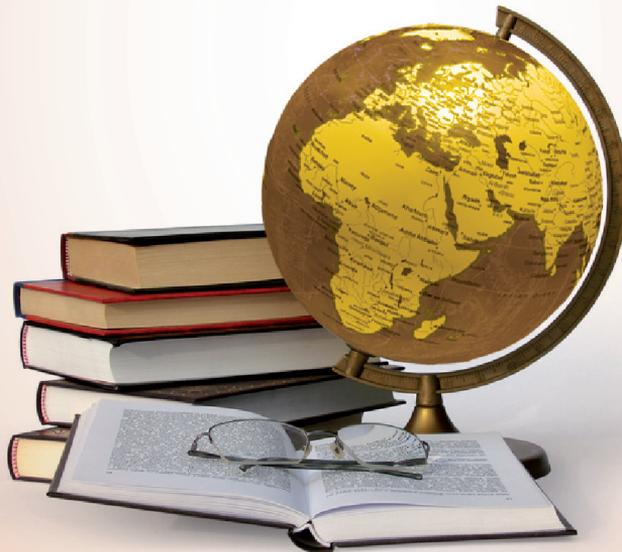


Andreas Baldschun, Anne-Mari Jaakola,
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CONSTRUCTING EUROPEAN SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL WORK IN THE MIDST OF DIVERSE TRADITIONS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS
6. ERIS-CONFERENCE 10-12 OCTOBER 2012 IN KUOPIO**



ERIS Materials
Volume 1

Book of Abstracts

6th ERIS Conference

10–12 October 2012 in Kuopio

**Constructing European Social Welfare and Social
Work in the Midst of Diverse Traditions, Policies
and Practices**

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Publisher ERIS

Print:
Kopijyvä oy
Kuopio

Published in 2012 by ERIS

ISBN: 978-80-7464-165-7

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General information

Venue

The conference will be held at the University of Eastern Finland. The conference facilities are located at the Kuopio campus, Medistudia building, Yliopistoranta 1 A, 70211 Kuopio, Finland.

Conference office

The conference office is located in room MR2 in the Medistudia building. It is open during academic sessions. Here, you can obtain the conference material and the book of abstracts, and you can receive help for any requests that you may have. You can also keep your travel bag here, if necessary.

Evening reception

Kuopio city offers an evening reception for conference participants. The venue of the reception is Kuopio City Hall, Tulliportinkatu 31, near the marketplace. The reception starts at 20:30 and is free for conference participants who have registered for the event.

Cocktail party

The cocktail party takes place on Thursday evening at 1715 in the facilities of the Department of Social Sciences, Snellmania building, 3rd floor, entrances 1E and 1D. The fee for the party is included in the conference fee; however, participants need to pre-register for this event.

Internet access

Wireless Internet access is available at the University of Eastern Finland. Use the following information to log in:

Network: uef-meeting

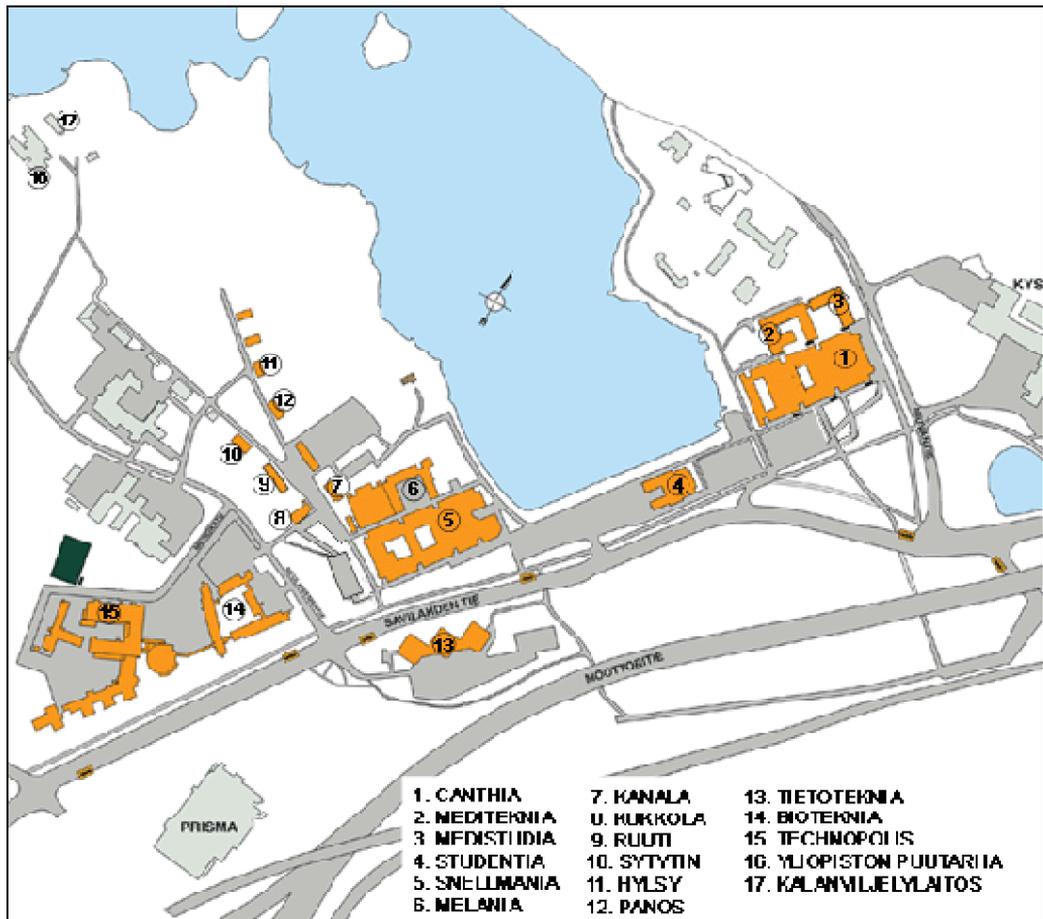
Password: eris20121010

Public transport connections to Kuopio and Kuopio campus

Kuopio is located in the eastern part of Finland, some 380 kilometres northeast of Helsinki. Kuopio can be easily reached by air via Helsinki, and several train and coach connections are available every day from Helsinki, Tampere, and Turku as well as from other cities in Finland.

Within the city of Kuopio, the local busses 4, 16, 21, 23, and 48 depart from the city centre and drive past the university campus.

Campus map



Preface

Constructing European Social Welfare and Social Work in the Midst of Diverse Traditions, Policies and Practices

Constructing European social welfare and social work in the midst of diverse traditions, policies, and practices is a major challenge for those involved in this process. A common European social welfare and social work is still far from being realized, and what level it could be implemented on remains unclear. The traditions and practices of social work across Europe vary to a very large extent, and efforts for adjusting processes differ enormously. This conference will present current trends and challenges in this field and discuss opportunities and barriers to constructing a 'European Social Model'.

