



Programme and Abstracts



SocNet98 International University Week (IUW) 2014

March 31 – April 3

University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
Platform for Intercultural Competencies

www.fh-ooe.at/campus-linz
<http://www.fh-ooe.at/interkulturalitaet>



Studium mit Zukunft

Welcome!



The SocNet98 International Week 2014, which is devoted to the theme “**Intercultural Social Work**” is taking place in Linz, the capital of Upper Austria, on the banks of the river Danube. The Danube flows through so many European countries and has had an important role in creating cultural contacts among their citizens. Like the river Danube connects countries and cultures, so does this conference connect scholars and students from various areas, universities and cultural backgrounds. The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria is very proud to host this important event.



The Platform for Intercultural Competencies significantly contributes to research and teaching; moreover it creates public awareness for a topic which many call as one of the most important challenges of developed societies. The members of this platform conduct research and design and implement unique programmes and activities with the goal to promote the appreciation of cultural diversity and to foster intercultural and cross cultural understanding.

On behalf of the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria we wish this international university week a successful progress, many inspiring contributions and discussions and a friendship driven atmosphere. We are committed to support SocNet98 and this IUW also in future, and we feel confident that we all will harvest the fruits of this valuable initiative in the sense of a better understanding of each other, more knowledge through excellent research and academic discussion, cooperation instead of conflict, seeking for mutual benefits and a better world as a whole.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'A' followed by a horizontal line.

Gerald Reisinger
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Zehetner'.

Andreas Zehetner
Vice President International Affairs

Intercultural Social Work

Why did we choose this topic?

As diversity and mobility are on the increase in countries all over Europe, social workers and social work institutions face the challenge of gearing their services towards a growing number of diverse clients with a new range of needs. As a result, social workers increasingly depend upon intercultural expertise in order to better plan and structure their helping processes.

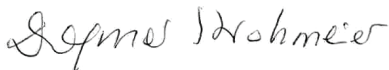
Intercultural Social Work as a sub-field of Social Work incorporates a wide range of diversity (e.g. culture, religion, country of origin, reason for immigration, etc.) into the general social work spectrum. It injects social services with new knowledge and aims to develop intercultural competencies among social workers.

Since 2010, the Master Study Programme of Social Work at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Campus Linz has specialized in "Intercultural Social Work".

In 2011, the Platform for Intercultural Competencies at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria was founded. The platform combines the expertise of two university teams located in Linz (Social Work) and in Steyr (Global Sales and Management) and focuses its efforts both on research and teaching.

All social work programmes offered at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria are based on state-of-the-art scientific knowledge and comprise evidence based approaches. The main goal of the international research programme is to generate basic intercultural knowledge and to transfer it into evidence based approaches and programmes.

We are convinced that this particular International University Week programme offers plenty of opportunities to develop your intercultural competencies and we sincerely hope that you enjoy it!



Dagmar Strohmeier
Professor for Intercultural Competencies,
Head of the Platform in Linz



Programme Monday, March 31

9:00-12:30	12:30-14:00	14:00-17:30	Evening
<p>8:30 - 9:30 Morning Coffee & Registration for Workshops</p> <p>9:30 - 10:00 Welcome Addresses Room HS 1 Andreas Zehetner (Vice President) Martin Zauner (Dean) Marianne Gumpinger (Head of Studies Social Work) Dagmar Strohmeier & Iwona Wasilewska (Organizers)</p> <p>10:00 – 11:30 Opening Keynote Room HS 1 Christian Stark, Austria: “Intercultural Social Work”</p> <p>11:30 – 12:00 Evaluation Computer Labs</p>	Lunch break	<p>14:00 – 15:30 Workshops Sophie Wiesinger, Austria: “Leading multicultural teams” Room SR 203</p> <p>Bart Broos, Belgium: “Open family units for refugee families in Belgium” Room SR 205</p> <p>Ulrich Lakemann, Germany: “Experience based learning & intercultural communication” Room SR 207</p> <p>16:00 – 18:00 World Café Each SocNet98 partner university has a table and moveable wall to present their school, country and food (teachers & students) Aula</p>	<p>18:00 – 22:00 Welcome Reception “Austrian Finger Food” Aula</p>

