difficulties, and scandals widely reported in the media about the abysmal conditions in residential children's homes resounded throughout professional discourse in the German speaking part of Switzerland. During the children's homes campaign (Heimkampagne) in the 1970s we could observe an intensified controversy about this field of social work. The residential care system went through a crisis of legitimization: Social protest movements, politicians and policy makers, and the old established field of residential children's homes shaped this field of conflicting power relations. Most importantly, the perception of the children in these institutions underwent a dramatic transformation: the old-established perspective of the deviant child was contested by images of these children as oppressed subjects and possible agents of societal transformation and many more. The mostly in the 1960th and 1970th founded training schools for worker in residential care were designed to prepare young adults for the "mission" to promote occupational quality in an area, in which until then no special training was required. However, what quality and professionalization in child care means was interpreted in very different ways, depending on the underlying social or religious norms and values. Drawing on a wide range of sources I will analyze the qualification process in these training schools. It's possible to trace institutional practices as well as changes and controversies. The training schools can be seen as "gate keepers" regulating the access to a professional position. The criteria and procedures of training and 'licensing' and the ways of dealing with conflicts give interesting insights into how the images of children changed and how the future professional social workers were supposed to deal with them.



The pedagogical poem through the gender perspective: a historical case study research on children and childhood under communism

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The historical case study research is based upon a larger historical study of the development of social work education during state socialism in Yugoslavia and the understanding of welfare and social work by the communist leadership after the success of the October Revolution. The case study is a discourse analysis of the famous Ukrainian and Soviet pedagogue Anton Semjonovič Makarenko (1888-1939) who was the founder of the Soviet pedagogy and whose work had a major impact to all countries of Easter Europe. The discourse analysis focuses on a critical and gender analysis of his leading work "The Pedagogical Poem" and reflects upon some basic conceptual and ideological building blocks of the socialist education. The primary focus will be the question of gender and disability. The analysis will show how childhood was conceptualized within the state socialism and what consequences this major work had upon several generations of young people across the region. The case study and the discourse analysis of the Makarenko's writing will be used to understand the remaining post-socialist welfare and social work culture as well as the attitudes towards children and childhood in the region today. The abstract is part of the History-welfare-gender workshop.



## Maximising the potential for history of child welfare to inform present transformation

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Building on an interest in use of history to critically inform the present over three decades to date, this presentation will consider how we can maximise the potential for history of child welfare to critically inform present transformations in child welfare. Focused on the specific case of major child welfare transformation in Ireland which took effect from the 2 Jan 2014, this presentation intends to demonstrate the relevance and importance of history as a means of critically informing current child welfare transformation. Based on samples of selected empirical research the presenter is current engaged in, a focus will be placed on how the development of an Independent Agency (named Tusla) has opened up the opportunity for an explicit re-orientation of child welfare services towards a strong parenting and family support approach. Major debates have arisen in this transition regarding the role of social work in child protection; the inter-face between child protection, family support and children's rights and the relationship between the State and Civil Society with regard to responsibility for support families and protection children. While some aspects of these debates are very specific to the Irish Cultural, social, political, institutional and intellectual context, others have resonance on a wider European and Global level. And while some aspects of these debates are of the moment and of this time, many have resonance with the history of child welfare in Ireland. Looking Outwards and Backwards are two useful lenses from which to critically observe a present transformation. Yet, while looking outwards to the international context is (correctly) taken for granted as a necessary component of evidence based change management, looking back to our history is more patchy and inadequate. This paper sets out clearly why this needs to change and how one might go about doing this.



CPS workers' decisions in cases of domestic violence: a classification and regression tree analysis

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The overall aim of my research project is to analyzing the decision-making process in the Child Protection System (CPS). More specifically, the study focuses on situations where partner/adult violence is an issue, and the rights of different stakeholders are competing. The mandate of professionals from the legislation is to protect the best interest of the child; however, they have often been criticized for their tendency to hold abused mothers accountable and to take custody away from them, if they cannot manage to protect their children from exposure to domestic violence. Despite the heated debate, few studies have been produced to support these claims. The present study aims to provide evidence to this debate, in the attempt to better understand the paths of DV-indicated cases in the Child Protection System and the decisions made by professionals in these situations. The analysis is carried out on a sample of 34000 cases reported to six CPS agencies in Ontario from 2008 to 2010, whose paths are followed for one year through the Ontario Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (OCANDS). Bivariate and multivariate analysis is performed to explore both workers dispositions and case outcomes. In particular, Classification and Regression Tree Analysis (CART) (Breiman et al., 1984) is used to model the decision to open a case for ongoing services or to intervene with out-of-home placement. CART is considered the more appropriate technique, given the research objectives. In contrast to logistic regression, it allows for different predictors to come into play for each subgroup, showing complex interactions. In addition, its hierarchical tree structure better mimic's human decision making and it is relatively easy to interpret for professionals, in order to improve services to clients and maximize resources.



Adult social care, domestic violence and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment  
Conferences (MARACS)

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Manchester Metropolitan University  
Rachel Robbins  
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Claire Bellamy  
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**Background and Purpose:** In the UK, the death of Mary Russell (81) by her 88-year-old husband demonstrated that adult social care practice, along with other statutory health and police agencies practices were unclear about how to address domestic violence in older age. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACS), focus on the highest risk cases for domestic violence is a key tool in the inter-professional management of such serious cases. In Manchester there are about 100 MARAC cases discussed per month. These panels chaired by the police are non-statutory and usually involve 20+ members (excluding the service-user) lasting on average 10 minutes per case. The aim of the research was to learn about the role of adult social care workers in working with domestic violence, addressing how MARACs operate and how the situation can be improved. **Methods:** The research adopted a case-study approach to Manchester involving a mixed methods data collection and analysis including interviewing adult social care staff, MARAC subjects (x2) and MARAC attendees, Additional focus groups were held independent domestic violence advocates, Women's Aid service users and staff. MARAC subjects have been central to the development of the research tools and initial data analysis. **Results:** The research identified issues of identification, appropriateness and timeliness of services, twin tracking adult safeguarding and domestic violence, leadership and training. The paper also identifies ethical processes (e.g. confidentiality and child protection), practical issues, highlights key findings from interviews with MARAC subjects and questions whether the MARAC process is fit for purpose. **Conclusions:** The paper aligns with conference's theme on research and evaluation of social work practice and will provide recommendations about the role of social care in addressing domestic violence whilst challenging the passive positioning of MARAC subjects and the current operating practices of MARACS whilst making recommendations how these can be improved.



Coping strategies of women experiencing of gender based violence in Sri Lanka and the consequences - implications for action

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The theme is part of a broader study carried out in Sri Lanka with the objective of identifying the nature, causes and consequences of gender based violence. This paper would deal with two aspects of the broader study, namely, consequences of gender based violence and the coping strategies adopted by women. Although gender based violence is a phenomenon that applies to both men and women, the study focused only on women, based on the prevailing statistics and theoretical facts which demonstrate that women more often become vulnerable to the consequences of gender violence due to their social and cultural standing while the nature and situations of violence could significantly vary in conflict affected societies. For the purpose of capturing these variables, the study was conducted in the Eastern province of Sri Lanka which was affected by a continuing political conflict for almost three decades. The research was carried out in selected villages of all three districts of the Eastern province. The selection of villages was done on the basis of the presence of the NGO in these districts, as the ultimate goal was to develop working strategies in addressing the issue. Respondents for the survey were selected from a random sample taken from these villages. The study consisted of two parts; namely, a questionnaire survey and a qualitative study done on the basis of in-depth interviews and case studies. Based on the findings, the paper presents what could be called effective strategies and insights for designing future initiatives for addressing and mitigating the issue while focusing on the possible community level approaches which the communities could utilize independent of external support in mitigating the circumstances.





Attitudes towards professional interventions of social workers, police officers and judges in different patterns of husband-to-wife violence in Palestinian society

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Research conducted over the last four decades has revealed that violence against women in intimate relationships is a multidimensional and multi-faceted problem. Although theoretical and empirical interest in the sociocultural and political contexts of the problem has been increasing in recent years, very few studies have been conducted on the relevance of these contexts to violence against women in intimate relationships in Arab societies. The present study was conducted among a random sample of 624 Palestinian women and men from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and examined the participants' attitudes toward professional interventions by social workers, police officers, and judges in different patterns of husband-to-wife violence (HWV). The results of the study reveal that although the participants' attitudes differed by the severity and frequency of HWV, the vast majority of them still tended to endorse interventions with the couple that aim to solve the HWV problem in the family as opposed to interventions that may cause the wife to leave the family, court interventions that may order the husband to leave the home, or interventions that may lead to separation or divorce. The study was based on an integrative conceptual framework, in which several variables such as sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., age and gender), selected attitudes toward HWV (e.g., justifying wife beating, perceptions of harm caused to battered women), personal exposure to violence, and marital role expectations were examined as the main predictors of participants' attitudes toward professional interventions in cases of HWV. The implications of the findings for future research, theory development, and development of interventions with battered women in collectivist societies will be discussed.



A cooperative grounded inquiry with abused women and their teenage children in Hong Kong: theory generation with users

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This research involves formerly abused women and their teenage children equally in post-separation domestic violence service design and delivery with the practitioner-researcher. It examines how does a co-participative relationship among social work practitioner-researcher, women survivors and their teenage sons/daughters form? And how does a co-participative relationship serve post-separation domestic violence service development, delivery and evaluation? Cooperative Grounded Inquiry (CGI) is invented in this research to offer an alternative methodology to Service User and Carer Participation (SUCP), in addition to the current consumerist and emancipatory models. As a result, a theory is generated to explain the formation and displaying of a 'family-like community of practice' among inquiry members; meanwhile, the 'family-like community of practice' sets the context for the co-construction of local theories and practices that mitigate women and their teenage children's post-separation problems and enhance their competence in problem solving. This paper meticulously articulates the experiences of co-constructing local knowledges with formerly abused women and their teenage children, and to contends that practices for facilitating 'identity (re)construction' and 'partnership making' are of paramount importance in their post-separation lives. Findings of this research pose challenges on the conventional crisis-oriented domestic violence services and the Cartesian model of self that underlies the mainstream understanding of post-separation needs and services. Drawing on the relational approach and Schatzki's theorization of social practices, the paper criticizes individualization of domestic violence (as acts performed by individuals) and the corresponding services. At last, building a community of practice is proposed as a possible conciliation between the women-focused domestic violence services and child protection system.



Social worker as a sociologist - pioneer from the 1950's

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This paper is about the academic career of a Finnish sociologist, Dr. Faina Jyrkilä (1917-2008). Professor Jyrkilä's research interests were strongly influenced by her social work background. The academic traditions of social work developed slowly in Northern Europe - first started the professional education, and only after many decades, research of social work emerged. This was what happened in Finland, too: first university degrees were professionally oriented BA-level sociomom degrees (from 1940's to beginning of 1990's). The research-oriented degrees (MA, PhD) had to be finished in other sciences. Faina Jyrkilä graduated as a social worker in 1945 among the first in Finland, had her Ph.D in sociology in 1960 as a first woman in Finland. She was appointed as a first Finnish (and among first in Europe) female professor of sociology in University of Jyväskylä in 1964. She was one of the first modern Finnish social scientists publishing in English because she prepared her PhD research when studying in Columbia University and Harvard, in 1952-53. During her stay in USA, she was strongly inspired from (then very modern) Parsonian structural functional theory. Nowadays her research is more or less forgotten in Finland, not to speak of European social work research community. This should not be the case, because she was a pioneer in several ways (being the first female in a male-dominated academic world; path-breaking social gerontologist, research methodologist). Her research career is an example of identity problems which social work research are still facing. The interdependence of sociological research and social work (or social welfare) interests are clearly present in Jyrkilä's thoughts. She is an interesting figure as an example of oscillation between social work, social policy and sociological thinking.



## Sociological and historical reflections about forms of knowledge in social work

Inge Bryderup

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I will ask what forms of knowledge are historically developed in Denmark and present reflections about the content with a focus on the historical development of different types of education. Reflections and discussions are based on a Danish study of knowledge forms in social work/social pedagogy in the 20 century. In the beginning of the 20 century you can identify a historical development from moral and practical knowledge to psychological knowledge and a focus on child saving - in other words - the target group and the target. From the 1970's the psychiatric and psychological knowledge is integrated in the social pedagogy profession. At the same time the Danish social pedagogy's forms of knowledge has a strong ethical and social engagement - as an inheritance from private benefactors - where sociology plays an important role in this engagement. From the 1970's the focus is at both on the target group and the target and the interventions/approaches in social work. The development of social pedagogy forms of knowledge has happened in a complex interplay with research/scientific perceptions.



(Re) interpreting narratives and discourses of welfare: a study of Jewish women welfare activities in Sarajevo inbetween two World Wars

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The emergence of a vibrant religious-based charity work in Bosnia was as much a by-product of economic hardship as of public-private divide. Complex intersections of industrialization, impoverishment and exclusion created an environment conducive to flourishing of women's charity organizations within all four dominant religious denominations (Islamic, Orthodox, Catholic and Jewish) on a blueprint of philanthropic feminism characteristic of western-European countries of that time. However, the mainstream historiography remained largely ignorant towards social phenomena beyond official military and political history. As a consequence, the activities of these organisations as a part of larger socio-cultural legacy are rather neglected and under-researched. In order to bridge the existing knowledge gap and raise public consciousness, the purpose of the present study is to specifically explore the work of the Jewish women's charity organizations at the crossroads of 19th and 20th century in Sarajevo from an interpretative, relational and gender-responsive perspective. The rationale for using constructivist epistemology and methods is tied to explanatory nature of the research itself. By applying qualitative content analysis on primary data sources (written reports of the selected women's charity organisations and related media (exclusively newspaper) representations), the study intend to make meaning of complex dynamics of humanitarian narratives surrounding the discourses of charity organizations in the given context by focusing on following aspects: 1) Narratives of dominant power relations as regards to gender, class, confession, ethnicity and sexuality; 2) Narratives of the "needy": processes of discursive constructions of recipients, its categorization and taxonomy of their needs; 3) Narratives of welfare ideology, and 4) Potential places of resistance to dominant/mainstream narratives and discourses. The abstract is submitted to be part of the history-gender-welfare workshop.



## Conceptual and historical analysis of ecological social work

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The conceptualization and practical implementation of social work and the environment are currently emerging across the globe in culturally bound diverse understanding. This paper establishes the historical and conceptual transition of social work and 'the environment' by outlining the historical progression of the relationship of social work to the environment and drawing out current understandings of ecological social work. The paper takes an overview of diverse theoretical conceptualizations and practical implementations of ecological social work including green, deep-ecological, eco-social, environmental and social ecological social work. The paper analyses how ecological social work is understood and conceptualized in various contexts of academic and professional culture and environmental incidents in the global social work. The aim is to contribute to a global cooperation of social work's engagement with the environment. The analysis is done by content-analyzing of the existing literature as well as its practical implications of ecological social work in selected units of research and practice. As a result the paper up-dates and enlarges the previously presented theoretical frame of eco-social approach in social work (Närhi & Matthies 2001). Earlier two different theoretical traditions were identified as the systems theoretical approach (with main emphasis on the social environment) and the eco-critical approach (rooted in environmental movements' ecological criticism of modern industrial society). In the recent discussions on sustainability and social work, these traditions are coming closer to each other. In order to promote self-understanding in social work, it must be aware of its own ecological traditions in an era in which environmental questions have become the focal point of larger public discussions. Theoretical clarity and practical impacts of environmental thinking in social work are therefore vital due to the increasing significance of environmental issues for the well-being of mankind.



Construction of reality based on memory and their (possible)  
deconstruction as a basis for the improvement of care quality

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What does remembering mean for clients in their everyday life for their well-being, what knowledge does social work need to accompany those clients? How much do memories influence goal oriented care, how does it influence actions of the clients? What happens with clients having experienced coercive institutions, once it comes to be taken into institutional care? How do memories of extreme situations influence the life of people in general? The project "Do you remember?" consists of 10 Bachelor theses focusing on memory work and remembrance culture in various settings and with various groups. A brief overview of their results will be provided.

- \* The narrative Café - a pilot project in an association for supported living and working in Vienna for people with disabilities or mental illness.
  - \* Historical consciousness as part of a total institution from the perspective of social work: the example of the massacre in the penitentiary "Stein" on April 6, 1945.
  - \* Remembrance work with homeless people.
  - \* Family narratives of families displaced after World War II.
  - \* "Volunteering and Biography" - possible links of remembrance and volunteering in social work projects (women shelter and refugees).
  - \* Remembering totalitarian regimes (e.g. DDR). How does it affect the current lives?
  - \* Memory work as a methodological approach for working with formerly institutionalized children.
  - \* The internalized institution - memory work with persons with cognitive impairments on the experience of violence.
  - \* Digression: The Berlin Wall - how much still remains in the thought of the Berlin residents (result of a research as Erasmus student).
- Two of the authors are going to present details of their study on the memories of ex-prisoners and how they cope(d) with the time spent in custody. A video clip of the narrative interviews will be shown to convey which memories remain with former prisoners in their life after detention.



Students, care takers and decision makers perception of higher education for students with in-care experience

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Good academic achievements of youth with in-care experience are connected with better personal outcomes and wellbeing, recognized and described as a protective factor that supports social inclusion by social workers, educators, policy makers, mainly adults. Students with in-care experiences have common adult life-starting difficulties as other students and some more specific difficulties - facing financial and accommodation difficulties, have to study harder to overcome previous educational shortcomings, identity issues and support issues, relying on themselves alone. Presented study aimed to explore educational issues based on three perspectives: of students with in-care experiences, care takers and decision makers. In the research project "Challenges of study and support for students with in-care experience" funded by University of Zagreb qualitative research has been undertaken: 6 focus group discussions with students with in-care experience, 11 interviews with care takers from children homes, focus group discussion with experts that deals with in-care youth issues. Results show some similarities in the perspective of students, experts and care takers regarding stigmatization and reasons for higher education, while differences in their perspectives are connected with everyday living difficulties and support.





## Continuity and discontinuity in the transition from care to adulthood

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In most industrialized societies, the transition from adolescence to adulthood has changed in many aspects. The so-called individualization of life courses (Heinz & Krüger, 2001) leads to a substantial uncertainty among young adults about the pace and directions of their personal developmental trajectories (Stauber & Walther, 2002). The transition of young people "at risk" to adulthood tends to be even more complex (Walther et al., 2002) - one group of those considered at risk are young people who grew up in a residential care system - so-called care leavers. There is a growing body of research on care leavers, while most literature highlights the importance of stable relationships as factor of resilience (e.g. Stein 2012), our presentation offers a different perspective on the meaning of stability for care leavers. We explore continuity and discontinuity in their life course as central aspects of support in the transition process. In line with transnational research approach, we use biographical narratives of three young people that aged-out of public care in Germany and in Israel with different paths of transition. We argue that a successful transition to independent life involves a complex interplay of continuity and discontinuity and suggest a typology of continuity/discontinuity patterns in the transition to adulthood: (1) continuity, (2) transformations, (3) discontinuity as a break, and (4) discontinuity to enable continuity. While current discourse in social work research values stability in care and continuity in the transition from care as a main strategy for successful transition, we found that discontinuities could also lead to positive changes in the life course of young care leavers. These findings imply that in order to enhance care leaver's agency to cope with transition processes, social work practice should strive to understand the client's biographically-driven strategies of creating continuity and discontinuity in their life course.



Children's multi-local residency in the context of Finnish in-home child  
welfare social work

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In many European countries children's multi-local residency is a current phenomenon describing social change, and also being part of social work practices. By multi-local residency, we refer to situations where the child lives simultaneously in two or more places or s/he frequently has one place of residence after another. Among other things, parents' divorce, migration and various local and global crises, as well as the societal interventions associated with these, bring diversity into children's residential arrangements. Such housing situations of children can be seen as forced multi-locality. Nevertheless, children's multi-local residency is a phenomenon with a weak social recognition. In this paper we will focus on the results of our explorative study, in the context of municipal in-home child welfare social work that attempted to establish the existence and nature of the phenomenon. The data consists of case descriptions of child clients drawn up by social workers. The data was analysed by the causes and the nature of the residential changes. As a result the multiple changes and their accumulation in the lives of child clients were remarkable. Discussing the results were a momentous experience for many of the social workers. Without no doubt, mapping the geography of wellbeing in terms of children's sense of places or place attachment would deserve to be elaborated as a tool for social work with children.



## Custody of the children in Europe: a comparative research

Vittorio Vezzetti

European platform for co-parenting COLIBRI

It is universally acknowledged that the role of a parental figure has a huge direct influence on children's health, both from a psychological and physical point of view. After divorce of the parental couple many European children lose the possibility to keep in contact with one of their parents, with dramatic social and biomedical consequences. This research, lasted almost two years, aims at providing a general overview on the different practices of several (15) European countries on the subject of the protection of children's interests. This wide survey shows that there are still very different conceptions of children's protection, varying from country to country (contrary to the medical world where shared and common guidelines usually exist) and there is also a global inadequate perception of the importance of co-parenting principle: in most cases, one of the parents is originally marginalised as a consequence of judicial disposition. The research takes in account, country by country, of: percentage of equal custody, percentage of time spent by both parents after the divorce, percentage of physical shared custody (intended as ranges between 30 and 70% of the times spent by both the parents), percentage of legal joint and legal sole custody. An intervention of the EU institutions aimed at guaranteeing the protection of children's rights and harmonising existing good practices (as would happen in medical science) seems therefore urgently needed. There is also a clear need for switching from a formal-legal language to a scientific language, which could be understood and applied by all Member States as well as introduced into the relevant legal systems (in order to avoid discrimination based on children's nationality or the legal system the children are subject to).



Using projective identification to explore practice educators' experience  
of failing social work students in practice learning settings

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This paper addresses a number of conference themes: research on social work and social justice; evaluation of social work practice and, in particular; decision making and social work education and pedagogy. The paper has a focus on practice learning (an essential part of social work education across the world), which does not often receive the academic attention it deserves. Internationally in professions with practice learning requirements a number of concerns have arisen. These include: the quantity and quality of placements; the perceived low failure rate; practice educators (field supervisors) reluctance to fail students when required, and linked to this; emotional turbulence caused by working with a failing student (Finch and Taylor, 2012), which in some cases, may lead to students being passed inappropriately (Finch et al, 2014). The paper uses findings from two empirical qualitative studies (Finch 2010; Schaub & Dalrymple 2011) that explored the emotive experiences of practice educators in England working with failing students. It builds further on a previous re-analysis and theorisation of the data (Finch et al, 2014) using a key psychodynamic concept, projective identification, to make sense of the difficult dynamics and reluctance to fail students. We explore in this presentation wider sources of these defensive anxieties that impact on social work in the UK and by default, invade practice learning. We consider how practice educators may recognise, resist and work with anxiety. We conclude that such an analysis is important for three reasons: firstly, to theorise further a phenomenon that has received scant academic attention to date; secondly, to ensure the practice educators gate keeping is of the highest quality; thirdly, and most importantly, to ensure users of social work services are protected from incompetent or dangerous practitioners. The paper, therefore, has implications for decision-making in social work and social work education across Europe.



Teaching as conversation: the methods adopted by an inside inquirer of  
social work relationship based education

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This paper introduces my research inquiry which is situated in my role of teaching social work students. This teaching is taking place during a time of reform and discourse of social work education in the UK whereby a dialogue is centered on the need for social workers to develop effective relationships with service users and professionals. I am responding to this debate by inquiring into how I can teach using a relationship based approach. The relationship based approach is built on a combination of Edwards and Richards (2002) model which proposes a need for mutual empathy, empowerment and engagement within the student/teacher relationship, and the matching principle introduced by Ward (2010) suggesting the training in professional education should match or reflect the model of practice. The metaphor of "teaching as conversation" derives from McNamee (2007) who suggests the conversational aspect of teaching attends to the ways in which participants create meaning together. The paper will then go on to explore the methods to be used in the inquiry which is positioned in a systemic approach. A systemic approach is chosen because of the connections between the relational features of the relationship based model and systemic practice, which emphasises the relational aspect of the emergence of knowledge between self-with-others. One of the approaches used to capture the naturally occurring dialogue in the teaching environment will be tape recording of teaching sessions. The method to analyse the recordings will be Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM), which provides a framework of analysis incorporating interactive patterns between emotion, for example empathy, meaning and action. The paper will discuss the usefulness of this method of analysing talk within a systemic approach, applied this particular inquiry.



## Managing the interface: promoting experiential learning of social work law

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The paper examines the interface between social work students' understanding of law in the classroom and its application within a practice context. We examine the role of the practice educator in supporting, enabling and assessing students in relation to social work law. This pivotal element of social work education requires practice educators themselves to be equipped with relevant, contemporary knowledge and understanding of law and its application to diverse practice situations. The practice educator takes full and final responsibility for student progression on placements and their own work of supervision, education and assessment contributes to the final outcome. The role requires the practice educator to support students to make links between academic learning and practice experience, to become reflective practitioners within legal frameworks. There is a knowledge gap in terms of the legal literacy of practice educators and their confidence in this crucial role. Our research included a survey of continuing professional development opportunities for practice educators, focus groups and interviews with practice educators. Findings raise concern that this aspect of the role has been largely overlooked and impacts on professional competence. We make recommendations to address these concerns through appropriate pedagogy.



Mirror mirror on the wall... reflection in social work

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Reflection is thought to be an important activity of a social worker working in child welfare. The systematic consideration of an experience or action would help to improve professionalism. But do social workers actually reflect? And which methods do they use for reflection? This question came from the three youth care organizations of the Twente Youth Care Expertise Center (EJT; a collaboration between three youth care services and a university of applied sciences in the Netherlands). We conducted a quantitative study among pedagogical staff (n = 48), and ambulatory care providers (n = 84) of three youth organizations. We used the theory of planned behavior (Ajzen & Madden, 1986) to find out what determines whether or not social workers reflect on their work. We assessed attitude, social norm and self-efficacy of the social workers regarding reflection. In addition we studied the usage of several reflection models by the workers. In addition a qualitative study was conducted among a small group of ambulatory care workers. The aim of this study was to examine the motivation of employees to reflect and the facilities they need to apply reflection methods in their work. In the presentation the study will be discussed, as will the main conclusions, which are: (i) most of the professionals have a positive attitude towards reflection, (ii) reflection models offered to students in social work studies are not fully used in the practice of social work, (iii) important stakeholders, in particular colleagues and the educational institutions, regard reflection as important in the practice of social work, this encourages professionals to apply models of reflection. The study shows that although reflection is perceived as an important part of being a social worker, social workers still reflect insufficient methodically.



Researching 'authentic professional learning' how social work students  
develop professional judgement skills

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This paper will present the methodological and substantive elements of ongoing Doctoral research into how skills of professional judgement are developed by social work students in England. The notion of 'authentic professional learning' is proposed by Webster-Wright (2009) to encapsulate the concept of the 'lived experience' of learning as it takes place for professionals (2009: 175). She advocates for research that 'seeks to understand professionals' experiences of learning in a way that respects and retains the complexity and diversity of these experiences, with the aim of developing insights into better ways to support professionals' (Webster-Wright 2009: 714) Effective professional judgement is at the core of good social work practice and is embedded in regulatory and professional frameworks. Whilst research into social work professional judgement is increasing I would argue that we still lack robust knowledge and understanding of how these skills are learned and developed by social workers and social work students. Using the concept of 'authentic professional learning' my research sought to uncover how learning is taking place for students with the eventual aim of influencing the development of pedagogical responses that seek to support and enhance this learning. The research used a critical event narrative approach, within a framework of appreciative inquiry to explore with students at the point of qualification their development of professional judgements skills during the course of field placements. An emmeshed picture emerged of the interplay of autonomy and validation in practice decisions; personal agency in learning and an evolution into adopting a social worker identity. This was mediated throughout by the development of professional confidence.





## Child welfare interventions: reducing, reflecting or reinforcing social inequalities?

Paul Bywaters  
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While there is a longstanding, if ambivalent, relationship between social work and families living in poverty, the question whether child welfare services reflect, reduce or reinforce social inequalities in family life and children's wellbeing remains little explored. Recent data from a 10% sample of children on child protection plans or being looked after in out-of-home care in England have shed new light on the extent and nature of the relationship between social deprivation at the neighbourhood level and social work interventions in family life. This paper reports key findings from that study, drawing on the analytical methods and concepts developed in the study of inequalities in health, such as the social gradient and the inverse care law. It provides evidence of very large socially structured inequalities in child welfare intervention rates and concludes that rates of intervention cannot be usefully compared between local administrative areas or nations without taking into account the impact of deprivation and ethnicity. However, the new information provided by this study also raises crucial questions, including whether higher or lower rates of intervention reflect greater safety for children, how we judge the effectiveness of national child welfare systems and the morality of the current (English) policy emphasis on adoption. The paper reports on the developing theory of child welfare inequalities and suggests a framework for international research.



## Inequality matters for child welfare

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Open University

There is a growing recognition across the political spectrum that the spectacular growth in inequality over the last 30 years in the UK poses serious issues for individual well-being and social cohesion. This research, by interrogating the relationship between inequality and poverty, highlights the urgency of attending to the social contexts within which poverty is experienced. A number of research studies suggest that tackling inequality would make a significant contribution to reducing the harms that children experience. However, this research evidence continues to be ignored by policy makers and has not been engaged with by the researchers' influential with such policy makers. In this presentation the evidence on the links between inequality and child maltreatment is explored. The presentation then presents some preliminary findings from ongoing work on how multiple narratives might be framed that appeal to researchers and policy makers in order to encourage research and policy action in this area.



Poverty and decisionmaking in child welfare and protection: deepening the  
biased debate

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The influence of socio-economic background factors, such as poverty, on the risk of children to be disproportionately represented and placed in residential care has increasingly been the subject of international research. This presentation reports on the findings of a research project that focused on the relationship between poverty and child welfare and protection (CWP) interventions in Flanders (the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium). Using logistic regression models (N=33,423) we examined which specific socio-economic risk factors - measured at the level of the household of the child - in the total population of children enhances the risk of CWP interventions. The results reveal that all included socio-economic variables, except one, show an increased risk of CWP interventions. Our results, however, also indicate that a rather dominant social, cultural and historically rooted construction of middle-class family life seems to be an important ground for interventions. Based on these findings, it is argued that the current debate on bias in CWP decision-making should be broadened from a mere focus on socio-economic factors, to the question of how CWP decision-making might reinforce social inequalities affecting children and families who come to the attention of CWP services.



Deinstitutionalization of services for children with mental health problems in  
Ukraine: professional capacity and needs

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In Ukraine until present the medical approach has been prevailing towards providing services to people with mental health problems, and many of them spend most of their lives in nursing homes. The government makes efforts to initiate the deinstitutionalization process, the success of which depends in a significant way of the level of education and professional knowledge of personnel engaged into service delivery. This presentation presents the study held in spring 2014 at the four boarding schools for children with mental health problems in Ukraine. The aim of the study was to identify what professional training the staff working in boarding schools has, and what kind of knowledge and skills they need to continue their work in the newly created services. The core method used for the study was focus groups conducted separately with qualified and unqualified personnel. All the unqualified personnel providing care never studied and never had any special training, but rather learned from its own experience as well as from the experience of more qualified staff. Qualified staff (pedagogues, educators, social pedagogues and social workers) once in 5-10 years has an opportunity to be trained at the courses enhancing qualification; however, this training does not address any issues of care and education for children with mental health problems. Core knowledge and skills needed by both qualified and unqualified staff concerned the deinstitutionalization process, the content of reforming and new services, the rights for persons with disabilities according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ethical norms and principles of work with children with mental health problems. By the qualified staff only - needs of children with mental health problems (specifically, training and sexual ones), ability to cope with the children's aggressive behavior manifestations without medicines use, interaction with parents and community members etc.



Never again?: the growth of antisemitism in Europe: contradictions and complexity

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As a result of the global economic crisis and the continuing hold of neoliberalism, many European countries are experiencing state imposed austerity regimes. This in turn has contributed to a growth of xenophobia, racism and nationalism; which in some instances manifests itself in fascist political movements espousing openly racist and antisemitic rhetoric and ideology. Such movements threaten the human rights of minority communities across Europe and weaken social solidarity. In this context there is a pressing need to re-examine anti-racist discourse to ensure its contemporary relevance in both analysing the growth of racism; and in providing a guide for anti-racist activity. Antisemitism is a changing and contradictory phenomenon, with 'classical' and 'new' variants. In Europe, there has been a resurgence of classical antisemitism, for example in Hungary; whilst at the same time there has been a growth of 'new' antisemitism in Sweden linked to the politics of the Middle East. Both instances can have serious implications for Jewish communities. At the same time, much contemporary anti-racist literature, as for example in the field of social work, does not integrate an analysis of antisemitism (Levine, 2014). This relative absence of an integrated analysis of antisemitism is problematic and potentially disarms the anti-racist movement. This paper will analyse the growth of antisemitism in Europe and explore the resulting complexities, with a particular focus on the conflation often made between anti-zionism and antisemitism. The paper will argue that the two perspectives need disentangled so that the dangerous contemporary growth in antisemitism can be both understood and challenged.



## Responses to racism among Ethiopian adolescent girls in Israel an empirical study

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The present study contributes to our knowledge of the effects of racism on its victims, its correlation with emotional and behavioral coping styles, and its psychological effects (internalized racism), among a sample of 93 girls aged 15-21 from the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel. The few studies that have been conducted on this subject in Israel found that young Ethiopian people experience racism based on skin color. Several patterns of emotional responses (anger, empowerment, internalized emotions) and behavioral responses (adapt, fight, flight) to the experience of perceived racism were found. Consonant with the literature (Brown 2003), the different dimensions of internalized racism can be divided into three distinct dimensions: nihilistic tendencies, anti-self issues and suppressed anger expression. Significant correlation was found between the frequency of perceived racism, anti-self issues and suppressed anger expressions, in addition to an almost significant correlation with nihilistic tendencies. The different internalized implications of perceived racism are discussed, considering the different chosen styles of coping. Analysis of the findings shows that perception of racism by the girls and the way they chose to respond indicate mental consequences and a personal and social price. Finally, the different coping styles of the girls with respect to perceived racism are discussed, specifically the impact of racism on the girls' quality of life.



Nation-state, identity and struggle for livelihood: a case study of informal  
waste pickers from Assam, India

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Nation formation has often been a bloody process of suppression of ethnic and cultural diversity making people victims of 'History'. In this process weak and the marginal sections gets displaced not only materially but also from the frontier of their nationalities. When borders are created then question of legality and illegality arises and with the changed destinations a struggle to prove one's identity and nationality begins. This problem is more visible in case of migrant communities. It has been four decades now when the boundaries were redefined in the Indian sub-continent and a new nation state Bangladesh came into existence in 1971 resulting in cultural discontinuity for people between the two nations and a new definition of their existing identities emerged. The Bengali Muslim population of East Bengal origin which got divided between Bangladesh and Residual Assam has been living with their transmuted identity and citizenship status till date. The purpose of this paper is to reflect the problem of this section of religious minority which has been struggling to prove their citizenship status in the state of Assam post partition. This paper is based on the field survey conducted in two cities of India i.e Lucknow Uttar Pradesh in (the destination) and Barpeta in Assam (the source). The use of structured questionnaire, interviews, documentaries and folk songs have been used as tools of research methodology to understand their problems and psyche related to livelihood, migration, culture and identity. The nature of the research is action oriented in which problems of this migrant community are identified and suitable need based measures with the help of different stakeholders are adopted as a support system.



Family group conferences and child protection: a review of international  
research on outcomes

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This article will explore the international use of Family Group Conferences (FGCs) in the field of child protection, reviewing the range of research studies which analyse outcomes for children and young people, when FGCs have been used in this area. FGCs originated in New Zealand in the 1980s, in response to the disproportionate number of Maori children in the care system at that time and since then, they have become an internationally recognised method of social work intervention, having been implemented in a range of countries in Europe as well as in Australia, the USA and Canada. Outcome studies have shown mixed results and whilst some studies show that FGCs are more successful in achieving positive outcomes for children and young people than traditional and existing child protection systems, other studies have shown the opposite impact or indeed suggest that FGCs do not make a difference to outcome measures. The article will go on to explore the hypothesis that FGCs are more likely to be successful when they are an integral part of child protection systems, substantiated by legislation and policy, such as in New Zealand and most of Australia and less successful when they are an 'add on' service to existing processes. It concludes with recommendations on how FGCs should be an integral part of child protection processes in the UK to improve outcomes for children and young people. Key words: Family Group Conferences Child Protection Outcomes for children.





## Homelessness among immigrant youth: transitions between inclusion and exclusion

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Long-term homelessness has fallen dramatically in the past twenty years in Finland. The government has approved a national program to reduce homelessness and eliminate long-term homelessness by 2015. The demographic profile of Finland's homeless population is changing. Society is now facing new forms of homelessness. In the past, long-term homeless people made up the 'hard core' of homelessness. Today, young immigrants have become a growing subgroup of the homeless population. The number of homeless people has decreased in all categories except people living temporarily with friends and relatives. In 2013, there were nearly 2,000 homeless immigrants, exceeding 25 % of the total number of homeless people. Immigrants accounted for over 60 % of homeless families. In Helsinki, the number of homeless immigrants' rose by 450 persons during the year. In my research I am asking: what are the routes and path which lead youth immigrant ending up homeless? What are young peoples' reactions to social exclusion and what are their strategies in order to avoid it? What are the transitions between inclusion and exclusion? My research focuses in metropolitan areas and it is funded by the Helsinki Metropolitan Region Urban Research Program. Learning about homelessness from the youth themselves can facilitate the development of service systems within the public and private sector. My research also seeks to identify whether homelessness among immigrant youth is associated with societal or cultural phenomena as well as the factors that should be considered in the prevention of homelessness and in the provision of supportive housing services.



## Collective political action in the neoliberal welfare state

Anna Ryan Bengtsson  
Gothenburg University

My dissertation is about collective political action among female dominated, care giving, occupational groups in the transformed Swedish welfare state. Over the last 30 years Sweden, historically known for its ambitions of equity and equality, has gone through major changes in line with the neoliberal paradigm. Marketization, individualization and standardization of work routines are some of the effects of the intertwined process of implementing new public management (NPM). Some scholars argue that NPM changes the professional logic, from an occupational to an organizational professionalism, where accountability rather than responsibility is emphasised (Evetts 2009). The last years, workers initiatives and collective political actions among several occupational groups have appeared in the Swedish context. Examples are "the homecare roar", "Nurses have had enough" and "Breaking the silence among social workers" (my translation). Personnel, both inside and outside the unions, are publishing open letters, starting blogs to describe their work situation, starting/joining networks and some are even collectively handing in their letters of resignation. The reasons stated are both deteriorated working conditions, such as lowered salaries, an increased workload and being controlled with GPS, as well as the inability to carry out a professional work and not being able to guarantee the patient's/client's safety. The international (IFSW) definition of social work puts a strong emphasis on the political responsibility of the social work professionals. At the conference I want to present some initial results from my coming qualitative interview study with social workers, active in the breaking the silence network. Through this I will address how intersections of power play out and are being negotiated collectively in the neoliberal welfare state. As well as what kinds of rooms for action that are opened and needed in order to bring equity and equality issues back on to the agenda.



Austerity, social work and the "backwardness" in intervention: is there a return to assistencialism?

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Austerity policies that are at place as response to the financial crisis of 2008 have been affecting most European countries, and more deeply countries with overwhelming public debt. The policy measures implied in this approach have direct and, we will argue, pernicious consequences to how social intervention is endeavored with disadvantaged publics. Taking the example of Portugal, we will analyze changes in social policy (as the diminishing cash benefits and the increasing of benefits in kind) and the counterpart of the changes in the social condition of the Portuguese population (unemployment rates, income levels, private debt, and so forth). At the same time, we will look at the macro situation of the country, in terms of the evolution of public debt, of social inequalities and of labour conditions, among others. This will be reinforced with data about the global situation of wealth accumulation and growing and the general behaviour of public debt. We will argue that beneath the situation of crisis and the urge to set up solutions, there is a strong political approach presented as an inevitability which imposes to citizens the continuous decay of the welfare state, the devaluation of the idea of social rights and the precariousness of labour relationships. Under these circumstances Social Work is being pushed into practices characterized by an assistencialist approach, an individualization of the analysis and a blaming bias on the way social phenomena are seen. The paper will conclude questioning if social intervention is going backwards and what kind of challenges it poses to a profession that was recently redefined itself as a human rights and social justice profession.



## Solidarity and trust challenges of Bosnian society

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The realities of the current state of society in a time of global crisis compels us to recognize how complex networks of interdependent political and economic circumstances, creates multiple pressures on individual human existence. Social solidarity, according to the classical sociological definition from the work of Emil Durkheim, points to its "highly moral value", regardless of whether it is observed at a global or local level. Major changes in this "highly moral value" are largely a reflection of social events. Solidarity and trust were matters of high importance in the theoretical literature of the social sciences in the twentieth century. It is a question that in all cultures, times and circumstances solidarity and trust unquestionably have a pronounced relevance. Civil society depends on the spirit of generalized trust and confidence in the Other (A. Seligman), and only trust and security are essential qualities needed in the world for every human being, especially the basic trust on which Giddens says, as the central element in a complex network of relationships in general society. Based in the theoretical understandings of solidarity, the author will present the results of research done with students of social work, sociology, communication, law and economics. The research explores the important question of the extent of solidarity that exists in contemporary Bosnian society. Its importance lies in how Bosnian society views the constructs of social security and the values underpinning a societal norm of solidarity during a period of economic and organizational crisis based in recent history and the current economic situation. Methodology used is survey and focus groups.



(Re) politicising social work: reclaiming the political role of social work in  
public social services

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Social work is under stress. The very essence of the social welfare state, the concept of solidarity, is eroding. Guaranteeing basic social rights is weighed against individualization, marketization and conditionalization. Social work is forced to obey to managerialistic directives including a data-driven and consumerist approach. The inherently political part of social work is pushed into the background. Following the work of Chantal Mouffe, a distinction can be made here between 'the political' and 'politics'. By the political Mouffe means the dimension of antagonism which she takes to be constitutive of human societies, while by 'politics' she means the set of practices and institutions through which an order is created, organizing human coexistence in the context of conflictuality provided by the political. Hence, social work has to reclaim its political role. Indeed, the agenda of politicians and institutions and the agenda of social workers are fundamentally interwoven and so both "politics" and "the political" are co-constructed. We present an ongoing research in which we examine the way the relation between 'the political' and 'politics' is constructed. More specifically, we focus on the processes underlying this relation looking at the role and functioning of both professional social workers and mandated politicians within the Public Social Welfare Centers (PSCW) in Belgium. A PSCW is a local public institution where professional social workers and local politicians representing the community, are together engaged in a dialectic process to decide on a social intervention put in place to guarantee social rights. We study four case studies (PSWCs), hereby giving attention to the position and contribution of the actors involved. Preliminary results indicate the potentially disruptive effects of changes in politics and the importance of formation, organizational continuity and commonly constructed strategies. Out of these findings, particular recommendations towards social work practices are explored.