The efforts toward constructing standardised social welfare and social work in a merging Europe are influenced by theoretical discussions as well as by political decisions. The main topics address the changes of target groups caused by demographic developments, a growing European Union with growing immigration, and the influence of the financial crisis. Cuts in services and subsidies in one area are faced by increasing needs in other areas constructing social welfare and social work under these conditions makes it necessary to find a balance between financial resources and professional needs while simultaneously meeting the needs of service recipients.

This conference will feature Finnish and European keynote speakers, and guests are invited to present their ideas in English-speaking workshops, where the topics cover theoretical standpoints, research perspectives, and practical issues. One feature of the programme is to debate current trends and efforts in con-

structuring European social welfare and social work. Another aspect will be approaching the answers to specific key questions such as the following:

- How well are the requirements of a 'European Social Model' already being met?
- What are the differences around Europe?
- What are the main tasks involved in social work that need to be mastered for the future?
- What is the role of comparative research in this area?

Greetings by Rector Perttu Vartiainen, University of Eastern Finland

On behalf of the University of Eastern Finland, UEF, it is my pleasure to say a few welcoming words at this opening session of the 6th International European Research Institute for Social Work -Conference – Constructing European Social Welfare and Social Work in the Midst of Diverse Traditions, Policies and Practices.

The theme of the conference is very topical both from a wider European and a local point of view. Locally, I would like to highlight two special characteristics of our own region, i.e. eastern Finland, in this wider European context.

First, this region is part of the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas where the problems of an ageing population are extremely visible already today. Moreover, because of the scattered settlement structure, the rapidly growing demand for social and health care services is challenging to organize in a cost-effective way. This is an extremely difficult task in a situation where cuts of public spending and a structural reform of service systems seem to be unavoidable.

Second, eastern Finland is located at the external border region of the EU towards Russia. In consequence, cross-border issues such as immigration and cross-border marriages pose a special challenge to social care and social work especially in the borderland parts of the region.

I will take the opportunity to very shortly describe our new university in its current state, and also the role of social sciences in our research and teaching efforts.

In the beginning of 2010, two - at that time both of them by and large 40 years old –institutions, the University of Kuopio and the University of Joensuu,

merged to constitute a new multidisciplinary university with 15,000 students in degree programmes. Additionally, we have 18,000 part-time students, mostly adults, in our Open University courses and continuing education programmes.

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies is one of the four faculties of the university, and the only one operating on all three of campuses of the university. Besides the departments of social sciences and business studies, the faculty also comprises disciplines like law, geography and history. Traditionally in Finland law forms a faculty of its own, while geography and history are not included in social sciences in a more narrow sense. Social work and health management have traditionally been two core areas of social sciences here at the Kuopio Campus.

The new University of Eastern Finland is one of the largest universities in Finland and it has extensive international relations. The university has a strong research profile especially in its main areas of expertise and it takes a special interest in promoting regional development in the eastern part of Finland.

Consequently, the University of Eastern Finland has a special duty in research and study programmes related to the social and economic conditions of its surrounding area. At the same time, it is a research-intensive university which is part of an international academic community. These two aims are fulfilled by a twofold strategy where we offer a large spectrum of undergraduate programmes for serving the regional and national labour market needs, while in our research mission and doctoral education we emphasize certain multidisciplinary areas of expertise, like health and welfare issues here at the Kuopio Campus or educational sociology and border studies at the Joensuu Campus.

I hope that this conference will be a good platform for comparative research and exchange of ideas in a situation where we need more rather than less cooperation within our common European area. I would like to warmly welcome you to this conference on behalf of the University of Eastern Finland!

Greetings by Professor Oldrich Chytil, Chairman of ERIS

Dear Rector,

On behalf of ERIS, I thank you for organizing the 6th ERIS Conference at the University of Eastern Finland.

Ladies and gentlemen,

ERIS was founded in 2007 by the following universities:

University of Ostrava

Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

University of Hertfordshire

Catholic University of Lille

University of Eastern Finland

Trnava University

Catholic University of Applied Sciences of Nord Rhine Westphalia

At present, the following Associate Members cooperate with ERIS:

Hochschule Landshut

FH Vorarlberg

Università degli studi di Trento

Hochschule Bremen

The mission of the Institute is to carry out high-quality funded research projects involving the Institute's European partners and to produce European-funded teaching and learning materials for social work and social care programmes.

The objective of this year's conference, held for the first time on the site of an ERIS founding member in Finland, is a discussion about multifarious traditions, multifarious policy, and practice at constituting the social state and social work in Europe.

The tradition and practices of social work and social policy across Europe are truly diverse. However, what we all have in common are the following problems. All over Europe, there is pressure on restricting and destructing the social state, justified by emphasizing the fact that the extensiveness of social expenditure causes increasing indebtedness of the states. Yet, the problem is that the currently most indebted countries are those European countries that allow the lowest social expenditure among all. In contrast, Scandinavian countries, which are indeed generous as regards social spending, do not stand on the edge of bankruptcy even though the public sector remains significant in them and the state has a very strong influence on social welfare issues.

In my view, another problem is that social work does not sufficiently reflect the fact that the social context has been noticeably changed through processes which occur simultaneously and are mutually reinforcing. Moreover, these processes occur in an altered external environment, brought about by the globalization process. According to the Czech sociologist Keller, these processes are as follows:

1) Changes of the Labour Market (a part of which is so-called labour flexibilisation)

Labour flexibilisation means that instead of standard full labour contracts, partial and short-term contracts with limited working hours are preferred, and there is a growing tendency of abandoning the classic employment relationship in favour of freer relationships between the firm and formally independent contractors and subcontractors. Both result in transferring an ever-growing part of market insecurity from firms to employees or subcontractors. Labour flexibilisation decreases the unemployment rate optimally while the proportion of low-paid employees increases, increasing the risk that the earnings of an economi-

cally active person will oscillate on the verge of poverty. In this manner, a phenomenon referred to as 'working poverty' originates. The minimum security on the part of the social state is subject to the willingness to accept any job, even an underpaid job.

2) Increasing Fragility of Family

Another phenomenon is family flexibilisation, which is manifested by the increasing divorce rate and rising proportion of incomplete families and single-mother households, which are more endangered by poverty than households with two incomes. Family flexibilisation is much riskier for women than for men, and the question is whether weakening the social state will lead to increasing social decline in incomplete families and single-parent households or whether, on the contrary, it will produce a response in the form of strengthening wider networks of family and relatives.

3) Drop in Solidarity within the Society and Changes in Insurance Systems

According to Keller, in terms of employment, there is a loss of solidarity between those who have any kind of job and those who are unable to penetrate the labour market. New forms of loss of solidarity also emerge as a result of the increased fragility of family and transformations of its nature. In this respect, the source of tension is disagreement between those who have limited the number of their children and thus attained advantages, as opposed to those who have opted for having children. Similarly, the intergenerational solidarity is threatened as well. Those who pay in the running system for today's pensioners will one day have considerably lower pensions.