Programme Tuesday, April 1

9:00-12:30	12:30-14:00	14:00-17:30	Evening
<p>9:00 – 10:30 Workshops Students from Bremen, Germany: “Migrations: Peoples’ life – our work” Room SR 203</p> <p>Jaap Bruijn, The Netherlands: “Developing multicultural sensitivity” Room SR 205</p> <p>Anders Larsen and Bo Møller Pedersen, Denmark: “Quality Management: Children with problems” Room SR 207</p> <p>11:00 – 12:30 Workshops Christine Haselbacher & students, Austria: “Marriage without borders” Room SR 203</p> <p>Charlotte Wekker, The Netherlands: “Strength of family networks” Room SR 205</p> <p>Brigitte Humer, Austria: “Stress patterns in communication” Room SR 207</p>	Lunch break	<p>14:00 – 15:30 Workshops Sebastian Sipoș-Gug & Ioana Sirbu, Romania: “REBE techniques in counseling” Room SR 203</p> <p>Saleh Mousavi, Norway: “Minority perspectives in a diverse society” Room SR 205</p> <p>Mia Dickmans & students, Belgium: “Super-Diversity as a challenge” Room SR 207</p> <p>15:45 – 17:30 Guided City Tour</p>	no programme

Programme Wednesday, April 2

9:00-12:30	12:30-14:00	14:00-17:30	Evening
<p>9:30 – 11:30 Field Visits Asylum: SOS Menschenrechte Migration: migrare Women & Migration: LENA Homelessness: ARGE Obdachlose</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>	<p>14:00 – 15:00 Lecture David Galley, United Kingdom: “Men in Social Work” Room HS 1</p> <p>15:30 – 17:00 Workshops Jana Gabrielová, Czech Republic: “Communication skills” Room SR 203</p> <p>Irmelin Kjelaas, Norway: “Communication of unaccompanied minor refugees and social workers” Room SR 205</p> <p>Students from Hasselt, Belgium: “Social what ...? Social Work in Belgium” Room SR 207</p> <p>only for MASTER students 15:30 – 16:30 Lecture Christian Stark, Austria: “Homeless in Austria” Room HS 2</p>	<p>no programme</p>

Programme Thursday, April 3

9:00-12:30	12:30-14:00	14:00-17:30	Evening
<p>9:00 – 10:30 Workshops Elisabeth Stefanek, Austria: “Fostering intercultural friendships” Room SR 203</p> <p>Astrid Hübner, Germany: “Working with volunteers” Room SR 205</p> <p>Sari Höylä, Finland: “Counseling skills” Room SR 207</p> <p>only for MASTER students 9:00 – 10:30 Workshop Students from Groningen, The Netherlands: “Social Work in the Netherlands” Room HS 2</p> <p>11:00 – 12:00 Lecture Jill Davey, United Kingdom: “Kinship care in England and Zululand” Room HS 1</p> <p>12:00 – 12:30 Evaluation Computer Labs</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>	<p>14:30 – 16:30 Field Visits Violence I: Gewaltschutzzentrum Violence II: NEUSTART Community Work: Franckviertel Addiction: pro Mente Suchtprävention</p>	<p>20:00 – open end Farewell Party</p>

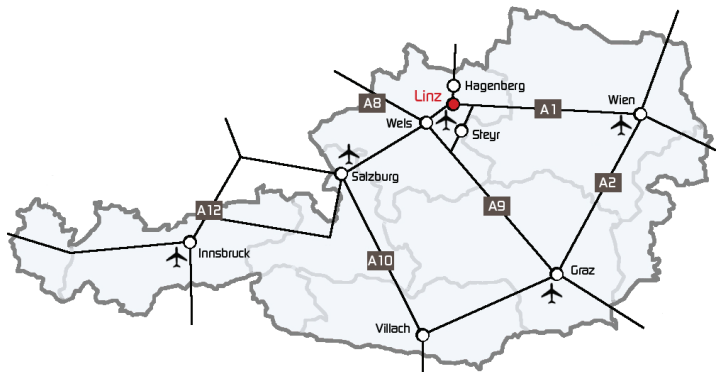
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria

The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria offers degree programmes at four campuses, each with a different focus:

Hagenberg: IT and Media
Linz: Applied Health and Social Sciences
Steyr: Management
Wels: Engineering

The School of Applied Health and Social Sciences offers degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level for Social Work, Medical Engineering, Social Services Management and Public Management.

More information:
www.fh-ooe.at/campus-linz



International Office at the Campus Linz

The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria cooperates with more than 200 partner universities worldwide. The International Office Linz is in charge of international relations between Linz Campus and our partner institutions on almost all continents. It promotes student and staff exchanges, and provides services for incoming as well as outgoing exchange students and staff. It is also responsible for the acquisition and administration of bilateral agreements with our partner universities, and is involved in internationalisation “at home” on our campus.

In order to apply as an exchange student, you need to be nominated by your home university. Therefore please contact the International Office at your home institution about the selection and nomination process first.

