

Diversity and Innovation
in European Social Work and Welfare States
17th International University Week
April 20th - 24th, 2015

Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work, Jena (Germany)

Abstracts (under construction)

1. Experience based learning/education and outdoor training

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Lakemann, Jena (G);

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. Theoretical inputs and practical exercises will alternate. Especially interaction-games will allow a first practical insight into the method. There are no background capabilities necessary for taking part at this workshop. Just do it and understand!

2. Migration and Transcultural Society

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Behlert, Jena (G),

Germany as other European countries are countries of immigration. The current streams of migration lead to new discussion in the sociology of migration. Traditional knowledge begins to totter. For example, migration often seems to be reduced as a crisis. However, migration does not need necessarily to a loss of the own identity. In fact migration can foster the development of trans-cultural identities which are characterized by an advantage with regard to intercultural and social competence compared to mono-cultural identities. This new insight has implications for social work policies and methods with regard to migrants which are not deficit oriented any longer. In this workshop we will discuss this new approach and will develop practical strategies for an appropriate social work.

3. Social work with disabled people - actual changes due to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Prof. Dr. Arne von Boetticher, Jena (G)

There are approximately 650 Mio. people with disabilities in the world, but in only about 45 states there are explicit rules about the protection of rights of disabled people. The general assembly of the United Nations therefore adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in December 2006. The convention has so far been signed by 159 states ("states parties"), 151 of them have also ratified it to make it legally binding within their country (<http://www.un.org/disabilities>).

In the workshop we want to have a closer look, how “disability” is defined in the convention, what are its major aims and get an overview, what kind of rights and what standards the UN convention guarantees. We will compare/contrast this to how the rights of disabled people are protected in Germany and in the countries of the students participating in the workshop (you are welcome to bring along an idea, how this works in your county!) – and what processes/ changes are to be seen in the social work with people with disabilities as a result of the convention. In Germany e.g. there is a shift concerning social service. Currently social service for people with disabilities are often connected with the institution, they live in. They get paid to care for the inhabitants. The new approach is to strengthen the self-determination of the disabled person by granting her/him a certain amount of hours of professional service leaving her/him to decide which provider of social service shall do the job, so whether she/he wants it to be done by one single provider or to have a mix.

4. Citizenship and participation

Birgit Goris, lecturer, Centre for citizenship and participation, KHU Leuven (B)

Based on a belief in the strengths of the client and the strengths of the network of this client, socialization of care places the client and his or her network in the center of social work interventions. In this session we want to elaborate on the opportunities and challenges of this tendency and link it with the idea of experiential expertise and citizen science.

5. Family Group Conference

Prof. Mag^a (FH) DSA Christine Haselbacher, St. Pölten (A)

‘Widen the circle’ and ‘Ask the family’ is what Family Group Conferences intend to do. Instead of the social worker it is the family and the wider network of a person, who are responsible to find their own solutions for their own problems.

This family-led planning model has its origin in New Zealand, spread over many countries of Europe, and other parts of the world. The analysis also showed that the model is about more than only User Involvement. It has interactive effects on the empowerment of people. It points out the need for flexibility in the organization of help and building networks. Beside the human and the children’s rights to which Family Group Conference refers there are also other theoretical basics of social work involved, such as there are participation and concepts of human autonomy. In the workshop we will get to know the model and do some practical exercises.

6. Supported Education: the need for collaboration between mental health care and Education

Jelco Caro, Lecturer & Projectcoördinator Rehabilitatie-Begeleid Leren, Groningen (NL)

Most psychiatric disorders become manifest for the first time between the age of 17 and 23 years. Usually the result is that the educational development is being interrupted, or even finishes forever. Which in turn means that a development towards (paid) work will stagnate.

Many young people with serious psychiatric problems who want to continue their education, or start a training program, consider this (too) difficult a task.

This is a problem, since today having a degree has become almost a necessity.

Supported Education focuses on the guidance of young people with a psychiatric condition in exploring, choosing, obtaining and also maintaining a regular (vocational) education and is based on the vision and method of the The Individual Rehabilitation Approach (IRB). The IRB is a commonly used method in the Netherlands to help people with severe mental illness.

Supported Education meets the need of the Mental Health Care to help young people with a psychiatric disorder with (again) following a course and with respect to the educational system it provides for the prevention of early school leave by youth with psychiatric problems.