The privatization of insurance systems and their individualization and the concomitant drop in the solidarity of insured persons makes it difficult to insure an individual in those stages of the life cycle when they are not economically ac-

tive. The difficult situation of social work in the changeable social context is appositely summarized by Castel:

‘For social work in the new conditions, it is more and more illusory to set the objective of reintegrating its clients into the society. We have been living in a society in which the basic condition of permanent integration is full employment, thus, in fact, that what is missing and what social work as such is not able to create. Social work reacts to this in such a way that instead of integration, it only speaks exactly about insertion — about accompanying people until they have found a stable position, and accompanying, originally meant as a temporary state, is becoming a permanent state. The assignment has changed — instead of reintegration into the society, it is an effort to delay a downfall or to make it at least slightly more bearable’.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope that our conference will be a significant contribution to the discussion about problems regarding the social state and social work in Europe. I look forward to spending the next days in a friendly atmosphere that is typical of the conferences organized by ERIS.

At the same time, let me remind you that our conference is taking place at a time when Professor Peter Erath, the initiator for founding ERIS and the Vice Director of ERIS, celebrates an important life jubilee of sixty years of age. Ad multos annos!

Constructing European Social Welfare and Social Work in the Midst of Diverse Traditions, Policies and Practices

10–12 October 2012

Wednesday 10 Oct. 9:00–12:00 Location: Medistudia Auditorium ML3

Young Academics Conference

European Social Welfare and Social Work. Presentations of Dissertation and Master projects from students of social work around Europe.

Coordinator: Andreas Baldschun

Venue: Kuopio campus, Medistudia building, Auditorium ML3
Yliopistonranta 1 A

Programme

Wednesday 10 October 2012

8:30–13:00 Arrival and reception (Room MR2)

12:00–13:00 Welcome coffee

13:00–13:30 **Formal opening of the main conference**

Opening by Rector Perttu Vartiainen

Greetings by Professor Oldrich Chytil, Chairman of ERIS

Part I: Trends and challenges in the context of European social welfare

Chairperson Juha Hämäläinen

13:30–14:00, Auditorium ML3 **Social assistance models in Europe: Territorial organisation and governance arrangements**

Åke Bergmark, University of Stockholm

14:00–14:30, Auditorium ML3

Who needs social rights when we've got solidarity: Juridification of solidarity and the de-politicisation of EU social policy

Toomas Kotkas, University of Eastern Finland

14:30–15:00 Coffee break

Workshops

15:00–17:00 Workshop I, Medistudia, Group Work Room

Welfare policy and social work in transition societies

Coordinators: Alexander Fedorov & Aini Pehkonen

15:00–17:00 Workshop II, Medistudia, Group Work Room

The future of social work in changing welfare systems

Coordinators: Raija Väisänen & Timo Hokkanen

15:00–17:00 Workshop III, Medistudia, Group Work Room

History and traditions of social work practice

Coordinators: Pii Puurunen & Mari Suonio

19:00–20:30 **Reception of the city of Kuopio**

Venue: City Hall of Kuopio

Thursday 11 October 2012

Part II: Social work research facing social risks and problems

Chairperson Pauli Niemelä

9:30–10:00, Auditorium ML3

Combating child poverty in Europe

Katja Forssén, University of Turku

10:00–10:30, Auditorium ML3

Youth offending and social exclusion: Causes, effects and treatments

Brian Littlechild, University of Hertfordshire

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

Workshops

11:00–12:30 Workshop IV, Medistudia, Group Work Room

Child policies and child protection in Europe

Coordinators: Pirjo Pölkki & Janissa Miettinen

11:00–12:30 Workshop V, Medistudia, Group Work Room

Social exclusion of young people in Europe

Coordinators: Mirja Määttä & Sanna Ryyänen

11:00–12:30 Workshop VI, Medistudia, Group Work Room

Family welfare and social work with families in Europe

Coordinators: Maritta Törrönen & Anne-Mari Jaakola.”

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00–14:30, Auditorium ML3

Anti-racism in social work?

Vesa Puuronen, University of Eastern Finland

14:30–15:00, Auditorium ML3

Ageing research: Through the lens of gerontological social work

Sari Rissanen, University of Eastern Finland

15:00–15:30 Coffee break

Workshops

15:30–17:00 Workshop VII, Medistudia, Group Work Room

Ageing and gerontological social work

Coordinators: Riitta-Liisa Kinni & Seija Okulov

15:30–17:00 Workshops VIII, Medistudia, Group Work Room

Perspectives of health and disability in social work

Coordinators: Mark de St. Aubin & Leena Leinonen

15:30–17:00 Workshop IX, Medistudia, Group Work Room

Human rights, minorities and ethics

Coordinators: Marja Väänänen-Fomin & Veli-Matti Poutanen

17:15–18:30 ‘**Shaken, not stirred**’

Cocktail Party

Venue: Department of Social Sciences, Snellmania building, 3rd floor, entrances 1E and 1D

Friday 12 October 2012

Part III: Comparative social work research and methodological challenges

Chairperson Pirjo Pölkki

9:00–9:30, Auditorium ML3

Evidence-based practice: Key concept for social work science and practice across Europe

Peter Erath, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

9:30–10:00, Auditorium ML3

Diachronic and synchronic approaches in comparative research of social work

Juha Hämäläinen, University of Eastern Finland

10:00–10:30 Coffee break

10:30–11:00, Auditorium ML3

What do we know about comparative social work: Reading the research

Steven Shardlow, University of Salford

11:00–12:00 Round table discussion, Auditorium ML3

Constructing European social welfare and social work: What can we learn from comparative research?

Coordinator: Stefan Borrmann, Landshut

Participants: Emmanuel Jovelin, Lille; Andrej Kallay, Trnava; Ivana Louckova, Ostrava; Caroline Meffan, Hertfordshire; Ria Puhl, Cologne; Riitta Vornanen, Kuopio

12:00 Lunch

Key-note presentations

Social assistance models in Europe: Territorial organisation and governance arrangements

Åke Bergmark, University of Stockholm

Time: 13:30–14:00 10th October, Auditorium ML3

Who needs social rights when we've got solidarity: Juridification of solidarity and the de-politicisation of EU social policy

Toomas Kotkas, University of Eastern Finland

Time: 14:00–14:30 10th October, Auditorium ML3

Combating child poverty in Europe

Katja Forssén, University of Turku

Time: 9:30–10:00 11th October, Auditorium ML3

Youth offending and social exclusion: Causes, effects and treatments

Brian Littlechild, University of Hertfordshire

Time: 10:00–10:30 11th October, Auditorium ML3

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What do we know about comparative social work: Reading the research

Steven Shardlow, University of Salford

Time: 10:30–11:00 12th October, Auditorium ML3

Åke Bergmark, Professor of Social Work, Stockholm University, Sweden,
aakeb@socarb.su.se

Social assistance models in Europe: Territorial organization and governance arrangements

For long, the territorial dimension of social policies has been overlooked in comparative social policy analysis. However, over time, the dominating national perspective has proven to be insufficient as reform processes enacted in order to increase subsidiarity and make way for decentralization have fostered more complex patterns of governance. Policy formation is to a lesser extent than previously understood as singular, indivisible, or located at distinctive territorial point. The concept of *multilevel governance* has been introduced in order to accentuate that influence over a certain field is normally dispersed, negotiated, and shared between actors at different levels.