Please note, that at the moment, most of our study programmes – including Social Work - are mainly taught in German. Therefore, when applying, we require a B2 level of German language skills.

Another possibility to spend a longer period in Linz is to do a practical placement organised through the International Office Linz. Placements in English can be provided. The minimum stay is 2 months (Erasmus) up to 6 months. Traineeships in fields of youth work, asylum work and work with children are most common. In order to apply for a placement in Linz, please contact your international office.

For more information regarding an exchange semester or placement in Linz, please visit our webpage:
www.fh-ooe.at/international-office-linz



Contact

International Office Linz
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Katja Hofbauer



Petra Wagner



Dagmar Strohmeier

Research during the IUW 2014

What is the Evaluation Study all about?

International exchange has been identified as an important factor for the development of professions and disciplines. There are various possibilities for transnational knowledge sharing, for instance the participation in “International University Weeks (IUWs)” or similar student exchange programmes. Such events provide an opportunity for lecturers, students and practitioners from different countries to meet.

Research regarding the impact of international student exchange programmes is scarce, although some findings demonstrate that exchange programmes have a sustainable impact on participants’ self-perception, beliefs about others, their intercultural competences and their whole personality development.

The main goal of the evaluation study is to examine possible changes in different domains among Social Work students participating in the IUW.

All students are invited to participate in the evaluation study at two particular points in time: at the beginning (Monday, 11:30) and at the end (Thursday, 12:00) of the IUW.

The quality of the evaluation depends on your participation. Thank you so much for your help!

Opening Keynote

Intercultural Social Work

Christian Stark

Austria

**Vice-Dean for Research and Internationalisation
Head of Studies Master Degree Programme Social Work
Professor for Social Work
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Linz**



The keynote sets out some theories of intercultural competencies in Intercultural Social Work and discusses major controversies about the different concepts. The keynote is based on a dynamic definition of culture: Culture as social practice. Intercultural competence and an intercultural perspective are important for all areas of Social Work. Intercultural Social Work also implies an intercultural opening of organizations. The keynote discusses possible traps and draws attention to misleading understandings of culture practiced in some crash courses.

Lecturers & Abstracts



Leading multicultural teams

Sophie Wiesinger, Austria

Assistant Professor

Head of the Cross-Cultural Management and Emerging Markets Centre, Steyr University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Steyr

This workshop discusses cross-cultural differences and their impact on leading multicultural teams. Relevant findings from cross-cultural management research and implications of intercultural theories will be contrasted with the participants' cultural and (social) work experiences.



Open family units for refugee families in Belgium

Bart Broos, Belgium

Lector of Social Work

PXL University College, Hasselt

Since 2008 families forced to leave Belgium have lived in 'open family units' which consist of individual houses and apartments. Case managers/coaches support families during their residence and act as official intermediaries between the Belgian authorities and all other stakeholders. The coach proposes a voluntary (assisted) return scheme to the families and helps in surmounting any barriers impeding the return.



Experience based learning & intercultural communication

Ulrich Lakemann, Germany

Professor for Social Sciences

Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences, Jena

Outdoor training and experiential education are methods in Social Work and management, which follow the principle „learning by doing with head, heart and hand“. In this workshop the participants will learn the theoretical and practical basics of experiential education and outdoor-training. There are no background capabilities necessary for taking part at this workshop. Just do it and understand!



Migrations: Peoples' life – our work

Students from Bremen, Germany

University of Applied Sciences, Bremen

We would like to use our workshop as a platform for methodical and intercultural inter-communication. We will discuss different aspects, conditions and perspectives of Social Work on the topic of national migration policies in countries all over Europe and will practise methods of teamwork.

Developing multicultural sensitivity

Jaap Bruijn, The Netherlands

Senior Lecturer
Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen

You can only develop multicultural sensitivity if you dare to look at yourself in the mirror. Developing competencies and learn about other cultures is good, but it is not enough. Multicultural sensitivity means sensitivity, humanity and respect towards all men. This workshop pinpoints ways of integrating this knowledge into practice.



Quality Management: Children with problems

Anders Larsen & Bo Møller Pedersen, Denmark

Lecturers
University College Lillebaelt

This workshop presents aspects of quality management and legal control regarding the placement of children with problems. Steps necessary for a placement will be outlined and discussed.



Marriage without borders

Christine Haselbacher & students, Austria

Senior Lecturer
University of Applied Sciences, St. Pölten

Since 2006, the Austrian law has dramatically restricted bi-national couples in their means and ways of having a life together. The initiative “Marriage without Borders” is fighting against regulations which inhibit a joint family life. It is the initiative’s main objective to achieve equal rights for bi-national couples.