Social services for older people in the Czech Republic: towards  
deinstitutionalization or marketization?

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The concept of deinstitutionalization has become part of Czech policy since 2006, making it interesting to evaluate the response of local government in implementing it, in the context of changes that were part of the movement away from old pre-1989 Eastern European models. The authors focus their investigation on a case study of elder care services, and especially domiciliary care services provision in a municipality within the South Moravian region. Main emphasis is put on the implementation of the mutually supportive policies of deinstitutionalization and marketization, investigating the manners and mechanisms through which these were implemented. A mixed-method design was used combining several data sources (administrative data, statistics, qualitative case study data and policy documents). In spite of an aging population and of a policy purporting to want to transfer care from institutions to support at home, state provision for both institutional and home-based care are declining. Moreover, domiciliary care service agencies persistently concentrate on the provision of practical help, while there is little or no provision of 24/7 care services or case management support. The dearth of places in registered nursing homes has occasioned the large growth of unregistered facilities that tend to take the most vulnerable older people, the latter being the ones that bring with them the highest care allowances. Thus, the care for these people takes place increasingly in settings where the standards of care and care workers' qualifications are not checked, resulting in low levels of quality of provided care as well as poor working conditions for care workers.



## Organizing aging transnationally

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During the past decades the lifeworlds of older people have become increasingly transnationalized due to improved economic and emerging technological and health-related possibilities. At the same time demographic changes and longer lifetimes lead to increasing needs and rising costs for nursing and care in old age in industrialized countries. Within this context, social services and organizations play a crucial role supporting and facilitating transnational options in old age. They offer for example solutions to specific problems such as long-term care beyond national borders. The symposium focuses on these (new) phenomena by looking at the social practices, mechanisms and consequences of organizing aging transnationally. For this reason case studies from different countries will be presented which focus on how transnational aging is organized and produced at the level of everyday lifeworlds as well as of social services and organizations. Accordingly, the following research questions will be at the centre of the symposium: Which social orders are produced and reproduced in transnational everyday practices and in transnational organizations for the elderly? What conceptions of aging and old age do emerge? To what extent does the transnational organizing of old age become a business? What commodification does appear in elderly care when the field is shifted to transnational spaces and is not financed by social security systems (anymore)? Against this backdrop the social implications for the sending and the receiving countries will be discussed. The case studies presented employ a wide range of research methods, including participant observation, informal and semi-structured interviews, and content and survey data analysis. Organization: International Research Cluster Transnational Social Support (TRANSSOS) - Working Group "Transnational Aging".



## Growing old and queer in Taiwan: torn between two worlds of family and gay lives

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In Chinese culture, filial piety for a son is defined as producing an heir to propagate the paternal line. For Taiwanese gay men, 'coming out' as 'gay' may be interpreted as a refusal to produce a male heir, and thus constitutes a major conflict within their family. Without the support of family, being gay often means aging without care by family. Drawing from oral history interviews of fifteen elderly gay men, the author investigates how Taiwanese elderly gay men experience their old age within this cultural context. The findings show that for those Taiwanese elderly gay men who married, producing an heir to carry on the family name is considered their duty of a son and insurance for one's old age. However, gay men who married often have a segregated but double life. Elderly gay men developed various strategies to strike a balance between the two worlds and rituals of passage in their constant moves of in-and-out. A moral boundary is developed between the duty of a husband and the right to be gay, as a participant defines 'when my children get married' as the end of his family responsibility and the start of his gay life. Second, those Taiwanese elderly gay men who decided not to marry would have to adopt various strategies to cope with pressure from the family. Leaving home is the most common strategy they used. Being a queer is to become a person in continuous forms of diaspora for these gay men who deviate from the norms of family ethics. The findings challenge the taken-for-granted dichotomy of being gay and getting married in contemporary gay discourses. For these Taiwanese elderly gay men, being gay and fulfilling family responsibility is not incompatible but coexists.





Personal social networks of Portuguese childless elder people and older parents

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The relevance of informal social support from family is crucial for the elderly in Portugal given the large margins of lack of social protection from the public policies. We present a study that aims to analyze the structural and functional characteristics of the personal social networks of Portuguese elder with and without offspring. We had 446 participants aged between 65 and 98 years old ( $M = 76$ ;  $SD = 7,6$ ), mainly women (64%) and married (62%) or widowed (36%). 13% are childless and the other 87% ( $n = 389$ ) are parents of 2,35 sons/daughters in average ( $SD = 1,4$ ; from 1 to 10), 26% with an only child. Their personal social networks characteristics were assessed with the Personal Social Network Analysis Tool (IARSP-Elder) (Guadalupe, 2010). When we compare the characteristics of social networks of those who are childless with those who are parents, the results show structural differences in the network size ( $p < 0,001$ ), and in its composition, but no differences in the main functional variables. The personal social network of the parents is larger ( $M = 8,05$  vs.  $5,93$ ) and the proportion of family is 30% higher, when compared with the childless ( $p < 0,001$ ). The childless elderly have a higher percentage of friends ( $M = 25,75\%$  vs.  $10,04\%$ ) and neighbours ( $M = 19,13\%$  vs.  $6,56\%$ ) in their networks in comparison with the parents ( $p \leq 0,001$ ). The main findings indicate that the structure of personal social networks is different in the groups we compared, which reflects a family-centered network for the older parents and a friendship and neighborhood network for the childless elderly, probably to compensate the lack of offspring. Regarding the "familist" trend in social networks and social services in Portugal, Social Work must reflect on these indicators for rethinking social services' strategies.



Ageing in drought – a longitudinal thematic analysis of older women's  
experiences of drought in Australia

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Drought has always been a part of the Australian landscape, yet there is little research into understanding the psychological consequences of drought, gendered experiences of it and its long term effects. This project aimed to address these gaps; in particular by understanding the diverse ways that drought is perceived and responded to by older Australian women. This research investigates the mental and emotional well-being of older women (75 at baseline) living with drought over a 13 year time period. Longitudinal qualitative free-text comments written by the oldest cohort of women (born between 1921-26) in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health were subject to a thematic analysis. The comments were collected at five different time points 1996, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009, from 12 different women. Women were chosen to participate if they had ever written about an experience of drought in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Findings indicate that experiences of drought have a relationship to women's ability to age in ways they may have once imagined. For instance, some older women wrote about beginning casual work after retirement. Results show that the resilience, pragmatism and strength of these older women were a protective barrier to negative effects of drought. The caring responsibilities of older women were also prominent, women wrote about caring in diverse ways such as caring for loved ones, caring for deceased estates, and the need to take care of themselves, including access to respite care. Each of these themes of ageing, caring and drought are connected and interdependent - they also develop and intensify over the 1996-2009 time frames. This study highlights the complex interactions of living in drought for older Australian women.



Documentation practices in need assessment: an analysis of descriptions of  
older people in social work case files

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This presentation departs from the ongoing debate on the role that documentation plays in the clientization of people within social work. It is based on a study of documentation within the context of need assessment practice in Swedish elderly care. The aim is to shed light on how older people's needs are described in the case files that are used in this practice. The data is comprised of case files (N=202), containing investigations (N=488). Half of the case files concern older people with a Swedish background and half older people with a foreign-background. The results show that, on the whole, the documentation adheres to a standardized template including set headings under which older people and their needs are described in a similar manner. However, in the parts of the assessment that deal with social relations and health status, there are clear differences between how Swedish-born and foreign-born older people are described in terms of level of detail and what information is presented. Regarding the parts where judgments and decisions are made, there are differences in terms of how decisions are justified and presented: foreign-born older people's assistance needs are more often connected to the additional workload that their relatives perform. The results partially support the critical debate about how clients are constructed in social work documentation. The study also adds new knowledge to this discussion by showing that there is an active categorization process in need assessment documentation in which older people in investigations is described in different ways. As such, the presentation will contribute to the debate on the challenges that documentation practices pose for social work and raises questions about how gender and background influence case documentation.



On being a social work researcher and a service user: insights and tensions

Joanna Fox

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Social work research emphasises the usefulness of evidence-based practice informed by rigorous methodologies. The hierarchy of knowledge places great value on quantitative data which is seen as reliable and generalisable generated from positivist paradigms; though the place of qualitative data in capturing and conveying individual experience is also recognised. Approaches based on positivist paradigms often fail to recognise the value of knowledge informed by practice wisdom or expertise-by-experience; positivist research focuses on the exclusion of identity and bias from the research. I am a researcher, but also occupy the role of mental health service user. This provides me with insight built on experience as well as practice and research. My PhD utilised participatory action research (PAR) and focused on exploring carers' responses to the recovery concept. Carers participated in a training intervention about the recovery approach developed by myself and a steering group of people from backgrounds, and co-delivered by me and a carer. The research participants acknowledged the authenticity of recovery modeled in me as a service user and learned to recognise and benefit from the carers' journey of recovery as they participated in the programme. The diversity of identities represented in the steering group was central to the success of the study and essential in PAR which seeks to empower co-researchers, in contrast to positivist research which seeks to report data rather than generate change. The presentation of my multi-identity was central to this study as it influenced the learning of carers and empowered co-researchers. It built on different kinds of knowledge generated from practice and expertise-by-experience. There were however conflicting tensions in managing the inclusion of identity in research particularly in the context of current dominant paradigms. This paper identifies the strengths and tensions in focusing on different types of knowledge within a participatory change-oriented research paradigm.



## Introducing service user coresearchers into social work education research

Carolyn Gutman  
Tel Hai College

In the UK, service-user involvement has long been a feature of social work education, mainly in the teaching of courses but also increasingly in research projects where their personal experiences challenge traditional perceptions of knowledge building and support the value of alternative research methodologies. However, by contrast, in Israel the contributions of service-user involvement in social work education and research are still not recognized and a framework for such involvement has yet to be addressed in both social work policy and education. Grounded in the context of the differences in service user involvement in social work education and research between the UK and Israel, a joint project between Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in the UK and Tel-Hai College in Israel was developed. The aim of this collaborative study was to create a comparative research methodology to evaluate the outcomes of service-user involvement in social work education. A main tenet of the research methodology adopted in this project included partnering with a group of older service users as co-researchers from each country. Here, we present the comparative tools applied in this study that will contribute, we believe, to the development of future collaborative research. We offer insights gained through our work with the group of Israeli older adults through their transition to the role of co-researchers in the study. We address the tensions that emerged as the older co-researchers' struggled with research concepts, as well as with the expectations and boundaries of their new role. We also identify our insights into the value of creating a group setting that appeared to further the research process by satisfying the older co-researchers' need for social and emotional connections with like others, becoming a place where they could create a common language rooted in their professional past and their experience of aging.



## The complexity of coproducing research with mental health service users

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Involving expert by experience into research contributes to the development of theory, values and practice in a way which is based on the assertion that the integration of theory and practice will not come only from a rigid body of knowledge, but from the contribution of users alongside professional knowledge. The presentation will outline the value of knowledge gained from participatory user research and the lessons learned from such cooperation. Such research is based on research with people rather than research on people, following Peter Reason's definition (1994). The main research method applied in my project was cooperative inquiry (Reason 1994). Data were collected using structured interviews that had been designed, prepared, implemented, analyzed and presented by expert by experience of mental illness, supported by me as the principal researcher. To implement participatory user research in social work we need to ensure the following elements are in place: Firstly the commitment to the co-production among expert by experience, their workers and academic colleagues. A genuine dialogue and trust need to be developed if we want to capture the diversity of knowledge as a source of richness in understanding the perspective of life experience of users, leading to a new formulation of "social problems". Secondly, as Ramon (2003) stated, the research cannot be of high quality, if the researchers are insufficiently prepared to carry it out. Therefore we need to ensure that users are trained and supported during the whole research process. Thirdly sustainability is demanding because such an involvement requires a continuation of the participatory process. The presentation will provide examples of the above from our joint research with service users, including its conceptual and practice contribution and the epistemic shift, produced by the inclusion of people with the lived experience of a mental ill health crisis and its aftermath.



The art of recognition - userinvolvement and collaboration in the Norwegian qualification programme

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The Norwegian Qualification Program (QP) is an inclusion-oriented work- and activation program, offering long-term unemployed close and comprehensive follow-up and customized activation to strengthen their opportunities on the labour market. Policy documents emphasize user-involvement and collaboration as a prerequisite for success, urging social workers to equally emphasize the users' wishes, needs and situational self-understanding. The paper analyses follow-up meetings in local welfare service offices to examine the dynamics and processes governing the collaboration and working alliance between users and social workers, focusing particularly on the way participants respond, position themselves, and negotiate as the meetings proceeds. The study has a qualitative design, based on observations of 30 meetings between social workers and users in two local welfare service offices. The analysis is informed by institutional interactionism, which places special focus on the institutional frameworks within which the interaction takes place. As a theoretical framework for analysis, I employ Nancy Frazer's theory of recognition and parity of participation. Findings suggest that recognition is an ambiguous issue within the work and activation field, as social workers balance between institutional requirements and limitations and users' wishes and needs, while users negotiate for participational parity. The dual aims of inclusion-oriented work- and activation policy; recognizing the user as equal partners in collaboration and the policy goal of getting users into paid employment, becomes the social worker's dilemma.



The reflective participants: when participants join in the production of knowledge in qualitative research

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Adital Ben-Ari  
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Background and purpose: In this presentation, we examine the role played by participants as they enter the research process. While participants' reflectivity engulfs a great potential for new constructed knowledge, it has not received adequate conceptual or empirical attention by scholars of qualitative research. When researchers engage participants in an interview process, with every question they ask, they call upon the participants to reflect over their experiences, thoughts, emotions, behaviors, encounters with others, memories, etc. Participants narrate their life stories, experiences, or views regarding the phenomena at hand and decide to what extent to provide a detailed account. They may choose to fully relate to the experience, or they may keep themselves distant to enable themselves to contemplate, examine, think, or analyze the experience in question. In order for one to engage oneself in reflective work, there must be some distance between the "observer" and the "observed" that enables a contemplative stance vis-à-vis the phenomena or experience in question. Theme: Our presentation is attuned to both conference theme and the methodological sub-theme. It is part and parcel of the sub theme of "Social work research methodologies and theory building", in as much as it delineates a new mechanism geared towards the production of new knowledge derived from the research encounter. It also in congruence with the general theme of the conference as it re-visions the opportunities embedded in social work research. Conclusions: The distance between the observer and the observed creates a liminal space wherein participants may step in and out of their own experiences. This liminal space serves as an opportunity for reflectivity, because it is that which enables being both inside and outside the studied phenomena, the precondition for adopting a reflective stance.





Caring and volunteering in domestic spaces: an evaluation of a UK  
Home-Start organisation

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Within the context of the current austerity measures in the UK, increasing numbers of families are experiencing hardship. Further, funding for the voluntary and community sector continues to be reduced in the UK. In this presentation, we draw on ethnographic research undertaken in Manchester, England with Home-Start, a voluntary organisation that aims to support families experiencing difficulty in caring for young children. Through considering the narrative accounts of families, volunteers and social care professionals, the presentation outlines how the social relationships and connections transformed domestic spaces into spaces of care associated with advice, generosity and friendship. In highlighting the role played by volunteers within the families' homes, we consider how practices and performances of volunteering co-construct domestic spaces of care. The presentation informs practices of voluntarism, professionals' connections with a social care voluntary organisation, and the role of an area-based voluntary organisation in providing care in an age of austerity. It has broader implications for social work practice, specifically demonstrating that co-production of care between the voluntary sector, professionals and families supports those experiencing difficulties in managing the everyday challenges of parenting.



## Social responsibility and social work practice: contexts and challenges

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The paper has the following goals: to contextualize social and collective responsibility in the social work domain and current challenges to the profession, to identify social responsibility representations and practices on social work professionals, and to analyze their congruence and effects on social work practice. Social and collective responsibility have been recently included in the discussion of a new social work definition by the International Federation of Social Workers (ISFW) and The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) as a principle, in a wider theoretical, methodological and axiological framework. This principle seems particularly relevant when analyzing different intervention contexts and dimensions that will be explored in the paper. Undervaluing any of these dimensions will strongly impact social cohesion and social change, in a sustainability perspective. We will identify social responsibility representations and practices on a sample of Portuguese social work professionals, analyzing their congruence and to discuss their effects on social work practice, namely in terms of authenticity. Therefore, the paper intends to engage in the debate on social and collective responsibility and social work, contributing to the development of social work education strategies and of practice guidelines that can better meet social challenges in the current socioeconomic situation.



A 'nudge' in the right direction: small scale incentives to encourage compliance with social work regulatory and professional standards

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Behaviour change strategies are gaining popularity with some government administrations. Nudge theory suggests that small interventions - 'nudges' - in the arena in which choices are made can alter people's behaviour in predictable ways. In the context of increasing concern about regulatory failures they are seen as a mechanism to generate low cost alternatives to high cost government-imposed regulatory strategies. For example, the Behavioural Insights Team, established by the UK Government in 2010, suggests that policies and intervention - including regulatory interventions - can be designed to efficiently enable people to make better choices. This paper presents findings from a research study exploring the behavioural impact of introducing a regulated register alongside protection of title for social workers in the UK. The research found evidence that 'perverse incentives' seemed to be associated with this model of regulation, including defensive and personal risk-avoidant social work practice. Decision-making about choices in the space between professionalism and boundary transgression resulted in potentially less positive outcomes for service users. Nudge Theory was used to interrogate the moments of decision-making relating to professionalism and boundaries. Pre-cursive moments where possible workplace nudges could have been applied to support positive choice-making in line with social work values are identified. Local 'nudges' which might reduce the need for higher level regulatory intervention are suggested. The paper will conclude with an evaluation of the usefulness of nudge theory as a contributor to improvements in social work practice



## Social workers' and General practitioners' perceptions of nonproblematic situations

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**Aim:** To describe and analyze written accounts of non-problematic situations (NPS) by social workers (SW) and general practitioners (GP). Accounts were collected from 28 SWs and 24 GPs in Swedish. Results: SW and GP had different perceptions of NPS. GPs' accounts of NPS referred to situations where they solved the patient's problem and lived up to the expected institutionalized role as competent diagnostician. These situations involved well-known and easily diagnosed conditions where they could rely on their professional experience, evidence-based practices and guidelines. SWs' descriptions of NPS were more complex and their accounts were tied to their relationship with the client and their coercive role and function. NPS referred to situations where clients were perceived as co-operative, compliant and open to change, or where the client left the SW with no other choice than to use coercive means. Conclusions: We argue that the different perceptions of NPS indicate that conditions for establishing and maintaining control over professional practice differ between SWs and GPs. For GPs, control was a matter of choosing and applying knowledge on voluntary help seeking clients' medical problems. In comparison to GPs, the clients SWs met were often "involuntary clients". Hence, control over SWs professional practice came down to establishing and maintaining control over the relationship with the client. Findings support the idea that evidence-based knowledge, guidelines and manuals might be useful to support GPs' professional routine practice. However, similar strategies might be of limited use in SWs' practice since evidence-based knowledge, guidelines and manuals to a large extent rest on a tacit assumption of "relationship truce" between professionals and clients.



Bringing the family back in: on role assignment and clientification in the  
Swedish social services

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In Sweden, municipal social services provide help and support for vulnerable people with a variety of needs. Although the family has long been a target of social work interventions, it is unclear how it is brought into the casework process in the social services. Therefore, our research investigated processes of client-making and role assignment in five sectors: economic support, child welfare, addictions, disability, and care of older persons. We carried out focus group interviews with social workers in each of these sectors in a mid-sized community in central Sweden. Findings showed that the clienthood and family are interpreted in different ways. The family is brought into or kept out of service provision in ways that are connected to social workers' construction of the family as either expert, client or non-client. The role of the family may also change during the casework process. Implications for family focused practice are discussed.



'Khaki fever' and its management: the moral panic about young women's  
sexuality in Britain during the First World War

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The First World War was a time of great social, political and economic upheaval for men, women and children across Europe. For working-class young women in Britain, the war brought new freedoms and new opportunities, as increasing numbers of women engaged in work in factories, mines and fields, and increasing numbers chose to serve overseas as nurses and drivers etc. Alongside this massive social change came renewed concern for the behaviour of young working-class women, and specifically the sexual behaviour of young working-class women. 'Khaki fever' became the expression of this concern, as military and police authorities, feminists and other social reformers and commentators (that is, early social workers) sought to do something to control the behaviour of young women who were found to be hanging about outside barracks and running after men in uniform. This paper will interrogate the concept of 'khaki fever' as a moral panic, asking where the discourse came from, how it played out in practice, and what its consequences were, both positive and negative, for those involved and for society as a whole. The paper will consider the position of early social workers as guardians of morality and controllers of sexuality, looking specifically at the role of the National Vigilance Association within this. It will finally make links between this moral panic and current concerns about young people and sexuality, often expressed today in terms of child sexual exploitation.



Developing agency in the margins of the motherhood myth: a call for social  
work researchers

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The goal of this presentation is to facilitate the creation of an international research group centered on a critical examination of social work practice with mothers. My talk is grounded in lessons learned from studies I conducted in the last decade with women in Israel, whose varied experiences as mothers threatened their self-image and social image as good mothers, and from studies on the perceptions of social workers regarding mothers they meet in their practice. One conclusion drawn from the Israeli studies, reinforcing findings from other countries, is that mothers who fail to comply with the dominant, hegemonic social expectations known as "the motherhood myth", often experience great difficulties and challenges which are not met by a good-enough social work response. Though mothers comprise one of the largest client groups served by social workers, the bulk of intervention with them is directed to improve the well-being of their children. I suggest that social workers' interventions with mothers are constrained, among other things, by the following: (a) an overriding commitment to the "best interest of the child"; (b) the personal, professional and cultural ramifications of the "motherhood myth"; and (c) a conceptualization of the mothers as victims of dire personal, familial and social circumstances. These conceptions lead to responses ranging from the judgmental to the empathic, but often do not lay an adequate, sufficient professional infrastructure for facilitating agency in mothers who are social work clients. Thus, a potential agenda for a research group on mothers as clients of social work may include a critical examination of the theoretical foundations of such practice, research on social work practice with mothers, and the development and evaluation of innovative practice models in this domain.



The gender related experience of frontline male social workers: what kind of man am I?

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This paper examines the gender related experience of frontline male social workers. The vast majority of their colleagues and well as most of their clients are women. Furthermore, social work has most prominently been associated with non-masculine traits and values, and has been widely perceived to be a female dominated profession. Consequently, the knowledge base regarding the experience of women in social work has been greatly strengthened, with intense focus given to women's issues and needs, both in the agency and educational setting. At the same time however, scholarship and awareness about men and their gender issues in social work education and practice, has received far less attention. This is despite the presence of males both in the classroom and in many fields of practice and agency settings, as well as calls from various quarters in the profession to further increase their numbers. This paucity appears in contradiction to an emerging awareness that re-gendering contemporary social work must necessarily involve providing significant attention to men. This paper reviews the small but growing literature on males in female dominated professions, with a focus on social work. It proceeds to highlight the authors own research, using qualitative methodologies, of the gender related experience of 18 male social workers working in public social services in Israel. A particular focus of the study was the intersection between participants' professional experiences and identity as social workers, and their masculinity. Prominent amongst emerging themes was the unique contribution of participants' fathers in the evolution of their professional inclinations and aspirations. The masculinity to which they were formatively exposed was perceived as having commanding importance in their choice of social work as a profession. Findings are discussed in the context of the emerging scholarship on dominant and alternative masculinities.





Experiences of teenage mothers: a narrative rural perspective of South African teenage mothers in Limpopo Province and Slovenia

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The main objective of the study was to investigate factors that have contributed to the low rates of teenage mothers in Slovenia as compared to some Provinces in South Africa where the problem of teenage pregnancy is still a major concern. The main research question was based on existing governmental policies and services in addressing teenage pregnancy and support for teenage mothers in both countries as well as abortion rate in Slovenia. Part one of the study encapsulate experiences of teenage mothers through narratives. The main assessment was based on policies and services that address the problem of gender and intersection issues on teenage mothers. Eleven young mothers were interviewed in South Africa (Limpopo Province) and eight young mothers, in Slovenia. Qualitative methods were utilized in gathering data. Story telling method was applied to collect data in both countries. Data was analyzed through the coding system. The results indicates interrelated variables that contribute for teenage pregnancy and abortion in both countries. Variables such as influence of religion and culture; lack of contextual knowledge on reproductive health issues; peer pressure; ignorance; exploration; lack of knowledge on the consequences of teenage pregnancy; lack of involvement of some affected structures; attitude of some professionals in rendering services; alcohol and drug abuse; poverty and poor listening skills regarding some teenagers, emerged to have detrimental effects on teenage pregnancy and abortion. Finally professionals were reported as executing services to teenagers although some of the services were not incorporating the life perspective of these teenage mothers. The attitudes of some professionals were found to be having a negative impact in shaping the life's sphere of some teenagers. Some teenage mothers had placed themselves at risk despite valuable guidance offered by professionals and parents. The results juxtapose a need for revision of qualitative strategic measures to resolve the problem of teenage pregnancy and abortion.



Gatecrashing and gatekeeping: knowledge sharing in children's  
safeguarding

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Chris Hall

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This paper presents findings from a recently completed National Institute for Health Research funded project examining the complexities of communication between hospitals and children's social care in two sites in England. At this interface, complexities arise from the need to pass pieces of unclear, speculative and ambiguous information across service boundaries. The 'jigsaw' may be incomplete, and the professional concerned may, or may not, know that some of the pieces are missing. The construction of a 'full' picture is inevitably contingent upon actions and talks within settings, and may or may not be subject to ongoing revision. The search for a common language for child welfare has been a veritable holy grail of policy, but in the context of stretched services, where information is often interpreted strategically, it has been elusive. The imperative to refer to children's social care also creates paradoxical effects in the system. To the recipient a fragment of information often makes little sense. As a result children's social care attempt to gate-keep and limit information flow into their organisation, particularly where this is fragmented and difficult to use. But, their health colleagues have equally good organisational reasons for wanted to gate-crash. The boundary difficulties are thus complicated by potentially very different interpretive schemata and local exigencies. This paper will present data which show these phenomena in detail and will raise questions about safer system design at this crucial boundary.



## Researching 'child sexual exploitation': a comparative perspective

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'Child sexual exploitation' has become established as an urgent policy and practice concern more or less globally. In England this definition was introduced into statutory guidance on 'child safeguarding', first issued in 2009. This followed activist work designed to emphasise the rights of the child to protection. 'Child sexual exploitation' has taken on an especially potent status more recently in England. A series of statutory and other enquiries have been precipitated in response to media and public outrage at social work and police failures to tackle effectively more or less organised, gang and group-based patterns of sexual assault on children in local authority areas across the country. Concern about the apparent pervasiveness of 'child sexual exploitation' has come at a time when action has been demanded into associated failures historically to protect children from predatory adults operating in organised ways to abuse children, often in public care institutions. Having become an urgent public and professional concern, 'child sexual exploitation' is now also an established topic of research interest in and beyond the social work academy in England. However, this urgency has meant that the significance of the problem as currently defined has yet to be subjected to the policy analysis necessary to situate the professional response within child welfare and criminal justice paradigms more generally. In this presentation we will discuss findings of a desk-based, synthetic literature review of the origins and implications for social work of concerns about 'child sexual exploitation', as now defined in the English policy and practice context and understood within a comparative, international frame of reference.



## Child abuse and neglect among Arab Palestinians in Israel

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Raghda Einablisy

Sapir College and Ruppin Academic Center in Israel

The lecture deals with the problem of child abuse and neglect, among Palestinian boys and girls living in Israel. The lecture will expand on the definition of the problem, its incidence, its risk factors, consequences and ways of coping and looking for help, according to the available literature. Definition - we shall emphasize the definition of the familial - cultural and socio-political context of the problem. We will try to explain how both, the cultural values and the socio-political reality of the Palestinian society in Israel, preserve and allow the vulnerability. Incidence - We shall explain the high incidence of abuse in children, according to the international literature that examined the high prevalence of the problem among minority groups - native. We will focus on factors such as exclusion from the majority group, the loss of land, traditional culture, poverty, racism, alcohol and drug addiction and the legitimacy given to men to determine the rights of women and childrens. Risk Factors - We will represent the three levels of the risk factors and try to explain their impact on the problem: Socio-political factors that relate to poverty, unemployment and discrimination in providing services ; Family risk factors refer to variables such as gender, parental age, parental education, family income, living environment, religious affiliation ; and Personal risk factors relating to the child's status, rights and obligations. Implications & Coping Strategies - We will describe the implications related to the context of the Palestinian society, such as "disgrace", "keeping the secret", "family honor", "keeping virginity", "silencing the victim" and "honor killings". Also we'll explain the socio-political motives which prevent families from reporting to law enforcement agencies.



Fairy or monster - an attempt to evaluate the Romanian child protection response to violence against children

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Gabriella Tonk  
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This research intends to contribute to the evaluation of the Romanian Child Protection System after 25 Years of development within a democratic society under the flags of Children's Rights. The presentation will proceed in four steps: historical development, presentation of the evaluation methodology, discussion of expert data, and conclusions. In the first part, the presentation will describe the historical phases of its development, and the similarities with other child protection systems. Based on data of expert opinion on the child protection system of all European countries (collected in the Daphne-Pieces project, coordinator European Child Safety Alliance, <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/pieces/project-partners.html>) that collected we shall proceed to the evaluation of the responsiveness of the Romanian protection system to issues of violence against children. We shall analyse reports of experts on accessibility of the reporting system, child-friendliness, integration in community, cooperation with family, specialization, evidence base, follow up services. We shall elaborate on the pitfalls related to the level of professionalism, training of the personnel, and the state of chronic under-financing of the system, which puts children at risk while in the system and afterwards, when they left it. Finally, the presentation identifies discrepancies in the response to violence against children of the Romanian child protection system based on the results of the Case Surveillance Study (developed in the Balkan Epidemiologic Study on Child Abuse and Neglect, <http://www.becan.eu>) the focus groups performed in the frame of the "Coordinated Response to Child Abuse & Neglect via Minimum Data Set" Daphne project (<http://www.can-via-mds.eu/>). Although Romania has made progress in developing its integrated child protection system, it has to invest more in developing its capacity to respond to the needs of children victims of violence. It also has to strengthen inter-departmental cooperation, central and local authority cooperation, the training system of professionals, and the conceptual framework of action.



Savile at Duncroft: contesting high profile allegations of historical sexual abuse at a residential school

Steve Kirkwood

The University of Edinburgh |

Mark Smith

The University of Edinburgh |

Ros Burnett

University of Oxford

Clare Lewelllyn

The University of Edinburgh

Sexual abuse allegations against high profile individuals have been dominant in the UK media over the last few years, particularly since the reporting of allegations in 2012 against Jimmy Savile, a British DJ and TV personality who died in 2011. Some of the key allegations relate to Duncroft, an Approved Residential School for teenage girls with behavioural problems, during the 1960s and 1970s. This paper presents an analysis of materials from a project involving relevant official documents, blog posts, newspaper cuttings and photographs, as well as interviews with former residents and staff members regarding their time at Duncroft, their knowledge about Savile's presence at the school, his contact with residents, and the sexual abuse allegations in particular. The data are analysed from the perspective of Discursive Psychology, which pays attention to the way that accounts actively construct reality and fulfil a range of social functions, such as blaming, justifying and criticising. The analysis highlights the ways in which accounts of sexual abuse (and its absence) are constructed, contested, and related to broader narratives about the informants, the alleged perpetrator, other residents and members of staff, as well as the school itself. The research has important implications for historical understandings of social work related services for young people, particularly in terms of the 're-visioning' of the past through the present, the contestability of accounts, the role of memory, identity and narrative, as well as contemporary responses to allegations of historical abuse, especially in terms of how they relate to justice processes and child protection measures.



"From cradle to grave"?: supporting economic and financial transitions  
following family bereavement: comparing policies and practice in Britain and  
Israel

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Death of a family member can have substantial financial consequences upon bereaved families, potentially leading to economic hardship. Depending on which person dies, the family may lose earnings, pensions, and state benefits. At the same time there may be immediate and long-term expenditure demands such as funeral expenses, housing costs, transport arrangements and debts. Such financial issues influence emotional and psychological experiences of grief and thus may increase family difficulties. Recognizing these potential negative impacts, welfare states have historically developed policies aimed at supporting economic and financial transitions following partner and family bereavement. These policies are varied in nature and relate to different spheres and systems, among them the social security system, work arrangements, the private pension system, subsidised services, social services and funeral provision. Surprisingly, despite their significant role and their comprehensive and diverse nature, policies of this kind have rarely been the focus of scholarly interest and comparative analysis. This proposed presentation will seek to address this empirical and theoretical gap. Using quantitative and qualitative data drawn from a range of sources (including: official publications, guidelines and government websites), it will compare the British and the Israeli cases to better understand the various ways these welfare states effectively implement their 'cradle-to- grave' ethos. Specifically, we will address the following questions:

- \* What are the current systems for economic support of bereaved people in Britain and Israel?
- \* What works well in each country, and what problems arise?
- \* How might policy develops to fill current gaps, and address likely changes in populations and resources?
- \* What are the responsibilities and roles for social workers supporting bereaved people?



Research in social work intervention with families

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Violeta Quiroga

Josep Maria Torralba

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The paper will submit the results of the research done about "Social Work intervention with families" by GRITS. The research has been possible due to the support given by "la Caixa" Foundation and the Social Work Association in Catalonia and started in April 2014 and will be finished in May 2015. The main purpose of this research is to investigate about the concept of social work with families and to generate knowledge about models and methods that are being used to work with families. Another aim of the research is to find out the typology of the families and how the new types of families are influencing social workers' performance of their work. The impact of the intervention of social work with families and suggestions for the improvement of their work is also an aim of this study. The methods being used have been both quantitative and qualitative. The research was designed, besides the literature about Social Work with families, from the results obtained from the analysis of 28 in-depth preliminary interviews done to senior social workers from different fields. The quantitative data is being obtained from a questionnaire which has been sent to all social workers currently registered with the Social Work Association in Catalonia who have active e-mail addresses (4200). The qualitative data comes from seven focus groups done with Social Workers from different territories in Catalonia and seven focus groups performed with families who have been attended by social workers and also from 28 in-depth interviews to families. The paper will present advanced results of the analysis of the data as the research will be finished in May 2014. The presentation and discussion of the research will be a good opportunity to spread out the main results and get also a feedback from the Conference's participants.





## Translating intensive family support lessons for social work practice

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Mary Shannon

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This paper proposes to build on the results of a small scale research project undertaken with a comparative component. Practitioners from intensive family support services in the UK and Ireland respectively were interviewed about their input with families. The focus of the interviews was to explore the processes involved in delivering intensive family support. This type of intensive targeted service provision was comparable in terms of interventions that had been developed in both countries, specifically aimed at engaging families characterised by multi-faceted and long standing problems. Although the broader socio-political environment of the two research sites were not identical, due to family support being provided within different childcare systems, very similar results were found, in terms of workers' approach & skills. Interestingly, it was these aspects that workers in both the UK and Ireland attributed for their success with 'hard to reach' families. The researchers have previously presented and discussed these findings. However, this paper intends to develop these ideas in the context of important changes of direction in family support: (i) Firstly, in each jurisdiction, recent changes in approach to overall child welfare provision in terms of stronger state involvement coupled with retrenchment of supportive services is examined with the use of key literature. (ii) Secondly, the researchers propose that the strengths based, child & family centred methodology, along with the practical and emotional support provided by the family support workers, constitutes valuable learning for social work practitioners in particular, given the current re-positioning of child social work and supportive work with families within the two jurisdictions. The researchers aim to explore the lessons from this research from an applied perspective, marrying research, theory and practice that sheds light on effective social work engagement with vulnerable children and families within changing policy frameworks and across jurisdictions.



Research into the usefulness of contemporary family social work concepts  
and developing new knowledge through practical learning

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Growing number of Slovenian families and their family members are facing complex psychosocial problems and social exclusion. These families need support and help where everyone involved in the individual working project of help co-create desired outcomes. In Slovenian practice, working with the family is often not carried out according to contemporary concepts of family social work and especially families that need help the most are often left out. The challenge is to step out of the institutional barriers into the community where people live. These was one of the aims of the action research project which we carried out at Faculty of social work with students of the master program "Family social work" in the context of practical learning. Other aims were to contribute to the transmission of family social work concepts in practice and to develop new knowledge, based on the results of the project; to train future professionals to work in the field of family social work; and to offer competent support and help to families who were facing poverty due to different problems. Therefore, students established partnerships with families, who were despite numerous sources of assistance within the system, marginalized in society. We wanted to challenge common understanding of many professionals in practice, that theoretical knowledge is something that falls within the field of science and working in practice means something else. We wanted to support future professionals to be able to use knowledge in daily practice for co-creating effective projects of help with the family. Research results from action research project show that it is possible to overcome the dichotomy between theory and practice and to provide competent processes of help and support. Results also provide new knowledge in the field of family social work in the community.



## Social boundary work - social work and "transnational studies"

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Nation states and their key institutions are being transformed as shifting and swelling flows of people, social relations, and organizations transcend national borders and connect formerly distinct social worlds. Social work is highly influenced by these border-crossing developments, yet it is just beginning to systematically notice and study them. Due to its foundations in the notion of the nation state, nation-based research methodologies and international comparative approaches are still the common frameworks in social work. The concept of "methodological nationalism" is used in "transnational studies" to point out the naturalization or substantialization of nation statehood and to problematize the equation of society with nation state. This reflection and further development of current theories is necessary to focus on the practices, embedding and positioning of individuals and communities in places, spaces and environments within two or more nation states at the same time. Moreover, social services at the organizational level are challenged to fulfill increasingly complex boundary work in economic, social and political structures. Social work as social boundary work - as it is discussed in "transnational studies" - is confronted with new opportunities and dilemmas. Transnational boundary work focuses not only on territorial borders, but also on social, judicial, and biographical boundaries. The symposium aims to discuss social work as social boundary work with the following areas of focus: (i) The methodological nationalism in social work, (ii) Social work history in a transnational perspective, (iii) Welfare policies in a transnational perspective, (iv) Social boundary work - empirical and theoretical views.



## Child and youth welfare: research and teaching across borders

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The growing body of knowledge in child and youth welfare is becoming more transnational and calls for broadening the perspectives with which it is studied and reflected upon. TACHYwe (Transnational Academic Careers in Child and Youth Welfare) is a TEMPUS project funded by the European Commission that supports the internationalization of higher education in both the EU partner institutions as well as those in the partner neighbour states. This international project aims at enhancing child and youth welfare research and education across borders. Our team includes members from ten universities and research centres from Germany, Ireland, Italy, Israel and Russia. Together we developed implemented and evaluated international curricula and exchanges that are based on reflections of students and staff on these experiences. The purpose of this paper is to describe the tight web of cooperation woven between the team members: on the one hand faculty members from different countries are designing together curricula and parallel teaching courses that are relevant to their students. On the other hand, advanced level students (PhD candidates and Master) gained insight into research and practice in the other countries. Both student and staff exchanges lead to sustainable connections between researchers at all levels resulting in joint papers, projects and contributions to the academic discourse. Additionally, we discuss current insights of the research and teaching processes initiated by this innovative project, as well as elucidating benefits and pitfalls of such transnational research perspectives. Finally, we provide practical guidelines for developing and implementing similar projects.



Is this research? Yes, it is! Four grounded variations on Action Research in the  
ETFU project

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'Empowering the Future - Youth, Arts & Media' is a Transfer of Innovation project (2011-2014) run by nine organizations cooperating in local workfield-academic partnerships in four European cities. Introducing strength-based perspectives, we developed instruments to empower youths through arts and social media. We promote applicable methods of action research as medium for planning, action and evaluation and we present hands-on tools to work with young people in a way they gain control over their ideas, ambitions and resources. The project is built around a specific interpretation of action research (AR) with a focus on reflection, participation and change. In our contribution we discuss and illustrate the methodological approach we used and the challenges we met during the research process. The project started from a classical AR-design. In each participating city AR-settings (Labs) were established as 'free-zones' for development of innovative practices. In each lab professionals, youngsters and academics took up the role of researcher and three AR-cycles were carried out over a period of 15 months. Parallel three evaluation cycles were carried out on the project meta-level. Soon the top-down design was abandoned for a grounded perspective in which the specific identity and needs of each of the partners were better represented. This resulted in four methodological variations on AR: Critical Action Research (Barcelona), Pörflection (Berlin), Need Articulation (Amsterdam) and ArtLab (Antwerpen). All four connect strongly to the needs of the professionals and youths involved and each approach has its specific 'roots' in the local context of the partnerships involved. What started as a uniform research design, evolved into an atypical but scientifically validated approach of AR as a powerful grounded medium for empowerment, connecting to the participatory and emancipatory tradition of social work research.



Cultural hegemony: how can it be mitigated in educational exchange?

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The global expansion of professional social work has been significantly influenced by global exchanges, particularly by Western developed approaches. There are arguments for the recognition of a universal view of social work knowledge, skills and values as a process in finding a common base from which to talk about social work as a single entity, in widely different local contexts. Conversely there is a concern that increasing convergence and homogenisation of values and practices leads to cultural imperialism with a dominance of Western values, producing international like-minded elites as professional imperialism (Midgley 1981). Concepts such as indigenization, the adaptation of concepts to make them more relevant to local circumstances, and authentication, as the creation of local practice models, of social work practice need to be developed as a ground up culturally relevant social work practice rather than a top down imposed model based on Western concepts and ideas (Askeland and Payne 2005). Drawing on research undertaken in Russia in relation to practice learning, as a critical factor for professional formation in social work, the author seeks to identify the opportunities and challenges that international exchange reveals. Theoretical frameworks and approaches will be examined that can support exchange between international partners and identify factors which seek to ground developments in local practice. This aims is to locate practice learning with a social structure in which participants work towards a common goal. Analysis will be extended to identify a range of factors that interact with each other and influence productive learning, recognizing that actions are goal directed processes that are mediated by the context, setting and situated activity. Finally a conceptual model will be presented that highlight the potential processes and actions to support the debate and development of new meanings in a local context.



## Participation and participatory research in the field of disability and recovery

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Utrecht University of Applied Sciences  
Zsolt Bugarszki  
Tallinn University / Institute of Social Work  
Mariju Medar  
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In this symposium the presenters will describe experiences with concepts of participation and participatory research in the field of disability and recovery. They will report on the research project "Community Participation and Support for and with persons with disabilities", which was a European project that took place from 2012-2014. It concerned a multisite study involving the cities of Amerfoort and Maastricht in the Netherlands, Budapest in Hungary and Tallinn in Estonia. Target groups involved mainly people with psychiatric disabilities. The study focussed on participation in the neighbourhood, (paid) labour and social networks. The project intended to develop more knowledge about supporting citizens in vulnerable positions with regard to recovery, citizenship and community participation, seen in the context of EU-policy and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The aim was to collect and develop knowledge for professionals about effective components of community support programmes, with a focus on increasing empowerment and self-support. Jean Pierre Wilken will talk about the methodology: the participatory model of Communities of Practice and Research (CoPR). In this model, knowledge from three sources is combined: professional knowledge, experiential knowledge and theoretical knowledge. The aim is to improve current policies and practices. Zsolt Bugarszki will share some experiences with the process of collecting narrative data, expressing the story and the voice of service users. He will highlight the method of identifying key persons in the social network of the user, using a snow ball approach. This contextual approach provides valuable insights in the lived experience of persons with a disability and their environment.



