

Social Work in Changing Times

**13th International University Week
April 3rd - 8th, 2011**

Hochschule Bremen, University of Applied Sciences – School of Social Work

Organized within: SocNet98 – European Network of Universities/Schools of Social Work

Social Work in Changing Times

Hochschule Bremen's School of Social Work will be hosting one of the 9th International University Weeks during April 3rd – 8th 2011.

The organizing team kindly invites social work students from all European countries as well as university teachers to participate within this international program. We especially call for participation of universities within our SocNet98 network but also would like to encourage students, researchers, lecturers and social workers from other backgrounds to be part of this week.

The IUW 2011 will focus on different aspects of social work in our current societies and changing times. Changes in society, culture, social policy, profession, life span, methodology and many other areas challenge us to make up our minds and look for adequate concepts and decisions. Under the umbrella topic of change, this IUW includes workshops, field-related excursions as well as social activities and offers a chance to visit Bremen and the north west of Germany. Currently we calculate to invite about 50 visiting and 50 local students as well as about 15 lecturers for workshops.

First ideas of the organizing team:

Program highlights should include:

- A welcome café for the students and lecturers that arrive already on Sunday evening
- A two days workshop program (lecturers from universities and practical social work)
- Excursions to social work institutions
- Field trip to the "Nordic" Germany
- Time to spend in the city of Bremen
- Parties and cultural program
- Good food
- Nice people
- Enough time to meet each other

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Hochschule Bremen's School of Social Work is member of the European Association of School of Social work (EASSW)



Workshops for Tues 5th and Wed 6th April 2011: (in alphabetical order)

1. Dr. Sylke Bartmann (FH Emden): *Biography and Social Work*

Biographical work is connected to memories and it focuses the resources of people. One purpose of the biographical method is a better understanding of the own life history and an awareness of the potential of change and of consistency. The central aim of the workshop is an introduction to the concept of biography and the different methods.

2. Dietmar Benter (Hochschule Bremen): *Probation Services and Forensics in Open and Residential Settings*

This Workshop is situated around the Probation Services of Bremen that are working with adult offenders. The focus will be laid on how open and residential settings of probation services can be organised, carried out and compared according to the professional and ethical standards of social work. The workshop includes an accompanied visit to the local probation services in Bremen.

3. Hilde Bloemen (KH Leuven): "Radical Social Work: Theory and Practice" with inputs on "Migration and Social Work" and "Special Youth Care in Changing Times" as examples and challenges. Social work has a radical and critical tradition. Promoting social change and social justice in the current neo-liberal and neo-capitalistic practice context seems not evident. The first day of the workshop deals with the question what the challenges of radical social work are today. What do indignation, critical reflection and structural practice mean in social work education? On the second day there will be workshops on "Migration and Social Work" and "Special Youth Care in Changing Times" that are held by students from KH Leuven and take the question on Critical and Radical Social Work into fields of concrete practice.

4. Prof. Dr. Birgit Bütow (FH Jena) / Prof. Dr. Christian Spatscheck (HS Bremen): *Social Space Analysis/Ethnography in Public Space.*

By following methods of social space analyses (peer group grids, needle method, etc.) and ethnographic methods like participant observations or interviews we try to catch some impressions of the different life worlds and opinions of young people in Bremen. To get a deeper insight we try visit the places young people meet and look for direct voices and impressions. The workshop also deals with the question, how spatial and ethnographic data can be integrated into the development of concepts for social work and youth work.

5. Fillip Cousse, PhD (Gent University): *Youth Work as Field of Social Work*

Throughout Europe we observe a complex youth work field. There are many definitions of youth work. This reflects the huge diversity in methods, areas and target groups. There are also dilemmas to live up to. On the one hand, the aim to increase the participation in youth work has led to a very differentiated and diverse field. On the other hand, this differentiation led to the reinforcement of already existing dividing lines between young people. In many cases youth policymakers and practitioners try to eliminate all tensions in youth work practice. History however teaches us that the *social* aspect of youth work in that case will be eliminated itself. In this workshop we make a case for the *resocialisation* of youth work, arguing that the most important question is NOT how to lead young people into youth work, but rather how young people can and may be present in society.

6. Dr. Anne-Françoise Dequiré (EEST Lille, Ecole Européenne en Travail Social): *Social Workers confronted with new Exclusion: Which Policies for which Counselling?*

Exclusion phenomena are more and more common throughout Europe. In France, 80.000 individuals, of whom 16.000 are under age, are regarded to be homeless. New groups with

several social issues (working poors, young people, over-indebted people among elderly population and women victims of domestic abuse) will be now living in the street along with the traditional “tramps”. This Workshop is about assessing social assistance policies that are dealing with the public phenomena of exclusion and a comparison of how different care services work.