Strength of family networks

Charlotte Wekker, The Netherlands

Senior Lecturer
Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen

It is admirable how people succeed in carrying on with their lives despite major setbacks and experiences of loss. They often derive their strength to do so from their (extended) families. Migration can lead to the disruption of the customary channels in the families. Social health institutions and government agencies are advised to consider the strength of the extended family system. In the workshop participants connect with their own family strengths and develop what the strengths of other families are.





Stress patterns in communication

Brigitte Humer, Austria

Professor

University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Linz

This workshop focuses on the connection between stress patterns in communication, family background and self-worth. It provides theoretical and practical insights which might be helpful in dealing with clients in a counseling setting.



REBE techniques in counseling

Sebastian Sipos-Gug & Ioana Sirbu, Romania

PhD Candidates

University of Oradea & University of Bucharest

In this workshop we will present the Rational Emotive Behavioural Education (REBE) theoretical concepts, as well as apply some of the basic intervention techniques used in counseling. The main topics of the workshop will be the use of cognitive strategies, behavioural techniques and emotional coping strategies.



Minority perspectives in a diverse society

Saleh Mousavi, Norway

Assistant Professor

Telemark University College

In this workshop we will discuss the following topics: Minority & majority, culture - multicultural society/diversity, ethnocentrism & cultural relativism, self-confidence & mastering, & integration policy in Norway.



Super-Diversity as a challenge

Mia Dickmans & students, Belgium

Senior Lecturer

University College Leuven

More and more we live in a world of super-diversity, especially in our cities. But super-diversity is more than a quantitative difference; it's also about changing migration patterns, and especially the growing diversity within diversity. What challenges does this super-diversity pose to society and, more specifically, to Social Work?

Men in Social Work

David Galley, United Kingdom

Associate Lecturer
Bournemouth University

The research develops themes concerning masculinities, male roles in Social Work and barriers to a numerically gender balanced education. The research aims a) to collect perceptions of male students currently engaged in Social Work education, b) to analyse existing data on the gender balance of Social Work students in the UK. Research findings will expand and update the existing discourses on men as a minority in Social Work. Conclusions suggest the need for a revised pedagogy within the Social Work curriculum.



Communication in Social Work

Jana Gabrielová, Czech Republic

Post-doc Researcher
South Bohemia University, Ceske Budejovice

The workshop focuses on the topic of communication in Social Work. Communication is of particular importance in helping professions, including Social Work. The goal of the workshop is to acquaint students with the principles of effective communication with clients through practical exercises.



Communication of unaccompanied minor refugees and social workers

Irmelin Kjelaas, Norway

PhD Candidate
Telemark University College

This workshop focuses on the communication between unaccompanied minor refugees and social workers in a Norwegian child care institution. Through close analysis of both interactional and contextual features, the aim of my PhD thesis is to explore how these children's participation is interactively constructed in different types of institutional interaction.



Social what ...? Social Work in Belgium

Students from Belgium

PXL University College, Hasselt

We would like to use our workshop as a platform to talk about Social Work in Belgium, but related to the 13 different topics as proposed in the leaflet. Our group consists of 13 students and each of us will discuss briefly every topic related to the situation in Belgium.





ONLY for Master Students!

Homeless in Austria

Christian Stark, Austria

Professor for Social Work
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Linz

The lecture deals with the situation of homeless people in Austria. It gives a short overview of the reasons of homelessness and common prejudices concerning homeless people. The lecture focuses on the logic of the system of support for homeless people and its possibilities and limitations with a special view on participation of service users. Finally, the lecture describes the new concept "Housing First" and its first steps of realization in Austria.



Fostering intercultural friendships

Elisabeth Stefanek, Austria

Post-doc Researcher
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Linz

Growing up in culturally plural societies is becoming increasingly common for children and youth. The aim of this workshop is to identify factors on the individual and contextual level that foster intercultural friendships in youth centers and schools. Two theoretical approaches (Acculturation and Contact Theory) will be presented and their implications for intercultural friendship formations will be discussed.



Working with volunteers

Astrid Hübner, Germany

Professor for Youth Welfare
University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer

The number of people who do volunteer work in the fields of Intercultural Social Work is increasing. During the workshop we will talk about motivations and benefits for the volunteers as well as discuss the challenges and prospects in the collaboration between social workers and volunteers. We will discuss and compare the situations of the volunteers in your countries and your personal experiences.



Counseling skills

Sari Höylä, Finland

Senior Lecturer
Humak University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki

This workshop discusses practical skills needed in counselling work, the ethical questions in counseling, multicultural counseling, web-based counseling, and youth case work.

ONLY for Master Students!