In my presentation, I will give an account of how responsibility and authority is distributed in the area of social assistance for a number of European countries. Data is collected from a project involving eight European countries: *Rescaling Social Welfare Policies – A comparative study on the paths towards multilevel governance in Europe*. Social assistance was one of three policy areas analysed in this project, the others being long-term care for the elderly and activation policies in the labour market.

Rescaling involves a vertical as well as a horizontal dimension. The former refers to the division of regulatory power, and formal responsibility for a certain policy area is allocated between national and sub-national administrative levels. The latter refers to the multiplication of actors and the development of different types of networks involved in steering and formation of policy.

For social assistance — as well as the other analysed areas — it seems that governance arrangements and territorial organization are profoundly embedded in the existing institutional structures of the individual countries. The extent of rescaling or decentralization is therefore constrained by the degree of path dependency that exists. However, decentralization does seem to be the dominating trend, although opposite trends can also be identified. It is also possible to identify a ‘regression towards the mean’-pattern where systems of initially centralized countries become more decentralized over time, whereas patterns of recentralization may be found in countries with a developed local autonomy.

Key words: social assistance, multilevel governance

Toomas Kotkas, Professor of Social Justice, University of Eastern Finland,
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Who needs social rights when we’ve got solidarity: Juridification of solidarity and the de-politicisation of EU social policy

Over the course of the twenty-first century, the term solidarity has developed into one of the most important slogans in the treaties and other official documents of the European Union. Today, the term appears in several sections of the founding Treaties. Solidarity has also been chosen as the title of the chapter on social rights of the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Moreover, solidarity has been identified by the Commission as one of the cornerstones of future social policy in the EU. As a recent Commission communication on social policy declares, ‘solidarity is part of how European society works and how Europe engages with the rest of the world.’

The aim of this presentation is to make sense of different uses of the term solidarity within EU social policy documents and scholarly discourse. It will be argued that there are three main discourses of solidarity in the social policy context: (1) solidarity as a Durkheimian sociological notion, (2) solidarity as a traditional welfare-state-related moral value, and (3) solidarity as a legal principle. It will also be claimed that the recent emphasis put on the concept of solidarity, especially as a normative legal principle, is undermining the role of social rights in the EU social policy discourse. This, in turn, is strongly related to recent claims about the de-politicisation of European social policy owing to the alignment of economic and social concerns.

Key words: solidarity, social rights, social policy, European Commission

Katja Forssén, Professor of Social Work, University of Turku, Finland,
katja.forssen@utu.fi

Combating child poverty in Europe

Anti-poverty measures directed towards children and their families have always been constrained by tensions between the interests of the state and the rights and responsibilities of the parent. Children are particularly vulnerable to changes in family policies. Poverty in families with children may have severe consequences for the individuals living under such circumstances, not only in the short run but also in the longer perspective. Families can experience poverty in many different subjective ways. However, there is a strong connection between subjective experience of poverty and well-being (Duncan & Brooks-Gunn 2000). Socioeconomical status is not necessarily connected with a child's problems at the present moment, but, for example, poor economical position

can lead to a predisposition to problems in the later stages of the child's life (Fergusson, Horwood & Lawton 1990).

The Nordic welfare states appear to have invested considerably more in addressing new social risks than other countries belonging to other welfare state models. Active labour-market policies are a Nordic invention and have a long-established role in combating poverty. In international comparisons, the competitiveness of the Nordic economy has been rated among the best. All the Nordic countries seem to have been able to combine good economic competitiveness with an extensive public sector. However, the latest economic crisis has changed this good situation. Recent statistics show that some indicators of exclusion have been growing in the Nordic countries.

One of the risks of poverty is the transition to adulthood. The pathway from childhood to adulthood includes four major transitional events: leaving the parental home, finishing school or college, entering the labour market, and forming one's own family. Each of these transitional events includes social risks such as risks of poverty and social exclusion.

There have been public discussions in Europe about the increasing poverty risks among children and their families. In this presentation, I will focus on recent trends of child poverty and deprivation in Europe.

Many studies have shown that single parenthood increases the poverty risk. Traditionally, single parents' poverty rates have been in the lowest level in Europe because of high female labour force participation rates. Increasing unemployment rates among mothers have changed this picture. In particular, in Finland, the economic gap between single parents and mothers in two-parent families has grown.

Although the education level of young people has been increasing in all European countries, their position in the labour market has weakened. Atypical and low-paid work has become more common in many countries. The youth unemployment rate has increased in recent years and the number of youth without vocational training has increased. Those with low levels of education face difficulties in entering the labour market. The most serious situation is among those youth who have dropped out from basic education.

The situation of the children in Nordic countries appears comparatively bright in the international perspective although income poverty has increased in all Nordic countries during the last twenty years. Cumulative deprivation almost does not exist in Nordic countries. Children living in immigrant families have high deprivation risk in most European countries. For example, in Greece almost half of the immigrant children are living in deprived households. In Norway, every fourth child is deprived.

Key words: child poverty, social risks, family welfare, deprivation

Brian Littlechild, Professor of Social Work, University of Hertfordshire, UK,
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Youth offending and social exclusion: Causes, effects, and treatments

This presentation will examine the different approaches to youth offenders and socially excluded youth within Europe, with reference to a number of countries' policies and approaches.

Whilst the majority of youth are relatively successfully socialized, educated, and provided for by family, social agencies, and schools, there is a significant minority of youth across Europe who are disaffected, which impacts their lives in a number of ways, including their risks of offending and re-offending. Such youth can be at the start of a long-term period of marginalization from education, training, and employment, often being associated with offending and mental health problems. The personal, social, and economic costs of this are high.

In particular, this presentation addresses these interlinked areas with reference to the more punitive approaches to youth in social policies such as those in England, and it compares these to Scandinavian approaches, such as those in Finland, which might be seen to be at opposite ends of the spectrum of youth justice jurisdictions, being dependent upon the extent to which the child/young person is viewed as a developing, learning being and is still open to positive socializing influences.

The presentation examines how ideas, ideologies, and policies across Europe are relevant to social inclusion approaches for youth offenders and welfare/justice provision. The different emphases and effects found from this comparative analysis on what interventions can be used to engage youth to improve social cohesion in addressing the needs of those youth who are at risk of criminality and social exclusion are put forward as possible learning points for national policies.

Key words: social exclusion, marginalization, youth offending, European comparisons, risks

Vesa Puuronen, University lecturer, University of Eastern Finland,
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Anti-racism in social work?

This paper deals with three issues: the definition of racism, anti-racism in social work practices, and the attitudes of social workers (professionals) toward ethnic minorities and their members. The definition of racism is an issue that has been debated for at least five decades in the field of racism research. The main controversy has been between those who regard racism as ideology tightly connected to so-called scientific, biological racism, which emerged during the 18th and 19th centuries, and those who think that racism is a multidimensional phenomenon. In particular, after the 1970s, the discussion about ‘new racism’, which refers to the use of cultural features as the basis of differentiation between different ethnic groups and races, has become dominant in racism research. The concept of racialisation, which was introduced in the 1980’s, refers to the processes by which, for example, biologically similar groups of people can be considered as belonging to different races. An example of racialisation in Finland is provided as a discourse, which defines Russians as a different and dangerous group that should be feared and discriminated against. The definition of racism is interesting not only from the academic perspective but also practically because depending on the definition of the phenomenon itself, the counter action (anti-racism) must be carried out in different forms.