## Participatory methodologies in community projects

Helena Neves Almeida  
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The theme of participation is recurrent in almost all approaches and models of social intervention and qualitative research in contemporary societies. An "almost fashionable option" to which all adhere regardless of the context of development or the true interests or impact of this way of confronting and operationalize democracy. Insert citizen participation in political decision-making is even a requirement that policy makers, practitioners and stakeholders cannot alienate. However, the analysis that participation has assumed, by reference to populist, adaptive or social transformation and development opportunities, increased decision making (both personal and societal trends), and thereby intervene actively with policy implications. Today there are several theoretical approaches to the assumptions and models to intervene in a socially just and equitable way, or to produce knowledge based on proximity in order to discover senses and meanings attributed to social facts, recovering what is in the shadows, beyond the objectivity of quantitative information. Participation takes therefore an important role in processes of intervention, research and evaluation, and so it's not a passive variable. Recognizing the intrinsically associated utility character to any professional act, a kind of panacea packer discourses of empowerment, used mainly in contexts of vulnerability and poverty, the intervention and innovative projects don't escape this discursive logic. One of the great desiderata of participation is reflected in the increased power of decision making and the co-construction of social alternatives and opportunity structures. But how is this participatory logic effective? Besides the theoretical approach and identification of implementation models of participatory logic in the social field, the text gives an account of the analysis of projects and experiences developed in several thematic areas and in different geographical contexts of Portugal, a work that has been produced to over the last 3 years of teaching and research at the graduate degree level education.





## Learning together

Eltje Bos

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As the state retracts further in the Netherlands, we see dramatic shifts in the arrangements of the social domain. Since there are enormous cuts in the welfare budgets; creative innovations are needed to cater for welfare and care arrangements. One thing is clear: citizens are supposed to do more than before. 'The strong citizen' should develop initiatives or be activated to do so. In the city of Amsterdam we engage in questions rising in neighbourhoods and other communities how to deal with the challenge of finding new ways of behaviour for professionals and citizens to co-create plans/actions for the wellbeing of their community. Our research: Together with field partners our university started 'field labs' in several Amsterdam neighbourhoods. In these field labs, together with citizens and in some cases with local government, we study ways to maintain or enhance the livability through direct democracy in these neighbourhoods. Despite the risk of tokenism in this forms of civic participation we see sincere engagement by community members and professionals in creating partnerships. Also we find a widespread distrust about the intentions of local government. Based on the questions of field partners we are researching and developing a method to enable social workers in co-creative processes with citizens, among them peer experts. From the perspective of 'the citizen in the lead' we participate as research partners in 'At Home', a co-creative project between elderly citizens and professionals. In 100 informal living room conversations the elderly share their thoughts about the way they would like to spend the evening of their life. Some of our research methods are not exactly conventional; we construct them as we go along. We would like to present a symposium to share our findings, research methods and theoretical frameworks with a well-informed public.



Use a participatory approach in research needs in housing - are we ready?

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The aim of this paper is to discuss the possibility of using a participatory approach in social work. The text follows the preparatory phase of the research, which aims to identify and analyze the needs in terms of housing of Roma living in socially excluded localities (by ETHOS in a situation "after the loss of housing", housing insecure, inadequate). Social work fails in solving the acute problems of their clients the last few years. The problems in the housing sector are most serious and most difficult to solve. It can be regarded as an extreme form of social inequality the exclusion of permanent, qualitatively adequate and spatially non excluded housing. With the changing European social and political context is also necessary change concept in the provision of social work. The changing role of social workers from a fixer to facilitator between the clients and the environment is the big issue on social work. One of the tasks of social work should be the facilitation needs and expectations of its clients and their environment. The identifying the needs of clients and their submission to the macro level so that the systems at the macro level as to be able to react effectively, it seems as a very effective first step. Our research is oriented by community based participatory research. The condition is the involvement and full participation of people from the community at every stage of the research process. We research in socially excluded localities where professionals realized community work, and where is already some degree of community organizing. In this paper we seek to answer the question whether, when and how do we know that all those involved (people, community workers and academics) access to such research prepared.



## Human rights and social work: an individual and collective learning process

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The new international definition of social work reaffirmed the recognition of human rights and social justice as fundamental foundations for social work. A human rights-based approach (HRBA) to social work is generally conceptualized as a new paradigm, shifting social work away from its charitable and philanthropic character. Instead, governments are held accountable for providing qualitative and accessible social provisions, reorienting social work from the private to the public sphere, seeking after human dignity and emancipation for all. The HRBA in social work is mostly conceived as a structural answer to social problems. It questions institutional arrangements that prevent people from living a life in human dignity. However, such an approach carries the risk of disconnecting the structural or collective dimension of a HRBA to social work from the individual or relational dimension of a HRBA to social work. Working at the structural level than becomes the mandate of 'specialized' practitioners such as policy workers, legal scholars, advocates etc., instead of being an essential part of social work itself. Moreover, human rights-based social work practices risk to become considered as power-free and neutral practices, merely concerned with 'implementing' law. In our presentation we will discuss the relation between the structural and individual dimension of a HRBA to social work. We present an ongoing research project in Flanders (Belgium), where a HRBA to social work is studied in the context of community development. By way of an ethnographic research design, using methods such as field visits, participant observation, document analysis and in-depth-interviews with both practitioners and service-users, a HRBA to social work is studied. Based on this research, we argue for HRBA to social work as an individual and collective learning process where both the individual and collective dimension is essentially interconnected.



Recognition theory and social work: justice, misrecognition and LGBTQ  
surrogate decision makers

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Social justice is identified in professional codes of ethics and scholarship as a fundamental principle in social work. Historically codes of ethics and social work scholarship have relied heavily upon theories of distributive justice to define social justice for the field. Contemporary social work is increasingly concerned with the sociocultural aspects of identity and difference as they relate to social justice, which may not be adequately addressed by theories of distributive justice. This paper draws on the debate between political philosophers Nancy Fraser and Axel Honneth, as well as the social work scholars who have applied their work describing the dimensions of recognition. I argue that recognition theory offers social work a normative framework to justify moral claims of injustice based on identity and difference at the structural and intersubjective levels. This paper aims bridge the conceptual and empirical realms by placing recognition theory in dialogue with case examples from a qualitative study of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) partners acting as medical surrogate decision makers in hospital settings in the United States. LGBTQ partners have historically been marginalized in the role of surrogate decision maker based on identity and difference. Marginalization has occurred through dominant social structures, such as LGBTQ-exclusive marriage laws, as well as heteronormative assumptions in interpersonal relations, such as clinicians' failure to acknowledge familial relationships between LGBTQ patients and their partners. This analysis supports the relevance of both Fraser's structural and Honneth's intersubjective dimensions of recognition, illustrated through the lived experiences of partners caring for seriously ill patients. Partners' experiences suggest that an integrated theory of recognition may be required to guide a social work practice grounded by a conceptualization of social justice inclusive of the multi-dimensional aspects of identity and difference, and sensitive to the injustices that occur through misrecognition.



Researching discrimination: analysis of the concept of justice by Iris Marion Young

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With this research paper I give an overview of the concept of justice promoted by Iris Marion Young and her politics of positional difference, specifically through the possibilities of its application in the research on gender discrimination in the labour market. Through Young's positionality I locate women as a vulnerable group in the society and discuss the basis of their oppression as their different starting positions in the labour market. I argue that in order to challenge the existing inequalities and transform the structures which enforce discrimination we need to start with the concept of justice. Young calls for an understanding of justice that is strongly conscious about difference. According to her social justice does not require melting away differences, but instead requests for institutions that promote reproduction of and respect for group differences without oppression. Promoting the politics of positional difference, as response to structural inequalities, she argues that public and private institutional policies and practices that interpret equality as requiring are being blind to group differences are not likely to undermine persistent structural group differences and often reinforce them. In her discussion on positionality Young describes people as differently positioned in structural processes, which leads to their unequal opportunities for self-development, access to resources, to make decisions both about the conditions of their own action and that of others, or to be treated with respect. In this paper I discuss Young's argument that the politics of positional difference is important because it highlights the depth and systematic basis of inequality, and shows that inequality before the law is not sufficient to remedy this inequality, although I claim that one of the key steps in tackling the disadvantaged positioning of vulnerable groups in the society is the transformation of the legal background and policies which enforce inequality.



Research on social work participants, cultures and contexts, including  
comparative research

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Recognition is a key concept in this paper. According to the social philosopher Alex Honneth three forms of recognition exist: love, legal rights and solidarity. Recognition is viewed as an ethical standpoint as well as an efficient element in social work practice. In addition, arguments are being made that recognition should be a foundation for citizenship, which is to say for a human, democratic and just society. Bearing this in mind, the paper discusses how practices based on recognition can be developed in the social work offices. Findings in a local study indicate that recognition can be a precondition for user participation, especially because recognition is a requirement for the user's self-confidence, self-respect and self-esteem which in turn strengthens the individual's conditions for participation. In this way all the three forms of recognition are important if user participation on an individual basis is to take place. On a structural level, user participation recognition can be about practices based on recognition as part of how the institutions meet and treat their users.



## Stigma layers and resilience among people living with HIV from Romania

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HIV is a chronic condition, but stigma is still a challenge for people living with HIV (PLHIV), UNAIDS calling for "zero stigma and discrimination" by 2015. In Romania the majority of registered PLHIV were nosocomially-infected between 1988-1990, followed by adults sexually infected, and an emerging group of injecting drug users (IDU). The objective of the present study was to investigate the layers of HIV stigma and the coping strategies PLHIV use to be resilient. Thematic analysis was performed based on 20 in-depth interviews with PLHIV from three groups: (G1) those from the generation '88-'90, (G2) PLHIV infected as adults and (G3) the new group of HIV+IDU. All three groups experience stigma, though differently. In G1 a "charitable stigma" was experienced more severely in the early years of the infection, more by the family and less by the children (now young adults). In G2 stigma is driven by moral judgments ("moral stigma"), PLHIV being blamed for their behavior (same sex relationships or outside marriage). For G3 stigma appears to be associated with HIV but also with drug use or other addictive behaviors (e.g. alcoholism), sometimes even from other PLHIV (e.g. from G1 and G2) or from healthcare staff ("in-group and out-group stigma"). The resilient ones are those managing better their stigma (i.e. controlled disclosure), who have family support and are socially active in G1 and G2 while those overprotected by the family from G1 strive for normality (wish to have a family, children, a job). In G3 family, peers and religious beliefs act as resilience factors. Qualitative social work research captures the intricate layers of HIV stigma, successfully identifying what are the triggers for resilience while also providing evidence for social work practice and policy to adjust interventions; moreover, it advances theoretical understanding of HIV stigma in a changing social environment.



## Review of food security as a social justice measure in Kenya

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The primary purpose of a government is to protect its citizens. This protection takes various forms, depending on the enemy at hand. Food insecurity is an enemy of man that every sovereign nation ought to protect its citizens from. Food insecurity is a factor in poverty, one of the three ills (the other two being ignorance and disease) that Kenya committed itself to getting rid of at the time of political independence in 1963. Bill of Rights of Kenya's constitution promulgated in 2010, commits itself to preserve the dignity of individuals and communities and to promote social justice and the realization of the potential of all human beings. Food security is not just about filling the stomachs of a hungry majority with good food; it is also about upholding the dignity of those people. The World Health Organization defines food security as existing "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life". This paper assesses the policies and other efforts put in place by the Kenya government, the initiatives by Non-Governmental Organizations that have positively contributed to the vice, and the efforts made by affected individuals and communities themselves to deal with food insecurity in the last fifty years. Therefore, the aim of the paper is to gauge the extent to which Kenya in the last fifty years of political independence has reached in dealing with food security: specifically the progress made, challenges incurred and what remains to be done. By so doing, this paper will cultivate deeper insight and generate better clarity into the issues of food security as an aspect of social protection which in essence is justice and the role of policy and governance in food insecurity alleviation.





Healthy child of parents with hearing difficulties - a new social work client group?

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This article brings about the first results from empirical research targeting on the life experience of healthy children living with their deaf parents in the period of their dependency. Healthy child of parents with hearing difficulties grows up naturally as bilingual and this is what puts the child into the position of the native interpreter of the parents. This special situation is mainly determined by the culture and the language of the people with hearing difficulties and by the information barriers which stand between the deaf people and their social milieu. The qualitative design with semi structured interview was chosen for the empirical research. The goal was to find out personal experience of the respondents with their attributed social role of the native interpreters into the sign language during their childhood. From the first results of the research we can mainly see that for the healthy children of parents with hearing difficulties it may be very difficult to interpret for their parents within the contact with offices. It is something inadequate to their age and social maturity. The empirical research also brings about some very interesting issues. For example - how the inappropriate form of burden that is put on the child's shoulders from the parents can be connected with the form of the parents' education. So far we can see that there are two groups of parents in this case. In the first one there are parents who joined educational institutions from the outside, they lived at home. In the other one there are parents who joined not only schools but also student hostels from their early childhood. This article also formulates the issues of possible ways of supporting families with deaf parents and healthy children in the process of solving problems named above.



Evaluation of a program designed to support parents of children with special needs and create an empowering dialogue between them and professionals

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A three year evaluation study of an innovative program initiated by two mothers of children with special needs and supported by governmental and philanthropic foundations, provided an opportunity to identify the power relations that exist in dialogues between professional and parents with special needs. In contrast to the equalitarian, close and reciprocal dialogue that are created between these parents, dialogues with professions are often unequal, patronizing and protective. The evaluation follows and witnesses changes in these relationships over time as a result of participation in the program. The goal of this presentation is to share the understandings gained through a qualitative analysis of the evaluation data gathered through documentation of activities, face to face interviews and focus groups, and to describe pathways that led to emancipatory and empowering dialogues based on the matrix of power relations offered by Jerry Tew (2006). The highlight of the program included a 'parent to parent' component, were experienced parents created a close relationship with parents whose child was recently diagnosed with special needs. In addition, 'dialogue workshops' were held for parents of children with special needs and professionals in order to expose stereotypes and attitudes that underlie obstacles to communication and negotiate more productive working partnerships. Findings showed that the 'parent to parent' relationship created closeness and empathy, provided support, facilitated coping with uncertainty and fears of future developments, and were a source for relevant information and guidance. Professionals who attended the 'dialogue workshops' described needs similar to those experienced by the parents which required reflective work regarding their own fears and pain related to working with families of children with special needs. During the workshops suggestions for creating more respectful, equalitarian, empowering and co-operative work relations were offered. At the end of the presentation, recommendations will be provided.



## Children with disabilities in Croatia - a three-point perspective

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One of the challenges the Croatian social policy meets is the implementation of social and human rights models, with the objective of improving children with developmental problems and their families' life quality. Early intervention provided in the social care system in Croatia was transposed into a legal framework in 2011, with the aim of improving the developmental outcomes and also preventing possible Child Displacement along with other measures which try to avoid separation from the family and placement in the institution. Although one of the basic conditions for providing that - clear legal framework - exists, the situation in the field is disturbing in terms of children' rights protection. In order to have a perspective of children with developmental problems rights a quality survey was conducted. Participants were employees in the social care system (N=12) and in the health protection system (N=11) public policy makers (relevant Ministries and Ombudsman, N=8). The methods used were Triangulation and Data Integration, in order to attain more precise descriptions and understanding of the situation in Croatia. The results indicate the following: low-level participation of children and families in care planning and application, non-existent networks and shifting responsibilities among stakeholders, non-efficient coordination of crisis situation and unbalanced interpretation of legal provisions and low level services available to such children. This paper contributes to the understanding of risk factors in attaining children' with developmental difficulties rights at the level of the systems scrutinized. Finally, the paper gives clear guidelines to develop working models which should be implemented in order to improve children' rights protection situation, prevent Child Displacement and accelerate the process of deinstitutionalization of children with difficulties.



From the hospital towards social reintegration: the support path for people  
with Severe acquired brain injury and their families

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As a result of the profound economic crisis, the welfare system in Italy has been affected during the last decade, by a strong reduction of operators at its services. In such a context, social workers are increasingly implementing interventions in order to cope with "urgencies" rather than to come up with ways to promote the well-being of the people. The importance of implementing such paths is particularly evident in situations characterized by a high social and health complexity, situations which make it essential to assist the person and the family in order to cope with the problems from the very beginning and to create a personalized project together. In the present essay, the focus is on issues related to people with Severe Acquired Brain Injury and their families; the disease brings about profound changes in the family. After the first rehabilitation phase, whose intervention is aimed at improving the physical and cognitive abilities of the person, a second and very critical phase begins, as it is of great importance to involve the family in a process of reorganization and social reintegration. In particular, we will show you the methodology and the development phases of a research-action carried out in collaboration with the Centre for Research and Service on Social and Health Integration of the Polytechnic University of Marche, Rehabilitation Institute "Santo Stefano", Brain Injury Association "Andrea" and other voluntary organizations. In this research, carried out in the years 2011-2013 in the Marche Region, the social workers supported, for the first six months after hospital discharge, people and their families, in order to identify the responses suitable for the complexity of their needs. We will also present the outcomes of the interventions, identifying a possibly 'ideal' path, which allows social workers to reconsider some of the ways in which they work.



Physically disabled young adults 'Taking On and Taking Over' their care and support arrangements: experiences and practice implications

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Personalised adult social care in England emphasises the aspirations and preferences of service users and the opportunity to take on more choice and control of one's own care and support arrangements. However, both research and practice developments surrounding personalisation have tended to focus on some groups of social care users more than others, for example, older people or people with learning disabilities. In contrast, little is known about the specific needs and preferences of physically disabled young adults, despite this group being perhaps one of the most likely to aspire to manage their own care and support arrangements. Past research has shown that 'one size fits all' practice does not necessarily work but, practitioners report little experience of working with this group. This presentation reports findings from a recently completed research study which aimed to identify the support needed by physically disabled young adults to achieve their preferred level of choice and control over their support arrangements. Drawing on empirical data from qualitative interviews with physically disabled young adults (aged 18-30 years) and parents, social care front-line staff and managers and voluntary sector representatives from a range of English local authorities, the presentation reports the facilitators (and barriers) that young adults faced and the practice strategies employed by practitioners. Key findings specific to the needs and preferences of physically disabled young adults are explored including young adults' experiences of working with practitioners, the role of informal support and accessing relevant information. Practitioners' own approaches to supporting young adults and their families are also discussed. A short video involving young adults and practitioners from the study will be shown; the video seeks to inform practitioners of key practice messages from the study. The researchers conclude by identifying some areas for further service development and considering their practice implications.



## What works? A hard look at impact evaluations in social work research

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For the last forty years social work researchers in the U.S. have concerned themselves with questions of the impact and effectiveness of social work services and policies. Public and private agencies, as well as consumers, increasingly seek to justify expenditures or improve programs that do not work well enough or at all by using evidence of program effectiveness. Experimental designs are considered the "gold standard" of impact evaluations, yet debates rage about what research designs and analytical methods provide adequate evidence of impact of our programs on clients with complex and multiple service needs. Methodological advances in research design and statistics have strengthened inferences about effectiveness at the individual, program and system levels, but many argue that social work research has been overly concerned with the question of "what works" in relation to narrow treatment models that do not address the complex service needs of clients. Many argue we should broaden the focus of impact evaluations to include cross-system analyses, focus on prevention as well as intervention and concern ourselves with the adaptation and replication of seemingly effective models to new cultural contexts. It is the purpose of this symposium to take a hard look at emerging conceptual and methodological developments in impact evaluation in social work. The symposium will examine approaches to impact evaluations in social work via three analyses: (1) of advances in the development of cross-system impact evaluations of interventions serving families with multiple and complex health and social problems; (2) of challenges in the use of randomized field trials in preventing child and adolescent problem behaviors in the U.S.; and (3) of the tension between fidelity and adaptation that arises in virtually all attempts to import evidence-based interventions (EBIs) to new cultural contexts.



## The cultural adaptation of evidence-based interventions

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Tension between fidelity and adaptation arises in virtually all attempts to import evidence-based interventions (EBIs) to new cultural contexts. If tensions between fidelity and adaptation can be resolved, then the programmatic reach of EBIs may begin to have a greater global public health impact. EBIs implemented outside of their home countries can be subject to minimal or substantial adaptation. The line is often unclear between what constitutes a minor adaptation versus changes that fundamentally redesign how an intervention works. The purpose of the proposed presentation is to: (1) review replication tests of US-based EBIs, including replication failures; (2) describe a case example of an adaptation of a US-based EBI in China; and (3) discuss emerging adaptation models. Replication tests of imported ESIs: The results from studies of replications of US-originating EBIs are mixed. Replication failures suggest that EBIs developed in the United States may have low relevance for other populations and contexts. Adaptation of an ESI for China: In 2006, the Chinese National Commission on Population and Family Planning sponsored the development of a school-based, social-emotional skills training program called Let's Be Friends (LBF). The LBF program was based on an evidence-supported US program called Making Choices (MC). The adaptation of MC involved 12 social work faculties in China and the United States. The core features or deep structures of MC were examined in light of Chinese research on child development. Then program materials were translated, back translated, reviewed, re-translated, and revised. The adaptation concluded with a public hearing in Beijing. Finally, the adapted program was tested in a controlled trial that showed it produced changes in the skills of children. The results of this test and the processes used to design LBF will be described.



## Design and effectiveness of impact evaluations in prevention research

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In the U.S., a public health framework based on targeting risk and protective factors for youth problems has emerged as a model to guide the design and evaluation of preventive interventions in schools and communities. Efficacious and cost-effective interventions that strive to reduce risk, increase protection, and improve outcomes for children and youth have been identified. The adaptation and replication of evidence-based preventive interventions tested in the U.S. has increased significantly in European countries. The purpose of this presentation is to: 1) trace the evolution of preventive interventions; 2) review common approaches to evaluating interventions; 3) present findings from a systematic review of the efficacy of school and community prevention programs; and 4) discuss implications associated with replicating prevention interventions in Europe and other parts of the world. Findings from two randomized field experiments aimed at preventing aggression among children and reducing victimization among adolescents are used to illustrate methodological and analytic evaluation tools. Results from a systematic review of empirical databases using the search terms school, community, and prevention in combination with four common problem behaviors among youth are used to describe the effectiveness of preventive interventions. Program characteristics associated with positive outcomes are delineated. Significant methodological and analytical advances in assessing the effects of preventive interventions, including the use of group-randomized designs, propensity score matching, program adaptation, and fidelity monitoring, have been made in prevention research. Overall, school and community-based interventions are associated with preventing and/or reducing problem behavior among children and adolescents. Common characteristics of effective preventive interventions include using an empirically-supported theoretical framework, involving parents and children in programming, including a focus on skill-building, reducing negative social influence and antisocial peer pressure, and engaging community stakeholders in prevention efforts.





In pursuit of excellence: developing a research strategy for social work and social care in Northern Ireland

Anne McGlade  
Health and Social Care Board

In 2013 the social care leadership in Northern Ireland reached an agreement to develop a strategic social work research strategy for Northern Ireland. This was based on the recognition of the need to foster a visible commitment to practice based research and evaluation activity at managerial level and within the culture of the various health and social care organisations. The purpose of this paper is to describe the development of the first research strategy for securing a step change in social work research amongst the social care sector in Northern Ireland. Initial challenges related to terminology for social work research, its scope and coverage, the range of practical priorities to be identified and timescale. The presentation will examine how these were addressed. A particular strength in Northern Ireland is the close partnership and working relationship between all the relevant key stakeholders including the government department, the social work registration body; commissioners and providers; universities; the voluntary sector as well as other employers of social workers. The lesson learned from the development of the strategy is that all stakeholders had a part to play in its development. Equally all will have a part to play in its implementation if our vision "that the social work profession in Northern Ireland becomes a confident player in the areas of research, evidence and knowledge transfer knowing our strengths and unique contribution in the pursuit of excellence in service user and carer outcomes" is to be realised. Based on the experience in Northern Ireland over this past year, this presentation will raise key issues for reflection on the development of research strategies for social work and social care in other countries in Europe.



## Evaluation in social work as a source of profession building

Armin Schneider  
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Are the results of Social Work countable, measurable and repeatable? Evaluation in Social Work helps to communicate methods, results and effects of programs of Social Work. Social work in fact works with individual on both sides, the side of the client and the side of the professional. The professional relationship between both is not full predictable. Circumstances, contexts, interventions and even the personalities themselves have influences towards the results. Professional self-conducted-evaluation could help to lighten the black box and could strengthen the self-confidence of social workers, if self-conducted-evaluation uses some main reproducible standards. The oral presentation will show some experiences from a meta-evaluation of evaluations of child care workers in Germany. The self-conducted-evaluations of the child care workers made their work transparent, communicable and gave them methods to present their results proper. Some discovered side effects were the sensitivity towards parents, the increasing seriousness of the organizations and the growing self-confidence of the professionals.



Orange tide for social justice: how social workers get organized to claim for citizenship rights in a context of welfare retrenchment reflections about the "orange tide" movement

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With the excuse of adjustment policies many benefit cuts have been implemented in the Spanish Welfare system. As a result 25% of the population live nowadays in Social exclusion (according to the 2014 Foessa Report). Social workers have reacted to this situation by getting organised in order to raise awareness on the population about the deprivation of their rights. They have also actively denounced in media how social protection is being dismantled. Wearing an orange T-shirt is the way they have chosen to protest. A colourful, non violent way. This T-shirt is worn by social workers in their working places every Wednesday and also in demonstrations. In the oral presentation we will reflect on this movement and its importance in the conscientization (In Paulo Freire's terms) of people on their citizenship rights.



Diversity as the condition of democracy: reflective versus conformal action in  
National Social Services in Sweden

Rúna Í Balaustovu  
Örebro University

The debate about societal integration and equality in connection with migration has been vivacious in a Swedish context for several decades now. An interesting research question in this context is how the Swedish society confronts the democratic challenge of finding ways to societal integration in times of rapid globalization and social change. In a case study of National Social Services in Sweden, I have studied how social workers within national social services understand and handle cultural diversity in their investigation and decision making involving children, young adults and their families. It becomes evident that the search for possibilities to societal integration has been abandoned for a system of societal monitoring and control, here expressed as conformal action. A deep conflict occurs between the social worker's communicative skills and an ever increasing, conformal bureaucracy. This conflict is understood as a conflict between the lifeworld and the system. Two important components in the argument are that integration demands communicative and reflective action in society and that The National Social Services institutionalizes the representations of society as a whole. When treating the factors of the integration process it becomes clear that the social workers are handling an awkward paradox, seemingly impossible to dissolve. The paradox is activated in the intersection between the individual rights versus cultural and religious rights and it permeates every text guiding social work, from the Constitution over The Social Services Act to other governmental recommendations. Although the paradox cannot be dissolved it is evident that it could be mitigated through communication and reflective action. Nevertheless there is a rapid change in social services, away from communicative and reflective and action, towards conformal action. The theoretical concepts that are used as analytical tools in the study are derived from the thinking of Durkheim and Habermas.



## Researching co-created processes of help using the new language of social work

Gabi Čačinović Vogrinčić  
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Processes of help are an important but neglected topic in scientific research: how do we do social work, what are the specific, social work ways of helping? Who have been the participants in creating our knowledge base? We need reflexive research of theories for practice to build specific social work scientific knowledge. My purpose is 1. to present arguments for intensive reflexive research on theory in and for practice, and 2. to present the concept and the model of co-created social work processes of help and the new language of social work as results of reflexive research involving both social workers and users. A theoretical concept and two reflexive research-based models for social work practice will be proposed, presented and explored as possible definitions of social work process: the concept of co-creating in processes of help, the working relationship and the individual project of help. The use of the new language, reflecting postmodern changes in theory and practice, defines co-creative processes in conversations: there are words for dialogue and sharing, built on the strength perspective (D. Saleebey) and the ethic of participation (L. Hoffman), words defining the social worker as appreciative ally and the user as expert in experience, opting for words that are positive, empowering, and inclusive. The concept of working relationship enables social workers to challenge complexity in a unique way and accept uncertainty as a welcome fact of social work practice and research. Research results in social work with families and social work in schools are arguments for using the proposed co-creative models and enable us to conclude: we need intensive reflexive, participative research of helping processes to develop social - work - specific scientific knowledge and further explore the co-creative paradigm.



Back to the future of social work: the empirical reconstruction of  
craftsmanship in generalist social work practice in a transformational  
context

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The Netherlands is faced with fast and extensive transformations and radical reforms throughout the social arrangements and institutions of the welfare state. The bulk of the reforms seem to depend on social work professionals, who are expected to work as 'generalists'. It is unclear what this 'new' profession implies, in the context of local social policy where the term is often used, but also in the domain of social work practice (i.e. professional associations, universities, social work providers) and among social workers themselves. In a multi-annual empirical research-project in a multi-method-design among social workers we look at the repositioning of social workers and social work as a profession: Is it possible and desirable to remodel social work into a generalist profession, when the core of the work seems to be very diffuse and hardly distinguishable from other occupations? How far can the boundaries of the generalist profession be stretched before it loses its characteristics as a profession? Or is he nothing but an employee forced to fit into the (austerity) objectives of the local social policymakers? Does the body of knowledge of social work need to be changed, and does the empowerment paradigm provide a steady foundation for this change? We will present the midterm results of the research project. Cases were wicked problems social workers encounter, and the wicked solutions they are able to provide will be presented. And we will discuss whether the empowerment paradigm and the conceptual basis of generalist social work, such as tacit knowledge (Polanyi), swamp work (Schön), dynamic development of professions (Freidson, Abbott), craftsmanship (Sennett), put together in a comprehensive conceptual framework, have the power to redefine the practical craftsmanship and fundamentals of generalist social work in highly uncertain, shifting and complex settings.



ReVisioning emotion in social work: developing new eiscourses for social work  
education and practice

Louise O'Connor  
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Complex and challenging emotions are an integral dimension of social work practice. Working with people in difficult circumstances involves engaging with human distress. Practitioners contend with the impact of this on a daily basis. This includes dealing with trauma, disrupted relationships, abuse, loss or violence, often in the context of poverty and inequalities. Additionally, social work relationships require practitioners to utilise skills which are underpinned by the effective use of emotion, for example empathic listening, attunement, and a wide range of skills utilised to engage with individuals and families in need. However, contemporary discourses regarding emotion in social work practice are limited. Current discourses in diverse countries suggest that emotions are predominantly seen as natural and unavoidable elements in the work, which practitioners learn to manage in the process of training. Emotion management in turn is associated with a growing discourse regarding resilience in social work. The suggestion is that resilient practitioners may be best equipped to manage the challenges of everyday practice and the consequent emotional impact. Although management of emotions may facilitate practice and avoid potential compassion fatigue or burnout, this approach fails to adequately address the complexities of emotion in social work. This paper will argue that whilst discourses of emotion management and resilience may be helpful, there is a need to look beyond these to explore new and different perspectives. How are emotions understood and navigated by practitioners in the organisational and relational context of their work? What educational, organisational or other discourses inform how practitioners understand or process their emotions? What can alternative perspectives on emotion offer the profession? Drawing on a range of research and theory this paper will argue for the development of new discourses and a re-visioning of emotion in social work practice and education.



## Interprofessional education for social workers

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Keele University, UK  
Katie Maddock  
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**Background:** In the UK the discipline of social work is actively involved in "interprofessional Education" (IPE), which has been defined as occurring "when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care" (Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education), the aspiration to improve outcomes is also explicitly articulated in the broadly similar World Health Organisation definition. This paper reports the findings from a large scale national (2014/15) study of IPE in the UK, which has been commissioned by the Health Care Professionals Council (HCPC). This body registers social workers and validates professional education in social work. Methods: Data has been collected through: a) a systematic literature review to EPP1-Centre standards (2010); b) an online survey of all HCPC (accredited organisations (n=250); c) telephone interviews with 20 key selected individuals; d) case studies in five geographically dispersed regions. Analysis has been conducted using SPSS and NVivo, both to gain an improved understanding of the extent and nature of IPE in the education and training, and also to identify and analyse different types of IPE activities. Further the study has explored the nature of evidence about the impact of IPE. Findings As part of the research a taxonomy of forms of IPE has been developed the rationale behind this taxonomy will be presented. Findings about the impact of IPE on the student experience and competence will be presented. Implications for the development and improvement of professional education in social work will be explored. This study has been given ethical approval.





Next generation social work education: transdisciplinary, translational,  
globally connected

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As funders and the public push for timely, multi-level, impactful responses to complex, pressing social, health, and environmental problems, research and practice models that bridge disciplinary, theoretical, and methodological boundaries are increasingly expected. Social work is inherently an integrative discipline, yet globally the profession faces challenges in effectively responding to these demands. Key bodies of transdisciplinary innovation are responding to local needs, yet cross-walks across countries and bodies of knowledge and experience are relatively underdeveloped, limiting synergy and advances. Crafting such connections requires fresh thinking about social work's international research capacity. The field also needs educational "pipelines" - across levels of social work education - aimed at fostering students' cross-disciplinary, interprofessional understanding of underlying social and health determinants, ability to translate this knowledge into effective and sustainable social care and action, and capacity to confidently articulate social work's unique contributions in interdisciplinary research and practice contexts. In this presentation we aim to foster a conversation with international colleagues, drawing on our diverse experiences across top-ranked US universities to share tools aimed at better preparing emerging scholars and practitioners for sophisticated, community-engaged, transdisciplinary and translational research and practice. We focus in particular on approaches to social work education designed to enhance students' transdisciplinary and translational skills and confidence. Presenters will draw upon pedagogical roadmaps, tools and recommendations developed in undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate settings, hands-on experience in multi-discipline research teams, and leadership of transdisciplinary pre- and postdoctoral training in lifespan stress, environmental determinants, and health disparities. Examples illustrate skills such as transdisciplinary communication, team problem solving, mentoring, joint career development, multi-level theoretical and methodological preparation, and capacity to articulate social work's unique contributions. Finally, we will summarize recent capacity building efforts sponsored by the US Society for Social Work & Research, and urge cross-pollinating conversations bridging international efforts.



## Education as an indicator of the quality of social services

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The issue of evaluation of social services in Slovakia was opened in 2008. Process of evaluation is associated with a requirement of an adequate education of workers in various positions in social services. The aim of this study was to determine the importance of education among direct contact workers in social services settings. To achieve the objective mixed research design was used. Questionnaire survey was designed to determine client satisfaction with provided services. Through semi-structured interviews, we investigated the relationship between workers and their professional activities (relation to clients, to work). Document analysis was focused on finding examples of good practice. The research was conducted on a sample of 165 respondents working on 8 social services facilities. The respondents were workers working in direct contact with clients. From the partial results of the research it is clear that social workers without adequate education do not possess sufficient knowledge of the methods and techniques of social work and part of them expressed negative and even hostile approach to clients and tendencies to eliminate direct contact and work with the client to a minimum. Among professionals, who have sufficient education for the performance of their work, partnership approach with attempts to improve the quality of life for clients prevailed. Based on our research results, it can be stated that education is an important factor influencing personal relationship to the social workers professional activities, as well as enhances teamwork and understanding of clients with disabilities as equal autonomous beings. This paper was prepared as a part of the project The Identity of Social Work in the Context of Slovakia [APVV-0524-12] funded by the Slovak Research and Development Agency.



## The social work research in Portugal: opportunities and limits

Maria Irene Carvalho  
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Social work has a self-awareness, produced throughout their trajectory as a profession. This knowledge has been produced into education graduate (Bachelor), post-graduate education (masters and doctorates) and through the professional practices, and recently also in researches developed in the context of national and transnational research projects. We distinguish in a first moment, the research carried out under teaching graduate-degree-especially at the level of academic internships, and in the fundamental and complementary courses units that integrate the curriculum of social work degrees, and in masters and doctoral programs and published mainly in books. We identify the contributions of some magazines in social work and other relevant publications, and considering the importance of the researches developed in research centers and we highlight opportunities and adversities with regard to the recognition of Social work as an autonomous knowledge.



The dilemmas of contemporary social work: a case study of the social work degree in England

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The social work degree was established in 2002 to improve the status and competency of social workers. However after the death of Peter Connelly in 2007 and the final report of the Social Work Task Force (2009) it became subject to a series of significant changes with the establishment of the Social Work Reform Board to implement the revisions to social work education and social work practice. The aim of this study is to identify how the degree can illuminate the dilemmas of contemporary social work practice. A qualitative case study of a social work degree programme in England was undertaken after obtaining ethical approval. Data was collected at two different points in time by means of interviews and focus groups. Interviews were conducted with academics (10), practice educators (8) and academics involved in practice learning (2). Two focus groups were undertaken with service users (11) and three focus groups with students (17). A total of 48 participants were involved in the data collection. A thematic analysis approach was adopted utilising Braun and Clark's (2006) model. The findings indicated that the social work degree contained a number of inherent contradictions which were reflected in social work practice. The contribution of this study lies in the linking of the identified dichotomies in social work education and practice to a wider conceptual structure. These contrasting models or understandings of contemporary social work practice needed to be contextualised within the framework of the complexity and ambivalence of late modern society within which there existed an individualised approach to risk and a loss of trust in the professions. Any reform of the social work profession would have to adopt a critical framework consistent with a late modern conceptualisation of risk and professional expertise.



Qualitative case studies: assessing child welfare workforce & service gaps  
through multiple lenses

Rebecca Davis  
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This presentation will focus on the use of qualitative case studies for identifying workforce and service gaps in child protection, both at the system level in Nigeria and at the case management practice level in Swaziland. This qualitative case study methodology utilizes a participatory approach for stakeholders across sectors to discuss problem-identification, referral pathways, decision-making, service coordination and integration, and outcomes for cases. The qualitative case study methodology is designed for studying complex phenomenon in context by promoting an effective, contextualized reflection on practice. This is especially applicable for complex systems like child protection systems because one can explore complex processes at multiple levels - individual, family, community, organizational, and the broader system. Especially applicable are complex problems such as child sexual abuse and domestic violence. These are situations in which those being studied can't be manipulated through experimental design because of the specific risks involved. The strength of qualitative case studies is that stakeholders such as social workers, children, parents and caregivers, and authorities can tell their stories, often with different viewpoints. This allows for a better understanding of the different truths through different lenses. It is these collective stories that give meaning to why certain decisions and pathways were taken from problem-identification to outcome. These contextual conditions are just as important as what is happening. For example, you can address contextual questions such as: Who worked whom? Who didn't work with whom? Who was included/excluded; power differentials; boundaries; teamwork; and outcome(s)? The presenter will provide examples of the specific applications that includes guided discussion questions for system mapping and assessment (Nigeria) and the development of case management guidelines for practice (Swaziland).



## How and why a holistic multidisciplinary collaboration makes a difference for children at risk

Anne Marie Villumsen  
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Louise Austeen Leth  
Aalborg University, Denmark

The aim of this research project is to study how and why holistic multidisciplinary collaboration has a positive effect on children at risk and their parents. The study takes place in a Danish municipality. In an effort to increase parent employment and to improve wellbeing of children at risk the municipality has chosen to combine the case worker position so only one professional instead of two holds this position for the whole family. The case worker also functions as coordinator for all the different collaborators who are in contact with the family. This process is evaluated through quantitative data. In our particular part of the study, focus is placed upon the joint multidisciplinary efforts of all these collaborators. The study is founded on the assumption that children at risk present with complex problems which demands complex solutions and that these are best reached through multidisciplinary collaboration. Multidisciplinary collaboration is understood as collaboration across professional disciplines working directly with children and families. Through the collaboration, the different professionals will expand their understanding of the child with the aim of reaching a mutual understanding of needs. Herby perceptions and interventions are negotiated between different knowledge about the child from different settings. A user perspective, from parents, is essential in the qualitative data collection. This perspective is collected by interviews of parents throughout the project in order to discover how their perception of their own as well as their child's well-being is affected. By combining this data with questionnaires filled out by professional and parents, test scores from the child as well as the quantitative data from the larger study it is our hope to clarify why and how holistic multidisciplinary collaboration does have a positive effect on children at risk.



Poverty and decisions to place in care (residential and foster care):  
mapping placements in care using street-level deprivation indices

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In Ireland most children enter the care system primarily for reasons of neglect and concerns about their welfare. These reasons are often associated with families living in absolute and relative poverty. While this is recognised in professional practice, relatively little research has been undertaken on poverty and child care placement decisions. What do we know about the contexts within which these children and their families live and the impact this context has on placement decisions and types of care provided? In what ways can levels of poverty be linked to placement decisions - whether a child enters, and for how long a child remains in, residential and/or foster care? This research focuses on the mapping of placements of children in care over a period of six years, in relation to new survey data developed in Ireland, called the HP Deprivation Index. The HP Deprivation index measures the relative affluence or disadvantage, across small units of population and in both rural and urban areas, using a range of data compiled from various censuses. Through the application of this highly detailed information on deprivation to regional data of children in care (which provides information on where children came from, and where and why they were placed in care), the study provides for the first time in Ireland, detailed information on the ways that different levels of deprivation impact on children being placed in care and maps their placements in care. The study identifies clear links between decisions in child care and deprivation. The research highlights the need to reduce child/family poverty and provide focused community-based policies to promote children's welfare. The paper also discusses the potential of using location-based databases to research a variety of types of social work intervention.



How is parental substance misuse associated with child protection threshold decisions made by social workers?: the findings of a retrospective cohort study

Jessica Roy  
University of Bristol

Parental substance misuse is a significant child welfare issue across the globe. There is an extensive body of research detailing the deleterious impact that parental substance misuse can have upon children's physical, emotional and developmental wellbeing. However the particular risk that parental substance misuse presents to children can be obscured by its co-morbidity and interaction with other important risk factors. This paper explores how child protection threshold decisions made by social workers are associated with parental substance misuse vis-à-vis other risk and protective factors. A retrospective cohort study was undertaken using clinical data mining to extract information from 200 social work case files of an English rural local authority. At the point of data collection, children were assigned to one of two cohorts; a cohort of children exposed to parental substance misuse and a cohort who were not. Data was collected regarding parental substance misuse, the child's case pathway and risk and protective factors in the child's life. Data was analysed via bivariate and multivariate statistical analysis. Drawing on this study, the paper presents three findings relating to threshold decisions. Firstly, and in contrast to extant research, parental substance misuse was not observed to have a significant impact on threshold decisions. Possible reasons for this are the rural location of the study and the under-estimation of the risk of parental alcohol misuse on children. Secondly, a small group of risk factors had significant predictive effect over threshold decisions. Finally, there was evidence to suggest that reasoning devices employed by social workers were significant factors in relation to threshold decisions. The paper will conclude by describing how key substantive and methodological questions arising from the study have been incorporated into the presenters' on-going PhD research.





