

Local and European: the continuing importance of trans-national learning?

Local and European: the continuing importance of transnational learning? European nation states are increasingly focused upon their own 'local difficulties' notably the rise of nationalisms, particularly in the wake of the UK's likely triggering on Article 50. The paper will explore whether or not there is still a relevant purpose to cross-national social work between European countries in general and the UK in particular.

We will outline the findings of a current small-scale research project into the continued importance and viability of cross-national learning, examining responses from German and English students.

Author(s):

Graeme Simpson

University of

Wolverhampton (United Kingdom)

Katja Nowacki

FH Dortmund (Germany)

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Developing internationalization in Social work education: the relevance of short programs

Growing interest in the impact of globalization on welfare services and on professional practice has led to increased recognition of the importance of international components in the training of social work. This is particularly relevant in fields such as child and family social work where the impact of phenomena like migration and asylum seekers movements have radically changed traditional practices. Within international programs, students' exchanges appear to play a special role, but they have proved often difficult, because of language barriers, the rigidity of curricula and practical barriers. Our presentation introduces some reflections on the experience of a short exchange program in the field of child and family interventions, which has proved more feasible and easy to access for many students. Based on qualitative evaluation by academic and students involved, we show the potentials and risks of such experiences in terms of developing a critical and open mindset.

Author(s):

Silvia Fargion

Free University of Bolzano (Italy)

Orit Nuttman-Shwartz

Sapir College (Israel)

Dorothy Zinn