The main topic of this workshop is the collaboration between education and mental health care. How do, in your own experience, these parties work together? Or are they perhaps interfering? In what way and when exactly? In order to learn from each other, during the workshop the sharing of these experiences will be key.

7. Experience based learning/education and outdoor training (closed group, workshop No. 1)

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Lakemann, Jena (G)

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. Theoretical inputs and practical exercises will alternate. Especially interaction-games will allow a first practical insight into the method. There are no background capabilities necessary for taking part at this workshop. Just do it and understand!

8. Integration through Exchange - Transnational Exchanges as a new chance for disadvantaged and unemployed youth

Dipl.Sozpäd. Antje Schlemmer, Jena (G);

Transnational exchanges are quite popular to enhance competences of already high educated young people, e.g. Erasmus, Workcamps, voluntary services. Especially disadvantaged young people seem to be out of the reach in those programs. The ESF-program "IdA – Integration through Exchange" offers these young people a new perspective to increase their social and occupational skills and their chances on the labor market. The workshop will focus on current issues about disadvantaged and unemployed youth in Europe and Germany and present the ideas and outcomes of the "IdA"-program. Furthermore a tool-box for successful transnational work with disadvantaged target groups with theoretical inputs and intercultural exercises will be given.

9. The family networks and its contribution and support to the family members

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marta Ortega Gaspar, Universidad de Málaga (ESP)

One of the most important social functions of the family is to satisfy the care needs of its dependent members.

All over the world, the family, and specially the woman, has been the main responsible of the care.

We would like to offer an overview of the relevant social function of the family networks in Spain. We will focus on the case study of Málaga (Andalucía, in the South of Spain).

10. Poverty: is being poor a choice or not?

Iris Tilkin, Faculty of Social Work PXL Hasselt, (B)

- Theory about poverty and empowerment of people
- The circle of poverty and how to break it
- Fighting poverty and poverty reduction
- Workshop and poverty-game: how to live in a poor or rich world

→ Theoretical inputs and practical exercises will alternate

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12. Young people's participation in local decision-making.

Katja Munter, Senior Lecturer, and Juha Makkonen, Education Manager Humak University of Applied Sciences (SF)

The workshop deals with active citizenship and youth participation. We will tell how active citizenship appears in the Finnish Youth Act, and our examples tell about the inclusion of young people. Those who participate in the workshop will have a possibility to take different roles and identify themselves with the young people using drama methods.

13. Social Work with youth at risk – street work

Dipl.Sozpäd. Sandy Hildebrandt/Dipl.Sozpäd. Danny Hildebrandt, Jena (G),

- Theoretical basis of streetwork (acceptance, outreach, critical partiality)
- Brief history of streetwork as a method of social work in Germany
- Target-groups and issues of contemporary streetwork
- Standards in practice
- Possibilities and limits of streetwork
- Obstacles in streetwork (trust, reliability, closeness vs. distance; repression vs. understanding)

14. Social Work with the Elderly and Families (in the afternoon field visit)

Prof. Dr. Michael Opielka/Sozpäd. Theresa Hilse/ Sozpäd. Dorothea Petrich, Jena (G)

Central topics of the workshop are: dementia, family care and care concepts in case of dementia. We want to discuss this themes based on a research project and practical experience in social work. The speakers present some project ideas and conceptual approaches for dementia care models. In the end we want to think about opportunities of social work in support of caring families in the case of dementia. In the afternoon we want to start to a field visit.

15. Healthy Teaching and Learning

Prof. Dr. Georg Neubauer/Martin Staats. Sozpäd (BA)

The workshop gives insights of our work in healthy teaching and learning in our department of Social Work. Four colleagues of our department founded the Centre of Healthy Teaching and Learning to broaden working and students life of healthy thinking and living.

In the workshop we will give some examples and have some practical exercises, for example Qi Gong or other recreation technics.

In the afternoon we will visit AGETHUR in Weimar, the Thuringia organization of health promotion or health promotion of AOK Plus in Erfurt.

16. Social work with ex-prisoners - Polish experience

Prof. UKSW Dr. hab. Anna Fidelus, Warsaw (P) (please note: workshop will partly held in German language)

The presentation is going to be devoted to the analysis of the situation of incarcerated individuals, in particular in reference to initiatives aimed at preparing convicts for life in the community, following their discharge. It will present information related to specific solutions implemented both in the penitentiary and post-release. It will give an overview of the current state of Polish legislation regulating the status of inmates, as well as referring to their functioning following their release from incarceration. It will present social solutions, the activity of Churches and selected NGOs working in the area of the process of social reintegration of convicted individuals.