Narrative inquiry as social work research methodology: example of life course  
event history model in the field of disability

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There has been a great deal of interest in the concept of narrative across the human and social sciences in the last 30 years. The intention was on implementation of research findings in the social policy and practice. The common focus of social research that pays attention to narrative are: interest in people's lived experiences, desire to empower research participants and allow them to contribute to determining the relevant research themes and an interest in the process and changes (Elliott, 2005, p.6). In the field of disability, narratives are important to understand identity and the social context (Priestley ed., 2001, p.4). People with disabilities face different life chances and have different life experiences related to specific disabling barriers in their society. To explore the social context that shapes biographies or lifetime trajectories in everyday life of people with disabilities and their families in Croatia the significant life course events model has been constructed in this research, through collecting life stories. The construction of this model was useful for evaluation of social work practice and service delivery in the field of disability and to improve decision making, community and policy practice. This is the first type of qualitative research with narrative approach in the field of disability conducted in Croatia. The focus is on explanation the process of collecting and analysing life stories with parents of children with intellectual disabilities in Croatia based on their significant events, experience of discrimination and awareness of discrimination. Specific social context that defines life course of these families represents the historical influence on societal inequities in Croatian society. Based on these findings some new research questions were opened and certain directions for further research in the area of quality of life of people with disabilities were shaped.



Family group conferences and cultural competence in social work mode of presentation

Ravinder Barn  
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Family Group Conferences (FGC) as a method of preventive work came into being over two decades ago. Moreover, the FGC approach arose from a minority cultural perspective and the rising numbers of Maori children in state care in New Zealand. Two decades after the Family Rights Group first championed FGC in the UK, it is a great concern that we know little or nothing about how such an approach is being utilised with culturally diverse families in the UK. This paper draws upon an empirical study carried out in London to ascertain the views and experiences of social and community work FGC co-ordinators and managers, located in statutory and non-government organisations, who employed the FGC approach with culturally diverse families. Findings from this study are discussed in the context of extant research literature into the nature and extent of involvement of Black and minority ethnic (BME) families with child welfare services across the globe. Moreover, given the inherent emphasis on the foundational 'cultural framework' of the FGC approach, the paper makes an important contribution to the literature on 'cultural competence' within social work through the practice of FGC.



## Mapping social work practice: an interactional perspective on engaging fathers

Jon Symonds  
University of Bristol

There is now widespread recognition that fathers should be engaged by child welfare services. When they are actively engaged, they can be a valuable resource in making a positive difference to children's lives and when they present a risk to the child, their engagement can inform risk planning to increase a child's safety. As well as giving men a fair chance to be involved in services, engaging with them also offers a 'call to responsibility' that holds them to account for their absence or abusive behaviour. However, practitioners are often speaking only to the mother and also have to balance the need to build an empowering relationship with her. What ways do practitioners employ, therefore, to manage the requirements to support mothers and to engage fathers in a single conversation? This paper reports the findings of an ESRC funded doctoral study that investigated how parents and practitioners talk about fathers joining a parenting course. It draws on the recordings of initial telephone calls made to parents referred to three parenting services and uses a close analysis of the interactions between six practitioners and 31 parents. By taking a Conversation Analytic approach, this paper will identify how the participants negotiate the involvement of fathers as the interaction unfolds. In doing so, it evidences the opportunities created by practitioners and the pitfalls that beset them in their attempts to achieve this. Although there is considerable variation in the calls, it is possible to trace an order that speakers follow in the progress of the call and in the priorities that they attend to. This order can then be mapped out which makes it available for practitioners to use and future researchers to develop. Audio recordings of practice will be included in this presentation.



Mothers of persons with Down's syndrome as clients of social services -  
Norway and Poland

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The subject of this presentation is situation of mothers of children, teenagers and adults with Down's syndrome as clients of social services. It is an attempt to compare women's attitudes towards social care system and social workers in Norway and in Poland. The presentation is based on qualitative research carried out in Poland and in Norway among mothers of persons with Down's syndrome (2009-2011). The study results show significant differences between participants in mentioned countries. Being a client of social services in Poland may be considered shameful and stigmatizing, whereas in Norway it seems natural to receive them when needed. The reason for that may be the image of both social services and social care clients in Polish and Norwegian societies. In Poland social care is usually associated with pathology, unemployment, alcoholism, personal tragedy. What is more, to manage without social care, even if a person is entitled to receive its services, may be considered something to be proud of. According to study participants from Norway it is obvious that one becomes the receiver of social services when entitled and it is not something to be ashamed of. The presentation discusses main differences among Polish and Norwegian participants when becoming a client of social care is concerned.



## Assessment in child welfare: parent's perspective

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**Background:** This research is a realistic evaluation of the child welfare assessment from the parent's point of view. The focus is to study how assessment intervention, clients' background and municipality factors are in the connection to the outcomes. The research focuses on the five outcomes of the assessment: parent's experience of the increased awareness of a) child's situation, b) parent's resources and c) needs to do changes in the family life, d) family situation has changed worse or better, e) consent view of the family situation with the social worker. Methods: The data was collected by sending questionnaires to the parents whose situation had been assessed in child welfare. The data includes 177 responses (response rate 26,6 %). Analysing methods are factor analysis, correlations, hierarchical regression analysis and two-way analysis of variance. Results: Parents' experience of a good relationship with social worker and strength-based working were positively associated with the all outcomes. The other variables (father participated in the assessment, number of the meetings, parents received the summary of the assessment) were associated only with one or more outcomes. Good relationship with the parents and strength-based social work were important in the all cases but they were especially important in those situations where parents asked help from the child welfare social worker or family's problems were associated to the parent's situation. Furthermore, parent's higher education was associated to the consent view of the family situation between the parent and the social worker.



## How do we know we've connected? Exploring communication between children who are looked after and their social workers

Gillian Ruch

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Communication with children is fundamental to the social worker role of protecting and promoting the wellbeing of vulnerable children. It enables social workers to form and maintain relationships with a child, learn about the child's situation and understand the child's perspective. Existing literature on social workers' communication with children portrays it as a complex, partial and fragmented aspect of practice, with a lack of research that directly explores how social workers communicate with children. Little is known about how children and social workers, in their everyday encounters, experience the same interaction. This paper focuses on the second phase of a UK research council funded project - Talking and Listening to Children - in which children who are looked after and their social workers reflect on their experiences of a professional encounter. Utilising video stimulated recall techniques child-social worker dyads were videoed taking part in an everyday interaction, for example, an informal preparatory meeting for a formal review meeting. Each of the participants then had the opportunity to review the video footage of the encounter and to discuss with the researcher where they felt both parties in the exchange were in agreement, or not, with what was happening in the communication process. The paper will present key findings from the research, make recommendations for how the findings can enhance good communication practices with children and young people and consider how the use of video stimulated recall as a research methodology can empower both children and professionals in the interest of practice improvement.



Consequences of availability of social work support in a school context:  
'extended' pupil welfare interventions and effects on school performance

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Children living in families with alcohol misuse, violence or a parent's psychiatric illness are not only commonly regarded as a group at risk of developing social problems, but also at risk of failing in school. Teachers and school social workers have important roles to play in identifying these pupils. However research demonstrates that this process can be prolonged. Nor is it unusual that parents and/or pupils are unwilling to accept support until the home situation becomes serious and/or where the pupil's school achievements have deteriorated. This presentation is based on an evaluation of the project 'Extended In-Depth Pupil Welfare' funded by the Swedish Public Health Agency's national program 'Developing New Evidenced Methods for Prevention and Interventions'. The project is based on the hypothesis that, by making established evidence-proven intervention methods normally offered by social services in social service settings available for pupils and their parents in a school setting, children and parents may be more willing to both seek and accept support at an earlier stage than had such interventions been available through normal social services channels. The research questions are: 'Does availability influence willingness to seek and accept support?', and 'In what way does this support influence school performance?' The empirical base for this presentation draws on (i) data from a survey of parents (N=137) and pupils (N=49) pre- and post-project that focused on perceptions of the availability of support from pupil welfare and social services, (ii) data on school performance with regard to pupils in receipt of interventions (N=86), and (iii) individual interviews (N=20) with pupils who received interventions. Results indicate that the availability of social workers plays an important role for children's motivation to seek/or accept support. Pupils regard encounters with the on-site interprofessional support team as impacting on their attendance, approaches to school work and achievement.



Social work in schools - (un)acceptance of school social worker as  
challenge of social work science and practice - example of Republic of  
Srpska

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Work

School Social Worker is dealing with issues that involve children safety and well-being, their learning capabilities, as well as with family capacities and abilities to deal with different aspects of their daily lives. Working with children/pupil, and family, school social worker helps a child to develop good "people skills" and to feel good about themselves, as well as she/he works with family on development of parental skills. In cases of families with dysfunctional family relations, the cooperation between school social worker and Social Welfare Centers is crucial in fulfilling all tasks in the field of social and child welfare, including the improvement of children life quality. Social Work in schools of Republic of Srpska was introduced in 2008 by passing the Laws on primary and secondary education. Empirical studies on representation and needs for school social workers, as well as on their position within the School Experts Teams, point out on the conclusion that we have only few good examples on acceptance of school social workers. In this paper we present you some of the results of the mentioned empirical studies, as well as some ideas on how to improve the "position" of social workers in schools.





## Evaluation of an innovative school-based social work project

Elizabeth Fern  
Liverpool Hope University

This paper focuses on an evaluation of a pilot project developed by a voluntary organisation based in the UK. The project aimed to work in partnership with educators and families to re-engage pupils with significant problems reflected in education disruption, poor attainment and attendance. The project was based in a secondary school (ages 11-18) situated in a city area characterised by poverty, high unemployment and crime that made it difficult for pupils to engage consistently in learning. Individual, family and community expectations were generally low and low aspirations had intensified through a history of the local schools consistently failing generations of children. The main focus of the evaluation was on the programme of change in the school and on the social work practice with young people, families and the community. The research approach was qualitative and involved all those who were affected by the research, especially those whose voices are often ignored or silenced i.e. the young people in the school and their families. The evaluation took place over one year commencing in September 2013. The methods included: focus group sessions with school pupils and with family members; individual interviews with key members of the education teams including management and school sponsors; individual and joint interviews with social work project staff, social work students on placement and their practice educator; together with examination of social work and school records. The findings highlight the importance of creating a safe place within a school where young people can be supported in coping with social problems together with a commitment to a long-term strategy of change aimed at "getting to the heart of generations of social deprivation and failure and compensating for years of poor opportunities".



Predictors of resilience in child protection social work: challenges and opportunities for organizations to create conditions for workforce resilience

Paula McFadden  
Queens University Belfast

Child protection is associated with high levels of stress and burnout. Instead of focusing on negative outcomes for staff, this paper presents the findings from a doctoral study in Northern Ireland to report the predictors of resilience. The consequences of negative outcomes from working in child protection is widely reported in the extant literature. There are many concerns about cycles of attrition from child protection jobs and high levels of inexperience in this critical area of practice due to workforce turnover. This paper discusses how there are opportunities for employing organizations to explore and respond to the factors found to enhance resilience. Workload was a confirmed predictor of emotional exhaustion which in turn was found to be a predictor of depersonalisation. Relationships at work with managers and peers were found to be an area of congruence, and a resilience builder for staff. Methods: Mixed methods were used but the current paper focuses on quantitative results. N=162 participants from front line child protection social work; 43% response rate. Multiple hierarchical regression models were used to find the predictors of outcome variables for resilience and burnout (emotional exhaustion EE; depersonalisation DP; personal accomplishment PA). Findings: More than one third of the variation in resilience can be explained by emotional exhaustion, personal accomplishment and age, post qualifying awards and being female (gender a control variable). The finding that workload is a predictor of EE is highly relevant as high EE is associated with the exhaustion component of burnout. A majority also scored high regarding congruence in relation to relationships at work with managers and peers. Conclusion Employers have ability to manipulate factors associated with resilience and therefore the results of this study provide an evidence base and an opportunity for intervention strategies around workload and interpersonal supports for building staff resilience.



Learning together

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As the state retracts further in the Netherlands, we see dramatic shifts in the arrangements of the social domain. Since there are enormous cuts in the welfare budgets; creative innovations are needed to cater for welfare and care arrangements. One thing is clear: citizens are supposed to do more than before. 'The strong citizen' should develop initiatives or be activated to do so. In the city of Amsterdam we engage in questions raising in neighbourhoods and other communities how to deal with the challenge of finding new ways of behaviour for professionals and citizens to co create plans/actions for the wellbeing of their community. Our research: Together with field partners our university started 'field labs' in several Amsterdam neighbourhoods. In these field labs, together with citizens and in some cases with local government, we study ways to maintain or enhance the liveability through direct democracy in these neighbourhoods. Despite the risk of tokenism in this form of civic participation we see sincere engagement by community members and professionals in creating partnerships. Also we find a widespread distrust about the intentions of local government. Based on the questions of field partners we are researching and developing a method to enable social workers in co-creative processes with citizens, among them peer experts. From the perspective of 'the citizen in the lead' we participate as research partners in 'At Home', a co-creative project between elderly citizens and professionals. In 100 informal living room conversations the elderly share their thoughts about the way they would like to spend the evening of their life. Some of our research methods are not exactly conventional; we construct them as we go along. We would like to present a symposium to share our findings, research methods and theoretical frameworks with a well informed public.



## Discourse and narrative approaches to social work research

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University of Durham  
Steve Kirkwood  
University of Edinburgh  
Stef Slembrouck  
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Tessa Verhellen  
Utrecht University

The essence of social work remains face-to-face engagement with clients, however research which explores what actually happens in such encounters is limited. A large body of research examining institutional talk and interaction has been developed in ethnomethodology, conversation analysis, socio-linguistics and narrative, with studies of doctor-patient consultation, family therapy and classroom interaction, but surprisingly little on social work. Furthermore, there is increasing interest in how discourse and narrative approaches can enable professionals to examine their own interaction.

DANASWAC is an international group of researchers who are exploring what can be gained by detailed study of social work interaction. We have developed a collaborative approach in which data (video or audio) of actual social work encounters (home visits, case conferences, group work etc.) are examined. In particular, we aim to make links between analytical concepts from applied discourse studies (like boundary work or delicacy) with concepts in social work (like boundaries or empathy), thereby facilitating a dialogue between discourse analysis and social work theory.

The paper will examine an extract from a meeting between a mother and a family supervisor in Holland and concerns the placement of a young man in care.

The key analytic concepts are categorisation, accountability, affiliation and resistance. By increasing the awareness of such subtleties, social workers can become more sensitive to client responses.

THIS SESSION WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED AS A WORKSHOP BUT WITH THE REDUCTION OF TIME AVAILABLE THERE WILL NO LONGER BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO EXAMINE THE DATA.



## Culture and positionality in trauma research: a bi-cultural perspective

Roni Berger

Adelphi University

Michal Shamai

University of Haifa

Goal: The proposed presentation is designed to discuss and illustrate how the research of the nature and aftermath of exposure to traumatic event of individuals, families and communities is shaped by position and cultural contexts. Content: Studying traumatic exposures and their aftermath is shaped by multiple positions, contexts and lens of those involved. Central among these multiple lens are the role of the researcher and the researched, focusing on negative and positive aspects and the cultural context within which the study is conducted. In the proposed presentation two social work researchers who live and conduct research in the fields of individual, familial and collective trauma in diverse cultural contexts (Israel and the US) will discuss their perspectives on how location and position may affect social work research. The manifestations of theoretical and methodological issues will be illustrated in trauma research in both countries. Structure and topics to be addressed. Conceptual framework: A conceptualization of cultural positionality based on a critical review of the literature will be discussed. Presenters will discuss how race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, and additional cultural affiliations serve as lenses, through which people perceive, conceptualize, interpret, make meaning of and respond to stressor events as well as seek and use help. Illustrations: Each presenter will discuss their research of personal and collective traumatic experiences related to immigration and relocation (Israel and US), armed conflict and security threats (Israel), poverty (Israel) and infertility (US) in their respective cultures. Conclusions: Presenters will use the presented studies to analyze how they reflect and illustrate the identified conceptual aspects, related ethical and methodological issues and offer strategies designed to attend to potential cultural aspects in planning research projects, conducting data collection and analysis and interpreting findings.



Mothers apart: working with birth mothers who have had children serially and permanently removed from their care

Linda Bell

Middlesex University

Sarah Lewis-Brooke

Middlesex University

Rachel Herring

Middlesex University

Lynne Lehane

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Sioban O'Farrell-Pearce

Middlesex University

Karen Quinn

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Theresa So

Middlesex University

This paper discusses initial findings from a multi-method partnership project involving Middlesex University staff and social work partners in a London local authority (Tower Hamlets). Recent UK research highlights high costs, both human and to public funds, of serially removing children from their birth mothers. Research has already considered frequency of removals, wider social impact, and legal aspects e.g. FDAC, substance abuse may be a factor for some women. A recent review (2013) of impacts of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (UK) identified lack of resources to support birth parents and high costs of continued removal. It recommended an "invest to save" approach. Some literature suggests working in a different way to sensitively design services where birth parents can be actively involved, helping them make protective choices. There is still little understanding of the impact of removal on birth mothers and how this may reduce their capacity to care for further children successfully. Interventions aiming to reduce serial removals are being discussed and developed in several UK areas, including the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. This study therefore aimed firstly to obtain views of birth mothers when planning for effective services; we interviewed a small group of mothers (up to 20) who have experienced serial removal of their children, asking them what kinds of support they think are needed in these circumstances. A literature review and visits to other relevant interventions completed this project stage and are also reported on here. Later in the partnership we intend to design, develop and evaluate a pilot intervention model in Tower Hamlets, building on material gathered from this project stage. This future intervention will seek to reduce likelihood of children being serially removed from birth mothers who have already lost at least one child, also saving public costs.



We aren't orphans. Children's experience of everyday life in institutional care  
in Mexico

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Umeå University  
Viktoria Skoog  
Kommunförbundet Västernorrland  
Sandra Elizabet Mancinas Espinoza  
Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León

In Mexico, institutional care is the most widely used out-of-home placement resource for children who have been either abandoned by their parents or removed from their families to protect them from harm. Currently there are over 29 000 children and adolescents placed in approximately 700 institutions in Mexico. However, little is known about the perspectives of young people about their lives in this setting. We set out to explore young people's descriptions of their lived experience of everyday life in one institutional care setting in Mexico, with a focus on their daily activities and their relationships to significant others. Multiple qualitative methods (adapted Photovoice, mapping and focus groups) were used by researchers from both Mexico and Sweden. In this paper, we explore and analyze their experiences of being 'almost home' and living in an 'almost family'. Life in the institution could be characterised as a highly structured, total institution wherein young people looked for ways to take control over times and places. It was safe but not quite home. Life was also strongly connected to stigma. Although in long-term placements, they refused to be labelled 'orphans'. The stigma of being called orphans and living in the confines of the institution was countered by the young people's descriptions of importance of feeling safe, being adequately supported and cared for, having a sense of comfort and normality where they are living, and having emotional connections to those they live with. Being listened to and having a say in decisions related to their lives were also strongly recurrent themes in our study. This paper concludes with a discussion of implications for practice with children and youth in institutional care.



## Trauma resilience and a life lived in the shadows of terrorism and war

Ron Marks

Tulane University

Charles Figley

Tulane University

This presentation will focus on the concept of trauma resilience and share our initial findings of collaboration with 15 experts who have lived and worked in Israel all their lives. We will describe our methods of an innovative social work research methodology - variable generating activity (VGA) - and share our findings. We will describe the process by which the expert panel was recruited, polled, and interviewed to generate a set of truisms about trauma resilience from their perspective. First, we discuss how the members were selected and polled to determine which among the membership were best qualified to be interviewed by the research team. We then discuss the process by which the expert panelists were interviewed using professional video production team that generated over 8 hours of high quality video data for later analysis. We then describe the process by which each of the interviews were analyzed and indexed to generate a list of trauma resilience truisms. The findings of our collaboration revealed 83 trauma truisms. Among the more salient were those associated with individual, family, and community based issues related to buffering, or protective mechanisms, which contribute to resilience from the trauma associated with living in conditions of the chronic threat from terror and war. Toward the end of our presentation we will discuss the research implications with specific observations about the value of our approach using video data and identify the truisms observed by the panel. We will also discuss the practice implications that enhance the likelihood of resilience in the face of trauma.





## How to teach practice research and facilitate the creation of research-minded expertise in MSW education?

Mirja Satka  
University of Helsinki  
Aino Kääräinen  
University of Helsinki

This proposal belongs to the Symphosia organised by Mirja Satka et al. This paper examines and illustrates one particular example of collaboration and knowledge creation as part of the professional education of Finnish social workers. In the present circumstances, we understand social work expertise as something in constant transformation, and thus our aim is to provide our students with meta-level tools which will enable knowledge creation and on-going adaptation in future changes. On the other hand, the aims of the study module include also offering a helping hand to develop local services: We begin the module by asking the agencies their most burning issues for what they would like to have a MSW student to complete a practice research project. At fall 2014 we received about 200 proposals. The presentation introduces the realization of the innovative study module of practice research as part of social workers' education on graduate level. The module has established a unique and on-going dialogue in addition to collaborative learning relationship between students, local social workers and service users, social welfare agencies, employers and academic staff. The core of the study module is a particular form of small scale practice-research in which the stakeholders as equally important participants learn how to plan, produce and disseminate research-based knowledge as part of the daily activities of social work practice. In this presentation we will analyze students' practice research reports and their reflective essays during the study period. It seems practice research module strengthens students' skills to do research and also to complete a master's thesis. Most importantly, this study module seems to strengthen students' research-mindedness, and transforms the way how they orientate to collaborative working with clients and colleagues.



## What do social workers gain from a practice research project?

Helle Schjellerup Nielsen

Department of Social Work, Metropolitan University College

This paper will present an on-going ethnographic research project that has formed partnership with a large municipality in Denmark. The research project explores how social workers manage their practice in relation to interventions and treatment of children and young people in vulnerable positions and which factors influence this practice. The study was designed as case studies, and we did fieldwork in two of the municipality's social services departments. The fieldwork consisted of participant observation, individual semi-structured interviews with the social workers and four focus group discussions with the social workers. The partnership project has a practice research approach, which involved a close collaboration with practitioners in the social services departments. Fieldwork was organized in collaboration with the social workers, and this involved: a) Dialogue with the practitioners about the specific research focus regarding issues that the social workers found relevant to explore. b) The researcher enrolled as a kind of staff, doing participant observation every day during 4 months in each social services department, following the social workers' everyday work practice at close quarters; and participating in meetings with other professionals, children and their parents. c) Creating focus group discussions about key issues identified during fieldwork, the focus groups worked as space for critical reflection and learning for the practitioners. d) Involving the management in creating space for discussions about research findings. e) Involving practitioners in presentation of the research findings to social workers in other social services departments. The presentation will show how this dialogue and collaboration, and the proximity to the social workers everyday work practice generated critical reflection about their practice both individually and collectively, hence providing an opportunity for development and learning in their community of practice.



An exploration of the factors that contribute to or impede research activity  
among social work academics in the UK

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College of Staten Island, The City University of New York

Michelle Lefevre

University of Sussex, UK

Hugh McLaughlin

Manchester

Social work research in the UK has been described as 'piecemeal, patchy and small scale' (Sharland, 2009, p. 140), and constrained by academics' teaching and administrative responsibilities (Lyons, 2000). A cross-sectional study into the UK academic workforce has been conducted by the presenters to learn more about factors contributing to/impeding research activity. Findings presented include: the level of research activity by social work academics; their qualifications; their preferred research methodologies; the proportion of academics' time that universities expect to be on research, teaching, and administration and how this compares to the actual time spent; and the factors that contribute to or impede research activity. An online survey was distributed to social work academics across the UK in May-June of 2014. Data were collected on the characteristics of the academics (N=202) and their research support, expectations, and activity. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, bivariate analyses, and multiple regression analysis. Nearly 73% of social work academics described themselves as research active but spent less time on research activities (M = 20.91, SD = 18.91) than was expected by their universities (M = 32.28, SD = 17.22),  $t(157) = 6.15$ ,  $p < .001$ , and more time on administration (M = 39.10; SD = 18.64) than was expected of their universities (M = 22.42; SD = 11.90),  $t(162) = -11.00$ ,  $p < .001$ . The survey was complemented by eleven qualitative interviews to consider the issues in greater depth. These data were analysed using Nvivo and the two data sets have been interrogated and combined to identify a snapshot of the research activity of UK social work academics. This presentation will identify key messages about the state of research in social work in the UK and advice for social work academics who wish to develop their research careers.



Making research matter: international literature reviews and their use in social work practice, a case example

Helen Cosis-Brown

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The workshop will focus on the contested subject of the usefulness of social work research to social work practitioners and practice. A case example will be used of an international literature review that the workshop presenter and colleagues undertook regarding the role of social work support to, and supervision of foster carers, to enable foster children to receive warm, stable and effective foster care, whilst in public care (Brown, Sebba and Luke, 2014). The literature review revealed the paucity of research that gives voice to the social worker in foster care. Internationally most research findings, addressing the support and supervisory role of social work in foster care, foreground the perceptions of foster carers, and in so doing offer valuable insights into the experiences, thoughts and feelings of foster carers about social work and social workers. This is valuable material to inform social workers and fostering services. However, the absence of the voice of the social worker means that we are left with a partial picture. If we are to understand what effective social work with foster carers entails, to improve outcomes for foster children, we need to know what social workers understand about their work with foster carers and what they do. The literature review makes a number of practice and policy recommendations and identifies areas for further research. The publication of the international literature review, in September 2014, was followed up by a Webinar with social work practitioners and academics, and a social work practitioner and fostering services managers' seminar. This proactive dissemination strategy will be explored in the workshop as a potential vehicle for integration of research findings into practice.



## Knowledge production and practice research in Swedish social work

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The efforts to promote and implement an evidence-based practice (EBP) have been an explicit part of Swedish social policy for more than 10 years. As a public venture aimed at changing social work practice it has few predecessors in terms of personnel, finance, or political support (Denvall & Johansson, 2012; Johansson, 2013). In the report that formed the base for the current ambitions; Evidence-based Practice in Social Services - To the Benefit of the Client (SOU 2008:18), there were strong arguments that such a development presupposes investments in education, research as well as in organization. Not least, the report argued that it was essential to strengthen the clients influence and the professionals in the local practices. In an ongoing (2013-2015) research project, I study this development. The study's shows a lot of activities during this implantation. In total the Swedish Government has allocated 682 million Swedish Kronor between 2011 and 2014 for different efforts. But what are the results? And far most important what are the plans for long term results? What long term knowledge development can expect in the local organizations regarding the professional knowledge development and the benefits of the client's? Can we see a path to an Evidence-based practice? I have conducted this study in close cooperation with different organizations and actors. In this effort, the tradition of Practice Research has offered important points of departure. Not because it provides a complete model ready to be implemented. But, important enough, because it recognizes the dilemmas and challenges in this kind of project. In this presentation and in the paper I will discuss my study as well as challenges and dilemmas in this reform and its implementation.



Parenting in exile: refugee parents' constitution of own parenthood while  
resettled in Norway

Kari Bergset  
Sogn og Fjordane University College

Parental practices in resettled refugee families is often debated both in society and social work discourses in Europe. How do mothers and fathers in exile themselves constitute their own parenthood in resettlement? Parenthood is continuously changing in all families, but due to migration, parents in exile are exposed to huge changes in the context of their parental practices. In addition, family members' experiences of war, flight and temporary exiles do often influence family life in resettlement. This ongoing study explores refugee parents' self constitution expressed in narratives of their experience during approximately ten years in Norway. The data consists of interviews with the mothers and fathers, individually and in pairs. The respondents have fled from Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. The analytic perspective of the paper is discursive, and the following analytic questions will be explored: How do the respondents constitute themselves as parents in this new context? Is their own parenthood constructed in contrast to parental practices in the country of origin, or as a continuation? How do they narrate their parenthood equal or different from parental practices they consider as ethnic Norwegian? Who do they model as 'them' and 'us', and how are the boundaries drawn?



Integration of the sons and daughters of immigrant families: two case studies  
of Caritas social centers in Barcelona

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Eveline Chagas

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This abstract presents a comparative research about two case studies in social centers of Caritas Diocesan Barcelona. Both centers works with teenagers and young people: the "Centro Abierto Glamparetes" (from 14 until 16 years old) and the "Casal de Joves Llops Taga" (from 16 until 25 years old). The objective of the research was to know the degree of integration of the sons and daughters of immigrants families before and after the professional intervention in both social centers. The applied objective was to propose aims to improve a better integration of this population. This study developed a qualitative methodology, with the methods: life story (life story of 15 teenagers and young people), and in-depth interviews (38 in-depth interviews to the adolescents and the young people that resort the social centers, their family and few professions that work in these centers, as the educators and social workers). The study has been done between September 2013 and February 2014. The research results show that the intervention of these social centers is a preventive factor in situations of social risk and increasing protection factors. It also highlights the importance of evaluating the interventions on public administrations, on the third sector, and the public policies. The improvements in social interventions involves providing with more opportunities and equality these teenagers and young immigrant and also their integration.



The new risks of old inequities: the significance of context and choice in the transition to adulthood of disadvantaged, immigrant youth in Germany and the United States

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University of Chicago

A growing body of research has illustrated that as a result of recent social and economic transformations across advanced industrialized countries, young people today take longer and more varied pathways during their transition to adulthood compared to previous generations. These demographic trends have revived a long-standing debate about the relative importance of choice versus structural circumstance in shaping individual lives. There is the recognition that structural circumstances are not deterministic and that even disadvantaged, immigrant and minority youth face a plethora of everyday decisions that can shape their transitional trajectories in important ways. This exercise of agency however, is constrained by choice sets structured by important social contexts ranging from families, neighborhoods and schools to systems of welfare, education and employment. In contrast to the largely theoretical debate of whether the importance of choice in shaping people's lives has increased, a better empirical question is how certain structural circumstances influence young people's exercise of agency during their transition to adulthood. This paper, submitted as part of the symposium "Immigrant Youth in Transition: Examining New Contexts, Barriers & Conditioning Criteria from Adolescence to Adulthood" attempts to address this question. Drawing on the accounts of a sample of male second generation immigrant youth ( $n = 22$ ) growing up under similarly disadvantaged circumstances in Dortmund and Chicago, this paper explores the influence of various levels of social context on decisions during their transition to adulthood. Focusing on the transition from school to work the analysis reveals an unexpected level of similarity in transitional patterns between the two sets of respondents. These findings show that, while national contexts matter in shaping general goals and ideas about adulthood, the young people in this study tend to draw on resources and supports they access through their social networks and relationships when they encounter obstacles and barriers.





New rights in a new destination: undocumented youth in South Carolina  
and the quest for social inclusion

Benjamin Roth  
University of South Carolina

There are an estimated 11 million immigrants in the US who are undocumented, 2.1 million of whom entered the country as children under the age of 16. Undocumented immigrant children attend public schools where they have the same rights to education as their citizen peers. However, by adolescence and early adulthood they become acutely aware that their legal status has significant implications for social inclusion later in life. As these youth develop, they find that they cannot legally work, vote, receive federal financial aid, or drive. In some immigrant new destinations - places that have not been home to new immigrants in generations - undocumented immigrant youth are even barred from attending public universities. In June of 2012, President Obama introduced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program that provides undocumented youth with temporary protection from deportation and permission to work legally in the US. DACA provides new mobility opportunities for undocumented youth, even if it falls short of providing a path to citizenship. Yet, in certain contexts the effects of DACA may be muted, particularly in new destination states such as South Carolina. How do DACA recipients in these contexts leverage their new protected status to overcome barriers to social exclusion? Based on 40 in-depth interviews with DACA recipients in South Carolina, this study explores how DACA conditions the social and economic exclusion of undocumented young adults. Findings indicate that immigrant youth in South Carolina are relatively isolated from social institutions and local organizations. While DACA has allowed them to make some gains - particularly in the area of education - on-going resistance to immigrants at the state and local levels puts greater social inclusion out of reach.



The dynamics of poverty, family and employment: findings from a  
longitudinal panel study conducted in Switzerland

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In recent years, empirical evidence on poverty dynamics has grown. Consolidated panel data and research techniques have facilitated a better understanding of the phenomenon and its evolution over time. In a previous study conducted in Switzerland, we directed our research focus on individual poverty trajectories and associated risk and protective factors. Major findings were, first, that individual trajectories merge to a few specific and contrasting patterns which are rather stable over time. Second, trajectory patterns were found to be strongly associated with indicators of social inequalities, such as gender, age, education and employment status. Building on this previous investigation, the present communication presents findings of further analysis designed to explore how these poverty patterns interrelate with family and employment trajectories. Data came from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP), a national longitudinal survey of the general population. Besides prospective socio-demographic and poverty data collected every year since 1999, the SHP comprises also retrospective biographical data compiled in 2001 and 2002 in order to gather additional information about the respondent's life course prior to the panel study. By means of optimal matching and cluster analysis, patterns of cohabitation and employment trajectories were identified first. Second, the association between these trajectories and various subsequent poverty outcomes between 1999 and 2008 has been explored. Results suggest that poverty may, to a large extent, be explained retrospectively by cohabitational and occupational trajectories. Stable employment and cohabitation patterns clearly appear as protective factors, whereas frequent changes, interruptions or atypical trajectories are risk factors. Thus, our study provides new evidence that poverty is closely related to specific life events and life styles. Implications for social policy and social work are discussed.



## New precarious and invisibilised forms of work within Slovenian social services

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This paper explores how both workers and users of social services in Slovenia have been re-valued in relation to the market and the shrinking welfare state. It bases its findings upon in-depth interviews with workers within various third sector organizations that provide social inclusion programs and services and key informants within public institutions. The findings demonstrate how (meta)governance enacted through methodological, legislative and financial mechanisms places new responsibilities on workers within social services and their users and creates new forms of precarious and unrecognized employment and means for the extraction of profits. Social service workers' jobs have due to austerity measures been reduced and are increasingly dependent on the EU funding, based upon price based competition and are subjected to new monitoring mechanisms. This creates various forms of precarious employment and re-values social work through managerial paradigm that places new responsibilities on workers to demonstrate their socio-economic worthiness to keep and compete for top-down funding opportunities. Due to economic crisis social service workers are also experiencing increasing demand and the changing user base that consists of the new working poor, amongst which are self-employed, migrant workers and long-term unemployed, who have been after years of social care assigned new responsibilities to re-activate. The current EU-Slovenian alignment towards the re-activation is conditioning users' social rights upon contractual relationship that entails from users both underpaid work as well as consumption of services that can provide evidence of their new contractual obligations towards the state. The paper thus contributes by exposing how new forms of (meta)governance re-value both workers and users of social services by producing new precarious and invisibilised forms of work and means for extraction of profits.



Active labour policies revisited by social workers

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Social policies described as active have frequently been analyzed in the scientific literature on the basis of formal legal provisions. Using the notion, set forth by Lipsky (1980) as well as by several subsequent authors, that social workers who implement policies actually play a role in (re)defining them, the presentation intends to explore the way in which active social policies are implemented in a Swiss canton (Vaud). On the basis of the study of the implementation of active social policies by social workers, we will show that on the one hand they tend to view activation as a distant goal - which means they often do not put it into practice right away (and sometimes not at all); on the other hand they impart a specific content to the concept of activation that differs from the way in which legislators conceived of it. Moreover, our analysis shows that the norm of activation is not applied in the same way to 'young adults' or to 'poor families'. The analysis enables us to better understand the nature of active social policies and to appreciate the far more complex and nuanced character of these policies in a way that cannot come to light in studies solely based on the examination of legal provisions. It shows the central role of social work research for understanding the actual impact of social policies. The empirical material upon which our analysis is founded is made up, on the one hand, of laws, statements and parliamentary interventions defining social interventions and benefits, and on the other hand of data collected through 56 semi-structured interviews. The research was conducted within the framework of the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) LIVES - Overcoming vulnerability: life course perspectives, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) <http://www.lives-nccr.ch/en>



Motivation, responsibility and reenforcing agency: governance of clients in social work with activation of unemployed people

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Social policy increasingly emphasizes the need for including disadvantaged groups in the labour market through activation measures. The article draws on qualitative client data from persons enrolled in an activation program for long-term social recipients in Norway. Research on activation in social work has concentrated on social workers' experiences in the restructuring from provision to self-sufficiency as objectives for welfare services. The studies concur that social workers express ethical reservations in promoting work-related incentives and sanctioning for disadvantaged clients. Research also suggests that organizational settings and social workers' attitudes toward client groups and causes of unemployment have implications for practice in activation work. Yet, there is little research on what is expected of the clients in the planning and carrying out of activation measures. Data draws on 16 clients enrolled in an activation program for people with reduced working capacity in Norway. Data consists of case records over a 1.5-year period and interviews with the designated social worker for each case. My method of enquiry was conducting semi-structured individual interviews with the social worker, drawing from each client's case file. The interviews expounded on the social worker's choices of action. The aim of the article is to investigate the expectations posed on clients during the planning and decision-making process in the activation program towards achieving paid employment. I will use Foucault's governmentality-concept to discuss how social policy specifies ways for clients to participate in their own activation process. Preliminary findings suggest a strong emphasis on client motivation and personal agency, and a highlighting of any personal or behavioural challenges clients may have, rather than the circumstances structuring their situation.



Path-analyses estimating re-employment effects of close and comprehensive follow-up of welfare recipients: a cluster-randomized study

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Recent development within activation policies emphasizes a tailor-made and individualized follow-up of welfare recipients. There is, however, a lack of knowledge related to the effects of these programmes. The aim of this study is to identify and estimate the importance of mediating variables in explaining the re-employment effects of a close and comprehensive follow-up model developed and implemented by the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration. In order to analyse employment patterns for welfare recipients, this study applies path-analyses on cluster-randomized data. The data consists of T1-T2 questionnaires and a T3-T5 follow-up based on administrative data (N=617) for welfare recipients from the offices that were randomized to experimental (9) and control group (9). The results show positive re-employment effects of comprehensive follow-up, nevertheless path-analyses demonstrate the mediating role of mental health as well as the complexity related to the estimation of longer-term re-employment outcomes.



## Utilizing visual methods to explore young people's experiences of foster care

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This paper presents findings from my doctoral research that explores the social networks of young people in foster care, within the United Kingdom (UK). The research draws on the theory of social capital as well as Goffman's seminal work on stigma. This qualitative project is based on a total of twenty interviews with young people in foster care aged between twelve to fourteen years old. Each participant was interviewed on two separate occasions. Visual methods were employed, which included photo-elicitation techniques and an eco-mapping exercise. During the first interview the eco-maps were completed with the participants and then they were left with digital cameras with the brief to take photographs, over the following two weeks, of things that were important to them. The methods served as a useful way to empower the participants as it enabled them to be active in the data collection. This promoted a partnership approach to the research with the young people acting as photo-researchers. This paper considers the benefits of the methods used and presents some of the important data that was collected, which I argue without these visual methods, may have gone unobserved.



Promoting constructive relations between children in foster care and welfare officials

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The relation between children in foster care and 'their' welfare official has recently been accentuated on political level in Sweden. In the paper we will discuss how Honneths theory of recognition can be applied on this relation. It is a very complex one, not least because the role of the official is multi-dimensional. Besides ensuring official policy, law and regulation (the authority role) he/she shall represent the child vis-à-vis other actors' and institutions involved (the advocacy role), and be a stable and trustful adult for the child to attach to socially/emotionally (the attachment role). The latter is now emphasized in Swedish law. Recently, in the framework of an evaluation we interviewed children in foster care. When asked about how they experience "their" official most of them put the authority role in the forefront, i.e. someone controlling and administering their foster-home placement. However, those most positive of "their" official describe someone who differs from this picture, a deeper and more developed relation based on mutual trust. And, such a relation seems desired by most interviewed children. By Honnet's theory of recognition we may reach deeper insights of how to develop a professional role that promotes such relations. It elucidates three types of recognition-relations needed for an individual to develop a positive identity: through primary relations of mutual emotional attachment self-confidence of importance for being able to articulate personal needs is developed. Through legal relations the individual is recognized as an adequate partner in interaction. This infuses self-respect. In complement to this - to care and legal recognition - the individual needs to be recognized for unique capacities and achievements via belonging to a community of shared values. The paper discusses if, how and what the welfare official can offer here on the basis of his/hers position in the welfare bureaucracy.





How do social workers think about adopted children's contact with birth relatives, and are their ideas evidenced based?

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In England, adoption is used to achieve permanency for some children in the care system. Social workers must consider what, if any, contact the children should have with their birth relatives after adoption. Although the views of children, birth relatives, and adoptive parents must also be taken into account, the social work role in determining post adoption contact is a powerful one. This paper will use empirical data to compare how social workers think about birth family contact, with the evidence about the experiences and outcomes of such contact. It will draw on data from two studies: the "Contact after Adoption" study which collected questionnaire data from the social workers of 168 children, and which followed up 65 children from their adoption in early childhood through to late adolescence; and the "Supporting Direct Contact" study which collected data from 112 social workers (who responded to a fictional case vignette) and from 55 adoptive parents and 39 birth relatives. The presentation will explore the contact plans that social workers made for children, and their reasoning in devising these. It will look at how social workers set up and manage direct contact meetings between children and their birth relatives, and their attitudes towards the different parties in contact. Social workers' hopes and fears about contact will then be compared to the outcomes of contact for children as explored in the two studies. These outcomes suggest that decision making about contact for children in out of home care needs to be sensitive to each child's situation, balancing risks, benefits and challenges. Social workers can have too strong a focus on risk management whilst at the same time underestimating the challenging relationship dynamics of contact, and the potential long-term benefits to the child in terms of their identity development and managing multiple family memberships.



Evaluating foster care projects: from a literature review of researches on foster care to the creation of a success factors scheme in order to evaluate participated foster care projects

Valentina Calcaterra  
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Social workers are often engaged in foster care projects of children or young people. In Italy foster care intervention was set up more than 30 years ago and the approaches of child protection social workers to this topic are vary. The aim of the research is to evaluate the successful of participated foster care projects, a model to set up foster care intervention in partnership among social worker, foster care families, parents or relatives and children or young people, taking into account the institutional and legislative mandate. In order to evaluate this way to manage foster care project it has been done a literature reviews of research on foster care to individuate factors associated to successful foster care project form the point of view of social worker, families and children. Successful factors of foster care are related to behavior and history of the child, families' problems, structure and willingness of foster families, typology of the project in term of time of permanence and duration, involvement of the families and children in decision making and manage of the project, network among practitioners and families. Starting to this review it has been made a table of successful factors of foster care and a survey to investigate the presence of these factors in the participated foster care projects. The aim of the presentation is to discuss the process and the results of this research.