In Europe, multiculturalism as a strategy of managing ethnic diversity is widely accepted. Furthermore, in the public sector, including social work, multicultural practices have been developed. This paper addresses what these practices include and what assumptions are made about ethnic groups, races, and their relations. Social workers are professionals who meet immigrants and members of other vulnerable groups. The attitudes of social workers toward immigrants and

members of minorities determine the way of meeting people who do not belong to their own ethnic group. How widely are immigrants employed in social work is also an important question when trying to determine the extent to which social work as a public service tries or is able to reduce discrimination and racism faced by immigrants and members of minorities in European societies.

Key words: racism, multiculturalism, ethnic diversity, discrimination

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Ageing research — through the lens of gerontological social work

The aim of this presentation is to discuss the relation between ageing research and gerontological social work. Ageing research is quite extensive and multidisciplinary in nature, although at least part of the emphasis has been on health sciences. One indicator of the considerable amount of ageing research is that there is an ever-increasing need for strategic direction in this research theme at the national and international levels. One highly significant strategy paper is ‘The Future of Ageing Research in Europe: A Road Map’, which was produced at the European level and involved all of the major stakeholder groups and end users of ageing research. This Road Map outlines eight basic assumptions in aging research: multi-disciplinarity, user engagement, life course perspective, person-environment perspective, importance of diversity and intergenerational relationships, knowledge exchange, and technological innovation (Futurage 2011). The first part of the presentation focuses on reflecting research themes of

Futurage from the perspective of gerontological social work research and practices. The content of gerontological social work research is mainly based on the previous review of gerontological social work research in some scientific journals. This and the current debate of elderly care probably reflect at least somewhat the challenges and needs of gerontological social work research and practices.

The second part of the presentation focuses more concretely on the possibilities of relating the knowledge of general ageing research with the needs of gerontological social work research and practice. Three national case examples of ageing research will be presented and their research results will be considered from the gerontological social work perspective: What is their usefulness for gerontological social work research and practice? Or what is the actual relation between ageing research and gerontological social work research. The case examples of ageing research projects are (1) private social care, (2) elderly poverty, and (3) constructing well-being in elderly care — organisation, design, and management as key elements.

Finally, some ideas for future research on gerontological social work at different levels (e.g. individual, organizational, and policy level) will be presented.

Key words: gerontological social work, research, ageing

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Evidence-based practice — key concept for social work science and practice across Europe

Though the concept of evidence-based practice is very well known to social work scientists and practitioners in the Nordic states and in England, it is far from being generally accepted across Europe. However, owing to important political, ethical, and legal changes, the need for evidence in social work practice cannot be questioned any longer. Based on Lyotard's theory of knowledge, the presenter tries to state that in a post-modern society, especially in the area of social work, there is a need not only for a complex and sophisticated understanding of practices but also for a practice that is based on transparency, critical analysis, and research. An example is given to demonstrate that the empirical relevance of evidence in social work always has to be restricted by ecological reasons. Thus, the research standard of validity gives us reasons to assume that there is more plausibility for the concept of a European evidence-based practice than for an international one.

Key words: evidence-based practice, social work and knowledge construction, social work research, validity of research results

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Diachronic and synchronic approaches in comparative research of social Work

Owing to the global tendency toward internationalization, there is an increasing need for comparative research of social work. International social work has become an important subject of social work research and education and a growing field of practice. In the debate on international social work, considerable attention is focused on the development of relevant strategies and programs by considering professional skills needed in international activities, discussing global challenges, and warning of Western hegemony. However, a research methodology for comparative research of social work has attracted little attention. Some inspiration has been derived from other comparative branches of social research, mainly from classifications of welfare regimes and systems of social security developed in comparative social policy. In this presentation, the methodology of comparative research of social work is discussed by exploiting the distinction between ‘diachronic’ and ‘synchronic’ approaches originating from linguistics. This distinction provides a good base for dealing with comparative studies of social work from the viewpoint of methodological orientations and logics. It inspires to design individual comparative studies consciously and systematically by taking ‘diachronic’ and ‘synchronic’ dimensions of comparison into account. It is viable for the development of research methodology in the field of comparative research of social work in general and for corresponding single comparative studies in particular.

Key words: comparative social work; international social work; methodology of social work research

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What do we know about comparative social work: Reading the research

The importance of developing a ‘comparative understanding’ of social work grounded on cross-national data cannot be overestimated. Through a comparison, we can, among other things, measure the relative effectiveness of different modes of social work, explore potential innovations that have been tried elsewhere, and even expand our notion of what constitutes the ‘idea’ of social work as a discipline. To make the most of these comparisons, as an approach, we need a firm grasp of the epistemology and methodology used to make comparisons in social work. A step in this direction is to map the extent of empirical work and thereby the extent of our knowledge in this field. This will promote the development of a ‘comparative understanding’ of social work. These ideas will be explored in this paper.

Key words: comparative research, social work

Workshop Presentations

Workshop I

Welfare policy and social work in transition societies

Coordinators: Alexander Fedorov & Aini Pehkonen

Time: 15:00–17:00 10th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshop II

The future of social work in changing welfare systems

Coordinators: Raija Väisänen & Timo Hokkanen

Time: 15:00–17:00 10th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshop III

History and traditions of social work practice

Coordinators: Piia Puurunen & Mari Suonio

Time: 15:00–17:00 10th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshop IV

Child policies and child protection in Europe

Coordinators: Pirjo Pölkki & Janissa Miettinen

Time: 11:00–12:30 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshop V

Social exclusion of young people in Europe

Coordinators: Mirja Määttä & Sanna Ryyänen

Time: 11:00–12:30 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshop VI

Family welfare and social work with families in Europe

Coordinators: Maritta Törrönen & Anne-Mari Jaakola

Time: 11:00–12:30 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshop VII

Ageing and gerontological social work

Coordinators: Riitta-Liisa Kinni & Seija Okulov

Time: 15:30–17:00 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshops VIII

Perspectives of health and disability in social work

Coordinators: Mark de St. Aubin & Leena Leinonen

Time: 15:30–17:00 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshop IX

Human rights, minorities and ethics

Coordinators: Marja Väänänen-Fomin & Veli-Matti Poutanen

Time: 15:30–17:00 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Workshop I 15:00–17:00 10th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Welfare policy and social work in transition societies

Coordinators: Alexander Fedorov & Aini Pehkonen

Social welfare is a construct that is related to the support for basic human needs and how society will provide for these needs. Social welfare is a term used to represent the systems that provide help for these needs.

Welfare consists of different factors and dimensions that are all significant in people's everyday life. As a concept, welfare is multidimensional and ambiguous. In addition, there are certain problems as well as ethical challenges in the evaluation of welfare, such as universality versus margins, and separation between objectively perceived welfare and who has the right and duty to define the aims and goals of welfare. Welfare is usually broken down into objectively perceived conditions and subjectively experienced emotions, that is, experienced contentment. In international research literature, health, economic livelihood, work, education, housing, security, and social relations have been defined as central objective dimensions of welfare.