17. Participation – A way to include or to oblige the unemployed in the production and development of employment services?

D.Soc.Sc Erkki Saari, Senior lecture, Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Vantaa (SF)

The workshop will focus on issues related to the participation of the unemployed and researchers in the production and development of employment services that has become popular topic during last two decades as well in Finland and as in other EU countries. The workshop affords opportunity for the participants to discuss how the participation of the unemployed and researchers works as a way to include, not as a way to oblige, the unemployed in the production and development of employment services. We try to answer in the workshop for example to the following question: How is it possible to include the unemployed in the production and development of employment services without entrusting them with responsibility to manage on their own?

18. Ethical dimensions of social work practice

Dr. Iris Kohlfürst, Faculty of Social Work, Linz

It is characteristic for professional social work to determine its own ethics and values, which function as a benchmark for professional behaviour. As social work is closely linked to the welfare system of a state and its political and economic circumstances, it is not often easy or even possible to implement the professional ethics. In this workshop we will reflect on the values and standards of social work and how these are (or can be) part of everyday work.

19. Young people's participation in local decision-making

Katja Munter, Senior Lecturer, Juha Makkonen, Education Manager Humak University

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20. The beauty and the beast. Social work between self-optimization and autonomy

Morten M. Gloy

Social work constantly has to face a performance-demanding society. The lines between private life and work life are blurred - flexibility, mobility and employability became the main forms of govern mentality. Moreover the conservative welfare state became more and more oppressive and controlling. These developments enhance the ambivalence of the social setting for social workers and their clients. Based on this analysis we'll work out an agenda of empowerment and autonomy in a changing world.

21. Behind socialization and emancipation. Reconciling our common perspectives on learning.

Dr. Frank Cockx, lector/researcher KHU Leuven (B)

Today (especially in Western countries) we live in a very complex society. Processes of globalization and individualization are influencing every body's life as never seen in history. New technologies, new identities, other ways of thinking about community,... are constantly part of shaping our lives and the way we live our lives. Based on intensive empirical biographical research in relation to the common ideas of learning, I reveal some options for a new perspective on facilitating learning for professionals.

22. The Basics of Conflict Management & Mediation

Prof. Dr. iur. Thomas Trenczek, M.A. (Jena/Hannover; Germany)

Conflicts are normal, they appear in every kind of live situation, at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, ... Conflicts very often seem to be unpleasant and irritating, but most people do not know how to deal with them in a constructive way.

Mediation is a process in which the parties to a dispute, with the assistance of a neutral third party (the mediator), identify the disputed issues, develop options, consider alternatives and endeavor to reach an agreement. The mediator has no advisory or determinative role in regard to the content of the dispute or the outcome of its resolution, but may advise on or determine the process of mediation whereby resolution is attempted. Mediation is an universal dispute management method used in different conflict areas like commercial and workplace disputes, family disputes, in personal injuries and damage of property, community and neighborhood disputes, even in criminal conflicts.

In this workshop Prof. Trenczek will introduce the basic philosophy of conflict management and mediation as a so called alternative dispute resolution technique. Students will learn something about conflict and conflict resolution, their own conflict behavior as well as perform some mediation exercises. The workshop is held in English.

23. Social Work with youth at risk – street work in Jena (field visit related to workshop 13)
24. Social Work with the Elderly and Families (field visit workshop 14, others welcomed)
25. Healthy Teaching and Learning (related to workshop 15, others welcome) <i>Prof. Dr. Georg Neubauer/Martin Staats, Sozpäd. BA</i>
26. Education and social issue <i>Aino Kiis, lecturer; Tallinn University (Estonia)</i> Education is an extremely important social issue — “The great social importance of education is underscored, too, by the fact that when a society is shaken by a crisis, this often is taken as a sign of educational breakdown; ...” (Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy). Education is also a very important individual-level socio-demographic determinant and it has a strong linkage to the employment status and income, personal autonomy, inclusion or exclusion in the society, poverty and delinquent behaviour. Education has two sides – quantity and quality; while quantitative indicators (early school leavers, tertiary attainment rate) are quite easy to measure and present, it is much more difficult to measure qualitative outcomes.
27. Student Social World/Work Marketplace Students get the chance to present a poster, to demonstrate their professional interest, to seek support with regard to a proposal (e.g. for a BA thesis) or to present their results and findings