Adoption support services in Wales: challenges and opportunities for the new  
National Adoption Service

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Adoption reform is high on the political agenda in Wales, with the launch of the National Adoption Service (NAS) in November 2014. One of the NAS's central aims will be to provide comprehensive adoption support services for all those affected by adoption in Wales. Most children adopted in Wales will have experienced abuse and/or neglect in their birth families, and will have spent time in public care. They can therefore have a range of complex needs which require on-going support longitudinally. This study aimed to investigate the provision and experience of adoption support services in Wales in order to inform the development of the NAS. An on-line survey was completed by all local authority and adoption agencies in Wales (n=18), as well as follow-up telephone interviews with senior adoption managers. 91 adoptive parents completed an on-line survey, who had adopted a total of 147 children under the age of 18. Service provision had areas of strength, including the commitment and creativity of adoption agencies who worked hard to meet adoption support needs within limited financial and service resources. However, access to high quality service provision was patchy across Wales, particularly in relation to specialist services to meet the complex multi-dimensional needs of adopted children and their families. More specialist training was wanted to increase the skills and confidence of social workers involved in adoption. A majority of families who received support were satisfied, but access to services was perceived as difficult, with some adoptive parents feeling judged or blamed for their child's difficulties. The creation of a National Adoption Service for Wales provides an opportunity to work towards equity of access to high quality adoption support services, responsive to local and regional needs. However, in a period of austerity and significant funding cuts, this will be challenging to achieve.



## Europe's transnational social work research history

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Sofiya An

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Maria Isabel Rodrigues Dos Santos

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From its very beginnings in the late 19th century, the development of social work research in European nation states has been closely interconnected within Europe (Hering and Waaldijk, 2002) as well as between Europe and North America (Rowbotham, 2010). Early protagonists, such as Alice Salomon (1930) promoted the internationalization of social work which led to an intensified travelling of knowledge and ideas (Chambon et al., 2014). Comparisons and transfers of social work methods and research has been in the centre of attention. These developments were framed by the dominant paradigm of modernization and rationalization. A transnational historiography (Iriye/Saurier, 2009), however, reveals that this ongoing knowledge exchange in social work research took not only place between nation states, but aimed at establishing and transforming the nation states themselves. Thus nation states were not only the context of knowledge exchange, but also their outcomes through an array of activities (Conrad, 2011), including the establishment of schools of social work, research methodologies, social policies etc. A transnational perspective is aware of the power relations within and between nation states and the ongoing colonization and resistance of local actors and their knowledge. This symposium aims at carving out the ongoing process of knowledge translation across national, ethnic, cultural, and religious boundaries in European social work history. Contributors take up the well-established framework of transnational history and lay a focus on the interconnections of social work a) between North America and (Eastern) Europe at the beginning of the 20th century (M. Johnstone) b) within Europe in the 1930s and 1940s (M. Isabel Santos), c) between Europe and Russia after the end of the cold war (E. Iaraskaia-Smirnova), d) between Europe and Kazakhstan (S. An) at the end of the 20th century. A short introduction into the transnational history approach will be given by S. Königeter.



The internationalization of leftleaning social work in the 1930s: Margaret Gould  
and her European tour

Marjorie Johnstone  
York University

This paper is part of the symposium: Historical research on social work, social services, social welfare, and social justice. This paper will present findings from an ongoing study on Margaret Gould (1900-1981), an influential Canadian social worker, socialist feminist and social critic. Particularly, I will discuss Gould's participation in international socialist feminism and left-leaning journalism during the 1930s and consider how this influenced her performance of social work. In the first half of the twentieth century, the internationalization of social work resulted in the circulation of knowledge and ideas (Chambon, 2014). The transnational organising of women between 1900 and the Second World War (Rupp, 1997) as well as the growth of international socialist coalitions opposing the rise of fascism in the 1930s (McKay, 2005) resulted in the formation of a vibrant community of left leaning social workers in Toronto. Margaret Gould was unusually well educated with a Bachelor Degree from University of Toronto (1923) and then a Master's Degree from Stanford, California (1928). Gould was radicalized by the Jewish school system during her adolescence. She pursued two careers, firstly as a social worker in a progressive welfare agency in Toronto (1929-1936) and later as an editorial journalist for the Toronto Star (1937-1957). In 1936, Gould toured Scandinavia (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland), because "of their early leadership in social legislation and reform" followed by England and the Soviet Union because "it is the latest frontier in social development" (Gould, 1937, 1). When she returned to Toronto, Gould wrote political travelogues for the Star and gave didactic public presentations in social work agencies. By adopting a transnational perspective (Wimmer, 2003) and recognising that Gould was not only a single social work actor but also a participant on the national and the international stage, the reciprocal influence of this knowledge exchange will be analysed and discussed.



Social work education and practice in Russia: challenges from inside and outside

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This paper paper is considered to be part of this symposium: Europe's transnational social work research history headed by Dr. Stefan Königeter. This paper provides a review of some of the key challenges for social work in post-socialist Russia. It focuses on contradictory ideologies that are shaped in discursive formations of social work in education and everyday experience of social workers in post-Soviet Russia. Professional development of social work in Russia has officially started in early 1990s when social work was established both as a training programme and an occupation. Since then the professional project of social work, has been conditioned by the local and global interests of government, market and civil society. The practice field of social work was developing rather separately from the field of professional training, while the situation in human resources of the social work services sector was characterized by low wages, labor shortage, high fluctuation of personnel and insufficient opportunities of retraining. During 1990s and early 2000s a number of international donors have contributed to the development of higher education in Russia. International effects on social work education in Russia are noticeable at several levels: institutional, systemic, curricular, symbolic and individual. The analysis focuses on dynamics within education as well on the low professional status and lack of collective voice in Russian social work. It is based on survey data, interviews with social work educators and content-analysis of mass media to highlight the peculiarities of socio economic, cultural and political status of social work in Russia, its public image and frames of professional identities. Strategies for promoting social change, agents of change and institutional barriers are discussed in the theoretical context of professionalism as a value system and ideology.



The founding of Portuguese social work training (1935): a communion of national and transnational efforts

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In Portugal, the founding of social work training took place in 1935, with the opening of the Lisbon Social Work Institute, whose technical direction was taken until 1944 by a French social worker: Marie-Thérèse Lévéque. This period of Portuguese history leads us to the New State's (Estado Novo) construction phase, during a new national conjuncture in relations between Catholic Church, State and intellectual movements, and across an historical context defined by a political authoritarianism and a strong closure of Portugal to the international influences. This communication results from a doctoral research, and focuses the complex processes that cross the opening of the first Portuguese social work school, distinguishing, by its relevance, the influence of hygienist current, catholic social movement, and some feminine elites. Curiously, given the Portuguese "closure" imposed by political reasons from the 1930's, transnational connections took here a significant role, more precisely, the relations between some national catholic groups and two "foreign" organizations: the French "Union Catholique des Services de Santé et des Services Sociaux"; and the "Union Catholique Internationale de Service Social", seated in Brussels during that time. The primary historical sources that support the doctoral research (and, respectively, this presentation) have been collected in Portuguese and foreign archives (mainly in Paris and Brussels); and through oral testimonies (biographical-narrative interviews with social workers graduated at the Lisbon Social Work Institute between 1935 and 1944).



Knowledge from below, knowledge from above: emerging multiple social  
work fields in Post-Soviet Eurasia

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Kazakhstan, a newly independent PostSoviet state in Eurasia, has experienced major restructuring of its economy, polity, and welfare within a transnational policy context. In welfare provision, there was a shift from the state monopoly on welfare to multiple welfare providers, including the state, the family, the market, and the nonprofit/NGO sector. Part of welfare diversification, there has been the emergence of organizational practices conceptualized as social work: a professional practice which focuses on a certain social issue and/or population; employs direct engagement with an individual/family/group; and is provided by a professional or a designated person within an organizational context. Historically, in the West the social work domain was located in multiple 'sites of difference' (Abbott, 1995), a feature that Abbott calls 'social work of boundaries'. Similarly, different streams of social work practice can be identified within different welfare sectors in Kazakhstan. First, NGOs became increasingly engaged in social service provision, initially supported almost exclusively by international assistance, which had a major impact on the development of social services and social work by shaping priority social issues, target populations, program modalities. On the other hand, within the state welfare sector, the development of social work was linked to the reform of state institutions (e.g. institutions for adults and children with disabilities) and an introduction of social services within these institutions (e.g. day care departments and home care for children with disabilities). Similarly, a public-funded social worker's position was recently introduced in polyclinics. Drawing upon key informant interviews conducted as part of my doctoral research over the summer of 2012 in Kazakhstan, I will examine how distinct social work fields were shaped by the transnational flow of social work knowledge from above (in the government sector) and from below (in the NGO sector).





'That's just the way it goes' - perceptions of moving in old age

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Western welfare states aim to enable living a good life among its citizens. However, defining living and especially ageing well vary, and there is a widening discussion about the actual contents and means of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security. Moreover, the questions of responsibility for ensuring preconditions of wellbeing are ever more pertinent in graying societies struggling to make ends meet. The purpose of this study is to explore how older people themselves perceive their own role in arranging their housing issues and everyday lives in anticipation of possible future needs. Old age is often viewed as a life phase in need of special consideration as challenges in housing and care may emerge with age related changes. In Finland, the idea of growing old at homes with adequate care services available (policy of 'ageing in place') is widely supported, but as possibilities for financing and organizing public universal services are currently under scrutiny, new kinds of divisions of responsibilities and provisions of services are being proposed. Narrative analysis is employed to study the perceptions of moving among older people aged over 75 in regular housing. The data consists of narrative interviews gathered in MOVAGE Moving in Old Age: Transitions in Housing and Care research project. This article focuses on the question of to what extent these narrators perceive their relocation in old age as voluntary or necessary adjustment, and to what extent individual responsibility is perceived as expected, acceptable or exigent in housing arrangements. Which responsibilities in regards to means of maintaining ability to live a good life are willingly taken as individual, and under which circumstances should the responsibility for housing and care be turned to the public?



## Measuring personal outcomes from community interventions to address social isolation and loneliness in older age

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Social isolation and loneliness are associated with reduced personal confidence and quality of life and poorer health outcomes for older people (Windle, K., et al. 2009). This paper reports on the evaluation of a community funded action research project (Hubs for Older People's Engagement) designed to utilise existing community facilities, resources and social networks so as to outreach to older adults across Belfast's (NI) sectarian neighbourhoods. Local aged care facilities (known as hubs) provided the basis from which to recruit difficult to engage socially isolated older adults over the age of 55 years. The Older People's Outcome Star was the tool selected to enable the self assessment of personal outcomes for older socially isolated participants. Over 104 socially isolated older adults were linked to the hubs through a programme of health, wellbeing, lifelong learning, intergenerational and gender based activities which resulted in measurable improvements in individual social participation, personal confidence and quality of life. The project contributes to the evidence base for combating social isolation and loneliness as well as provides further insight as to how to identify and engage isolated older individuals living in the community. This presentation would be of interest to social workers, community workers and organisations seeking a grass roots approach to social isolation and loneliness in older age.



Age and relationship satisfaction: an international study of perceptions about  
intimacy

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Romantic relationships are integral to many people's lives, and they can be both a source of support and stress. Long-term intimate relationships typically change over time, and they tend to look different depending upon the chronological age of the partners as well as the length of time partnered. In this study, we compare the responses of participants (N=1,500) from two countries (United States and Australia) to determine if patterns and perceptions of relationships are associated with age. Descriptive analysis will highlight how older adults in our study perceive relationship issues, including sex and emotional support, and comparisons by gender will provide insight into how sex influences these perceptions. We will also provide demographic information related to relationship status (e.g., married, living with someone), sexual orientation, and past relationships. Utilizing Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression, we determine what variables help explain the variance in relationship satisfaction for older adults who are currently partnered. Gaining a greater understanding of relationship status and perception among older adults is essential to good social work practice across many of the domains in which social workers are employed, including case management, therapeutic practices, and elder/aged care. Given that many Western societies are ageing, social work practices need to become more inclusive of older adults and this is in part achieved through greater knowledge regarding their perspective on key psychosocial issues. Moreover, assessing for sources of support through intimate relationships is essential strengths based practice.



Narrative identity work in couples living with dementia: a relevant perspective  
for social work practice

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**Background:** There has been a shift in dementia care all over the western world, putting the experiences and needs of the person with dementia in focus in the so called person centered care. One part of caring for a person with dementia is to help him/her to remember and to express individual identity, however for many people the relationship and the couple-identity that they share with a spouse is equally important. Person centered care entails relational aspects in theory, but in social work practice it can often be neglected. **Aim:** The presentation will address narrative identity work and positioning in time of dementia, mainly from a relational perspective. This is done through the lens of Hilde Lindemann's theory on "holding in identity" with an extra focus on inter-related aspects of holding. I will suggest that holding in identity can be reciprocal in the sense that both healthy spouse and spouse with dementia occasionally will need to be held. Issues regarding relational aspects of identity work in time of dementia have yet received little attention in social work research. **Method:** Twelve video-recorded interviews with couples living with dementia were analyzed using positioning theory. Narratives important for individual as well as relational identity by and about both spouses were analyzed. **Preliminary findings:** The results suggest that healthy spouses are good at holding their spouse with dementia in identities that enhance agency and competency. The spouses often express their couple-identity as being ordinary and even "better off than many others". Narratives regarding changes due to dementia are negotiated and sometimes rejected by the person with dementia. **Implications:** The presentation will contribute to the debate on narrative identity work and dementia. The experiences from identity work for couples dealing with dementia can be seen as useful tools in social work practice.



## Managing organized insecurity - on unrestricted working hours and restricted relationships in elderly care

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Part-time employment is more than twice as common among women as men in Sweden and elderly care is the biggest part-time employment sector. The most common reason for working part-time is that full-time employment is not offered. In recent years, new ways of organizing working hours to allow for more full-time jobs without increasing costs have been introduced for care workers in elderly care. The new workday patterns are characterised by flexible working hours based on the needs of the workplace. Instead of hiring temporary staff, regular staff members fill in for absent co-workers. The aim of the study is to analyse how organized workplace flexibility affect the daily lives of employees in elderly care. The Classic Grounded Theory method was used in a secondary analysis of interviews with 140 employees and around 20 heads in Swedish municipal elderly care. A theory-generated model was developed, showing that managing the organized insecurity caused by workplace flexibility affects the employees. Firstly, because of economic and social obligations to the employer and co-workers, the employees have to be available to work although this means making sacrifices in the private sphere. Secondly, they have to be adaptable to unknown clients and co-workers, which undermine their chances to provide good care. In elderly care, the solution to the unsatisfactory part-time model results in an obstacle to satisfactory full-time work. The transformation of work - unrestricted working hours and reduction of job satisfaction through the restriction of meaning-creating relationships – seriously undermines employees' everyday lives and care providing work.



Social workers' value preferences and their opinions on the immigration policy  
for asylum seekers in Israel

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In the present study, we investigate social workers' opinions towards different aspects of the immigration policy for asylum seekers in Israel and their connections with the social workers' personal values preferences. Social workers are at the forefront of working with asylum seekers; thus, it is crucial to understand their attitudes towards this population. Anonymous questionnaires were completed by a representative sample of 285 social workers. Opinions on the immigration policy were conceptualized as distributed across two dimensions: one related to defending the rights of asylum seekers, and the other - defending the receiving society. The socio-demographic characteristics of the social workers explained only a small proportion of the variance in their opinions on the immigration policy, while personal value preferences explained a substantial part of the variance in the social workers' opinions on the immigration policy. Specifically, a stronger preference for the values of self-direction, humility, benevolence, and universalism was related to a policy aimed at defending asylum seekers' rights. Values of power, face, social security, and tradition were related to support of a policy directed toward defending the state. Results supported a conceptual model in which personal opinions on the immigration policy were affected by individual general motivational goals. Findings suggest that values-based interventions could be useful for reducing negative attitudes towards immigrants among the receiving society.



"We have inspection from the county governor": the tension between the institutional and the professional voice in conversations between social workers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors in the Norwegian Child Welfare

Imelin Kjelaas

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In this paper I will present findings from my ongoing PhD-study on communication between social workers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors in the Norwegian Child Welfare Service. The focus of the project is the children's communicative participation as children's participation is a key principle in psycho-social work in general and in child welfare in particular. However, practitioners and researchers report that it is a major challenge to achieve actual participation from and for children in child welfare (Roundalen et al., 2012; Vis, Holtan, & Thomas, 2012; Vis & Thomas, 2009). Eight institutional conversations are subject to microanalysis, and the goal is to describe how participation is interactionally constructed. These eight talks are part of a larger ethnographic material collected through participatory and non-participatory observation. Theoretically, the project has a dialogical foundation, where the conversation and not the individual actors constitutes the object of analysis, and where dialogue and language are understood as fundamentally ambiguous, dynamic and contextual (Linell, 1990, 2003, 2011; Linell, Gustavsson, & Juvonen, 1988; Rommetveit, 1979, 2008). The conversations are analyzed as encounters between different voices, understood as the actors' different perspectives, agendas and linguistic styles, and the focus of my presentation is the tension between the institutional and the professional voice. The Social Workers have two communicative projects in the conversations with the children. On the one hand, they have to inform, map and evaluate, using standardized guides and forms, with predefined categories and a bureaucratic linguistic style: They use the institutional voice. On the other hand, they have to meet the children with sensitivity and empathy, and build a good relationship: They should use the professional voice. There is a tension between these two voices, and the tendency in my study is that the institutional voice dominates. This restricts the children's opportunity to participate.



Should we be talking about what we'd rather not talk about in social work research and practice?

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University of Bolton

My research asked the question: 'How do socio-cultural characteristics and maternal health influence the parenting patterns of families of Pakistani origin living in Bradford?' Emphasising the significant role parents play in the lives of their children is not an overstatement. And numerous studies have been conducted on parenting and child development including factors that influence parenting practices, among white indigenous groups. However, we know very little about some minority ethnic groups such as those of Pakistani families, and the influencing factors. Some BME groups have high concentration in some specific locations, for example, there is a particularly high concentration of Pakistani families in Bradford. This Born-in-Bradford (BiB cohort) database became an invaluable resource in selecting participants for this study, which was attached to the Maternal and Child Health theme of the BiB Research Cohort study and funded by CLARCH. The study used a qualitative methodology, including face-to-face interviews and ethnographic observations of the participants to explore the impact of factors including religion and social support on Pakistani families' parenting patterns. The data was analysed by an initial coding, identifying themes, grouping of patterns, and arriving at meaningful explanations. Among other findings the study shows that family support, particularly with childcare and religion, strongly shape Pakistani families' parenting patterns. Participants' emphasis seems to indicate that acceptability of some forms of interventions within the community without a religious dimension to it might be limited. Religious dimension, not merely spirituality that repackages the notion of religious beliefs in some sort of deity, to include arts, crafts and other ephemerals that only water down clients/patients interest and desire in practice. The study concludes that social work practitioners could minimise the sacred-secular divide by getting religious leaders involved in teaching key aspects of change in parenting and family life to secure interest and enhance engagement.





## Supporting returnees: the perspective of social workers

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Ghent University  
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Ghent University

In our presentation, we investigate the interconnection between social work and migration studies by looking at the social practice of assisted voluntary return. Although return migration has received renewed attention in migration research and many social workers have a role in providing support to migrants returning to their country, the role and perspective of social workers realizing this support remains unexplored in international social work research. For social workers in West-European receiving countries who guide migrants before return, parallels can be drawn with research on social work practices with immigrants, which show that migration policy often contradicts the value and ethics of social work. Though, we raise the question about the mind frame of social workers in the country of origin, who are assigned the task of supporting returnees' reintegration process within projects created by West-European governments and where the profession of social worker is relatively new. Based on semi-structured interviews with a Georgian and Armenian social worker who guided, respectively 35 and 50, returnees or returned families in frame of the Belgian assisted voluntary return programme, we investigate the view of social workers on return support, their abilities to realize this support and how their perspective relates to the receiving country's policy. The data demonstrate that the social workers considered returnees 'in need for support', though not to 're-integrate' as the programme assumes. Further, they described themselves as mediator between returnees' needs and the possibilities within the programme. Finally, they did not question the return policy of the Belgian government, though their vision of 'good return support' that is tailored to the needs of the returnee once back in the home country, contradicts the receiving country's policy goal to use return support as tool to encourage people to return and therefore allocates support to returnees before their departure.



## School social work practice with Roma

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In Portugal, the intervention with the Roma population is conducted primarily through school, so the research focused on the work of social workers in schools, particularly with Roma. It is important to point out that, in Portugal, there are still schools that make Roma-only classes and, therefore, was taken as starting point the assumption that Roma people are subject to severe discrimination and injustice. The overall aim of the research was to appraise knowledge and practices on approaches to cultural diversity and, more specifically, answers to the main research questions: How is it the work of social workers with Roma? How they deal with diversity? It is a part of the mainstream or sidelined to special projects? It was, also, intended assess the sensitivity of social workers to issues of social justice and discrimination. The selected method was semistructured interviews with social workers who work in schools with Roma students and families. Were conducted thirty-two interviews, from January to July 2014. The selection includes the schools covered by educational policy Educational Territories of Priority Intervention (TEIP). The interviews were taped and the transcripts already made were read and reread and was identified some conceptual patterns, that allow point out some preliminary results. The main outcomes suggest that there is a general understanding of diversity concepts and awareness of discrimination against Roma, but the current practice of school social workers show an approach to cultural diversity that trap Roma students in ethnic enclaves of special projects. Discussion of data leads to consider that social workers have a practice based on a benign view of diversity. The results also seem to present a evidence base to support our assertion of injustice and discrimination against Roma in schools, despite the anti-discriminatory policies and measures.



'Supportive' versus 'demanding' intervention models: what are the best practices for promoting independence among young adults with severe mental illness in the community?

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Young adults with severe mental illness (SMI) need to cope with two major life transitions - to function as independent adults with an autonomous identity, and to adapt to the complex adult mental health care frameworks. The development in the transitions offers both opportunities and vulnerabilities. The rehabilitation process of this population poses a unique challenge for both the young adults and the psychiatric services. Two "pilot" programs for the rehabilitation of young adults with SMI in the community were launched in Israel in 2009. Both adhered to a similar individual- and group-treatment, illness management and recovery approach and included supported employment. However, the 'supportive model' program (SMP) emphasized gradualism, support and containment, whereas the 'demanding model' program (DMP) emphasized independence through minimal individual support, peer and group-support, open-market employment and dormitory housing. The evaluation study, using both qualitative and quantitative tools, accompanied both programs for 21 months to examine the contribution of each program to the personal, vocational and social rehabilitation process of participants. The quantitative data was obtained through a set of semi-structured questionnaires that were delivered to the participants in-person on five time points during the program. Complete questionnaire data in at least two time points was obtained from 29/53 participants in the SMP (55%) and 19/29 participants in the DMP (66%). A two-way repeated-measures analysis of variance was used to compare between the two programs and between the first and last measurement. Findings indicate that the merits of each model program could be combined to generate a best practice gradual model for this unique population.



Mental health and mental capacity assessments: social workers making best interest decisions

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This paper presents the results of a comparative study of social work practice between community and inpatient settings in mental health services. UK legislation makes provision for social workers to assess a person's mental health needs, including admission to psychiatric hospital. However, different laws apply depending on whether the person being assessed has capacity to make informed decisions about their care and treatment. The social workers' task is to manage the interface between the Mental Health Act (1983) and the Mental Capacity Act (2005) both of which have implications for the human rights of people using mental health services. Where a person is assessed as not having capacity, the social worker can make a Best Interest Decision, on their behalf. The methodological framework for the study is documentary analysis of social work reports and case notes, followed up by focus groups with the social workers in the community as Approved Mental Health Practitioners and social workers who work in an inpatient setting (Neuro-psychiatry). It considers the process of decision-making, what the decision is that needs to be made, how a decision was made, recorded and what the outcomes are for service users, their carers and families. The paper concludes with a discussion of the concept of social workers making decisions about safeguarding the rights of service users at the interface of different legislative frameworks and the associated challenges and opportunities for social work education and professional practice.



Mental health problems in Taiwan from a gender and anti-oppressive  
perspective: a human right issue

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Introduction: In the perspectives of social model for disability and mental health, anti-oppression and human rights are emphasized; the rights of persons with disabilities and mental health problems to equality, freedom, safety and social inclusions should be ensured and protected. How can social model be implemented in patriarchal social contexts that the regulations are different from those of social model? It needs more research currently. This study aims to examine the gender issues of disability and mental health problems in Asian cultures (Taiwan) that are patriarchal and gender inequality are still prevalent. Methodology: Case study was adopted in this study. Two females were selected to be the cases and voluntarily participated in this study. One case was a Taiwanese female suffered from Schizophrenia; the other case was a female carer who came from a south Asian country to care for a Taiwanese man with multiple disabilities. In-depth interviews, observations and documents were adopted to collect data. A holistic analysis was adopted to analyze data. Results in Taiwanese context which is characterized by patriarchal values mental health problems are considered to be different from physical illnesses. Therefore the ways of dealing with disability or mental health problems are different across genders. I will firstly present the care paradigms of disabilities and mental health in Taiwan. Follows the illustration of how Taiwanese women who experience mental health problems are trapped in an oppressive system constituted by gender inequalities, economic difficulties and mentalism. It also shows how migration and transnational marriage had a profound impact on the care work for people with mental health and disabilities in Taiwan. By analyzing the situations in the perspective of anti-oppression practice and human rights, it is anticipated to draw implications for future actions with the aim of enhancing the well-being of Taiwanese women.



Research in practice: a women's emotional regulation group within a  
community mental health team

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People with a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) are often excluded from and have difficulty accessing services, despite long-standing policy commitments to counter this. Those with such a diagnosis are disproportionately female and while the diagnosis itself is highly problematic, there are real challenges about the equity of mental health service provision to those in need and distress who experience intense emotions. Until recently Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) has been the main therapeutic approach used within the US and the UK, though NICE guidelines highlight a lack of research regarding specific therapy models. DBT is resource-intensive, requiring a significant time commitment both on the part of staff and service- users, resulting in people often waiting a long time to access such groups. Systems Training for Emotional Predictability and Problem-Solving (STEPPS) was written by its American authors in part to counter some of these issues and is starting to be run as a manualised group programme in the UK for similar reasons. It has some similarities with DBT but diverges in its firm emphasis on skills-development. With two colleagues, I facilitated the 20 week STEPPS programme within secondary mental health services in our area of South West England, as a closed, women's group, with 7 group members, all of whom wanted support to manage their emotions (but not all of whom had a diagnosis of BPD). All group members reported positive changes occurring as a result of attending the group and being part of its support structure. As facilitators we took a critical stance to BPD and made significant changes to the manualised programme, rooted in our own feminist analysis. I am presenting our experience of groupwork in action, outcomes for those who attended the group and the broader implications these findings raise for service development.



Exploring the tensions involved in service user and carer involvement in social work students' assessments at Continuing Professional Development (CPD) level in England

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The centrality of service user and carer involvement in social work education in England is now well established, both in policy and practice (HCPC 2012; SWRB 2011). However, research evidence suggests service user and carer involvement in the assessment of students is underdeveloped, under researched and under theorised (Muir and Laxton 2012; Skoura-Kirk et al 2013). Further, research in England indicates that service users and carers occupy a less powerful position than academics in their role as assessors. Skoura-Kirk et al's (2013) study reported that whilst service users and carers are included as major stakeholders in social work student assessments, their involvements in assessments are peripheral. The less powerful position occupied by service users in social work education also appears to be an international issue. Writing from the Norwegian context, Askheim (2011) notes that although social work education in Norway has embraced the involvement of service users, they still do not participate on equal terms. The paper reports on an empirical doctoral research study undertaken in England which explored stakeholders' perspectives on what service users and carers should comment on when assessing social work students at Continuing Professional Development (CPD) level. The study is situated in the qualitative research tradition drawing from narrative research approach. Twenty-one people were interviewed. The sample consisted of service users, carers, social work students, social work managers and social work academics. The data was analysed using the Voice Centred Relational method (Gilligan 1982). Findings showed that stakeholders expected students to demonstrate, among others effective communication skills such as listening, empathy and kindness. Although important, progressive difference in expectation at CPD level was not acknowledged. The findings challenge social work educators in looking at creative ways of involving service users and carers in social work students' assessments.



Foster children's voices: placement and foster family care in the eyes of foster children

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This contribution refers to the views of former foster children, young adults now, about their experiences during placements and their lives in foster family care. Researches advocating the perspectives of foster children are quite rare. Little is known about how children experience their times as part of a child protection measure. The here proposed contribution is based on a recently finished 3 years research project, funded by the Swiss Science Foundation (SNF). The research focus on two levels of interest: 1. interest in the perspectives of former foster children. 2. we compare these perspectives with the views of relevant adults we interviewed in addition. The comparison of the different perspectives reveals several issues: (A) The views of all involved persons about the problem to solve, the roles they incorporate, differ considerably, not only in terms of antagonistic 'adults versus children' or 'social workers versus users'. (B) The setting "Foster Family Care" is shaped by permanent negotiations about power relations in general, power to define a situation in particular. (C) The "doing foster family" processes are highly dynamic. These sometimes overwhelming processes in the lives of foster families, are not rarely discussed as due to the children's difficulties with their lives and experiences they had before placement(s). Our research therefore discusses another interpretation: The perspectives of former foster children indicate how they deal with what could be referred to as power differentials (Machtendifferenziale), formulated by Norbert Elias. The here proposed contribution can be discussed under two main topics: under the perspective of knowledge production in collaboration with service users, and under the perspective of how to deal with the role of a researcher as "advocate", to bring light into practices of social work with children in the conflicting field of child protection.





## Critical incidents matrix: a tool to support the multidisciplinary team within decision making process in child care and protection

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In the daily work with families that live in vulnerable conditions, sometimes, something does not follow our expectation and predictable or unpredictable events can modify the expected outcomes. Although we consider to have taken into account every aspect of the case, it may happen that the care project fails. The task of High Reliability Organization (HRO) (Weich and Sutcliffe, 2007) is to convert the failure - or the risk of failure - into an opportunity to learning from the experience (Dewey, 1910, 1938; Serbati & Milani, 2013) In order to understand the process and increase our professional and organizational mindfulness, developing tools and strategies analyses to support the multidisciplinary team in reflective practices is key (Fluke, 2011; iek, 2014). In such perspective the way to increase and value the potential implicit learning (Fook, 2012) in every event, is to consider it as a critical incident (Flanagan, 1954; Tripp, 2003; Collins & Pieterse, 2007). The paper will present the tool "Critical Incidents Matrix" designed to support the multidisciplinary team within a decision making regarding the risk of placement out of home, in the process of analysis and interpretation of the real and concrete problematic situation. The "Critical Incidents Matrix" stresses the role of practitioner's knowledge and awareness and offers a communicational strategy to share significant information among professionals involved in the care project. The matrix has been experimented with multidisciplinary team involved in P.I.P.P.I. a research-training-intervention program funded by Italian Ministry of Welfare and developed as an intensive care program for vulnerable families. P.I.P.P.I. (Program of Intervention for Prevention of Institutionalization) aims at preventing child placement focusing on supporting parenting through a care process that uses participatory strategies and multi-professional and intensive-intervention. Results from case studies will be discussed.



Retaining child welfare and protection workers: messages from a  
longitudinal study of 'stayers'

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The retention of child welfare workers in a perennial issue in the social work and child welfare literature and concerns associated with high turnover/low retention have been well documented. However, there are fewer studies that examine 'stayers' and teams with high retention rates in child welfare. This paper presents the findings from a longitudinal study of social workers' retention over a 9-year period in Ireland. 35 social workers in child welfare and protection were interviewed in 2005/6 and 20 of the original cohort who are still working in child welfare and protection were re-interviewed in 2014. In this paper we explore the learning from 'expert' social workers with between 10-20 years experience who have remained in child welfare over this period. Why do these social workers remain in child welfare? How do they understand their individual choices and choices made by others to remain/leave? What professional and organisational factors impact on their decisions? What can be learned about the resilience/self-care strategies of these social workers? The research is unique because it is longitudinal and because at the end of each interview social workers are asked to comment on what they said in their original interview. This enables us, and the social workers, to track variations in their decision-making over time and an opportunity for social workers to engage with their own professional histories/narratives. The paper explores social workers' perceptions of the key changes in child welfare and protection in Ireland over the decade and how these changes influence their current intentions to stay or leave this work, as well as engaging in debates in the collection, creation and analysis of professional histories/narratives.



Factors influencing social workers' judgement and decision making in child protection: substantive and methodological implications of a systematic literature search and synthesis

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**Background:** Judgement and decision making (JDM) of social workers in child protection services is influenced both by factors associated with the case and with the contexts of decision making (e.g. characteristics of the practitioner, agency, policy context). Previous literature reviews on social workers' JDM in child protection have focused primarily on a specific national child welfare context (e.g. Platt/Turney 2014, on the UK) or addressed other issues than factors influencing JDM (e.g. Taylor/Killick 2013). **Aim:** This paper aims to present substantive and methodological implications of a systematic search and synthesis of qualitative and quantitative studies addressing factors influencing social workers' judgement and decision making (JDM) on child endangerment (e.g. risk of significant harm) and related interventions. It will 1) give an overview on the modelling of factors influencing the social workers' JDM, objects/situation of the JDM, characteristics of the sample, methods and methodological approaches, 2) discuss the substantive implications, 3) discuss relations between methods, (national) configurations of child protection and findings, 4) discuss issues of translating findings to (national and local) contexts that are different to those of their origin. **Methods:** Bibliographic databases were systematically searched for empirical studies on JDM in child protection services. The quantitative and qualitative studies were selected based on pre-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria. **The main criteria are:** Publications on empirical research, be published from 1990 in English or German language, focusing factors influencing child protection service workers' JDM on child endangerment and/or related interventions. The references of the found studies were hand searched for further studies matching the criteria. The found publications will be synthesized based on a narrative synthesis approach (cf. Popay et al. 2006).



Entanglements, issues and spatial enactment: rediscovering community for  
social work

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This paper makes the case for rediscovering community social work based on the social ontological primacy of the "we". In doing so, I closely follow the writings of Jean Luc Nancy and focus particularly on his *The Inoperative Community*. Nancy wants to be rid of all notions of identity in thinking about community, with neither "the same" nor "the other" considered as primary. Instead, both identity (I) and difference (other) are derivative from a prior 'we'. The 'we' which he elevates above all other pronominal alignments is "the most remote, absolute priority of every ontology" (BSP, 76), that is, further back than which nothing is, nor can be thought. The "we" as plurality for Nancy is irreducible and primordial. As such this "we" is foundational and this is why both identity and other are both secondary and constitutive. Entanglement is the social approximation to this primary "we" and through spatial or topographical enactments brings the common to life. Here entanglement is conceived as a vital connectedness enacted across time and space. This paper argues for an entanglement perspective as the best way to conceive of community for social work. With this conception community is defined as an enactment or performance of issue entanglement. It is thereby a dynamic "meshwork of relations" which are emergent around an issue. If community is defined in terms of a saturation with issue(s) this suggests that community acquires distinctive associative properties only in virtue of their interpenetration of constitutive entanglement. The implications of this radical and new way of conceptualising community are discussed for social work.



## Growfunding/BXL or how to connect social network in segregated urban environments

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Odisee

More then ever our cities have become breeding-grounds for innovative and creative (social) projects. Yet, these innovative projects often fail to realise their ambitions. Not only due to a lack of financial support but also because they do not manage to create a social basis in the often segregated urban contexts. The research group connected to the department of Social Werk of Odisee (Brussels) developed and successfully tested an innovative methodology to create a social and financial basis for small scale urban projects. By modifying reward-based crowdfunding into a methodology to involve a diversity of citizens into micro-initiatives in their neighbourhood, their community, their spheres of interest, ... the research group developed a new kind of social infrastructure. The main objective of the platform is to pull together different social, cultural and financial networks by realising bottom-up projects of citizen, informal collectives, associations and social entrepreneurs. The experimental crowdfunding platform, called 'Growfunding/BXL', was launched last year and has so far realised up to twenty small scale social projects and has actively involved over 2.000 people. The initiators of the project receive a free training on how to successfully manage a social crowdfunding campaign and how to create ongoing participation even after the campaign. During the presentation, the research will go deeper into the methodology they developed and present their analyses of the results of the research project. At the end of the presentation they will explain how to implement the methodology in other cities.



Critical practice for challenging times: social workers' engagement with  
community development

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The contribution that social workers make to communities is integral to the principles and values of the profession but is often 'hidden' and unacknowledged. The proposed paper will present the findings of primary research that was undertaken to specifically explore social workers' engagement with community development approaches in a range of social work settings. Community development involves collective action in accordance with social justice goals and that seeks sustainable solutions to the issues facing communities. We present the findings of 15 qualitative interviews with practitioners in statutory, voluntary and community contexts in the Republic of Ireland. Critical themes that are explored in the paper include social workers' affiliations and engagement in networking, their perspectives on activism, and the challenges of engaging in critical practice. The interviews were conducted during a time of crisis for social work in Ireland (Forde and Lynch, 2013) and internationally, as states grapple with economic, social and ecological crises and the expectations placed on social workers grow. A systematic review of the social work literature carried out by the researchers has revealed considerable debate about the potential for a critical and challenging social work practice that can contest and change the dominant neo-liberal, professional and managerial discourses that have been pre-eminent for over forty years. Additionally, the paper will illustrate how the integration of research and teaching has impacted significantly and positively on our teaching practice and fostered an approach that treats students as active participants rather than passive learners, and the development of students' knowledge of the links, both theoretical and practical, between community development and social work.



## PRONET: professionalization of networks

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In 2012 the department of social work (Artevelde University College) conducted a practice-based research project on the topic of professional networks. Organizations are functioning in an ever- changing context. The formation of partnerships and networks is one of the ways in which organizations attempt to provide a solution to this problem. The co-operation arises either spontaneously or out of necessity and government policy stimulates and even imposes it more en more. In reality, there is a huge variety in the growth and development of these partnerships and in various professional and academic circles the need for practice-based research material about networks arose. PRONET wants to increase the professionalization of networks by focusing on the individual actors in these networks and the roles they take up within these networks. When all roles are known, competences required for these roles can be formulated. The PRONET research project took place in collaboration with organizations from different domains: government, social profit, social economy, culture, education, ... Qualitative data were collected by means of in-depth interviews with experts and different focus groups across these different sectors both on executive and decision making levels. Based on the results of the project, PRONET developed a basic model containing the different roles necessary to construct well-functioning networks. For each role specific competences are formulated. An accompanying manual describes how the roles have to be used. Another fundamental result of the project is the so called 'Generic Profile'. This consists of a number of competences that are required of an individual so that he or she is able to function in a professional partnership. The collected material is used to develop a range of educational tools for students and professionals in the field of social work.



## Outcomes of social service contact with teenagers in England

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It is notoriously difficult to demonstrate whether social service contact achieves its intended outcomes, especially where there are no experimental conditions or follow-up. Large longitudinal cohort studies could be powerful data sources, allowing large scale comparison between those using and those not using social services over time. However these data are much under-used in social work research, especially in the UK. This paper reports on one strand of a larger study of four such datasets in the UK. It draws on the Longitudinal Survey of Young People in England to investigate the effects on young people of social service contact due to problem behaviour in their teenage years. The analysis uses inverse-probability-weighted regression adjustment, a technique rarely used in social science, to study causation. By adjusting both for the predictors of social work contact and the outcomes of these predictors, it allows us to compare young people who have social services contact with others in similar circumstances who do not, thus isolating as far as possible the effects of social work contact. The outcomes of social work contact considered are educational achievement and aspiration, mental health and locus of control. Our findings suggest there is no significant difference between teenagers who receive social service contact and those who do not in terms of their mental health outcomes, aspiration to apply to university, or belief that they will struggle in life even if they do well in school. However the evidence suggests that those who receive social service contact have significantly lower odds of standard educational attainment and of being confident in being accepted by university if they apply. Social service contact also yields significantly higher odds of reporting external locus of control. Possible explanations and implications of these findings, along with the limitations of the data, are discussed.





Young people and family violence in the Norwegian multicultural context: an exploratory study

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In this paper, I will present my ongoing PhD-study with young people who have experienced family violence. I will share some analysis in progress where I explore how the young people, as well as professionals working with family violence cases, understand and define this phenomenon, how they identify and contextualize it, and what actions or non-actions counts as violence. The family category is wide and includes close family members like parents and siblings, as well as other of kin like grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts, partners, and in laws. The background of this Norwegian study is an articulated lack of research where children and young people have had the chance to express themselves regarding experiences of family violence. Furthermore, there is a particular deficiency of research where ethnic minority children and young people are included. The PhD-study addresses some of these deficiencies by conducting qualitative interviews with minoritized as well as majoritized young people about their experiences of violence within the family. Additionally, I have interviewed professionals about their understandings of family violence in a multicultural context. The interviews were conducted among young people between the age of 16 to 30 years, and among professionals within the Norwegian child welfare service and family help centers. The data consist of approximately 35 individual interviews, 15 of them with young people and 20 of them with professionals. In this presentation, I will share some preliminary analysis of the understandings and definitions of family violence as expressed by both the young interviewees and the professionals. I use social constructionism and intersectionality perspectives to deconstruct how the phenomenon is identified and contextualized, and to explore how categories such as culture and ethnicity are at work and might influence the conceptualization and the understanding of what family violence is.



## Understanding suicidal groups of young people

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Preventing suicide is a high priority social policy in Europe and Worldwide, and an important task for social workers in all sectors. A strong connection has been demonstrated between an episode of self-harm, repeated self-harm and completed suicide: a self-harm episode increases the risks of suicide by up to 100 fold (Kendall et al 2011). Rates of self-harm appear to be increasing for young people, amidst world-wide concerns about group suicidal behaviour. Though they have devastating effects on individuals, families, communities and professionals, little is known about the causes of group suicidal behaviour, how it spreads and how to effectively intervene (Haw et al 2013). Social media is widely thought to be playing an important role in these groups and their perceived increase (Daine et al 2013) Group suicidal behaviour is extremely difficult to study. Statistical methods have been used to identify increases in suicides in time and place (Jones et al 2013), though to access the meanings and patterns in groups, qualitative methods, including interviews with young people are now recommended (Haw et al 2013). This paper draws on a first-phase study of two suicidal groups (in UK and USA). Both came to awareness in practice settings, and a qualitative, practice-near approach is taken to explore dynamics in the groups and characteristics of young people involved. The paper will discuss emerging hypotheses; mapping psychosocial vulnerabilities of young people involved; their communication patterns (both face-to-face and on-line); complex roles held by group members, including helping prevent suicidal behaviour as well as promoting it. Professionals' intensely distressing experiences will be described; their overwhelming sense of exclusion from young people's 'secret' networks. The paper concludes by exploring implications for practice and future research; this approach holds promise for making sense of young people's group suicidal behaviour and thus contributing to preventing suicides.