Social work as a science and as a profession has followed the common development phases of the society. In the context of development in social work, it is spoken of as a modernization development through which social work has been renewed both contextually and operationally as a profession.

The task of social work is also to support people's capacity and independent initiative in all life situations. Further, social work focuses on the entire gamut of human life and its problems, like deficiencies in the well-being of children and youth, the use of intoxicants, poverty, and unemployment.

Presentations Workshop I

Main challenges of social welfare in Slovakia

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Comparative study of social welfare studies in three Baltic States

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The effects of unemployment

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Coping tactics of poverty threat and deepening poverty and exclusion coping tactics

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The territorial and social interaction under Russian state-market economy

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Main challenges of social welfare in Slovakia

Ondrej Botek, University of Ostrava, Slovakia

In my paper, I would like to focus on the major challenges of social policy in Slovakia as a post transformation country. Transformation, started in 1990 in Slovakia, was based on principles whose application I would like to verify in this paper in the context of current challenges. I would like to focus on current changes in the pension system in Slovakia that is leading to substantial changes. In accordance with this, I will discuss the major problems involved in the assigning of social services to this group. Another challenge I would like to mention is the long-lasting problem of unemployment, which is currently higher than 13%; in particular, in 3 of 9 regions in Slovakia, it is approaching 20%, and in the age group of 15–24, it is over 22%. Another challenge for social policy is the very low fertility rate, which is currently approximately 1.3% (one of the lowest in the EU), that has and will have a massive impact on the social situation in many areas. All these challenges are closely connected to the trend of transition from a welfare state to a welfare mix, which is still in its infancy in Slovakia. I would like to discuss all of these issues in comparison with the main transformation principles, such as decentralisation, deetatisation, demonopolisation, humanisation, and pluralisation of sources and forms.

Key-words: pension system, unemployment, fertility, decentralization

Comparative study of social welfare studies in three Baltic States

Ray Deb, Finland

The purpose of this general review paper is to perform a comparative study of social welfare policies in three transitional societies, namely, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, thereby highlighting both their achievements and failures. This objective is achieved by giving an overview and performing a historical examination of the policies using relevant literatures as sources. The result of this comparative study shows the loopholes that need to be plugged in and how these countries can learn, by taking Finland and Sweden as benchmarks. The limitation of this paper is that it is a purely theoretical study. There is, however, immense potential for empirical work. Its practical relevance lies in seeing where these countries stand today in comparison to other developed Baltic States and what needs to be done in the future so that they might catch up with these neighbours. Researchers can consider this paper as a summary of welfare policies in these three transitional societies. This paper shows how Finnish & Swedish policies can act as models for improving social welfare policies in these Baltic States. The novelty of this paper lies in performing a comparative study of Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian welfare policies and how they fit in a bigger family of changing welfare systems in the Baltic.

Key words: Baltic, social welfare policy, stratification, unemployment, child & family welfare

The effects of unemployment

Anu Realo & Henrik Dobewall, Estonia

The simultaneous examination of age, cohort, and period effects with a cross-sectional time-lag design has never been applied for comparisons between transition and Nordic countries. In this study, the relationship between age and life satisfaction was analysed over a period of 27 years (1982–2009) in four countries—Estonia, Finland, Latvia, and Sweden—using nationally representative samples of adults between the ages of 15 and 100 from the European Value Survey, the World Values Survey, and the European Social Survey (total N = 39,420). Unlike in Finland and Sweden, the relationship between age and subjective well-being in Estonia and Latvia was best described as curvilinear, with younger and older people having higher levels of life satisfaction. The observed age differences in life satisfaction in Estonia and Latvia, however, seem to be due to an interaction of cohort and period differences. Unemployment has a detrimental effect on life satisfaction—the dramatic upsurge in the (aged 21–25 years) unemployment rate among youth in Estonia and Latvia may have affected their life satisfaction, which has noticeably dropped since the economic crisis hit these countries in 2008.

Key words: youth unemployment, life satisfaction, aging, cross-sectional time-lag design, cross-cultural differences

Coping tactics of poverty threat and deepening poverty and exclusion coping tactics

Eliska Lindovská, Czech Republic

The article introduces the concept of vulnerability that appears across different European societies and the coping tactics people use to face it. It further describes other strategies of coping as people experience deepening poverty and exclusion. The first set of strategies comprises distinction strategies. People who use them try to avoid contact with others in a similar situation of poverty or poverty threat. The second set of strategies comprises adaptation strategies. People can adapt to poverty in passive or positive ways. The last set of strategies comprises defensive strategies. These strategies take various forms, from active coping, through reality escape and total resignation to intentional exclusion or explosive action. The author examines the position of people who use them toward the welfare system and investigates the role of social work within them.

Key words: poverty, concept of vulnerability, distinction strategies, adaptation strategies, defensive strategies

The territorial and social interaction under Russian state-market economy

Dmitry Melnikov, Russia

The Russian state-market economy has witnessed various territorial and social interactions during the transition from socialism to capitalism. First, we see that the Russian federal and regional officials constantly make social investments in the most politician regions such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, and the North Caucasus. The total sum of social investments from 2009–2010 was approximately 12–13.5 billion USD. These social investments can be defined as direct social investments. In addition to the direct social investments, Russia has also made indirect social investments that can be defined by the tax policy. For example, the Tatarian Republic, according to a special agreement that had come into effect in 1993 between the Russian federal centre (Moscow) and the Tatarian Republic, has a special soft tax regime compared with other Russian subjects of the federation, and consequently, the Tatarian tax burden is less than that of others in the Russian republics by 30–35%. This agreement was a politician decision to avoid damage to the young Russian Federation in 1993–1994, but now, it gives additional socioeconomic benefits to Tataria despite this historical atavism. Second, in the contemporary Russian economy, the majority of Russian industrial enterprises do not support social causes; only Russian oil and gas monopolies such as Gazprom, Lukoil, and Surgutneftegaz support social programs. Geographically, Russian hydrocarbon monopolies are located in Western and Eastern Siberia (Tomsk and Krasnoyarsk oblasts) and the North Urals (Chanty-Mansiysk and Yamalo-Nenents Autonomous okrugs), which is why these territories have a strong social infrastructure.

Key words: state market economy, social investment, social work, Russia

Workshop II 15:00–17:00 10th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

The future of social work in changing welfare systems

Coordinators: Raija Väisänen & Timo Hokkanen

The working group deals with various future scenarios and service models of the welfare service system as well as social work as action. It also covers challenges related to the research and scientific proof concerning social work. The service models are influenced by international economic forecasts and political programmes. Service privatisation is becoming more common, creating business models that integrate the ethical principles of social work. Social policy questions affect the need for social work and how it is organised in different regions and other operational environments (for example, health care). The role of non-governmental organisations is increasing, and these organisations are also developing social work methods. This highlights the need to cooperate and to strengthen social policy and social work as well as the research and education of other social sciences. Studies that compare the practices in different countries and long-term international studies have central significance for the knowledge formation and research methodology development of social work. As a profession, social work is the focus of expectations related to work efficiency and scientific proof of interventions. Methods are being developed within social work that help demonstrate the efficacy of the work. Social work faces many complex problems of social exclusion, new social risks, and their composites. Financial instability, population ageing, and labour market difficulties are societal factors that add to the future challenges of social work.