7. Christine Haselbacher (FH St. Pölten): KIDS Strengths – Kids in the Context of Mental Disorders. A skill training to empower Teachers, Health Professionals and Social Workers

“KIDS strengths” promotes resilience processes of children and adolescents in the context of mentally vulnerable parents. In the workshop we will try a method to work with the vulnerable parents “Let’s talk about children”, which was originally implemented in Finland. We will have experiences in role plays as well with parents as with children. Also we will handle with the Resilience Map, examine a lot of resources and methodological files.

8. Stefanie Hüner, M.A. (Hochschule Bremen): *How much Commitment do you give to your Workplace? – Psychological Contracts within in Social Work Employment Situations*

Psychological contracts describe the expectations and obligations that are reciprocally perceived between employees and organisations. They reach beyond legal employment contracts, rest upon shared agreements and are not formally defined. Injuries of psychological contracts can cause bullying, burn-out-syndrome or inner cancellation. The current flexibilisation of the labour market and the welfare state has caused changes in the structures of employment situations in social work and the arrangement of psychological contracts. This workshop takes a look on psychological contracts, work conditions, their change and job satisfaction in employment situations in social work. After some basic information, this workshop aims to develop research questions and to go on field visits and to carry out interviews with social workers in and around Bremen about their psychological contracts and their strategies to cope with difficult work conditions.

9. Wytse Kater (Hanze Hogeschool Groningen): *Approaches to work with Multi Problem Families in The Netherlands*

There is a (conservative) movement in Dutch society that supports strongly the personal responsibility of every individual on themes like living in the neighborhood, employability, education of children etc... Dutch citizens (as West-European and American) tend to be free and self-supporting. On the other hand, when people are not able to adapt to society in different ways (like multi problem families) there are tendencies to plan more legal and societal rules and restrictions for people who do not adapt. This happens while in the contrary several studies have proved that ‘changing people in complex situations’ can only be successful with the approach of the social worker who is listening, caring, present and who is in contact with clients in a normative way. In this workshop we will have a vivid discussion of the thoughts, methods and results of helping ‘Multi problem families’ in Europe.

10. Sonia Paone, PhD (University of Pisa – Faculty of Political Science): *Rhetoric and Practices of Participation*

The workshop explores the different dimensions of direct participation of citizens in the organization of urban spaces, with particular reference to the Italian experience. The first part of the workshop analyses the critical aspects of traditional models of intervention in the territory (Traditional Urban Planning). The second part, through specific examples, highlights the limitations and potentiality of the participatory model for territory governance

11. Prof. Dr. Gabriele Schäfer (Hochschule Bremen): *The Impact of Gender and Culture on Conflict Resolution*

The workshop will focus on conflict and conflict resolution in the context of interpersonal communication. Participants will learn about types and phases of conflict. Furthermore they

will be introduced to the impact of gender and culture on conflict resolution and effective communication options in conflict situations.

12. David Urban, PhD (University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice): *The Identity of Social Work – Social Work in Changing Times*

Social work is an interdisciplinary oriented profession. The social worker is often cooperating with experts in other professions (medical doctors, psychologists, priests, etc.). This workshop aims to highlight the identity of social work. It shows the properties of social work in team collaborations and also their limitations. With this position, the role of the social worker will be more clearly defined for mutual cooperation in inter-professional teams.

13. Tabitha Wright Nielsen / Helene Lahti Edmark (Lund University): *Empowerment, Mobilization and User Groups in Social Work – Practice and Education*

The workshop will focus on theory and methods of social mobilization of marginalized groups in society: Empowerment, social mobilization and the participation of user groups. The focus will be on how to understand and develop these methods in practice as well as the education of social work.

For the choice of the workshops we ask to tell us a first and a second wish. We try to give all the first wishes, if a workshop should be over- or underbooked, we then would give the a second wish as alternative.

All workshops are held for full 1,5 days

We are looking forward to having you as guests in Bremen.

On behalf of the organizing team at HS Bremen,

Prof. Dr. Christian Spatscheck, Corinne Ghorbani, Andreas Kramer and 25 active students.

Social Work in Changing Times – IUW Bremen 2011, HS Bremen, School of Social Work

	SUN, 3rd	MON, 4th	TUE, 5th	WED, 6th	THU, 7th	FRI, 8th	
9:00-10:00		9:00 Breakfast at HS Bremen?			9.30-12 Bremen Day	Closing and Farewell	
10.00-12.00		10:00-12:00 -Welcome -Ice Breaker -Fair	10.00-12.00: Workshops	10.00-12.00: Workshops	9.30-12 Bremen Day		
		lunch at Mensa between 12.30 to 13.30					lunch 12.30
13.30-17.00	Arrival in Bremen in the	Town Rallye	13.30-17.00: Workshops	14:00-17:00 Excursions	14-18 Bremen Day		

	afternoon Welcome					
		International Evening – Buffet			Party	