## Professionals' perceptions of 'young' in young motherhood

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Young motherhood is a recurring issue in media and societal discourse in the Netherlands, in which a vicious circle of deprivation seems to be a dominant image. Dutch welfare and education organisations work towards preventing young motherhood or supporting young mothers to participate in society. This paper is based on a study on agency of young mothers in Parkstad Limburg in the southernmost province in the Netherlands, where, relatively, many young mothers live, even though the region is experiencing demographic shrinking by means of an ageing population and emigration of young people. This paper takes the perspective of social work professionals, because young mothers frequently come into contact with them. The main question is how do professionals in welfare and education organisations in Parkstad Limburg in the Netherlands perceive the concept of 'young' in the context of young motherhood in their work settings? The aim is to deconstruct the concept of 'young' in young motherhood and show underlying views in a professional context. Research methods are literature study and in-depth interviews with 11 social work professionals of welfare, education and expert organisations that are based in Parkstad Limburg. The paper shows which notions of young prevail in professional contexts. It furthermore shows that the notion of 'young' in young motherhood is not a matter of absolute age and is subject to contextual understanding. Moreover, professionals' notions of 'young' in young motherhood are an outcome of professional negotiations, based on what professionals perceive as vulnerability. They aim to improve young mothers' vulnerability, but through their interventions the professionals maintain an image of young mothers' lack of agency. In the paper the professionals' perceptions are deconstructed and discussed.



What we see and what we say in social work: rational for using images in practice and research of youth

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Being central to human functioning, images contribute to the individual's ability to remain oriented in the world in light of memories of past experiences and envisioning methods of problem-solving based on these images. Arts will be shown to be an effective tool for researching non western and marginalized groups as it is based in spatial embodied, but also indirect metaphorical concepts, rather than western abstract conceptualizations of problems and of solutions. Researching and practicing social work with the help of images specifically, or visual information in general, can help to reveal the client's own hermeneutic understandings of the issue. This has particular relevance to social work populations from diverse cultural backgrounds. This presentation is based on my book called "What we see and what we say: Using the Arts in Social Research and Practice" published by Rutledge as well as on two articles - one focusing on methods and one on arts as social change, both in the British Journal of Social Work. Examples of arts use in micro and macro research settings will be used to illustrate these points. Images will be discussed in terms of process product, and interpretation, as well as in terms of cultural context. A typology of uses of images within social work research will be presented, explaining how to use images as data, method, subject, or product of the research, and the advantages of each use will be outlined. This abstract connects to the conference theme of research methodologies (as social resistance to dominant narratives) and to research of social work participants, cultures and contexts.



## Depicting social aspects: The inclusion chart (IC) as an instrument of social diagnostics

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"Social" aspects have gained recognition in the understanding of the basis of well-being, also of people with disease and disability. There are many diagnostic tools to map and analyse person-to-person relationships through to relationship and social exchange networks. The essential possibilities for an individual's life chances to use supra-regionally and collaboratively organised infrastructure, however, have so far eluded these examinations. The tool "inclusion chart" (IC3) fills this gap by providing a process that maps relevant facts based on a social work science perspective in a multi-dimensional support arrangement on a theoretically consistent basis and makes them available for cooperative intervention decisions. The three axes of the IC3 chart three relatively independent perspectives and spaces for intervention of social work. A universal scale for the scope of participation in social life and exchange is applied. Thus, IC3 is well suited for a compact diagnostics of life circumstances as the basis of support planning. At the same time it makes a significant statistical analysis possible that allows to draw conclusions on the situation of target groups of social work and on processes of social exclusion on a large scale. The instrument was utilized and continuously improved within the last eight years in an ongoing dialogue with the profession in different areas of practice (substance abuse counselling, job centres, youth welfare, geriatric social work, refugee relief etc.). Version 4 (which is in development at present) will allow target group specific options, while still remaining a common core and comparability. The diagnostic tool IC3 is an example for the synergy of theoretic modelling, profession and social work expertise. It is presented here for the first time in an English version.



Inter-professional negotiation and resistance

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At the very beginning of 2013 a new reform of disability and early retirement pensions and flexible employment was implemented in the Danish municipalities. Within the new legislation was a demand for all job centres in Denmark to establish inter-professional teams ('rehabilitation teams') to coordinate complex client cases and make recommendations for disability pension, flexible employment, resource benefit or cash/sickness benefit. The legislation states that the team must consist of professional representatives from social service, employment service and the health department as well as the social worker presently in charge of the case and the client. This is a new arena for social work practice and inter-professional cooperation in cases where the client has substantial and complex problems. It is also a stage for policy delivery and possible resistance (overt or subtle) in the negotiations that take place at these meetings. As such it is a social space in which negotiated order takes place. Inter-professional cooperation is no simple task as previous research indicates (Caswell et al. 2012; Mik-Meyer & Johansen 2009, Antoft 2008). Theoretically the paper draws on Strauss' theory of negotiated order (1978) more specifically looking at what and how is negotiated (Reeves et al. 2009) and the role of resistance in these negotiations (Caswell et al. 2013, Juhila et al. 2013). Methodologically the approach is ethnographic, focusing on observations of institutional interactions (Heritage & Clayman 2010, Sarangi & Roberts 1999) at this new arena for social work practice and inter-professional negotiation.



Is everyone on board and does everyone agree? Ethical issues in human rights research with people with mental health issues and people with learning difficulties

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In recent years, there has been an expansion of knowledge and consensus on ethical ways of ensuring informed consent and research participation of people with mental health problems (Tew et al., 2006) and people with learning difficulties (Stalker, 1998). This includes more nuanced and complex aspects of research ethics for these two groups - from ethical participation of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities in research (Boxall, 2010) to ethical standards for research conducted by mental health system survivors themselves (Faulkner, 2004), for example. Ethical requirements for conducting human rights research (particularly in the international context) are less clear; the rationale for such studies is to explore breaches in human rights, therefore surpassing requirements for prior ethical approval (Amon et al, 2012). The built in assumption is that any attempts to reveal human rights violations are likely to be suppressed (ibid.). This presentation is based on an example of a human rights research study on legal capacity of people with mental health problems and people with learning difficulties in Kenya, conducted for an international human rights organization. Using this example, the author examines the complexities of ethical human rights research with people with learning difficulties and people with mental health problems. The complexities explored won't solely focus on the research process, but also the potential impact of such human rights research (including legal advocacy and litigation).



Exploring the ethical implications when involving research participants who lack the capacity to give informed consent: a perspective from mental health social work research in the UK

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This paper explores the ethical challenges of involving research participants who lack the capacity to give informed consent to be involved in research. These issues were addressed as part of a doctoral research project that uses observational methods to explore the practice of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) during Mental Health Act 2007 assessments in a case study site in England. The researcher is also a Social Work practitioner/AMHP who has responsibility for carrying out work under the Mental Health Act. The decisions that AMHPs make can directly lead to an individual being deprived of their liberty in a hospital for the purposes of psychiatric assessment and treatment, but there is a lack of research evidence that explores how and why AMHPs make decisions in this context. As a Mental Health Act assessment often takes place in an emergency or crisis situation, often unplanned, it is not always possible to gain informed consent from the service user who is subject to assessment, prior to an observation taking place. However, this paper argues that this should not prevent the topic being subject to the focus of research given the potential impact that this area of practice has on the human rights of individuals. This paper discusses the process of gaining ethical approval to conduct this type of research and the ways in which the Mental Capacity Act 2005 can assist in overcoming barriers to involving people who lack the capacity to consent to be a participant. The paper includes researcher reflections on the ways in which research can both empower and potentially disempower service users and the challenge of seeking to ensure that research is carried out in an ethically and morally sound way.





Revitalization of social work with groups' - a service developed in  
collaboration with users

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This paper is based on practice research in collaboration between four parts: practice, research, education and service users. The research focus is on the development and implementation of social work methods. The main focus is on social work with groups of young people, 18-25 years old with multiple problems, who are searching for work or activity. The practitioners in NAV (the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration) are developing an approach where they combine several forms of intervention. Firstly, group meetings twice a week for 2-4 weeks where the participants have to be active and take responsibility to explore their interests and motivation to make changes in life, then each participant collaborates with a social worker to make a plan for realizing these changes. Jobs or education that will lead to work is usually an important target in this plan. The collaboration goes on, now with the aim of implementing the plan. The results of this approach will be evaluated after 6 and 12 months. As researchers, we are also interested in exploring this kind of group work, which in many ways differ from the therapeutic groups work which are led by social work experts. The form and content of the group sessions, as well as the combination of several forms of intervention, have been developed through close collaboration with service users. The users have evaluated the group work and suggested changes in the group work. This kind of evaluation will be a central issue throughout the project. In this paper, we will discuss how this kind of approach may represent a revitalization of social work with groups, inspired by theoretical aspects as empowerment and user participation.



At the interface of voluntary and involuntary care-orders - dynamics of  
decision making in Finland

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This presentation explores the decision-making policy and practice of care-orders in Finland, where two decision-making bodies in child protection exist. Involuntary care orders are made by administrative courts and voluntary care orders by the municipal social work agencies. In practice, the majority of care orders are voluntary and thus made on the local level. Very little is known about the profiles of voluntary and involuntary care orders, and about the reasons for and dynamics of the different decision-making processes. The data consists of document data from two Finnish cities in 2013. The local social workers gathered child welfare documents of all the children (n=37) that were taken into out-of-home care during a 6-8 month period. A content and thematic analysis of the data revealed that the level of involuntariness and voluntariness varied from weak to strong. Different cases were analyzed in relation to the children's age and sex, psycho-social problems, length of the time in child welfare, and intensity of the child welfare services. The relation between these factors and the level of voluntariness/involuntariness was not clear. Instead, emotional and supportive measures were found to be significant. These results will be compared with interviews gathered from social workers, and from children that have been taken into care. With this triangular data and analysis, the dynamics of the different decision-making-processes can be thoroughly discussed. This study demonstrates, how interwoven the social and legal elements are in the Finnish decision-making-system, which enables care-orders in conflicting and contradictory situations. It highlights the significance of emotional elements that challenge both the social work agencies and the Administrative Courts. The analysis also brings up challenging questions of ethics and power.



Children's journeys through care in England: quantitative insights into the relationship between voluntary/compulsory entry to public care and subsequent permanency outcomes

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Section 20 (S20) of the Children Act 1989 makes provision for the admission of children to care following an agreement, entered into, by parents, on a voluntary basis. While, in England, such voluntary agreements represent the single most common route into care, and, constitute the basis for which a sizeable proportion of children are in care on any given day, there has been relatively little research focusing specifically on children admitted in this way. This paper arises from a study exploring the journeys of children into, through, out of, and back into, the care system in England; in this presentation focus will be given, in particular, to the pathways, and subsequent permanency outcomes, experienced by children who initially entered care under a voluntary basis. The study comprised a 100% cohort of children (n=1081) who entered care for the first time in one English Local Authority during a three year period; half of whom were admitted under a voluntary agreement. Data from the Local Authority's electronic records system was used to track the journeys of the cohort, from initial admission, for 3-4 years. The study reveals the relative frequency, and rate, with which children, admitted under S20, were reunified with their parents, in contrast to experiencing escalation to compulsory measures and alternative permanence options. Application of Multi-State Methodology revealed factors associated with transition to these different 'states of care'. While voluntary agreements were devised, in part, to restore the sense that partnership, between Local Authorities and families in difficulty, can be a positive measure, this study raises questions about the 'success' of S20. Additionally, this study demonstrates the value of the presently routinely recorded administrative data on children in care in England, as a means of exploring and monitoring temporal changes in children's journeys and the employment of legal options/powers.



'Voluntary care' - the perspectives of judges and lawyers in England and Sweden

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Drawing on interviews with judges and lawyers, and legal literature - decisions, judgments and commentaries - this paper explores legal perspectives on the use of voluntary care in England and Sweden, two countries with converging models of child welfare. From one point of view, voluntary agreements for out of home care can be viewed positively, as maximising parental involvement in decisions about care outside the family home, allowing parents to exercise their responsibilities and work in partnership with child protection/ care agencies, and thus respecting family (art 8) rights under the European Convention of Human Rights. However, from a legal perspective, voluntary care may be seen more negatively. Parents who 'agree' to voluntary care may have been pressured by the care authority or individual social workers and their circumstances, and be acting without full knowledge of their rights or the consequences in law and life of their actions. Thus agreeing to voluntary care is not simply a positive exercise of parental responsibility by parents but a process through which care authorities assert their power, keep cases away from court scrutiny and defeat rather than uphold justice and the rule of law. This presentation discusses the conditions which predispose legal professionals to view voluntary care positively or negatively, and the consequences of this legal perspective for care systems, care professionals and families.



Arguing over decisions: when laymen decision-makers in Swedish child protection go against the proposals from professional social workers

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Decision making in child protection concerns society's most vulnerable children and their families and involves power dynamics where state representatives sometimes take decisions against the will of parents, for the benefit of children. In the Swedish child protection system a politically appointed board or committee are responsible for decisions about placements in out-of-home care for children. In cases of compulsory care final decision are later taken in an administrative court. The decisions are based on investigations and proposals from municipality social workers. The aim of this paper is to analyse cases where the layperson board go against the proposals from the social workers. The research questions consider a) how often this occurs; b) on what grounds such decision are taken; c) how the argumentation is perceived from the perspective of the laypersons. This paper builds on a study of layperson boards in Sweden, including a national survey (99 municipalities), a close observation study of 33 committee meetings in three municipalities, and interviews. The results show that it happens very seldom that layperson go against the proposals. The idea of making other decisions than proposed by social workers can be categorized in different ways, from asking for more information (delaying the decision) to actually making a different decision when it comes to placing a child in care. Argumentation from laypersons normally involves the need for democratic control over professionals and the protection of the interest of community members. There is however great ambivalence among the laypersons about making these decisions and whether or not professionals can be trusted to handle these decisions themselves.



Thinking of who will (not) come: access to public social services and the imagination of the “ideal” user

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The access to social services is a crucial moment in the transformation of private troubles into public issues and as such an important element for the creation of a sphere of publicness which recognises social problems and provides answers in terms of professional services. Processes of planning and organising this access to social services go beyond the definition of formal criteria. They are complex processes which involve different political, organisational and professional questions. All these questions are intertwined with each other and constitute the operational side of access policies, which actually determines the real accessibility of services to different people in need. These processes of planning and organising access necessarily involve the thinking of potential service users (and indeed their “making of”) and of how they could and should be reached by public social services. The proposed paper will discuss these questions drawing empirically on a research project carried out in the Province of Bozen/Bolzano - South Tiro in Italy. The research project mapped the organisation of access in all local welfare agencies in South Tiro and involved an in-depth study of three local welfare agencies as three different cases of access. Data were collected by interviews with service managers, professionals and service users and by ethnographic observation. The paper will particularly a) focus on different representations and myths of the “ideal service user”, b) point out the different normative references in imaging (and constructing) the potential service users and c) critically ask how these images might influence different models and practices of access to local welfare agencies and, thus, how they might eventually advantage or disadvantage different user groups.



Constructing the bridge: the experiences of Norwegian managers in health-  
and social services in research partnership with higher education -  
implications for social work education

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Background: Previous studies describe that social workers seldom apply research in their daily practice. The Norwegian government expects that professionals in the welfare system to provide high quality research based services. Furthermore, higher education institutions have an obligation to transform professional education and research in ways that can improve health- and social services. Research indicates that managers of the services have a key role in developing partnership between higher education and practice. This calls for closer collaboration arrangements between the health- and social services and higher education. Aim: The aim of the project is to explore the role of the managers in linking health- and social services together with higher education in research partnership. The research questions are: 1) What are the managers' experiences of research partnerships? 2) What are the implications for social work education? Method: The study has a qualitative, explorative and descriptive design. The participants have been purposively selected and inclusion criteria were that participants are/have been managers and/or are other key persons of the health- and social services taking part in mutual research projects regarding educational programs on bachelor and/or master level. The data have been collected by means of 3 focus group interviews, with 4-5 participants in each group. The sample consisted of 14 persons involved in 21 projects in total. A qualitative content analysis has been applied that focused on the description on the phenomenon under investigation. Findings: The managers focus on improvement of services. They have a central and innovative role in linking health- and social services together with higher education in partnership research. The findings will be discussed in light of theories of collaboration, leadership and innovation. Implications for social work education are outlined.



## The advanced midfielder: middle managers in social work

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This study examines the role and position of middle managers with respect to the changes currently affecting the social sector in The Netherlands. These changes concern, among other things, the stimulation of active citizenship in the social field, and are taking place against the backdrop of further decentralisation, operation of market mechanisms, and public funding cutbacks. The study focuses particularly on a specific group of social professionals, namely the social-cultural professions within the social sector, which includes such occupations as community worker, social-cultural worker, youth worker, playground worker, child worker and educational worker. Their core tasks include activating and stimulating participation among their target groups. The choice to focus on middle managers was motivated by a double objective from the very start: first, to focus on the positions and tasks of these middle managers, and second (through them), to examine the current changes taking place locally in this segment of the social sector. Throughout this study we have been interested in the possible changes in the role of the middle manager in this type of knowledge organisation. We have also sought to determine how these middle managers, 'their' frontline professionals and directors/managers concur and/or diverge in how they manage or wish to manage the stimulation of active citizenship, and how they understand the role of middle managers in this process. The theoretical explorations and the empirical part of the study together paint a picture of a double transition: a transition towards an appeal to active citizenship that is partly driven by a stronger localisation of the social domain, in connection with a transition in how social organisations in the public domain organise their services, and of the manner in which the playing field of these organisations is organised. The two transitions are occurring simultaneously and mutually influence each other.





## Opportunities and threats of voluntary engagement of citizens

Elke Plovie

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Setting the scene Following the British and the Dutch example, Flemish policy makers have recently cut the budgets in fields of child care, (special) youth care, culture and youth work and social welfare. They argue that the state should no longer provide the services that could also be delivered by citizens. They call for citizens to take a more active role in their local community by setting up initiatives to care for each other. This turn in Flemish policy brings a lot of confusion and uncertainty to different actors. Where does this 'power to the citizen' leaves the government? What role can or should a government take up in this? What this mean for a professional working in the field? How does the professional and his or her organisation relates to this voluntary engagement of citizens? For their part, citizen initiatives also have to redefine their role. Are citizen initiatives now reduced to implementing the Flemish policy? Are they merely instruments of the government or can they also take up their critical and politicizing role? Research questions: In our research we focus on the support of those citizen initiatives. The following research questions are guiding our research: (i) What are the needs of local volunteers in both institutionalised civic associations and ad hoc citizen initiatives? (ii) Who and how can provide support for the voluntary engagement of citizens? Methodology: We conducted an online survey to gain insight in the needs of volunteers. 397 citizens filled out the questionnaire. The results of this survey were discussed in 3 focus groups with professionals and volunteers in order to establish a model of support for citizen initiatives. Results: We identified key elements in supporting citizen initiatives and developed a support model to strengthen their opportunities and to overcome their threats.



## Emerging approaches to the analysis of secondary databases

Christopher Hudson  
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This workshop introduces recent and emerging developments in the strategies and techniques for the analysis of large-scale databases, including data mining and predictive analytics that can be used with national census and epidemiological studies. It focuses on the logic of key design decisions, such as selection of unit of analysis, and techniques for the transformation of data, for example, creation of composite variables and the assessment of their reliability. Examples are from peer-reviewed published studies of the presenter's over the last 25+ years, involving homelessness and psychiatric care, using SPSS for data preparation, supplemented by Excel, LISREL, and Maptitude. The following outlines the workshop: (1) Secondary Analysis as a Research Strategy: Types of data; advantages and disadvantages; costs, PC equipment, and feasible database sizes; the importance of theory; and typical steps in data analysis. (2) Selected Methods and Techniques: (i) Determining unit of analysis: This section will begin with discussion of the potentials for modeling variation in phenomena of interest between multiple jurisdictions. It considers the pros and cons of three strategies: data aggregation, spreading, and multi-level modeling, or some combination. (ii) Question of weighting by population in census studies of multiple jurisdictions: When, why, and how would this be done? (iii) The element of time: In databases organized on the basis of service episodes, use of lag variables for computing LOS, time between episodes and recidivism rates. How is this done? (iv) Computation of composite variables ; (v) Assessment of reliability and validity. Key examples include: Assessing diagnostic reliability using Kappad; correlation of multiple indicators and measures. (3) Conclusion: Comments on major analytic procedures, e.g.: GIS and the mapping of bivariate correlations; the assessment of the overall fit in Cox proportional hazard models; and key considerations in use of SEM. (4) Format: Didactic, with discussion, Powerpoint, and SPSS examples.



Ethical issues in the Croatian qualitative social work research with people  
with intellectual disabilities

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An increasing number of qualitative researches involving participants with intellectual disabilities have been carried out in Croatia during the last ten years. Various ethical decisions have arisen throughout the entire qualitative research process, due to the fact that the researcher is involved with the personal life of the participants. Because of that the researchers feel responsible to both participants and society. One of the most important components of qualitative research, especially when semi-structured interview is used as the method of research, is informality of communication. When participants are people with intellectual disabilities, specific ethical dilemmas can arise when planning and carrying out qualitative research. One of them is that the participants with intellectual disabilities are also users of social welfare services. Because of that some specific ethical issues and dilemmas can arise. Based on the authors experience with the conducted qualitative researches, some of the key ethical issues and guidelines are going to be presented. The aim of the presentation is share knowledge and experience about recruitment strategy, informed and voluntary consent, confidentiality, anonymity of participants, participants right to make independent decisions during interview without fear, researcher-participant relationship, potential risks for people with intellectual disabilities taking part in qualitative research, and different ways of allowing participants voices to be heard through the results. The findings about ethical issues and guidelines are going to be interpreted in the context of the Croatian qualitative social work researches.



Diversity of work biographies and measures for workplace integration of persons with disabilities: contradictions and potentialities

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The presentation brings into focus the work biographies of persons with disabilities after an elementary vocational training in the context of debates on training, employment and workplace integration. It is based on an empirical study conducted from 2012 to 2014 in Switzerland. Background: For people with disabilities, who are not able to attain the Federal Certificate in vocational education, an elementary two-year vocational training program was developed to sustain their access to employment. However, the funding of the program is restrictive although the aim is to reduce the costs of social security and to promote profitable workplace integration. Moreover, in political debates as well as in the expert discussion on training and workplace integration the perspective of those immediately concerned is often lacking. Goals and Methods: The study sheds light on the subjective significance of vocational training and on conducive/hindering factors (on the institutional, structural and individual level) to different forms of workplace integration. More than 400 persons with disabilities filled out an easy-to-read questionnaire and from this group a sample of 27 persons was selected for an in-depth interview. Additional interviews were conducted with a person from their work environment. Data was analysed with descriptive statistics (questionnaires) and open coding (interview data). Results and discussion: The findings show six typical patterns of work biographies differing in the level of job satisfaction, the importance of vocational training, the degree of fulfillment of the professional ambitions and the stability of the pathway. As critical points we identified gaps in vocational orientation and guidance, the lack of further training for the target group and the pertinence of flexible transitions in and out of employment forms. The presentation closes with a discussion on contradictions between biographical patterns of persons with disabilities, regimes of assistance and scopes in the system of social security.



Defining the context of intervention within the casework intervention: analysis  
of practice in Mallorca

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To be able to facilitate a real change, the social work project, has to be tailored on the specific problematic situation and inscribed in a proper relational context between user and social worker. The paper want to discuss how professionals in Mallorca face this task, analysing data from a research undertaken interviewing social workers engaged in projects oriented to individual or family care. The interviewees (N 84), chosen with an intentional non-probabilistic sample, cover 73,4% of the total of social workers working in this context. Two elements were classified: the importance recognised by social workers to the definition of the relational context and the achievement of a clear definition as a premise for structuring an effective intervention project. The relationship between these two variables has been analyzed through the linear correlation coefficient and the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. Finally, the test of compliance 'z' between proportions has been developed. The results highlight the discrepancy between the intervention criteria that are considered important and their realization. The data reveal that the entire process of defining the context of the intervention, is characterised by a weak understanding of the problems that are present in the situation, with a lack of criteria to evaluate meanings, strengths, proven solutions and systems involved. The analysis of the users problems carried out in the social work practice is not enough grounded in professional knowledge and techniques and this doesn't allow a clear definition of the context of intervention and therefore makes difficult to design an effective project.



Innovative research methods in comparative research on social work practice

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University College Karel de Grote & University of Antwerp

Comparing social work practice in European countries is challenging as there are a lot of local differences to take in to account as well as differences in how practices are defined. In this paper we will present tryouts and the development of different innovative methods for describing and comparing practices. These methods are developed within the frame of COST Action 1106 on Offender Supervision in Europe, where researchers from different European countries try to explore innovative methods in research on probation practice and use them in a comparative framework. More specifically we will focus on the work that has been done by academics and practitioners from Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, France, Spain and Romania concerning the development of the data-collection method of observations as a new way of trying to describe and compare probation practice throughout Europe. Research on probation tends to be mostly interview- or survey-based. Therefore it seems that most of the research that has been conducted in the past often reveals what professionals say they do and not what they are actually doing in daily practice. As our elaboration with methods concerns what they are doing when they are practicing offender supervision, the methodological framework seems relevant to discuss in relation to all kinds of practices in social work. How do we really grasp what practitioners are doing? In this presentation we will set the scene by briefly describing the general framework of the different methods that are explored and then focus on observations as a data collection method in comparative research on practice. We will present the (1) methodological framework, (2) focus on methodological issues that we encountered and (3) explain how we tried to address these issues.



Innovation, intervention and impact: how social work research can make a difference

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University of York  
Lynette Joubert  
University of Melbourne  
Meredith Newlin  
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The 'impact agenda' in UK higher education mirrors developments elsewhere in the world where there is increasing concern that academic research should bring benefits to society. University social work departments are judged not only on the quality of their research but on the impact which it has on social work policy and practice. In the context of scarce resources for social work research it is prudent to ensure that it generates the greatest social benefit possible. However, there are no agreed ways to achieve this, particularly as serendipity plays a significant role in whether or not research findings are utilised. This symposium will explore how four evaluations of innovative social interventions in health and mental health contexts in different countries were designed to maximise the impact of their findings: 1) A mental effectiveness training programme to enhance wellbeing and resilience in the UK (Webber) 2) A social network intervention (SoNeT) to support women with gynaecological cancer in Australia (Joubert) 3) A training programme (Sabuba) on mobilising community resources to support people experiencing mental distress in Sierra Leone (Newlin) 4) The Connecting People Intervention which aims to support people with a mental health problem to develop their social networks in the UK (Webber) Some common themes are interwoven throughout these presentations which suggest ways in which social work research can make a real difference. Firstly, the co-production of interventions with practitioners and service users helps them to remain relevant to practice. Secondly, the innovation is designed within the context of minimal resources so implementation does not rely upon new investment. Thirdly, the research is rigorous so that it is credible and withstands the critical scrutiny of practitioners and policymakers. Finally, the implementation of the findings in routine practice is considered at the outset to maximise opportunities for social impact.



A social network intervention: improving outcomes for women with  
gynaecological cancer

Lynette Joubert  
University of Melbourne

Outcomes for women diagnosed with gynaecological cancer are poor, but slowly improving. Increasingly there is acknowledgement of the importance of social determinants on the experience of women receiving treatment for gynaecological cancer. Despite this, there is little evidence of the effectiveness of social work interventions on improved outcomes for women and support in informed decision making. Despite improved mortality rates, women with gynaecological cancer are at high risk of poor quality of life (QOL) outcomes following their cancer treatment. The invasive nature of treatment and its many side effects can cause significant changes to women's body image, function and interpersonal relationships. This includes low general wellbeing, poor capacity for resilience, and unhealthy psychological adjustment (D)These consequences can result in hasty decision making which can include withdrawing or interrupting treatment pathways, with little understanding by women of the consequences both for themselves, and their immediate family and social relationships. This presentation will report on the outcomes of a study using an evidence based social work intervention, SoNet (Joubert, Harvey, Spittal, Hill, 2013) which was effective in supporting the coping strategies of women, enabling them to have a positive patient experience, improved patient defined well-being and increased capacity to make informed decisions about managing their treatment pathway. This cost effective, easily accessed social work intervention can be delivered across cancer services as part of routine care.





Social work interventions: mobilising community resources to support people experiencing mental distress in Sierra Leone

Meredith Newlin  
University of York

The effective mental health treatment gap in low and middle-income countries (LMIC) has been an important contributor to the rising global burden of disease, and a strong evidence base is rapidly building through numerous epidemiological and interventional studies in resource-poor settings. The contribution of social work has not thus far had a high profile in this literature, partly due to doubts about the 'global' scope of social work, however it misses an important opportunity to facilitate participation, empowerment and social perspectives in the development of solutions for the mental health treatment gap. In Sierra Leone, the mental health treatment gap exceeds 95%, with one trained psychiatrist and one psychiatric hospital for a population over six million. Emergency situations, such as the 2014 Ebola outbreak which has claimed the lives of more than 1300 Sierra Leoneans (as of 29th October, 2014), threatens to abate the provision of already limited mental health services, and care for mental distress has been seen as secondary to immediate public health concerns. The Sababu Training Programme and Intervention Study evaluates how a locally co-produced social work intervention can help to meet the needs of people with mental distress in Sierra Leone. Collaboration with local stakeholders has been a foundation of the design and implementation of this study, ensuring there are roots in the local community thus enhancing long-term sustainability. By identifying and addressing the challenges of resource-limited mental health care in Sierra Leone in the context of Ebola, this intervention provides specialised mental health nurses with training to strengthen their knowledge and skills of mobilising existing social networks and finding innovative ways to foster relationship development. This presentation will report on the development of the Sababu Model and Training Programme, providing examples of content and culturally appropriate activities, alongside results from implementation of the training programme.



## A new method for quantifying homelessness

Veera Viitonen  
University of Turku

Homelessness is a difficult phenomenon to quantify, and all homelessness statistics are rather unreliable compared to most social statistics. Many European countries are working hard to prevent or end homelessness. To support and evaluate this work, proper data about the quantity and profile on homelessness is needed. Especially longitudinal and register-based data would be necessary to obtain. In my presentation, I will give a brief overview of the state of art research on how many homeless there are in different European countries, and who these marginalized people are. I also present shortly the different methods for collecting this kind of data and the problems related to these methods. Next, I will present my own research, in which I propose a unique approach to studying homelessness quantitatively. I use a register-based total data of all social assistance recipients in the capital of Finland during a period of three years. The data was built by joining together the registers of Social Institution of Finland and the register of City of Helsinki Social Services and Health Care Department. The data is unique, being a longitudinal, register-based total data on a central group of homeless. It also includes factors which have never been studied among homeless before, such as use of depression and sleeping medicines and tranquilizers. Since the focus of this study is on homelessness of young adults, the results will be presented focusing on them. The results build a profile of a young homeless income recipient in Helsinki and explore the young adults' transitions into and out of homelessness.



## Exploring [human] subjectivity using Q-methodology: a powerful research tool for exploring hidden meanings in social work and other Practices

Steve Hothersall  
Edge Hill University, UK

Q-methodology provides researchers with a systematic and rigorous quantitative means for studying human subjectivity (self-reference), utilising powerful statistical applications of correlational and factor analytical techniques. When used in conjunction with qualitative methods it provides a powerful means of exploring self-referent perspectives on almost any topic. The use of Q-factor analytical techniques to research social work and other welfare-related practices is relatively rare. Factor analysis has a focus on the identification of latent variables within the context of correlational studies. Q-factor analysis, as an inversion of traditional R-factor analysis, treats individuals as variables rather than specific, isolated traits and thus functionally identifies itself as a holistic methodology. In this way, researchers can identify latent variables that may serve to explain a range of phenomenon and enhance theory building hitherto inaccessible to more traditional research approaches. The use of Q-methodology within the context of a mixed-methods paradigm enables researchers to focus on superordinate ideas and concepts gleaned from a consideration of perspectives from all sides, thus transcending the paradigm debate. Located within the philosophical and theoretical domains of American Pragmatism, Aristotelian philosophy and Quantum theory, Q-methodology encourages the use of abduction and more phonetically-oriented approaches to social science research. The presentation will illustrate this approach by reference to a study of knowledge creation, theory-building and knowledge use by operational social workers working within a range of settings. Q-sort techniques, Q-factor analysis and semi-structured interviews to facilitate data triangulation will be shown to provide researchers with functional tools with which to reveal previously hidden subjectivities in the context of social work and other human-service practices. The range of applications is almost limitless and this approach has the potential to be of immense value to the research community.



## The intellectual life of social work: researching theory in practice and education

Stephen Hicks  
University of Manchester, UK

The "intellectual life of social work" project, based at the University of Manchester (UK), aims to assess the conceptualization and usage of theory by social work practitioners, academics and students, with a view to contributing to theory building within the discipline. Theory plays an important, but disputed, role within social work, and, while its importance is emphasized in national requirements for social work qualification, it is frequently imagined to become problematic, if not irrelevant, in practice (Carew 1979; Fook 2002; Pilalis 1986; Secker 1993). While there is some research that considers the theory/practice divide and how practitioners reflect upon theory, there is little that addresses how theory is conceptualized and used. Rather than ask merely whether social workers use theory in practice, this project instead asks what is meant by "theory" in different contexts and examines how it is brought into play within social work agencies and universities. Based upon a conceptual review of the literature and analysis of research data derived from group interviews with students and Twitter discussions with social workers and academics, this paper will present initial findings from the project. This will include analysis of theory's usage and an argument for research methodologies that pay close attention both to practical and discursive aspects of theory.



## Theorising recognition and shame for social work practice

Elizabeth Frost  
UWE Bristol

'It was like I was embarrassed by my son's behaviour and I was disgusted, thinking if I spoke to anyone they're going to feel 'what a crap mother ...' 'Someone believes in me and like I'm glad she believes in me and I didn't used to believe in myself until she told me I can do it ...' Embarrassment and shame; belief and recognition: two sets of concepts which potentially offer social workers a theoretical structure on which to build practice. This paper will critically consider contemporary theory in these areas, then explore how a more robust theoretical framework could support practice to ameliorate shame and enhance recognition. 'Recognition' should be the contemporary social work concept par excellence. Taylor, Honneth and Fraser's political, social and economic theories of 'recognition' have secured a field in which e.g. inequality and exclusion can be analyzed. Social work theorists e.g. Garrett and Houston have also explored its potential. Shame, examined within contemporary symbolic interactionist accounts, e.g. Giddens, can be understood as a powerful force in limiting human agency, capacity, and improvement. However the concepts are less than useful for practice because of the limited version of the human subject assumed/theorized. The subject of 'recognition' theory often remains a two dimensional, assumed to be rational, actor. Giddens's work on identity, including shame, has been consistently criticised for volunteristic accounts of the subject. Without an understanding of how these modes are 'lived', social workers cannot grasp their impact. The paper draws on contemporary psychosocial theory, for social structural and psychoanalytic thinking to understanding how experiencing shame and (mis)recognition can undermine agency and disempower the subject. It will conclude by considering how social workers can engage with this model to enhance practices which initiate and support recognition, and minimise the impact of shame.



Teaching sustainable development to an international class of social work  
masters students

Carla Pinto  
ISCSP/University of Lisbon

We aim to present the design of a module on sustainable development for an Erasmus Mundus Masters Programme in social work, Advanced Development in Social Work (ADVANCES). The Programme receives social work students from around the world and seeks to develop practitioners' skills and leadership in order to correspond confidently to the increasing vulnerabilities and uncertainties facing societies across the world. Sustainable development and particularly natural environment issues are progressively entering social work practice and theory, and they are central topics if social work is to continue to be a relevant profession for the future. The ADVANCES Programme has an international perspective and sustainability is a global and international problem by definition. Raising the student's awareness and consciousness for sustainable development practice, as well as their knowledge base and skills to assess sustainability needs and to develop sustainable development projects, were fundamental aims for integrating this module in the programme. We will present and discuss the options taken in relation to the module syllabus and assessment assignments. We will also discuss the student's ideas for sustainability implementations, which will be one of the assessment elements, connecting class learning, their previous practice and future professional plans.



Ways of thinking....ways of doing: reading Bourdieu for social work

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This proposed submission aims to shed light upon the applicability of Pierre Bourdieu's conceptual tools within the social work discipline, both at the practice and research level(s). French theorist Pierre Bourdieu is well thought-out to as a key thinker within the sociology field. However, despite the similar perspectives shared by both of the disciplines discussed, Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical work has not been yet thoroughly applied in social work. It is within such context that this paper is taking shape, to discuss and bring forward Pierre Bourdieu's conceptual tools as a way of exploring the multifaceted relationship between sociology and social work. Bourdieu's interest in differentiation and classification processes, conceptually fits like a glove with social work's attention to existent hierarchies of power, in terms of mapping out systemic privileges, advantages or disadvantages. More so, his idea of epistemic reflexivity goes well beyond the sine qua non notion of individual reflexivity, and extends to take in social positioning, congruent with social work's person in the environment theoretical approach. The paper grounds Pierre Bourdieu's way of relational thinking as it accompanies the reader in striding by the conceptual trio of the field, capital and habitus, his core intertwined notions. These will not be presented singularly, but rather as depending on and determining one another. Circularity and not causality, is what Bourdieu advocated for. A non-causal circularity of how the habitus, conditioned by social and cultural capital distribution, plays within the field, and how the field shapes the habitus in return.



"It's easier to jump right in": research for home - visiting work

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Matthias Mueller

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Sarah Lungen

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Home-Visiting Work represents an expanding, extremely promising and commonly practiced approach that can be seen in the areas of social work (e.g. social pedagogical family assistance) as well as health care (e.g. family midwives and doctors) (Howard, K. a. J. Brooks-Gunn, 2009). The research study "Home Treatment" - transdisciplinary research in home visiting work" which was conducted in January 2011 till December 2013 by the University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg, funded by the federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is the first German study which used qualitative and quantitative methods to collect data from different professions in the whole state. The Aim of the research project was to collect data from all kinds of Homevisitors (General Practitioners, Midwives, Social Workers, Therapists etc.). Subsequently, the results were compared internationally - predominantly to standard work practices in the USA, and then analyzed. The goal of the research project was to develop an interdisciplinary concept (social work, early education, psychology, medicine), which specifies the special opportunities and challenges of assistance in a domestic setting. From this, quality standards should be generated, and with them the situation for clients/patients and professional caregivers should be improved. Moreover, theme-related offers for further training should be developed for the "Home Treatment" sector. At the workshop the results of the investigation will be presented and discussed.





## Runaway behavior among adolescents in residential care

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Mona Khoury-Kassabri

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The study examines the occurrence and multilevel correlates of runaway behavior among 1324 Israeli Arab and Jewish adolescents aged 11 to 19 residing in 32 residential care settings for at-risk children who completed a structured anonymous questionnaire. Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) was used to examine the relationships among adolescents' reports of runaway behavior, individual-level characteristics (age, gender, adjustment difficulties, victimization by peers and staff, and perceived social climate), and institution-level characteristics (setting type, size, structure, and ethnic affiliation). Overall, 44.2% of the adolescents reported that since their admission to the current setting they had run away or attempted to run away at least once. Inclination to more frequent runaway behavior was found to be high for older adolescents, adolescents who had been in the institution for longer periods, those with more adjustment difficulties, those who had experienced more physical violence by peers and staff at the residential care setting (RCS), and those who perceived staff as strict and unsupportive. Runaway behavior is positively associated with residence in Jewish settings (vs. Arab settings) and negatively associated with the size of the institution. The interaction between gender and ethnic affiliation showed that gender differences were more extreme within the Arab group than within the Jewish group. The findings demonstrate the need for an ecological perspective in addressing adolescent runaway behavior in the care system. It reflects a growing shift in the literature from regarding running away from care as a personal deviance and symptom of pathological behavior to seeing it as a phenomenon largely affected by the context in which the child lives.



Well-being in adulthood of persons who (temporarily) grew up in  
out-of-home care - an empirical study

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**Background:** Out-of-home care is one of the most expensive forms of care and influences the lives of young people during care intensively. But what do we know about what happens afterwards? The presentation focuses on the time after out- of-home care and explores the question, whether well-being, life skills and coping with developmental tasks in adulthood differ between young people who have been in out-of-home care and those who grew up at home with their parent(s). The answer to the question is associated with methodological challenges which will be addressed. **Data and Methods:** The analysis is based on data of a representative sample of 11,808 adults between 25 and 60 years of age in Germany. 223 of them have been in out-of-home care (average 7 years). Data is analysed by comparing different outcome-variables in adulthood (e.g. social network, number of kids, income, attained educational level, partnership) of those who (temporarily) grew up in out-of-home care and those who grew up with their parent(s). Group effects are controlled for age and sex of the respondents as well as the social status of their parents. Results Adults who (temporarily) grew up in out-of-home care show to have significantly higher risks of negative outcomes for almost all outcomes considered. Implications: What do the results mean? They cannot be seen as evidence against the effectiveness of out-of-home care. Methodological considerations strengthen this view. Limitations of the data are taken into account. Decisions for placements into out-of-home care cannot be revisited because of negative outcomes in adulthood. These decisions secure young people a safe place after harmful experiences in their family of birth. Authorities have to respond to harmful living conditions of children even if the responses seem to be not powerful enough to (over)compensate these harmful living conditions.



## Implementing evaluations in organizations that provide social protection programs

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In the last years changes in Slovenian social protection have mostly tended to rationalize services and assure better cost efficiency. Those changes include the implementation of a model for the self-evaluation of social protection programs. It was introduced into organizations that provide social protection programs based on an initiative of the Slovenian Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs. Researchers from Social Protection Institute along with researchers from the Faculty for Social Work prepared and implemented the model of self-evaluation within a project called "Oblikovanje sistema evalviranja programov socialnega varstva". Qualitative research involving the triangulation of methods was conducted. Research identified problems and strategies for overcoming those problems that have emerged as the model has been implemented. Cooperation and support among similar programs evolved into the provision of mutual help. Application of the model has aggravated pre-existing problems in organizations and led to the appearance of new, model-related problems. Altogether, this has created resistance to putting the model into practice. Employees' perceived the model as an innovation that came 'from the outside' and that it holds little value for their work. It was also perceived as a 'top down' innovation since the Ministry (the financer and overseer) initiated the model's creation and implementation. Participation in the creation of the innovation itself does not ensure that practitioners will consider it useful for their work, especially if it was initiated outside the organization. The model was perceived as useful only in organizations in which the leadership used the gathered data and took advantage of the benefits of the innovation. Researchers played the role of innovation managers and tried to overcome the practitioners' and leaderships' resistance to innovation. Organizations reported that they obtained the most useful help from colleagues in similar programs. Individual - program-focused - help from the researchers was highly appreciated.