Presentations Workshop II

Future of social work through the eyes of social workers in the Czech Republic

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Social Policy and Social Work in Slovakia

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Social Work in Integrated Welfare System for Elderly

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Evidence-Based Practice: Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs of Social Workers in Romania

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Social workers in social enterprises and their cooperation with other professionals within social enterprise

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Šárka Ulčáková, University of Ostrava

Marcela Kabeláčová, University of Ostrava

Future of social work through the eyes of social workers in the Czech Republic

Alice Gojová, Czech Republic

Social work is facing the complex problem of social exclusion, the emergence of new social risks and new problems (their accumulation and overlapping), and categories of new clients. All this comes at a time of deepening crisis of the welfare state, and a time of demographic changes (aging population, increasing fragility of the family) and labour market problems. Social workers in the Czech Republic did not even complete the process of legitimisation and professionalisation of social work before being faced with these challenges. We have carried out research in the Czech Republic, where we have come to similar conclusions as C. Jones. Many social workers feel that their task is ‘only’ the implementation of austerity measures, rather than realizing the ideals of social work, including the achievement of social justice and integration. In our presentation, we would like to present the view of social workers (employees of municipal authorities) about the possible role of social work in the present and the future. We interpret the results of qualitative research conducted with social workers using focus groups in 2011.

Key-words: future of social work, social workers, qualitative research, focus groups, the Czech Republic

Social policy and social work in Slovakia

Andrej Kállay, Slovak Republic

The link between social policy and social work exists at several levels. On the one hand, social policy, social security system, and social services system are defined as the area of social work action. This space, however, does not consider all target groups of social work, that is, target groups that cannot be seen only as clients of social work but also as a target group such as health care or public health. Gradually and still stronger in the legal standards are promoted new trends and methods in social work that have been provided by NGOs. This is very important because locally active organizations that have high work efficiency can gradually become a national, systemic solution to various problems and clients. Another task will be to link social policy, social work, and the education system. The connection between education in social sciences and social system is very important for the evolution of social work and social services. The other level is research in social sciences related to education in social work and other social sciences. One of the most important tasks is to define who can perform social work and the related limited number of educated people. The other important task is to foster cooperation among all disciplines that are related to solutions for the client in the space of social policy and social work.

Key words: social work, social policy, system, solution, education

Social work in integrated welfare system for elderly

Timo Hokkanen, Finland

The aim of this study is to conceptualize an idealized service model of the future welfare service system for the elderly. The objective is to first study the current welfare service system and the future drivers that affect the service system. The scope of this study lies on the research and formation of an idealized service model that is based on a customer-driven approach and value chain approach. As a result, an integrated service model is conceptualized. This study focuses on possible scenarios in the elderly service system in Finland and, in particular, on how changes in services affect the self-knowledge of social work. The scenario building is based on the exploitation of the Delphi method, statistical material, a survey on the welfare needs of the elderly, and an analysis of the development of elderly care in Finland. Future political factors were found to be significant and certain. National policy programs were considered most significant and certain. Privatization as a political trend of services was considered less significant but certain. The role of social work in a client-oriented network can be labelled as service coordination. The need for financial advice and compensation in service fees will be a core issue in multi-provider service systems. The clientele of social work are considered to be those with multidimensional problems. Wealthy and capable elderly people have been considered to not have the need for social support.

Key words: integrated care, social work, scenario, argumentative Delphi, welfare system

Evidence-based practice: Knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of social workers in Romania

Mihai-Bogdan Iovu & Patricia Runcan, Romania

Background & Purpose: The social work profession has been undergoing a period of change and has been encouraged to prove the effectiveness of clinical interventions by scientific evidence. This study was therefore designed to describe the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of a sample of Romanian social work professionals toward evidence-based practice (EBP). **Methods:** 62 social workers were required to complete a 37-item closed-ended questionnaire, which collected information on demographic data, practice settings, knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs regarding EBP. **Results:** The respondents agreed that the use of EBP was necessary and that the quality of patient care was better when evidence was used, with the younger physiotherapists at the forefront. Approximately 50% of the respondents had access to online information; the majority of these respondents only had time to access the Internet more at home rather than at the workplace. The primary barrier to implementing EBP was insufficient time. **Conclusion:** The respondents had a positive attitude toward EBP and were interested in improving the skills necessary to implement EBP. There was a need to increase the use of EBP in clinical practice and decision making among social workers. The respondents who were recently licensed and those with post-graduate education expressed more positive attitudes toward EBP than those who were not.

Key words: social workers, knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, evidence-based practice (EBP), Romania

Social workers in social enterprises and their cooperation with other professionals within social enterprise

Šárka Ulčáková, Marcela Kabeláčová, Vendula Gojová, Czech Republic

In times of austerity and dwindling financial support that had previously helped to support the majority of social services targeting a wide variety of clients, most social service providers are dealing with the challenge of becoming self-reliant, sustainable, and free of donor dependency. It is not unusual for the providers to establish institutions combining a business model with social work ethics that integrate social services, for profit business, and public relations into social enterprises. It seems that social workers employed in social entrepreneurship gained ground because they could make changes in the lives of their clients (micro level) and community and in the area of workforce integration, and they also had the opportunity to influence the sense of social responsibility (macro level). It also seems that while the social workers are hired to provide case management, individual counselling, and help with administrative tasks, other professionals create the main structure of the enterprise that has an effect at macro level. What does this mean for social work? Are there any obstructions or dilemmas for social entrepreneurship? This report aims to answer these questions with the help of specialized literature and partial results of qualitative research conducted within the scope of a Student grant competition at Ostrava University.

Key words: social workers, social enterprise, cooperation

Workshop III 15:00–17:00 10th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

History and traditions of social work practice

Coordinators: Piia Puurunen & Mari Suonio

The aim of history is to create an understanding of the past, to orientate us, to tell us where we are coming from, and lead us toward to the future. History is ever-present. We are in history and we are creating history while living in it. The function of history is to question topical discussions, to show the time-linkage of contemporary phenomenon, and to give tools to critically approach practice. In other words, it serves to disclose the diversity and variety of social reality. History is not only ‘the great story of development’ or ‘the narrative of winners’ but also the transitions, breaks, and turning points as well as micro history of invisible stories. Social work as a profession is bound to time, place, culture, and each society’s situation. However, social work as a profession and discipline has developed over a hundred years with a complex heritage of ideas and methodologies, which reflect the discipline’s applied and dynamic nature. Analysing the roots of social work is a part of clarifying the vivid heritage of social work and creating a more meaningful perception of the discipline. In this workshop, the presentations cover different kinds of approaches to the history. The relation between the papers is the history of ideas in social sciences and methodological questions. The themes cover the history of community work in Finland and its Nordic roots, the history of social welfare and social work in Czechoslovakia, and the history of the Russian social pedagogy.