Social Work in the Netherlands

Students from The Netherlands

Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen

An exploration of the social structure in the Netherlands with a specific look at homeless shelters, (youth) community work and child protection. We mainly focus on recovery methodology in collaboration with social networks as used in social work.



Kinship care in England and Zululand

Jill Davey, United Kingdom

Principal Lecturer
Bournemouth University

This research project develops case studies of kinship care in the South West of England and Zululand, South Africa, using an ethnographic methodological approach. The study explores the unique experiences of kinship carers' providing kinship care placements and considers the phenomenon of kinship care in the context of current UK and South African legislation, policy and Social Work. This lecture will explore some of the cross cultural issues for social workers.





Field Visits

Asylum: SOS Menschenrechte

SOS Menschenrechte is a nonprofit association concerned with human rights and humanitarian policy. Since the mid-1990s, it has run projects in the areas of refugee support, promotion of integration, legal counseling, and human rights education.

SOS Menschenrechte employs 25 team members, 2 people doing their alternative national service and enjoys the assistance of a large number of volunteers in its various projects.

<http://www.sos.at>

Migration: migrare - Zentrum für MigrantInnen OÖ

Migrare is a center for migrants that offers free multilingual counseling on a large variety of issues relevant to migration and integration. It runs projects fostering integration and focuses all its activities on creating equal opportunities for all citizens and viewing immigration as an enrichment for society. Migrare is run by a fairly large team of multilingual, multicultural experts and counselors and supported largely by federal government agencies.

<http://www.migrare.at>

Women: LENA

LENA is a counseling center for people who currently work or have previously worked in sexual services. It offers its clients help with organizing their public life (health, social and legal matters) as well as confidential support in personal matters. LENA is part of the Caritas Austria, which receives funds from private donations, governmental subsidies or cost refunds (social work), different EC funds and other international donors.

<http://www.caritas-linz.at>

Homelessness: ARGE Obdachlose

The Association for the Homeless is a private association run and financed by 30 active members. It provides assistance to people affected by or in danger of experiencing unemployment and homelessness. The association aims to stabilize its clients' personalities by fostering their self-determined participation in public life and equal opportunities for men and women. Its services include mobile support, prevention of eviction, and the provision of structured daily activities of an occupational nature.
<http://www.arge-obdachlose.at>



Violence I: Gewaltschutzzentrum

The Intervention Agency of the Violence Protection Center Upper Austria was opened in 1998 and is financed by the Austrian government. It employs 12 counselors, among them lawyers, psychologists, social workers and sociologists.

The Intervention Agency contacts victims of violence after an abuser has been turned away from the common household and a barring order has been issued. It actively offers its counseling services in an effort to empower victims and to assist them in reestablishing a self-determined lifestyle.

www.gewaltschutzzentrum.at

Violence II: NEUSTART

The organization NEUSTART has made it its mission to provide help and solutions in coping with the problems of criminality and its consequences. Its objective is to support clients in developing personal goals and constructive crisis management skills. NEUSTART helps clients handle their - often traumatically experienced - past, so that they can cope with the present, find a way out of their isolation and develop a positive perspective on the future. Its goal is the successful integration of both victim and offender thereby providing a service to society as a whole. NEUSTART employs 547 professionals. 62 % female (65.1 % of them part time employees). 971 persons work voluntarily, 59.5 % are female. The organization is largely financed by the Austrian government.

<http://www.neustart.at>



Field Visits

Community Work: Stadtteilzentrum Franckviertel

“Stadtteilzentrum Franckviertel” (District Center Franckviertel) is part of the municipal administration of Linz and fosters community work in this particular urban district. The center seeks direct contact with the people in order to assist them in voicing their ideas and finding ways of implementing them. It coordinates the efforts of the social, cultural and medical facilities in the area in its effort to enhance quality of life for all in the community and to support families in particular.

<http://portal.linz.gv.at>

Addiction: Institute for the prevention of addictions and drug abuse

The „institute for the prevention of addictions and drug abuse“ was founded in 1994 as part of pro mente Upper Austria in Linz and is nearly entirely financed by the Upper Austrian Federal Government. The 30-member team consists of psychotherapists, continuing adult education trainers, pedagogues, psychologists and communication scientists, sociologists, social scientists and social workers.

The institute aims to minimize the problems and damage arising from the use of psychoactive substances and in the context of addiction. This is to be achieved by medium-term and long-term preventive activities. A resulting sub-goal is the general increase of constitutional behavior. In addition, the institute wants to sensitize the general population to the issue of addiction and to inform them about the preconditions for the development of addictions and possible preventive measures.

<http://www.praevention.at>

Notes



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