## Volunteering from the perspective of social work participants

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Charlotte Kemmeren  
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Rosine van Dam  
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The demand for voluntary involvement in the field of social work is increasing. This is driven in part by fears that the informal networks surrounding people in vulnerable situations are evaporating, due to the advance of individualization and professionalization (Putnam, 2000). Another reason behind the increasing appeal for voluntary involvement has to do with the ambitions of national and local governments to make citizens less dependent upon public services (Newman & Tonkens, 2011). Less frequently mentioned reasons obviously involve the current economic crisis and anticipated cutbacks in social services. One consequence of the increased demand for volunteers in the context of social work is that social work participants are being faced with social services provided by volunteers. This without knowing what it matters to the quality and effect of the services and how it affects social work participants' possibilities for social inclusion. In this symposium we aim to explore what it matters to social work participants that social services are provided voluntarily instead of paid. The symposium consists of four papers and closes with a discussion with the audience. The first paper considers the question what it matters to social work participants whether services are provided voluntarily or by paid employees. The second paper explores task division of volunteers, informal networks and paid workers in the field of debt counseling. The third paper provides preliminary insight into ways in which volunteer-professional collaboration can be strengthened from the perspective social work participants. The final and fourth paper presents two models for volunteer management. The symposium will end with a discussion with the presenters and the audience. Central question is: How can the collaboration of volunteer social services and paid social work contribute to the social inclusion of social work participants? And what does this mean for the competency's of social workers?



## Strengthening volunteerprofessional collaboration

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Charlotte Kemmeren

Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences

**Background and purpose:** Universities and social work practices from five European countries work together in an education development project on supporting marginalized youth with the aim to strengthen the knowledge base for education in volunteer-professional collaboration. Therefore, two best practices of collaboration are under investigation. The basis for selection has been the different starting points for the collaboration: the volunteer in one and the professional in the other. The research aims to give insight in de competences of both volunteers and professionals necessary to work together to support others and contribute to the social inclusion of social work participants. Also, it will provide insight in the possibilities and complexities of volunteer-professional collaboration. **Method:** The method used to research volunteer-professional collaboration is Learning History, a practice-based research methodology that is useful in researching complex issues. The goal of using learning history is to make tacit knowledge from different stakeholders explicit. By using informants' own words, and presenting the outcomes to all stakeholders for reflection and feedback, a learning process occurs. **Results:** In the case of the volunteer, it appears to be important that the volunteer is a rolemodel and a senior friend. Someone who is there to talk to, not teach. In the case of the professional, it becomes visible that the competences are focused on empowerment, trust and sensitivity to ethical dilemmas. Not only for the professional to be taught but the professional also must teach these competences to volunteers. **Conclusion and implications:** The results will contribute to the wider discussion on the role of volunteers within social work. At this point the research is not yet in a stage to draw empirical based conclusions.



Non-governmental social work in Russia: professional Values

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The paper is devoted to the study of the non-governmental sector of social work profession in Russia, represented by the Orthodox Church parishes and non-profit organizations. The study is based on 18 semi-structured interviews with social workers of the parishes and NGOs. Non-governmental social work is regarded as an occupation in a process of professionalization and analysed in terms of neo-weberian approach. In addition, social work in the parishes is considered in the context of collective religious representations that shape the community cohesion and moral legitimacy of helping profession. The analysis of the interviews shows a specific professional culture in parish social service. The central codes of interviews are mercy and empathy, the historical legitimacy of the engagement of church into social service and elements of specific language. What is revealed is a dilemma of secular and spiritual worlds regarding the responsibilities in social work. Besides, the requirements of the professionalization of social work reflect conflict between neo-liberal and neo-traditional approaches to the question. The research participants from NGOs are distrustful of specialized higher education and claim that the needed skills and competences for their job can be learned in practice, but not at the university. In the narratives a special type of interaction with "clients" is described, which is characterized by non-hierarchical relationships, participation instead of control. The key leitmotifs in the interviews are such values as respect to the client's identity, harm reduction, humane approach juxtaposed with so-called oppressive, stigmatizing, normalizing social policies of the state. The study concludes that the narratives construct non-governmental social work as not only compensatory for the structural constraints of the state based services but also having its own mission and dignity.



## Europeanization of voluntary organizations in the social welfare area?

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This paper addresses the impact of the European Union on voluntary organizations within the social welfare area, focusing on organizations representing marginalized groups. The EU has strengthened its ambitions in creating a common social welfare model across Europe and has increasingly been approaching areas that have previously been national concerns. Many social policy initiatives at EU level are now preceded by open consultation processes where voluntary organizations from different countries are given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. The European Commission has also been instrumental in engaging voluntary organizations in various programs and projects through the transfer of financial resources and in the establishment of transnational networks that gather European organizations in the areas of social policy such as poverty, disability, homelessness, immigration and integration. These new opportunities at the European level might have both enabling and regulating effects on voluntary organizations that may be more or less willing to engage in EU activities to strengthen their resources and positions. To what extent and how does the EU matter for voluntary organizations within the social welfare area? We will present results from the large, multi-methodological research program 'Beyond the welfare state: Europeanization of Swedish civil society organizations (EUROCIV)' and show how processes of Europeanization affect Swedish voluntary organizations working within the welfare policy area. Europeanization is understood as a multifaceted process in which the EU influences national actors, but where national actors also engage in 'usage' of the EU. The Swedish case is interesting, as the Swedish welfare state often has been considered to be at odd with the values and policy orientations propagated at EU-level. However, the Swedish EU membership coincided with welfare reforms involving public sector retrenchment and privatization of services, which may have influenced the relations between public and voluntary sector and transformed the political environment.



Exploring the relevance of the 'presence paradigm' for historical research  
on social work: the case of the Ghent orphanages

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The value of investigating the historical dimension of social work is currently often called into question in scientific circles. In our contribution, we argue that we need to rethink the relation between the past and the present to reveal how the past is still relevant for contemporary social work theory, policy and practice. Therefore, we consider the idea that the past can be present in the present-day (Bos, 2010) by leaving behind the classical dichotomy of 'absent' and 'present' (Bevernage, 2007). Inspired by the work of Eecló Runia (2006), a Dutch philosopher in the theory of history, we explore the relevance of 'the presence paradigm' for historical research on social work. In this frame of reference, the ambivalent ontological status of the presence, or non-absent past, is emphasised which leads us to the issue of continuity and discontinuity (Bos, 2010) in relation to historical research on social work (see also Lorenz, 2007; Villadson, 2007 for the discipline of social work). We consider these insights in the context of a current historical research about the Ghent orphanages after WO II, being contemplated as social welfare institutions. Based on these research insights, we address how the 'presence paradigm' can enable us to find a way in which historical research on social work can embrace ambiguities, contradictions and discontinuities rather than reconstructing one version of the past.





Evolving empowerment in two online communities collecting memories of  
Amsterdam

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In this paper we study and compare the evolvement of empowering and dis-empowering aspects of two local memory websites in Amsterdam currently active for more than a decade. The results partly fill a gap in the available literature about this field, because the relation between collective empowerment and online behaviour in these communities has been underexposed. Departing from a narrative perspective on memories as resources for empowerment, we show how the online dynamics around these memories exhibit collective processes of identity formation, social learning and networking. However, in one case, certain patterns in the online dynamics uncover that, although the online activity is increasing, the diversity in the content and the number of participants are decreasing. This implies that this online community has become a small, empowered group, which at the same time has developed dis-empowering characteristics, i.e. limitations to include 'other' locals, neighbourhoods and topics. The other case, on the other hand, exhibits more stability in online activity, diversity in content and numbers of participation across the years. Comparing the organizational development of both local memory communities, we argue that the growth into a self-organizing community is the cause of increasing activity and decreasing participation in one of them. We illustrate how its current self-organization, unintentionally, fuels the decreasing diversity in content by a natural selection process of a rather homogeneous group of participants. In addition, the conviction in this case of what constitutes a successful online community is discussed for emphasizing individual empowerment and attracting empowered locals instead of vulnerable ones. The dependence on professionals and subsidiaries characterizing the organizational development of the other case is argued to explain its different collective behavior. In this community, the core group can be considered less empowered, but to its surrounding community it acts more empowering.



History, memory and practice of social work in Kosovo

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This paper is grounded on the research on the history of social work in Kosovo. It focuses on memory and its renderings among the social workers past and present. The main questions the paper addresses and as stemming from the empirical evidence concern the practice, values, ethics, and every day practice of social workers through the dramatic shifts Kosovo has endured such in the last two decades such as the erosion of the social state, war, refugee and forced migration, post-war reconstruction under international tutelage, and independence. This paper is about telling stories. It is about how participants in the research talk, remember, and engage with the collective knowledge of the past, present and the future. The analytical frameworks are the historical constructions of social work practice which have been continuously re-worked in relationship to broader political and social situations and politics. The paper discusses the narratives of life experiences as part of larger social discussion of politics, society and culture.



Learning from the past to prevent future abuse: children's services workers' experiences of residential care in Scotland: 1960-75

Julie Shaw  
University of Strathclyde

Seeking the perspectives of those who have previously worked in residential childcare services is vital when considering how abuse can be prevented in the future and positive outcomes achieved. This presentation will draw upon the findings of a recent Oral History project, the overall aim of which was to explore children's services' workers' experiences of residential care in Scotland from 1960-75. Objectives were to explore the lived experiences of workers and their perspective of working with children in residential care; the standards of care and their perceptions of the experiences of children; their views on change and development in residential care. In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with twenty-three individuals who had experience of working with or in connection with, residential child care services. Participants included residential child care workers and managers from a variety of settings; children's officers, social workers and social work managers. In this way, it has been possible to establish a rich and multi-layered account of provision at the time, set in the context of official policy discourses and documentary accounts. Results highlighted a range of both positive and negative experiences. Some accounts revealed rigidly hierarchical, austere regimes where child-centred practice had not yet begun to emerge; the isolation and separation of children from the wider community and the struggles of an unqualified and inexperienced staff group, thus potentially creating the conditions in which abuse might occur and remain unchecked. Conversely, the freedoms and autonomy inherent in a pre-risk averse era were recalled with fondness by many, along with high standards of care by dedicated staff. In terms of preventing future abuse, useful lessons can be learned from past mistakes. Yet, while many aspects of service delivery have now improved, care should be that we do not lose some of the better elements of former practice.



Historical inquiry on child abuse and neglect in child protection institutions  
and foster homes in Finland

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The paper will present preliminary findings of a historical inquiry on child abuse and neglect in child protection institutions and foster homes in Finland. The project focuses on the years 1937-83, which was the period of the first Finnish Child Welfare Act. A minimum of 300 oral, qualitative interviews will be conducted in 2014-15 collecting memories and experiences of the victims, eye witnesses and abusers alike. Special emphasis is paid on research ethics, confidentiality, and skills of the interviewers to carry out interviews on sensitive and traumatic experiences. Interviewees are invited on a voluntary basis by advertising the project widely in the media and via relevant organizations. The project is accomplished by a multidisciplinary research team combining substantial expertise of social work researchers in child welfare and child abuse, historians' expertise in historical contextualization, methods and analysis, and ethnological expertise in studying memory, experiences and oral history. An important aim of the inquiry is to recognize and make visible misconduct taken place in the past, and to provide for the victims an opportunity to speak about their difficult and often traumatic experiences they have carried with them through their lives. A leading principle of the project is to take their memories and experiences as real and valuable without comparing them with historical "facts", but also to locate them firmly in a specific historical context of the Finnish society and its child protection system. The project aims at learning from the past and to find solutions to prevent and intervene more effectively into such misconduct in the future. The inquiry was initiated by the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and it is related to similar inquiries that have been previously accomplished in many other countries.



## User-perspectives as a driving force in practice research in social work

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Aalborg University, Denmark

Kirsten Mejlvig

Aalborg University, Denmark

Maja Andersen

Aalborg University, Denmark

Lars Uggerhøj

Aalborg University, Denmark

This workshop will through 5 short presentations set the stage for a participatory part where both a discussion of the strength of the linkage between practice research and user involvement in social work, and a discussion of how user perspectives are possible in both social work and (practice) research will be launched among the participants of the workshop. Practice research has in both the Salisbury and the Helsinki statements primarily been discussed as a collaboration between practitioners and researchers in social work. This workshop will focus on the possibilities of and the barriers in involving the third part: the service users and on how this triangle of collaboration can build a bridge between the stakeholders. As well as the workshop will focus on how it is possible from this basis of understanding to develop and qualify social work and social work research.

- \* How practice research can strengthen the focus on risk groups having a specific dependency in social work (e.g. children and adolescents), as being both service users and children/adolescents. (Birgitte S. Jensen [bsj@cifa.dk](mailto:bsj@cifa.dk))
- \* How practice research can provide a challenge to traditional categories in social work, and develop new forms of service user driven categorization. For instance how psychiatric diagnoses are (re)constructed as an area of social work intervention. (Maja Lundemark Andersen)
- \* Reflections concerning the impact of involving service users in an action research process in collaboration between researcher and practitioners focusing on developing social worker assessments. (Kirsten Henriksen)
- \* How research involving service users and practitioners can help to challenge and expand the user-oriented collaboration in social work. (Kirsten Mejlvig)
- \* How it is possible to utilize user perspectives and common knowledge production as a vital part of practice and practice research in social work. (Lars Uggerhøj)



Shared decision-making in social work Ppractice in Israel: exclusive inclusion

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Shared decision-making (SDM) partnerships between social workers and clients are among the most popular themes in research and practical fields of social work around the world; and often considered mechanisms for promoting values such as social justice and equality and better quality responses to social problems. As such, SDM and adjacent concepts have been incorporated into legislation and administrative reform in many European countries. Generally, social work discourse promotes SDM, and it is presented in most social work papers as a worthy practice, intended to symbolically and tangibly challenge existing power structures of exclusion. Despite widespread agreement regarding its importance, scholarship on SDM is beginning to reveal a compound, ethically challenging, and multi-faceted relationship between SDM, social workers and their clients. The suggested presentation wishes to show the results of two large studies in this area, conducted among Israeli social workers, using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The qualitative investigation included 77 social workers and policy makers whose responses were analyzed according to guiding principles of descriptive phenomenological content analysis and dialogical commonality. Participants' responses represented themes of hope, change, identity and choice alongside elements of stigma, prejudice and fear. The quantitative investigation included 229 social workers. Preliminary findings from this study reveal significant associations between SDM and social workers' perceptions of their ethical behavior, workers' perceptions of their work environment as promoting SDM, moral-professional identity, attitudes towards people who live in poverty, and structural sources of poverty. Robust analyses suggest the option for a theoretical model which ties SDM behaviors and attitudes with contextual and ideological elements and inclusive or exclusive opportunities created by workers for authentic SDM with clients. Both studies will be presented using critical conceptualizations, and provide suggestions for enhancing authentic, context-aware, effective, and bold SDM practices, policies and research which actually unravel excluding professional structures.



Co-designing collaboration: the partnership framework as a dialogical method for service user involvement in local communities

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In the Netherlands recently a Social Support Act was implemented to establish a system transformation in which responsibilities for the care for persons with chronic conditions, older people and people with disabilities, youth care and work participation are decentralized from the national to local governments. Ideologically, this is accompanied by an increased emphasis on individual autonomy and self-reliance of citizens. It led local governments to install multidisciplinary social support teams to operationalize integral, area-focused care and wellbeing services. In this transformation these teams face the challenge to arrange and organize care and wellbeing services in close collaboration with people in their communities as partners. This created an increased need for contextualized collaborative methods that encapsulate a network-based approach to participation and service-user involvement. In this paper we present a graphic partnership framework, based on a concept analysis of partnership in the literature that facilitates dialogue on collaboration between various stakeholder groups in the network. In the method participants as potential partners co-design their preferred partnership, and in the process, enact their new practice. To this purpose, participants first discuss their shared values and aims. Once mutual agreement is reached, they discuss what type of mutual relations and what kinds of behavior they deem necessary. Subsequently, they jointly formulate the conditions for the partnership to work. Finally, participants articulate the concrete actions to operationalize the partnership in their real world interactions, feeding the concepts forward beyond the dialogue session and into their everyday reality. In the presentation several cases of the framework's application in various settings are also discussed, and empirical data, reflections and practical experience are shared. Furthermore, practical suggestions for its use by social workers in community settings are provided.



Participatory research and theory building: understanding adults with  
Asperger's syndrome

Jackie Robinson  
De Montfort University, Leicester, England

A participatory research project was conducted with a neuro-typical researcher (someone who has not got Asperger's syndrome or autism) and three co-researchers with Asperger's syndrome. Every stage of the research was collaborative with the researcher and co-researcher designing research tools and collecting and analysing data. The aim of the research was to ascertain what support people with Asperger's syndrome want. Other adults with Asperger's syndrome took part by way of a questionnaire as well as in interviews and a focus group. The co-researchers and the researcher analysed and interpreted the data. From this analysis and interpretation, theory was produced. This theory production was in the form of a radically different way of understanding Asperger's syndrome. The model which the research proposes is based on the mutual responsibility of people with Asperger's syndrome and neuro-typical people to understand each other. The theory production from the research challenges the widely accepted deficit model of understanding Asperger's syndrome and instead proposes the model of mutual understanding. This research offers a significant contribution to an area of social inequalities and offers a way of transforming the relationship between people with Asperger's syndrome and neuro-typical people. It offers this in terms of the methodology used and in terms of the knowledge production. The knowledge that has been produced offers a new way of understanding the relationships between groups of people and has applications beyond the original context. The findings are being used as a model for understanding the experience of students in Higher Education, children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and people with a learning disability. It has the potential to be applied to other many other socially disadvantaged groups. This research demonstrates what can be achieved through a participatory methodology.





## Everyday ethics in social work practice

Sarah Banks  
Durham University, UK

This paper will serve as an introduction to the symposium: 'The practice of ethics in social work - new insights from research'. It will draw on the concepts of 'empirical ethics' and 'experimental ethics' as developed in moral philosophy, which shift focus away from abstract theorising based on ethical principles towards examining how ordinary people frame situations as ethically salient and make contextualised ethical decisions. It will also draw on the concept of 'everyday ethics', as a way of viewing ethics in professional life as deeply embedded and embodied in the minutiae of daily practice (as opposed to focusing on dilemmas and difficult decisions or on regulation through codified ethical standards). Based on interviews with UK social workers and written case examples from social workers around the world, this presentation will introduce the concept of 'ethics work' and consider its relationship to ethical theory. 'Ethics work' refers to the effort social workers put into seeing ethically salient aspects of situations, developing themselves as good practitioners, working out the right course of action and justifying who they are and what they have done. It involves the work of framing situations, taking on roles, developing and performing identities, working on emotions and reasoning.



## Addressing professional misconduct

Kimberly Strom-Gottfried  
University of North Carolina  
Melinda Manning  
University of North Carolina |

Professional transgressions can range from inadvertent boundary crossings by novice students, plagiarism or falsified research by faculty, alcohol and drug impairment by clinicians to illegal activities such as financial fraud or physical assault. What are the appropriate consequences for various forms of negligence and incompetence? Are they proportionate to the error and effective in remedying it? Who should administer and monitor remedies? At what point is removal from the profession an appropriate sanction? When discovered, errors in professional practice are typically addressed through a variety of means. Personnel actions in the workplace, adjudication by professional organizations and regulatory boards, criminal or civil proceedings and news coverage and public opinion are variously designed to deter misconduct by other professionals, restore the victim, protect others from harm, or rehabilitate the incompetent provider. This paper examines the evolution of responses to unethical behavior in social work, the philosophical underpinnings of professional accountability, the current array of actions to address individual and organizational wrongdoing, the role of gatekeeping by educational institutions, and the intent and efficacy of various measures. Drawing on the ethical principles of virtue, justice, fairness, beneficence and nonmaleficence, the paper recommends integrated strategies for prescribing, administering, and evaluating corrective actions.



## Engaging in data analysis with research participants?

Julia Franz  
Hochschule Neubrandenburg, Germany

In this presentation I am going to explore ethical aspects of data analysis regarding the participation of research subjects, focusing on qualitative research settings (e.g. biographic and ethnographic research). Are conflicts of interest inevitable when interpreting accounts and narrations? Obviously, members of vulnerable groups can contribute their special context knowledge and their perspectives of being harmed, of being discredited or discreditable (cf. Goffman 1963). But are they able to analyse oppression and stigmatization? Social work researchers need to deliberate this difficult issue - and ask themselves how they construct themselves and their research subjects. It is not just a methodological but also an ethical consideration because there are power imbalances that may result in othering and consequently in silencing the 'other'. When it comes to research among social workers, it is about analysis of structures and processes of professional conduct; inherently it is also about criticism. Should social workers who act as informants in a research process take part in data analysis? Would their participation in analysis undermine a critical stance towards professional practice? I will float these questions by giving an account of conflicts of interests I have met in my research. This, together with my colleagues' input shall serve as an introduction to the issue and lead to a moderated discussion with the audience.



## Managing conflict of interests in setting participative evaluation research

Teresa Bertotti  
University Milano Bicocca, Italy

This presentation is part of the workshop: "Addressing Conflicts of Interest in Social Work Research. It will focus on ethical considerations regarding the first steps of social work researches involving users, in particular the issue of the choice and selection of people involved in evaluation participative research. Involving users in social work research is a quite new practice in the Italian context and is somewhat increasing. However is still rare that users are involved in evaluative research of child protection services. Researchers (and professionals) are worried that the complex relation that parents have with the professionals negatively affects their ability to give their opinion easily and without any secondary purposes. They may also be concerned about the weakness of some users and are willing to protect from excessively demanding experiences. Hence, in order to build a feasible context the researcher makes a selection of participants that can lead to discriminate some users than others. Is the need of creating a feasible context and the will of protecting users an acceptable reason to exclude some subjects from the research? The issues is relevant both on the methodological and the ethical side: the first is broadly related to the accountability of results, while the second queries the researchers about who will be excluded and who will be discriminated in their possibilities of taking voice. These issues will be explored referring to a participative evaluation research conducted by the author and will provide some traces for the discussion on managing conflict of interest proposed in the workshop.



## Ethical practice of social workers in Slovenia

Ana Sobočan  
University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Work

This paper will present the results of the first research in Slovenia and its follow-up (after two years) to embark on investigating (perceptions of) ethical practice(s) and decision-making processes of social workers comprised of fieldwork research in one of the core social work institutions, including interviewing and participatory observation, online questionnaire and narrative interviews with social workers. With social workers in Slovenia having no discrete training in ethics, the interview situation aimed at first exploring their practice experiences, perceptions of dilemmas, processes of dilemma resolution and strategies applied as well as beliefs about the social work roles and professional goals - and hence, ideas about what ethical solutions and ethical practice are. The research showed that the principal ideas about dilemma resolutions are based on intuitive insights marked by personal moral beliefs and judgments, and are then legitimated and shaped by the negotiation processes with different impersonal (laws, regulations, rules) and personal (managers, other professionals etc.) authorities. In this process, there is little room for reflecting the different levels of the decision-making, which is especially worrying because the interpretation of what is the most desirable decision is influenced by the most powerful (and not necessarily most ethical) voices in the negotiation processes about these decisions. The research showed, that decisions, interpreted as desirable were usually those that were recognized as acceptable by the social workers' superiors (managers of their institutions etc., who relied mainly on the legal framework for social work practice), and those that were preferred by service users (who provided positive feedback to social workers and thus 'confirmed the rightness' of a decision). Based on these research insights, novel concepts related to social workers professional identity and roles will be presented.



## Perceptions about wellbeing: from a child's to their parent's perspective

Eneida Zalli

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

This study presents exploration of children's and parent's perspective in domains that address the general understanding about wellbeing of children that live in Tirana. The main focuses of this study are issues like wellness, health, and physical development; emotional development; child's relationships; growing up and transition to adolescence; family and parenting; community and neighbourhood; parent-child relationship; perception of being a parent; family decision-making and parental concerns and aspirations for their children. The method used to undertake these studies are semi-structured face to face interviews with 10 year old children and their parents and also techniques like ice-breaker activities: my passport, draw and write technique (Backett-Milburn & McKie, 1999) ; visual prompts: children's body image scale (Truby & Paxton, 2002) ; activity sheets: life ladder (Cantril, 1965); my activities calendar, and my family and me map (Hill, Laybourn & Borland, 1996). Regarding the data analysis of this study, a combination of inductive and deductive coding is used. The coding structures for inductive analysis are based on the topics that are covered by the interview schedules which map onto the domains of the main study. The questions asked to the participants are framed by the ecological perspective on child development. Every interview is analysed by topic. The qualitative sample is stratified according to socio-economic status, rurality, and number of resident parents. Some of the conclusions of this study are that the children expected that they will be more interested in their appearance as teenagers. They acknowledged socio-emotional changes that they expected to experience during adolescence, such as maturing and becoming more independent. They appeared comfortable with their physical appearance and generally happy in their skin. They possess lot of self-confidence and have positive perception of themselves with some minor exceptions. The relationship between the children and their mothers was particularly strong.



## Challenges of participation for children in contact with child

Tor Støttebø

Diakonia University College

Sissel Seim

Oslo University College

In recent years we have seen a growth of interest in children's participation within the Child Protection Services (CPS). This movement emerges from various sources, from the ratification and implementation of the UNs Convention of Children's Rights into Norwegian law, the establishment of the Children's Ombudsman, children's service user interest groups and various official white papers. However, research show that children often are not participating when their families are in contact with the CPS. Participatory practice tends to be more messy and complicated then what the policy rhetoric suggests. The authors have since 2001 been involved in four different research projects researching user participation in child protection. The data material has been collected through various research methods including interviews with children, parents and social workers. In addition we have studied the process of participation through an action research approach and evaluated. Through this work we have experienced that participation needs reframing and to be understood as a relationship between the involved partners. Children's voices are likely to be heard within the context of adult support and partnership. The central research question of the paper is: What are the challenges and opportunities for developing participatory relationships between service providers and children in CPS? Our research suggest that good, long-term and trusting relationships with social workers are crucial to children's involvement, but inconsistency, instability and unreliability are barriers to social workers developing relationships. There is a tendency to blame individual social workers for not succeeding in developing these types of relationships, but we would like to bring in special, structural and organizational factors in the CPS that prevent the facilitation of partnerships.



Exploring the personal narratives of social workers engaged in  
pre-proceedings child care practice: an English case study

Kim Holt

University of Northumbria

Nancy Kelly

University of Bradford

Achieving timely decisions for children is at the heart of reforms within the family justice system in England. The reforms that were ushered in with the advent of the Public Law Outline in 2008, and subsequent revisions leading to the Children and Families Act 2014, rely on a front-loading of cases into a pre-proceedings protocol. Pivotal to the success of reforms within the family justice system is the successful diversion of cases at the pre-proceedings stage that provide the opportunity for cases to be resolved within an alternative form of dispute resolution rather than the court intervening to resolve some of the most complex child protection cases. The authors report on a qualitative study of pre-proceedings practice in England from 2011 to present, and draws evidence from practitioner narratives to explore the complex issues facing social workers, tasked with implementing reforms within the family justice system. The use of personal narratives provides a rich insight into how practitioners story the changes being introduced as part of what is being termed revolutionary changes to family justice. Social workers identify the opportunities for working more effectively with children and their families within the context of child protection, but they also highlight the challenges of working with the most complex of child care cases within a highly procedural and regulated context.





## Decision making and user involvement in child protection cases in a Norwegian context

Tone Jørgensen  
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Background and purpose: User involvement is fundamental to work with child protection cases. The child and their care givers have formal user rights in relation to actively participate in the decision making process, and the social worker is obliged to always pay attention to their opinions. Based on my PhD project about decision making in child welfare services in a Norwegian context I will discuss how the social worker in a child protection case involve the child's parents in their work. I will pay special attention to how the social worker's relational work in meetings with the parents influence the trajectory and development of a case. Specifically I will focus on the situations where the child's parents and the social worker have different views on what the child's problem is. Many possible stories about the child's situation then emerge, and what story to be considered as valid is the result of negotiations. The purpose of this paper is to show how relational work is part of a professional "tool-kit" used to convince and sometimes persuade parents to agree with the social worker. Relational work is then to be seen as a negotiation strategy, a kind of "politics of representation", more than a strategy for user involvement. Methods: In my project, decision making is studied as a cultural practice, and the basis for my analysis is one year of fieldwork in three different municipal child welfare services in Norway, four months in each child welfare service. Transcriptions from observations and field notes from participant observation in three different kinds of working situations constitute the empirical data material in the dissertation. Findings from my observations in one of these situations, the client-meetings, will be presented here.



## Evaluation of diversion and mediation program for juveniles in Georgia

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UNICEF Georgia

**Background:** A diversion and mediation program (diversion program) for juvenile offenders was initiated in November 2010 and has succeeded to divert over 600 juveniles from the criminal justice system in Georgia. The program is implemented in close collaboration between different agencies and professionals: prosecutors (Chief Prosecutors Office), social workers (Ministry of Corrections) and mediators (Ministry of Sports and Youths). Crime Prevention and Innovative Programs Centre (Ministry of Justice) is the primary agency responsible for overall coordination of diversion program. UNICEF Georgia initiated to explore the decision-making processes and impact associated with the Diversion and Mediation Program in Georgia to support an evidence based approach to policy making in further reform the diversion program in Georgia. Objectives of the research are to evaluate: (1) The quantitative data of the Diversion Program and identify trends (2) How does consideration of re-offending risks affect decision making processes of professionals (3) Effectiveness and efficiency of the Diversion Program (4) Main risks and needs identified among juveniles diverted (5) Response mechanisms and activities for the risks identified Methodology: The research applies both qualitative and quantitative methods and will provide comprehensive analysis of diversion and mediation program and its impact on the beneficiaries. The relevant legal framework, existing reports and statistics, including reviewing a sampling of case files of the children will be analyzed. Sampling: There are two groups (treatment group: diverted juveniles and control group: juveniles on probation) that have been evaluating. Preliminary Findings: From the preliminary analysis of the data of diverted juveniles it looks like that program is successfully implemented across the country, however coordination of various professionals shall be advanced and roles of social workers shall be strengthened. The final report will be available in December 2014.



## Analysing talk in child protection social work

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Child protection social work is a sensitive and challenging field. In the UK studies commonly draw on qualitative interviews and observational accounts. Live recordings of child protection social work are especially scarce. This paper discusses early findings from a research study collecting such data, and also draws on televised documentary examples, using methods and concepts from Conversation Analysis (CA). CA is the study of naturally occurring informal conversations, and of 'institutional' talk in contexts such as medical consultations, helplines and social care. The analysis seeks to reveal how social work communication is 'done', and how such institutional talk both resembles and departs from the norms of informal conversation. Are the usual 'preferences' that shape conversation evident? Are there distinguishing or unusual features? For example, CA suggests that everyday conversational preference is to mitigate 'face threat' through a variety of means, such as politeness, indirectness and humour. Child protection investigations and discussions frequently constitute a face threat to parents, and the paper explores how this is navigated in these encounters. Additionally, home visits by social workers, the hallmark of child protection work, bring the authority of the state into the living room, with social workers accompanied or inhabited by policy, procedure, managerial expectation, inspection bodies, the courts, and the media. Whether and how the impact of these 'overhearers' can be heard in their talk is examined. The paper sheds light on how institutional talk is conducted, the merits of Conversation Analysis as a method for its inspection, and the implications for social work education and workplace supervision.



Talking of social workers work conditions: data, opinions and perceptions in  
child protection

Elena Cabiatì  
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The paper will present the results of a research project realized in Lombardia (an Italian Region) with the purpose to gain knowledge of work conditions of social workers in child protection. To the purpose to investigate the work conditions of social workers in this complex field of work data have been collected about workload and working time, professional well-being and burnout levels. Data have been obtained through an on-line survey applied to a sample of 300 social workers in child protection. Interesting findings acquired by statistical analysis show both positive and negative outcomes: for example, social workers said to be well supported by colleagues, to be proud of their tasks and satisfy with their work autonomy; on the other hand they explained how the work weigh on their health and said to be overloaded, to feel themselves exposed to risk and dangers for their life. In the contribute the data collected will be presented and then compared with different variables as age and professional experience of the interviewed. In particular will be showed a cross-check data between levels of professional well-being/burnout and workload of the practitioners. Lastly will be presented 3 social workers ideal type gathered from the analysis realized. The conclusion considers relevant implications for social work practice, social work education and research.



## Professional boundary crossing and interprofessional knowledge development

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A significant trait of modern societies is the organizational specialization of welfare services which has intensified an increased professionalization, as in number of professionals involved in the production of welfare services. The growing specialization and professionalization, which on one hand has led to more advanced services, has also resulted in fragmentation and need for coordination between services in order to provide adequate and holistic efforts when responding to service users' complex needs. Today the service delivery system is faced with problems concerning the division of labor, collaboration, maintenance and development of staff competence, and improvement of service effectiveness and outcomes. Specialization often necessitates collaboration between different groups in order to achieve a comprehensive view of citizens' often complex problems. The growing trend towards the development of boundary-crossing and interprofessional services has been common particularly between health and social services. Although there has been a demand for collaboration the last 30 years, the knowledge area is still undertheorized and little attention has been made on analyzing knowledge development. This paper explores how interprofessional knowledge is developed in two cases in the field of child welfare in Norway and Finland. We chose the two cases to illuminate innovative knowledge production processes in professional practices on one hand and the complex boundary crossings professionals are involved with. They both represent the field of child and adolescence. The first case scrutinizes initial collaboration with young people at risk and analyzes how professionals and organizations collaborate in improving the initial collaboration practices. The other case on young children with ADHD/Asperger focuses on how professionals discuss their conception and responsibilities in dealing with families and children in need. The cases are analysed and reflected on with focus on the interdependent relationship between boundary crossing and knowledge development.



## Child welfare and social media – citizenship practice in the digital public sphere

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The development of internet and different social media offers new possibilities for individual expression in the public sphere and collective mobilization. Previous research on child welfare and social media in Norway has mostly concentrated on online contact between children in substitute care and their biological parents. However, these studies have not focused on discussions on child welfare in public digital space, i.e. space on the internet to which everybody has access. By showing how social media can serve as an arena for participation, this article attempts to fill in this gap in the research literature. This paper explores various forms for public participation and mobilization related to child welfare in social media. The key question is whether these forms of participation can be viewed as citizenship practices. This paper draws on a qualitative study of discussions and statements about child protection in Norwegian social media. The data are collected from Twitter, Facebook groups and other forum of discussions. Only publicly available contents are included. The study sheds light on five different participation forms in Norwegian social media, some of which may be considered as citizenship practices. These findings have implications for child welfare as a professional and political field. Knowledge about participation in public debates about child welfare, and related opportunities and risks, is not only important for politicians and decision makers. It also offers valuable insights for child welfare workers, children and parents who have been in contact with child welfare services, interest groups and citizens interested in child welfare.



## Child protection case conferences made strange

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This paper is an attempt to explore how to approach archival material without incorporating the mindset of our current time and to explore how to make strange the familiar in order to question apparent assumptions in written records and oral accounts of the past. In 1989 we carried out detailed interviews with social workers and child-welfare involved parents in child protection procedures (Waterhouse et al 1993). We also collected minutes of the associated case conferences. We think it is worth poring over these old records to piece together reports of the same concerns to different people. The conference minutes appear to document maternal and/or paternal accounts as they were given to the professionals and may be contrasted with maternal and/or paternal accounts given to the researchers. This study was carried out in an interesting period sitting between the early studies of broader child care decision-making (Packman 1986, Vernon and Fruin, Marsh 1986, Rowe et al 1989) and the major programme of research which resulted in the publication of Child Protection: Messages from Research (DoH 1995). This period was preceded by several major inquiries into apparent state failures in the protection of children (London Borough of Brent 1986, HMSO 1987) and well before the transformative case of baby Peter Connelly (leading to 3 enquires and a national review of child protection following his death in 2007). The archival material represents roots that lie at the foundation of modern child protection systems in the UK. By returning to the case conference minutes and interview transcripts we hope to bring a fresh reading of these separate accounts and examine the enduring question of the exercise of control in the lives of child welfare-involved parents (Waterhouse and McGhee 2013).



How to find words for the unspeakable?: the power of language at death's door

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**Background:** This contribution sheds light on the confrontation and management of the transience of life, of illness and death within private and professional circles. The author is interested in the power of language in social work based on autoethnography. The aim is to point out the power of language in a critical way since language constructs, reconstructs and constitutes the world. Especially in hospice and palliative care social workers are confronted with sorrow, suffering and the finiteness of life. Often people are confused, do not understand medical terms and feelings of shame and blame are seldom mentioned. Nevertheless they are part of social work and research. How to find words and which words to talk about the unspeakable, and not keeping it secret if not in medical-technical terms? This contribution will examine the discourse on death and dying from a professional viewpoint, and how this powerfully intersects with the complexity of disclosing personal vulnerabilities and in the world of work. **Methods:** Autoethnographic research and writing is biographical research from the inside out and is concerned with an investigation into one's own existence in a specific historical and cultural context. This contribution is based on the author's journal entries and relevant literature. Observing and describing the everyday, particularly thoughts and emotions, and the written reflection of the personal being linked to professional issues are a substantial part of the reflective approach in social work. Results, conclusion and implications: Being aware of the power of language, understanding the self and reflecting on life transitions are an essential foundation in order to work in social work. Showing personal vulnerability through the power of language by sharing a life-threatening diagnosis within work instead of keeping it secret was a liability that the system did not easily accommodate.





## Research of the palliative care development in the Altai region

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Studying of palliative care became especially urgent in the Russian Federation in connection with the acceptance of Federal Law #323 (November, 21st, 2011) "About the Bases of Health Protection of Citizens in the Russian Federation" where the definition of palliative care is first made. In 2014 the experts of the public health services of the Altai region gave us the interviews. The main goal of the survey was the studying of problems of palliative care development in the region. In the Altai territory death rate because of oncological diseases takes the second place among all reasons of population deaths. Difficulties of understanding of palliative care concept by experts, complexities of the palliative care development in the region have been revealed as a result of the research. Experts estimate the need of palliative care in the region as high. In the experts' opinion, this need is so high that the 120 beds hospice which would be set up according to the State Program "Public Health Services Development in the Altay territory till 2020" would not solve a problem and help all being in need. Thus hospice care is considered by experts as the most appropriate form of palliative care as great number of patients being in need of anesthetics. By the moment there is no hospice in the region. Experts also picked up such form as creation of specialized beds of palliative care on the basis of medical services. However, it demands additional resources the medical services do not have at present. Among the main problems experts allocate: absence of experts of palliative care and space for setting up of specialized beds of palliative care in hospitals. Also there is a need of exit help service as many patients would like to spend the last days of lives at home.



## Overcoming Loneliness and social isolation

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People who feel lonely or who are socially isolated are often hesitant to reach out for help. At the same time, social workers find it difficult to address these issues with their clients. Existing interventions typically fall short to reduce loneliness (Masi, Chen, Hawkey & Cacioppo, 2010). We claim that this may well arise from a mismatch between the social workers' assumptions and the client's needs. In a national (Dutch) collaboration between social welfare institutions, volunteer organizations and universities, we aimed to develop a new method for volunteers and professional social workers in dealing with loneliness. In the multi-phased method, there is a strong emphasis on connecting with the client. Professionals and volunteers are challenged to acknowledge their own assumptions, feelings and experiences with loneliness enabling them to fully relate to their client and his or her needs. Only then, we argue, a plan can be developed that is tailored to the client and therefore actually capable of alleviating - or in some cases end - feelings of loneliness, or a situation of social isolation. Across five cities, we trained approximately 100 social workers and volunteers with a variety of backgrounds. Prior to the training, participants filled in a questionnaire assessing knowledge, skills and attitudes in dealing with loneliness. We also interviewed participants in focus groups, to gain more insight into the actual experiences with the use of practices and instruments introduced in the training. At the end of the training, the participants again filled in the questionnaire. Based upon a pre-post comparison, we draw conclusions about the impact of the training to improve professionals' competences in dealing with loneliness and social isolation. The workshop will feature the method and the first results of our study.



Understanding online disclosure: a triangular multimethod research concept  
on anonymous chat help in primary care

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Online help in primary care has become popular in primary care. To research the impact of this new technology, new research methods have to be developed. A triangular research design was developed that combines three perspectives on anonymous and once-only chat help. By combining online surveys of service providers, online surveys of service users and chat transcript analysis of anonymous chat help sessions, a triangular analysis of chat help is made possible. Through this challenging combination of research methods, the characteristics, quality and impact of chat help were analysed in two projects on 5 major Flemish primary care service providers. The results of an online survey of 289 chat users and an online survey of 193 service providers, right after their chat session, were combined. Furthermore, the analysis of 114 chat transcripts, that could be partially to survey results, made it possible to understand a chat help session from three, otherwise hidden, perspectives, allowing for a unique understanding of the power and vulnerabilities of chat help. A new work method for online helpers, help organisations and social work education was developed in order to structure the innovative use of e-help in primary care. This method is currently being implemented by all major chat help organisations in Flanders. Translations of the help method have been made and can be found here <http://digitallyouthcare.eu/article/chdvice-guide-manual-first-line-online-counselling> for example. This unique triangular and mixed method research design made it possible to make the leap from practice-based research to new method development. However, this proved to be challenging because of (1) the impossibility to sample anonymous chat help users by chance; (2) the difficult integration of qualitative and quantitative research results; (3) the tension between current practices and new, but practice-based, work methods; and (4) the transformation of research conclusions into social work methods.



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## Intercultural competence in social workers practice in cultural diverse context in Andalucía (Spain)

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University of Huelva (Spain)

Nowadays societies are cultural diverse related to migration flows. Spain (and Andalucía) is a area with a large presence of foreign population and with cultural diversity, which requires the adjustment of public services social services among them to this reality. For social work it means that social intervention should consider this complex context and develop their practices with intercultural competence. Our project wants to understand the intercultural competence levels of social workers in public social services in Andalucía (Spain), and relate them to elements of intercultural competence and good praxis. Method: Participants include 163 social workers working at community social services. We have used the Intercultural Sensitivity Scale (Chen & Starosta, 2000) and other scales that measure the intercultural competence, also practical cases. We have done descriptive analysis, comparisons of means, variance analysis, contingency and correlations. Results: The data obtained show high IS and good levels of intercultural competence, with significant differences related to training on cultural diversity, age, and contact with people with different cultural backgrounds. Besides, these variables have significant associations with appropriately response to certain assumptions. Discussion: The level of IC is high. Knowledge and cognitive aspects about diversity management is very relevant, as well as training and contact with foreigners, but other dimensions like awareness or trust show lower levels. However, we think it is necessary to strengthen both training and interaction to advance the implementation of theoretical contents on the practice that takes place in professional intervention. We believe in the need of transforming knowledge into more efficient and culturally adapted behaviours. Higher education is essential in order to raising the level of competencies and, at the same time, the social work practice in Spain must work in order to creating new approaches and models of intervention in contexts of interconnected diversities.



Understanding meaningful involvement: an exploration of the involvement of  
older people in adult safeguarding

Sarah Finlay  
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This PhD project explored the involvement of older people in adult safeguarding at both an individual and a strategic level. By exploring the area, in depth, within two local authorities (in the North East of England) the findings from the research project have been used to construct a model of meaningful involvement. This research study aimed to contribute to adult safeguarding through greater knowledge and understanding of the involvement of older people and to identify and develop indicators for best practice in this area. There were four related research questions: 1. What are the current arrangements for involving older people in adult safeguarding? 2. What are the key barriers to involvement? 3. What factors help to facilitate involvement? 4. What is meaningful involvement in the context of adult safeguarding? The research applied a qualitative approach, informed by critical realism, using case studies as the strategy of inquiry. Two local authorities within the North East region of England were purposively selected as the cases for inclusion. Data collection methods included interviews with key stakeholders, observations and the collection of related policy documents. All data was analysed using thematic analysis. The proposed poster will provide an overview of the research background and design. The main focus will be on the key findings from the research and the model that has been developed, including consideration of the application and limitations of the model. The poster will also include key recommendations and implications of the research findings for social work policy, practice and future research.



## Transition into adulthood of youth with intellectual disabilities in Slovenia

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The poster presentation focuses on a significant time in the life course of young people with intellectual disabilities, which is the transition between what is perceived as childhood and what is perceived as adulthood. The presentation makes a clear distinction between disability and impairment and encompasses the social model of disability in the study grounding it firmly in constructivist foundations. The study presented improves on the social model with the addition of relevant concepts of medical sociology and Foucauldian perception of the body. Transition between the end of school and work for young people with intellectual disabilities in Slovenia marks the physical relocation of persons from the education institution to a welfare institution. Research addresses concepts of independence, growing up, partnership and sexuality, which seem to have a singular meaning in today's society. Summary of the main points: a. There is a notable gap experienced by youth with intellectual disabilities and their parents at the transition from the education system to the system of social welfare in Slovenia. b. With growing disparity and specialization of education and the social welfare system there is a growing need for a specialized service focused on the transition between the two distinct systems. Presentation demonstrates a rarely used visual methods approach to social work research. Results presented were collected in focus groups consisting of young people with intellectual disabilities. As an additional activity young people took photographs of their daily life in order to expand their vocabulary about the topic of transition to adulthood. Photographs were discussed in the second and third focus group. This method proved to be useful for gathering thick data with groups of people who have a limited vocabulary for discussing abstract topics.



What do the social workers think about the family foster care  
unaccompanied foreign minors in Italy?

Serenella Oletto

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Stefania Sguera,

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In Italy the unaccompanied foreign minors are a growing and heterogeneous group with ever changing origins, trajectories and features. In March 2014 they were 7865. The research focuses on their foster care in Italian and omocultural families and examines the point of view of social workers who have theoretical competences and fieldwork. The aim consists in evaluating if the foster care is an advantageous opportunity and a possible answer to the actual and emotional needs of minors, mainly undocumented migrants. Specific aims concern: Quantitative data of unaccompanied minors' foster care; National, regional and local regulations and procedures; The peculiarities of fostering minors; The differences compared to a housing in a residential care; The selection, education and support to the foster families; The outcome of the path. After a depth bibliographic examination, three depth interviews were conducted with expert social workers. The analysis of the content allowed to compare the collected material and results. Main results: A friendly familiar setting is useful to overcome loneliness and social isolation coming from a new and unknown reality during in adolescence and permits a better social, school and professional integration for the minor compare with residential care. For a successful outcome, the strengths consist in: 1. The young migrant must not have behavioural nor psychiatric disorders and must be willing to integrate himself into a new family, recognize adult authority and share his life plan with family's adults. 2. A training to all foster families, included the omocultural ones. 3. The birth family involvement in the foster care's project. The ascertained criticalities concern on the low number of available families, the lack of a register that assesses the event, of standard operating procedures, guidelines, research and literature on the topic.





## Left behind after adoption: maternal perspectives on termination of parental rights

Sharon Borja  
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**Background/Purpose:** Postadoption services for adoptive families have been the subject of many studies but very little is known about mothers left behind by involuntary adoption. Termination of parental rights (TPR) is a necessary step towards adoption and perhaps the greatest interference that the government can impose on the fundamental right of parents to raise their children. Despite the life altering consequences of TPR on both child and parent, we know very little about the experiences of mothers whose parental rights have been terminated. This qualitative study addresses this gap and draws attention to their experiences of TPR and their post-TPR narratives. **Methods:** Data was collected from 6firstperson stories by mothers involved in the child welfare system whose parental rights were terminated. They were analyzed using inductive content analysis to identify key constructs. Subsequently, similar concepts were clustered into analytic themes as to how parents viewed their experiences of the termination process and their lives after. **Results:** Results reveal these common themes: lack of understanding regarding TPR, emotional pain, powerlessness and isolation. While these stories revealed themes of painful loss and anger, they also revealed awareness around parental responsibilities, the desire to compensate for their shortcomings, and maintain contact. Themes also include self-efficacy related to seeking information relevant to their cases and advocating for their rights to a fair process. **Conclusion/Implications:** These findings reveal the complexities of parental right termination and the emotional burden it imposes. They point to the painful struggles of mothers in the child welfare system that must be acknowledged. These results have crucial social justice implications in child welfare practice, especially around expanding services to include mothers who lost their parental rights. Child welfare postadoption services that recognize and address the emotional trauma of TPR can be crucial towards the healing of mothers left behind postadoption.



How do safeguarding social workers approach and resolve the conflicts between rights and protection presented when an adult at risk lacks mental capacity?

Cat Meredith

Northumbria University

Maintaining a rights-based approach to Social Work practice with people who lack mental capacity can often present conflict with the process of adult safeguarding. In the UK, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 places statutory requirements on professionals to act in the best interests of those who lack mental capacity when making decisions or taking action on their behalf. Conversely, research suggests that societal, institutional and individual constructs of protectionism may result in emphasis being placed on maintaining the adult at risk's safety above all else. Perceptions of "duty of care", often rooted in fear of blame or legal reprisal, can act to dilute the significance afforded to maintaining and upholding the rights of the incapacitated person at risk, and lead to risk-averse practice which compromises quality of life and may not be in the person's best interests. During this practice-attached, ethnographic inquiry, the researcher will follow Social Workers throughout the adult safeguarding process from referral to completion, with the intention of gaining a rich and contextualised understanding of practitioners' perspectives, dilemmas and decision making. The proposed poster will provide an overview of the research question, methodology and design.



## Young people's experiences of epilepsy: a review of qualitative studies

Judith Chew  
University of Bristol

The majority of social research in the area of childhood epilepsy used quantitative methodologies to examine the extent to which epilepsy affects young people and their families. Previous systematic reviews concluded that children with epilepsy have poor psychosocial outcomes compared to healthy peers. However, little is known about the impact of epilepsy from their perspectives, particularly their lived experiences. This review aimed to systematically review qualitative studies that explored young people's perspectives of living with epilepsy. The search for relevant literature was conducted and abstracts up to August 2014 were included. The search strategy included terms that described young people with epilepsy and qualitative data collection methods. Inclusion criteria for this review were: Young people aged 18 years and below, use of qualitative data collection methods, and studies published in English-language peer-reviewed journals. Data extraction included data collection and analysis methods, characteristics of participants, and findings. A total of 501 abstracts were identified and 51 full-texts were reviewed. The final number of studies included in this scoping review was 23. The following themes were identified; Emotional responses to epilepsy, treatment-related issues, coping strategies, individual autonomy, peer relationships and activities, and academic difficulties. Narratives from young people highlighted the manner which epilepsy affects their day-to-day routines and its impact on various psychosocial domains. It is essential to note that young people report both positive and negative experiences with their families and peers. This highlights the need for social work interventions to focus on building strengths and resilience, and for services to be targeted at individual and family levels. Similarly, future research should be expanded to examine family processes that support positive outcomes and experiences in young people with epilepsy.



Children's acquirement of lifeworld in disadvantaged urban quarters - potentials and constraints of the method subjective map

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Growing up in socially disadvantaged urban quarters in Germany is characterized in socioscientific literature as a huge limitation regarding children's future opportunities. These inner cities are characterized by collective decline processes, social separation, and a high amount of poverty. Over the years quarters occurred which themselves maintain social disadvantage. Inner cities offer ambivalent spaces for experience. In the worst case opportunities for children offer not more than strategies to survive. With the method Subjective Map third to sixth graders are drawing places, activities, and interaction, which are meaningful for themselves in their everyday life. Reconstructing these maps we come to know about their spatial moves, their interactions, their experiences etc. We gain insight into children strategies to mitigate the effects of disadvantage. All in all we get a better understanding of children's acquirement of lifeworld in the case of growing up in socially disadvantaged urban quarters. This understanding is necessary to give these children a voice, and to support them to get inspiring and motivating space of experience in their neighbourhood (in mind of a good infrastructure of an area). The goal of the poster is to present and discuss the method Subjective Map. It is planned to show subjective maps and to describe the strategy of their reconstruction. Data resources are as well material of a research project as well as drawings gathered by a research class of graduate students. Discussion will focus on potentials and constraints of the method subjective map. Thus, the poster concludes with ideas to organize the method more effectively. Besides the efficient access to a high number of research cases it is necessary on one hand to narrate some drawings more deeply by the children. On the other hand a time related perspective by repeated survey is needed to reconstruct development.



## Ethno-cultural differences in infant vaccination in Israel

Yanina Shraga

Social work department Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

**Scientific Background:** Israel is characterized by demographic variance by nationality, religion and country of origin. The ethno-cultural diversity is manifested in the beliefs and behaviour patterns associated with health habits, as well as the means by which health and disease prevention. The objective of this study was to examine behaviours toward infant vaccinations among four groups of mothers of different cultural backgrounds: Israeli born (Jewish and Bedouin) and immigrants born in the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. **Method:** A comparative cross-sectional study conducted in selected community neighbourhoods in the southern part of Israel, the Negev. A quota sample included 100 mothers of each of the four ethno-cultural groups, among mothers who had infants aged 18 to 24 months (N = 400). Data were collected through questionnaires and examination of the vaccination history cards from Well Baby Clinics (Tipat Halav). **Results:** mothers from four ethno cultural groups differ statistically significantly with respect to their vaccination behaviours in all vaccination time points schedule by the ministry of health. In all time points (4, 6, 12, 24 months) Bedouin mothers have the highest mean values of vaccination and Russian and Ethiopian immigrant mothers have the lowest mean values of vaccination. **Conclusions and Implications:** Different experiences of mothers which arise from different cultural socializations may affect their health behaviour especially towards vaccination. Social workers and health professionals should be aware of the differential behaviours of mothers from of different cultural groups towards infant vaccination in order to provide a more culture-sensitive patient focus service.



## Exploring the role and experiences of approved mental health professionals

Sarah Matthews

The Open University and the University of Manchester

Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) is a relatively new qualitative research methodology which was first introduced in the 1990s (Smith, 1996) and has gained momentum over the first two decades of its implementation, especially in the field of health psychology. IPA is described by its proponents as a study of experience guided by three theoretical influences; phenomenology, hermeneutics and idiography (Reid et al. 2005, Shinebourne, 2011). This poster depicts a doctoral research study in social work which is exploring the role and experiences of Approved Mental Health Professionals based on this methodology. There will be a description of IPA and its influences along with the aims and objectives of the doctoral study and initial findings on the themes of professional identity and experience.



Between private and public - power, emotion and agency in the pre-adoption services

Pia Eriksson  
University of Helsinki

Forming families and having children is considered to be a personal matter in our society. But when it comes to forming an adoptive family; the control of the welfare state steps into this personal sphere. Hence, these families are created in the cutting point between personal and public. This setting makes emotions and power relations tangible in the interaction between the professional and client in the preadoption services. In these encounters with professional and institutional practices power dynamics at different levels are mirrored and influence the emotions and further the agency of the client. This presentation scrutinizes and the dynamics between power, emotion and agency in the context of preadoption services as an example of family assessment within child welfare. Theoretically my study is guided by researchers and theorists D. Layder, M. Foucault, E. Coffman and R. Lazarus among others. My inquiry of power and emotion within the context of pre-adoption services offered to the prospective adoptive parents derives from narrative interviews (N=19) with persons who have been clients in the service and either have adopted or faced a termination of the process. The results show how emotions and power dimensions are intertwined and can be explained on different levels. The psychobiography of the user, relations on the interpersonal level and the social setting influence both the emotions and the agency of the user. The implications of the study can be applied on different contexts within social work practice.



## Social workers and professional values: ethical reflection using focus group method

Annalisa Pasini  
Catholic University Milan

The poster intends to show the process of an ongoing research about social workers ethics and professional values. Social work is intrinsic ethical because social workers have the responsibility of choosing the 'right' ways to help people. The literature suggests that they need to reflect on ethical dimension of practice and to examine their professional values. The research activates this reflection using focus groups where social workers are protagonists and can discuss about values through narratives and dialogues. In this way, the concrete meanings of professional values can emerge and social workers can understand which professional principles are significant in daily practice and how they interact with other values, i.e. those of users, agencies and society. The research process involves two parallel groups in different geographical areas. After an introductory session, there will be three sessions dedicated to principal values emerged in previous discussion. The process aim to construct a shared narrative about principal professional values, which allows a deeper theoretical understanding of ethical dimension in daily practice.





## The process of identity formation in the dominant culture

Sara Verderber  
Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana

In most developed and under developed countries women still occupy the 'second' position in contrast to men's 'universality' in societies. However, women also carry very powerful symbolic value with them, both from their home culture and for the new culture they are entering in. When entering into a new culture and society, an individual is faced with reinterpreting previous and new social norms, values and beliefs, which are based on the collective awareness of the new dominant culture that this individual is entering into. This research will address and conceptualize the problematic process of new identity formation of female migrants who are introducing them into a new society and it will examine the role of integration processes, social reality, and gender roles. In a practical sense it is necessary to have better understanding of women migrants' identity formation in their new dominant culture, as it allows for improved approaches and offers help with social integration and personal development of individuals in a new culture and society. Many women of different class, economic and other backgrounds carry with them some personal, cultural or society expectations of certain expected behaviour in the society and at the same time they are clashing with new social and personal reality. Several methods will be used including: collection and analysis of primary and secondary research based on this theme; descriptive methods; and comparative research methods. The research study will cover a sample of 70 persons or more with interviews done in person or in groups, in order to increase sample size and variation of data. Candidates will be sought out through various institutions in Slovenia (NGO, social care and cultural centres and migration centres, faculties) as well as through personal recommendations. Due to data research might be expended into other EU countries.



Discourse, power, and social work: using the tragic death of a young girl in  
Taiwan as the starting point for investigation

Yi-Shis Cheng

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Social workers are the primary professionals who specialize in social work. Similar to other social actors, the social workers infer numerous discourses based on the effect of power. The purpose of this study was to construct a suitable framework for the social work field to critique discourses by interpreting, comprehending, and reflecting the theory and methodology of critical discourse analysis (CDA). We aimed to then implement this framework to elucidate and reveal which discourses influence social workers, as well as the manner in which the influence is exerted. Only through such elucidation and revelation can social workers rediscover their personal subjectivity, thereby allowing resistance, that is, strategies for resistance, to occur. This study comprises 2 phases. The first phase involves understanding the essence and limitations of CDA by interpreting, comprehending, and reflecting this model and developing an analytical framework. The second phase involves applying the analytical framework to analyze the tragic death of a young girl in Taiwan in April 2010, which served as the subject for investigation. Analysis of this incident was conducted for CDA and to determine the significance of this analytical framework for the knowledge production and professional practice of social work.



Social worker's experience of applying mental capacity legislation - issues of promoting autonomy

Carole Southall  
Northumbria University

**Background and purpose:** In 2005 The Mental Capacity Act was introduced in England and Wales to provide a framework for assessing mental capacity and making best interest decisions on behalf of those unable to make decisions for themselves. This legislation coupled with recent government policy has seen a focus upon promotion of autonomy for the individual with greater choice and control over the delivery of social care services. This presentation will explore the effectiveness of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) in promoting the autonomy of individuals subject to assessment of capacity and best interest decision making by social workers in adult care services.

**Methods and methodology:** This qualitative research project used an interpretive phenomenological analysis methodology to explore the experience of social workers operating within the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and related policy. Twenty social workers from three separate localities in the north east of England were interviewed about their practice. Participants operated in a range of different settings including mental health, learning disability and older person's teams. An initial questionnaire stage collected baseline data and was used as a means of identifying candidates for a second interview stage. Interviews were unstructured to allow candidates freedom to provide their own account of their practice. A third stage of focus groups with interviewees served to clarify interview findings. Results: Data collected identified autonomy under the Mental Capacity Act (2005) to be a complex issue, in particular it was used as much to protect the rights and maintaining autonomy for of those with capacity to make decisions, as it was to protect autonomy of those without decision making capacity. The proposed paper will discuss the implications of the research findings for social work practice, policy and research.



New realities for social work in a global context: foreign underage mothers in  
a country of migration

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This paper addresses the reality of foreign teenage motherhood in Spain. Its importance lies not in its quantitative dimension but the implications for a growing number of girls who face motherhood at an early age. This fact is more evident in foreigners because they nearly quadruple teenage fertility rate in Spain in comparison to the Spaniards. The analysis was developed through a dual perspective: the statistics of the phenomenon, and the Spanish and regional legislation circumscribed to the Andalusian case. For the first, we have used micro data files of birth registration in Spain from the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) on the Natural Population Movement. The analysis period chosen was 2000-2011. The final sample for births of foreign mothers under 18 was 13,153 cases. For the legislative analysis, a brief review of both national and regional legislations with a brief look at the international conventions ratified by Spain. The regional analysis is due to the fact that local authorities are responsible for health and hygiene issues, as reported in the Spanish Constitution. Thus we can observe the real policies and programs implemented. After analysing the determinants of such pregnancies, the characteristics of the phenomenon in Spain are discussed highlighting the apparent inconsistencies between this reality and its regulatory framework. Finally, we analyze the possibilities of social work intervention aimed at supporting young mothers in order to overcome the disadvantages they face.



The welfare centres experts experience on interventions for child protection in  
high conflict divorce situations

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The paper presents the results of qualitative research. The research goal was to gain insight into the experiences and suggestions of the welfare centres experts how to improve interventions focused on child protection in high conflict divorce situations. Data were collected through two focus groups involving ten social workers and a psychologist (N=11). All participants in the study are employed at the Social Welfare Centre in Zagreb and have many years of experience working with high-conflict divorces. The research sample is purposive sample (participants were selected by their long work experience and knowledge on high-conflict divorces). The collected data were analyzed using qualitative analysis through a process of systematic classification coding. The research results show that experts working with parents in high-conflict divorces are face with a strong initial resistance and unwillingness of parents to cooperate with experts, and with inadequate perception of their parental roles and responsibilities. Further, experts are faced with problems related to the legal framework and the operating conditions of the given social welfare system (frequent legislative changes, the lack of clear rulebook, mismatch intervention with other systems, lack of support from the system and etc.) which leads them to the experience of insecurity in their professional role and burnout. Participants give a specific guideline for practice in terms of parental responsibility encouragement, protecting the position of experts, improving the procedure framework and changing negative perceptions of professional experts work in social welfare centres in Croatian media and public. In conclusion authors emphasize the importance of conducting further evaluation research in this field, in order to obtain detailed insight into the models of creating a more efficient intervention system. Also, professionals who work with high-conflict divorces and users' perspective should be implemented in further studies.



Multi-cultural perspective of alcohol use among high risk youth in Israel:  
implications for social policy and program development

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Alcohol use among underage youth has a major impact on public health, accidents, fatalities, and other problem behaviours. The purpose of this presentation is to promote understanding of underreported Ethiopian, former Soviet Union (FSU) and Israeli origin youth by comparing their alcohol use patterns and problem behaviour. Method: Data were collected from 2004 to 2013 from a purposive sample of 426 Ethiopian, former Soviet Union, and Israeli origin males receiving 90day drug treatment in a residential program. The Substance Use Survey Instrument (SUSI), a valid and reliable data collection instrument, was used for data collection. Results: Rates of Ethiopian parent unemployment and dependence on public welfare benefits were significantly higher than those with FSU and Israeli origin status. The majority of all study youth reported lifetime alcohol use. FSU origin youth were significantly more likely to begin drinking at an earlier age. Ethiopian youth reported significantly higher rates of last 30 day alcohol use than FSU and Israeli origin youth. No significant difference was reported for last 30day binge drinking. However, Ethiopian youth were significantly more likely than FSU and Israeli origin youth to have been in a serious fight and report a decline in school achievement before dropping out of school. Conclusion: This presentation will contribute to understanding substance use of multicultural high risk youth and service needs. Findings will be presented relevant for policy and service provision purposes as well as for training social work practitioners.



## Intercultural training for workers involved in HIV care practices

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Demographic changes, due to migrations, should lead professionals to wonder if their usual practices are adequate for immigrant population, that has a different cultural frame. For the authors, a precondition for successful assistance projects and for the users to take their own responsibility and an active role is to establish cooperative relationships and communication with them. Based on this assumption, the team of Paediatric HIV Infection Diseases Department, which has been working for years on the relationship with immigrant HIV positive women, especially with the African women, organized 4 workshops with a target of 76 health and social workers, that are already involved in HIV care. The objective of the workshops is to raise awareness, to provide knowledge and training with an intercultural approach aim to the disease and parenting with the HIV infection. The workshops stimulated reflections about knowledge and attitudes in the following areas: protection from infection, the possibility to communicate the diagnosis at school and at work, the importance of compliance to therapies, the ways to prevent vertical transmission of the virus, the chance to create a family for an HIV positive person, linguistic and cultural skills of the professionals, the communication about couple and family issues, traditional African care practices. By the questionnaire used in the training, we can notice that personal values and believes of professionals have such a great impact on the relationship with the users to the point that they sometimes replace objective knowledge, such as rights and duties of HIV+ people towards their community. Another critical point is for social and health workers to find it hard to talk about sex and contraception with immigrant HIV positive users. With reference to prejudice attitudes, an open intercultural attitude increases at the end of the workshop.



Repeated entries to the Swedish addiction compulsory care system: a national register database study

Robert Grahn  
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**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to: identify and describe specific client groups who have repeated entries to the Swedish addiction compulsory care system. Specifically, through the use of baseline data from the Swedish government Staten's Institutions Styrelse (SIS) data base; the Swedish National Registry of Adult Compulsory Care for Addiction of 4515 individuals who were assessed at their compulsory care interview by social workers in the national social welfare system between 2001 and 2009 the study identified the associations between specific predisposing (age, gender) characteristics, enabling characteristics (education, family/social factors and employment) and needs (substance use severity, health, mental health status, and criminal justice history) characteristics and a history of number of prior compulsory addiction treatment entries. **Methodology:** Univariate descriptive statistics, chi-square, one-way ANOVA, and correlation methods were used to examine characteristics associated with number of compulsory addiction treatment episodes. A logistic regression model was developed in with variables that were significant at the bivariate level. **Results:** Individuals that use compulsory care repeatedly for their addiction have often before experienced mandatory efforts from the society as, clients who have experience from compulsory treatment through LVU. (law (1990:52) with specific provisions about care of young people), those who have been in compulsory psychiatric care, those who have been sentenced to prison and those with children in care by society. **Conclusion:** Individuals who repeatedly are mandated to compulsory care for their substance use disorder, have significant multiple complex problems and institutionalization. They are significantly more likely to be mandated to compulsory mental health treatment, and have long incarceration histories. These is a group clearly in need of integrated dual diagnosis treatment.





## Elderly social policy in Albania

Alba Dhima  
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**Abstract** Human rights are universal, widely accepted and central to our understanding of humanity. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that equality should not change with age. In reality, the rapid aging of the population, escalate also of age discrimination, making so necessary to address the fundamental issues of discrimination. The purpose of this paper is precisely to highlight the rights of the elderly, their placement in the proper context, the protection that makes the existing domestic and international law, the role of the state and implement social policies to achieve the standards. The methodology used is analytical and argumentative. Analytical evaluation of existing policies in line with warranted human rights standards received major attention to this work. The phenomenon of aging is natural, normal and parallel to the society changes but it is possible that through the establishment of fair and adequate policies to control the impact of this process. In our country there is no economic analytical study on aging relevant costs which complicates policymaking quality. Recognition of the journey and the forecast of society, the needed political support remain deep challenges in the areas of economy, social and healthcare, while facing these challenges requires changes in the respective structures.



## Roles and social workers: the case of social work and networks with prisoners in Brussels

Peter Raeymaeckers  
OASes University of Antwerp

In everyday practice and in literature, social workers, administrators and researchers increasingly emphasize the crucial role of service networks. Service networks join efforts of a large variety of service organizations to address the complex problems of vulnerable target groups. Literature however shows that networks experience many difficulties when social workers from different service organizations join their efforts. Literature however shows that when social workers fulfil specific network roles, the network of social service will increase its effectiveness. However, most research focuses on the role of the coordinator, and is less interested in the role of other network actors. In this research we focus on which roles social workers adopt in their networks and the difficulties they experience when adopting these roles. We investigate service organizations providing services to prisoners in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. Brussels has three prisons with approximately 1600 prisoners. We question the social workers affiliated to eight different organizations engaged in a network aiming at providing services towards the Brussels' inmates. They all work with the same target group and have similar goals to achieve. We plan interviews with a selection of social workers and organize focus groups. In our presentation the theoretical framework on different network roles of social workers will be presented. Also, our research design will be discussed. We emphasize that this research will not only lead to policy recommendations for social policy in organizations but will also provide guidelines to social workers being part of a network in complex setting.



## Elderly in Estonia: coping and possibilities of support

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The elderly (65+) form about one-sixth of Estonian population (ca 1.3 million), which indicates that the society is ageing. The article provides an overview of the coping of the elderly, by focusing on the questions of welfare of elderly who live alone and family care-giving for disabled elderly. The results of related studies are presented shortly. The ways of supporting the elderly through family care-giving and social and health care services, but also self-help are described. Also the satisfaction of the elderly with life and the possibilities of successful ageing are discussed. The research and presentation is based on several studies of elderly care issues, including "Good practices on the Family Caregiver's in Estonia"; "Supporting family caregivers and receivers in Estonia and Finland", 'Enabling Empowerment in Aging Societies' etc. The analysis of research results indicated the need of assistance for elderly and family care-givers; on the basis of the analysis an evaluation was passed on the quality of social and health care services. It is important for the elderly to spend their old age at home being certain that their family supports them. Networking and empowerment, integrated services and support and if necessary institutionalised care are effective ways for supporting the elderly and their family members and guaranteeing dignified ageing.



## Reproductive technologies and social work: models of psychosocial counselling

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Despite the fact that as many as 80 million people suffer from involuntary childlessness worldwide, there is still a shortage of trained psychosocial counsellors. With the development and extended use of different ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) procedures the need for psychosocial counselling has become even greater. Moreover, there is an extensive shortage of systematic information regarding the global state of infertility counselling. This is worrisome, since the occurrence of infertility can have deleterious social and psychological consequences. With the globalization of infertility care, the importance of providing culturally sensitive psychosocial counselling is of even more paramount importance. Research will analyze reproductive technologies and psychosocial counselling are performed. It will include Slovenia, Germany and United Kingdom, which legally allow reproductive procedures as well as widely perform them. Focus on Germany and UK is essential as they have developed legal guidelines for psychosocial counsellors. The study will analyze coverage, availability and use of ART as well as public attitudes towards the use of ART. Focus on governmental and nongovernmental organizations will reveal the context in which psychosocial counselling is performed. In the final, yet key, part of the study, we will analyze accessibility, content and scope of psychosocial counselling. Special attention will be given to guidelines and models that psychosocial counsellors use, as well as unique cases and ethical dilemmas. When analyzing psychosocial models, guidelines, ethical dilemmas and counselling routines we will interview professional psychosocial counsellors who have relevant expertise in infertility counselling. This study will offer a comparison of case studies, as well as a comparison of the psychosocial counselling models. With this analysis, we will try to build a model of psychosocial counselling in the context of Slovenia.



“Shall we talk about sexuality?” – children’s perspective on sexual advice and sexual education in residential care units

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The poster will display the research concept and central outcomes of my doctoral thesis, which addresses the following questions: ‘How do children and juveniles living in a residential setting perceive the sexual educational actions of their care workers and what do they think would support them the most? What are their experiences and wishes?’ The poster presentation gives an overview of the main categories involved in the analysis and provides a glimpse into the experiences of the children. One central outcome can be described as follows: During their puberty, children and juveniles experience critical situations which become virulent in the context of their living quarters. Examples of these include body development uncertainties and relationship conflicts. In these situations they actively decide who they can use as support. One decision they face is whether to talk to their care workers or not. In the context of this question, they consider many different criteria, such as the quality of their relationship with the care workers and the possible risk of getting disciplined. This research project is qualitative research in the context of children’s services-, service-user and sexual education-research. The data is based on 23 interviews conducted with female and male juveniles who are analyzed according to ‘grounded theory’. There are two main objectives of the research project. The first one is to contribute to the limited scientific discourse in Germany on sexual violence prevention in institutions which currently only focusses on the ‘too much’ of sexuality. How children and juveniles can be supported in a positive sexual development, in the context of puberty, for example, is not discussed. Secondly, it is the goal to include in the discourse the voice of the children themselves and the processes of professionalization in order to realize their right to be heard.



## Resilience towards social problems: a study of interracial couples

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This study of resilience focuses on the analysis of resources and answers activated by formal and informal systems to prevent or lessen the effects of social problems. Marriage and mixed couples appear in a difficult context due to the economic crisis, to the cultural differences and to the existing prejudices towards people from foreign countries. Objective: The aim of this study is to determine the level of resilience in members of interracial couples and to identify the main characteristics and profiles of people with high levels of resilience. Method: To complete this study, we have used the resilience scale by Wagnild and Young (1993), adapted by Rodríguez, Pereyra, Gil, Jofré, De Bortoli y Labiano, (2009). Results: The results show significant correlations between the variables origin /gender and resilience. Aspects related to personal competence and auto-efficacy seem to have influence on resilience. Conclusions: We believe in the need to further deepen the study of contents and processes causing resilience in order to create learning instruments that would be implemented in different professional areas, with the aim to build educational environments contributing to social change, to promote coexistence and diversity.



Bridge over troubled water - how do drug cope with the transition from  
institutional rehabilitation to everyday life?

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During the last few years increasing academic interest has emerged on how drug addicts cope after a period of rehabilitation within an institution. The treatment time in most rehab service institutions in Norway is approximately three months. Various methods of treatment are applied, and the treatment which clients receive after leaving the institution varies greatly across municipalities. The aim of our research project is firstly to focus on how one particular rehabilitation service institution in Norway works to prepare, enable and strengthen clients' ability to manage their post-institutional challenges. Secondly, we wish to contribute to the development of health and welfare related educational programs at our university college. Thirdly, our aim is to increase the understanding of the user perspective within health and welfare institutions. Finally, we want to highlight the significance of cooperation between different professions in health and welfare institutions. Our research method is the researchcircle, a practice-based cooperation and partnership between the field of practice, service users and the relevant institution of education and research (Sogn og Fjordane University College). The research period is supposed to be one and a half year. Meetings in the researchcircle are held once a month and last for three hours. Service users, health and welfare care workers and researchers participate on an equal basis through reflections on the existing practice, how to change inadequate patterns and methods and how to change and develop new approaches and methods. Our research suggests that cooperation between service users and caretakers, as well as a continuous reflection on applied treatment, will increase our understanding and utilization of user participation in health and welfare institutions.



## Globalization and the quality of life of seniors

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In this paper, globalization and the quality of life of seniors is presented. It is known that we live in times of "permanent change". One of the most important phenomena of this changing world is aging of population. This phenomena is unprecedented, permanent, irreversible. With the growing number of older people in society it is necessary to look more carefully at this part of population and find solutions to enable seniors to contribute to the welfare of societies. The aging population provides us to many interesting materials of research. One of them is the quality of life of seniors. The purpose of this study is to examine specific and different meanings of the term 'quality of life' and the factors affecting the quality of life in relation to older people. The concept of quality of life is a complex, abstract and very difficult to define. People most often associate the quality of life to prosperity, good life, being healthy, happy and having a large amount of money. This paper presents theoretical considerations on the quality of life. In this paper, it is presented the review of a literature. It is shown the definitions, models and the concept of measurement of the concept of the quality of life. It also presents a classification of quality of life definitions. The study focus on different model of quality of life. It is also an attempt to create a holistic model of quality of life in the context of globalization. The study also demonstrates the different scales used to measure quality of life. Studies on the quality of life of seniors are very because it get us the answer to the question: how to prepare people for living and functioning in old age.





## Institutionalized children Inter independence competences and social emancipation in the real world - a case study

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The improvement of personal skills, social, intrapersonal and independence one's associated with young empowerment institutionalised in residences for childhood and youth, has been an area with low priority intervention, given its relevance to social integration and professional future of young people. Many residential institutions do not carry a home program for empowering youth to its society inclusion which may promote behaviours of social exclusion and occupational disintegration. In fact, 'the process of preparing the transition to independence and adulthood is one of the most relevant topics, nowadays, of international research, and a concern that no administration can ignore'. (Gomes, 2010, p.23) Current theoretical arguments warn for the challenges that homes of childhood and youth will face towards the training, skills development and preservation of autonomy, given greater emphasis in the treatment of children/young people institutionalized in detriment of their social and personal emancipation. Any intervention that undervalue the full individual development may have unintended consequences, particularly with regard to their personal development and social integration, stressing the risk of increasing poverty and marginalization. This research, with a mixed character, used as methodological approach a quantitative assessment the Psychological Well-Being Scale and a qualitative evaluation instrument: Grid participant observation (Action Learning Sets), incorporating axes of autonomy, the domain of the environment, personal growth, positive relations, acceptance of self and life goals. It was intended to assess the personal, social, intrapersonal skills and independence consolidated in young institutionalized, as well as identifying obstacles and constraints, for children and youth in promoting autonomy and skill acquisition.



Case studies of community participation in Luxembourg: an analysis of  
community participation process in local level

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Community participation is an important factor's that have an impact on community development. This research project focuses on people's participation process in community development activities. Bringing people perspective and experience is a very important element of this study. However the individual element of participation it is just one side of participation perspective. For that reason organisations in communities are going to be as well an important interactive part of the study on analysing the process of participation. The overall research design aims to follow the grounded theory tradition and involve the case studies of three neighbourhoods in Luxembourg. The research methods are planned to be collaborative with the stakeholders and the participants. The qualitative research include different phase: documents reviews on communities' area, stakeholders interviews, in depth interview and focus group.



“The politic social work in small local government of Estonia: the configuration between the structural power and the performance of the social services”

Aike Raudava  
The University of Helsinki

For the function-based organization view, the local government has the hierarchical structure, together with the representative body and the executive body (political and administrative) in Estonia. According to Bartol and Martin (1994), the organisational structures are typically created by management for specific purposes (Senior 2002). The aim of the research has been to find answers to the question, ‘how does the system of administering personal social services function in small Estonian governments’. Utilizing the collective case study, I followed the information oriented selection: maximum variation cases for the size and location (Luck, Jackson and Usher 2006). The results represent the four units of the framework of social welfare administration: 1) the political leadership, 2) the political cooperation, 3) the specialist or nonprofessional and 4) the political administrative unit (the Ministry of Social Affairs). The responsibility is shared between administrative and political units and framework of administration is involving the non-educational members, who are professionals in another field or the about non-educational members. The main problem is carried out at the practice of the framework of the administration of social welfare. This practice, where people from the street are directly related to client work, having decision making rights on issues concerning the client; then, it will be regarded as historic, the principle of collegial decision-making continuing in the 21st century. The function of the decision’s process follows the principle of collegial decision-making and unfortunately, I argue, that the decision process at the client level is politicised. The decision-making process regarding the clients is distributed among different levels, the practice undermines the independence of the social worker, and the social worker cannot protect the rights of the client. Most important, the principle of collective responsibility lives on in the 21st century without giving the profession of social work the opportunity to grow independently in Estonia.



## Social work in housing policies in an economic crisis context

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**Introduction:** One of the most important effects of the economic crisis is the difficulty that a significant part of the population have in order to access an affordable and economic housing with a reduced income because of the loss of employment or lack of financial aid. **Objective:** In this poster we present the reality of Andalusia (Spain) regarding the role of social workers as managers of public housing for people with serious economic difficulties. **Methodology:** We have interviewed a certain number of social workers involved in the management of the public housing from the regional administration and from local level through community social services. **Results:** It analyses, besides the characteristics of the population that accede to these housings, the principal problems with which they find the social workers as well as the strategies followed to overcome them. **Conclusion:** Defends the access to public housing as a temporary resource whose use depends on the socioeconomic situation of the beneficiary. When it is change to be better, the used housing must be available for other beneficiaries in similar difficulty conditions.



Forensic psychology curricula, as professional training opportunity for the staff of multidisciplinary equip in prison, to treat individuals with mental health problems

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Psychology and law together are focused on human behaviour, its perception and influences on it. They have the same fundamental keys which theoretically unit them to bring common practices on their application fields. The paper is an effort to give some theoretical arguments about the need of having the curricula to treat the forensic psychological questions, to empower students` knowledge on better evaluation and interpretation of law and human behaviours. Some daily questions on justice system have brought the necessity to reflect about theoretical and practical multidisciplinary treatment for individuals with mental health problems. The arguments centered on the paper are connected to social work role on multidisciplinary equip in institutions of psychology in the law context, crime responsibility, and on criminal behaviours as well.



## Social workers' views of their workspaces

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Royal Holloway, University of London

Evidence shows that work is becoming increasingly detached from conventional places of work and that employers are making greater use of new working practices and technologies (Felstead, 2012). One important driver for the shift towards new ways of working is cost-cutting (Duffy, 1997). Reviews of social work and social in the UK (Department of Health & Department for Education and Skills, and the Scottish Executive, 2006) stressed the importance of developing new ways of working and of the workforce itself becoming more mobile. Given the financial constraints currently faced by social work and the wider public sector in the UK, the shift towards these new working practices is likely to continue and potentially occur more rapidly. In social work there is limited empirical data regarding the type, nature and use of workspaces by social workers, or the impact of workspaces on individuals and their practice. The subject is typically addressed through anecdote and commentary (Brody, 2011; Cooper, 2012; Robb, 2013) with some data from surveys (Social Work Taskforce, 2010; Unison & Community Care, 2012). This paper will focus on a small-scale study of the workspaces of social workers from a number of local authorities within the Greater London area. The study considers three types of special working arrangements (Felstead et al, 2005; Jewson, 2008) or sites of practice (Ferguson, 2008): in offices, at home and on the move. The study uses a mixed-method approach to data collection, drawing on respondent-led visual data (photographs of sites of practice) and also 'image-text' (Mitchell, 1994). Themes emerging from the data sets will be identified and comparisons drawn with findings from studies in disciplines such as management, psychology and geography. Implications for social work employers and practitioners will be considered and priorities for future research will also be proposed.



## PRONET: professionalization of networks

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PRONET : Professionalization of networks In 2012 the department of social work (Artevelde University College) conducted a practice-based research project on the topic of professional networks. Organizations are functioning in an ever-changing context. The formation of partnerships and networks is one of the ways in which organizations attempt to provide a solution to this problem. The cooperation arises either spontaneously or out of necessity and government policy stimulates and even imposes it more en more. In reality, there is a huge variety in the growth and development of these partnerships and in various professional and academic circles the need for practice--based research material about networks arose. PRONET wants to increase the professionalization of networks by focusing on the individual actors in these networks and the roles they take up within these networks.. When all roles are known, competences required for these roles can be formulated. The PRONET research project took place in collaboration with organizations from different domains: government, social profit, social economy, culture, education,' Qualitative data were collected by means of in-depth interviews with experts and different focus groups across these different sectors both on executive and decision making levels. Based on the results of the project, PRONET developed a basic model containing the different roles necessary to construct well-functioning networks. For each role specific competences are formulated. An accompanying manual describes how the roles have to be used. Another fundamental result of the project is the so called 'Generic Profile'. This consists of a number of competences that are required of an individual so that he or she is able to function in a professional partnership. The collected material is used to develop a range of educational tools for students and professionals in the field of social work ....



## Emerging approaches to the analysis of secondary databases

Christopher Hudson  
Salem State University

This workshop introduces recent and emerging developments in the strategies and techniques for the analysis of large-scale databases, including data mining and predictive analytics that can be used with national census and epidemiological studies. It focuses on the logic of key design decisions, such as selection of unit of analysis, and techniques for the transformation of data, for example, creation of composite variables and the assessment of their reliability. Examples are from peer-reviewed published studies of the presenter's over the last 25+ years, involving homelessness and psychiatric care, using SPSS for data preparation, supplemented by Excel, LSREL, and Mapitude. The following outlines the workshop: (1) Secondary Analysis as a Research Strategy: Types of data; advantages and disadvantages; costs, PC equipment, and feasible database sizes; the importance of theory; and typical steps in data analysis. (2) Selected Methods and Techniques: (i) Determining unit of analysis: This section will begin with discussion of the potentials for modelling variation in phenomena of interest between multiple jurisdictions. It considers the pros and cons of three strategies: data aggregation, spreading, and multilevel modelling, or some combination. (ii) Question of weighting by population in census studies of multiple jurisdictions: When, why, and how would this be done? (iii) The element of time: In databases organized on the basis of service episodes, use of lag variables for computing LOS, time between episodes and recidivism rates. How is this done? (iv) Computation of composite variables; (v) Assessment of reliability and validity. Key examples include: Assessing diagnostic reliability using Kappa; correlation of multiple indicators and measures. (3) Conclusion: Comments on major analytic procedures, e.g.: GIS and the mapping of bivariate correlations; the assessment of the overall fit in Cox proportional hazard models; and key considerations in use of SEM. (4) Format: Didactic, with discussion, PowerPoint, and SPSS examples.





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SPECIAL THANKS





## MAJDA VRHOVNIK SCHOOL CHOIR

Majda Vrhovnik School Choir has 38 members aged 11-15. Our school choir sings at school events throughout the school year, we like to take part at events happening in Ljubljana, where our school is located. Our singing brings a ray of sunshine to elderly people in retirement homes and we also perform in annual concert of Ljubljana school choirs. Our greatest pleasure is the concert held at our school at the end of the school year for our pupils, parents and teachers where we always attract a large audience that is always delighted with our performance. We are proud of our achievements at competitions; the first prize at Regional Choir Competition in Kočevje and the second prize at the State Choir Competition in Zagorje ob Savi. In addition to that we took part in performing along with other Slovenian school choirs in Cankar Concert Hall, Ljubljana, which was a unique opportunity that we will never forget. Members of Majde Vrhovnik School Choir join the music camp and traditionally the chorus takes a field trip in June, the event that all members of the choir cherish the most. Polona Guček Škrbinek has been the leader of the Majde Vrhovnik school choir for 25 years.



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