Presentations Workshop III

Historical research in social work — theory and practice

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Community work as force of change

Kaisa Kantele, Finland

Understanding the Russian tradition of social pedagogy: A historical hermeneutic examination

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Historical research in social work — theory and practice

Marie Špiláčková, Czech Republic

Historical research that is applied in social work is one of the methods to describe how and where social work started, how it developed over time, and where it stands today. The results of historical studies can be used to form blueprints for contemporary social services programs or models for community developments. This paper deals with two levels of historical research in social work. The first level provides a general description, defines the term historiography, and shows similarities and differences from other areas and methodological fundamentals. The second level offers a practical example of this type of research. It presents a qualified knowledge of the history of social welfare and social work in the 1970s and 1980s in Czechoslovakia. It maps the historical development of social care, including social services, and identifies the methods used for social work in this period.

Key words: historical research in social work, historiography, history of social work, history of social care, social work practice, Czechoslovakia

Community work as force of change

Kaisa Kantele, Finland

How has community work come to Finnish social work? This question is studied through the social circumstances and progress of professionalisation in social works. This study focuses on learning the history of social work, and the main method of analysis is historical research. The literature about social work, journals of social policy, and documents pertaining to Finnish community work were used as research material. Community work is defined as action, where the social worker performs planned collective actions that are aimed at solving social inequalities using different strategies and works together with others (Koskinen 1973, 144). The structural transformation of Finnish society and the new social problems arising from it, pressures to develop social welfare, critiques of capitalism, and politicisation of social works together created a favourable atmosphere and conditions for the community work method. Community work was put into practice in experiments in urban districts at the end of the 1970s. The arguments of social workers pertaining to the need of community work were classified into three categories. These categories are the changing role of social workers, the method to deal with new social problems, and ideological demands. Social workers demanded to play a more active role in social planning and politics. Secondly, it was argued that community work was needed to prevent social problems. Thirdly, it was argued that community work was needed to promote democracy, equality, and justice, as these were the main missions of social work.

Key words: community work, social policy, society transformation, Finland

Understanding the Russian tradition of social pedagogy: A historical hermeneutic examination

Leena Nietosvuori, Finland

This study considers the perspective of another culture to understand and interpret Russian social pedagogy as a system of science, field of work, and discipline and to understand what kind of theoretical framework it employs for training. This study also aims to analyse and describe the history of Russian social pedagogy from different viewpoints. This study builds an understanding of the factors that have contributed to the Russian social pedagogy, how the system operates, and how Russian experts define it. The study is based on the hermeneutics tradition of research. The historicity is based on the concept that all social forms and human infrastructure are historical in nature. They are points in time and space. The meaning of historicity helps to build a perspective, for example, on what kind of cultural, historical, and social factors have contributed to the development of Russian social pedagogy. This study is mainly a literature-based theoretical research. It consists of, among other things, Russian studies, scientific articles, and textbooks. The study material also contains interviews with a few specialists. The study is divided into three main chapters. First, the framework of the study is discussed in terms of hermeneutic understanding and interpretation. Second, a review of the historical roots of Russian social pedagogy, for example, the social and pedagogical activity of Lev Tolstoi, Anton Makarenko, and Vasili Suhomlinski, is presented. Third, modern Russian social pedagogy, which has begun to develop after the collapse of the Soviet Union, is analysed.

Key words: social pedagogy, history, Russia

Workshop IV 11:00–12:30 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Child policies and child protection in Europe

Coordinators: Pirjo Pölkki & Janissa Miettinen

The figures of children taken into care are rising in many countries, and effective measures to stop and mitigate this development are needed. Child policies, types of welfare states, and child welfare and child protection systems in European countries vary considerably. However, the work with children and families in Europe is guided by the principles and European interpretations of general human rights and children's rights. The workshop *Child Policies and Child Protection* opens up some perspectives into the provision and protection of children. The present Finnish Child Welfare Act (417/2007) emphasizes the prevention and early intervention of problems of families with children. This workshop includes an orientation and four presentations: The first presentation is on the case law of the European Court on Human Rights related to child's rights concerning Finnish social work. The second presentation is on a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, infant-sleep-related, longitudinal project that, among other goals, provides knowledge on family life and its stresses in Finnish families with small children and their consequences for child development. The third presentation analyses Finnish mandatory reporting and its change from special concern to general risk assessment. The final presentation provides information about the availability of child welfare services in municipalities in Mainland Finland based on a national survey in 2010. At the end of the workshop, the participants are encouraged to discuss the themes presented and reflect them upon the contexts in their own countries.

Presentations Workshop IV

Parental stress and infant's sleep

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Mandatory report. From special concern to general risk assessment

Antti Mäkelä, University of Eastern Finland, ajm.makela@gmail.com

Availability of child welfare services in mainland Finland in 2010

Janissa Miettinen, University of Finland, janissa.miettinen@uef.fi

Case law of the European court of human rights related to child's rights concerning Finnish social work

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Parental stress and infant's sleep

Niina Häkälä, Finland

Children's sleep disruptions are a major problem all around the world. According to studies, as much as 30% of children suffer from sleep problems of some degree in their first four years (e.g. Zuckerman et al. 1987, 664). Sleep is considered to be biological behaviour, but psychosocial and cultural contexts and parent's beliefs regarding normal sleeping behaviour affect children's sleep and the sleep disruptions they experience (Jenni & O'Connor 2005, 205; Gaylor et al. 2001, 61). Sleep is crucial for a child's development, and poor sleep can affect the emergence of behavioural problems, leading to difficult temperaments and to poor neurobehavioral functioning (Sadeh 2004, e570). It is also well documented that a child's sleeping problems causes stress and anxiety to parents (e.g. Morrell 1999, 20). This connection is reciprocal: a parent's stressful situation in life, due to, for example, unemployment or illness, can cause a stress reaction in the child, and this manifests itself in sleeping problems (Sadeh 2001, 56). The aim is to study these connections between infant's sleep and parental stress by surveys of families at three points of time: before the child is born, at three months of age, and at eight months of age. The sample consists of the cohort of the Child-Sleep project collected from the Pirkanmaa hospital district in 2011–2012. This study includes children who were born in 2011 and their parents (n = 626). Preliminary results of this sample will be presented.

Key words: infant, sleep, family environment, maternal stress, parental stress

Mandatory report. From special concern to general risk assessment

Antti Mäkelä, Finland

The basic concept of the Finnish mandatory report has not changed much over the last few decades. In every Finnish Child Welfare Act (1936, 1983, and 2007), a mandatory report has been an essential part of the child protection process. A significant change has occurred in the spirit of the mandatory report when obvious (1936) or substantial (1983) reasons were repealed and replaced with office-holders' subjective awareness (2007) about what has happened and what were the child's live circumstances. This fundamental change in thinking has provided more power and control to the Finnish child protection service than ever before. The emphasis of the notifications has also shifted toward the assessment of risk factors. Such a change has made it easy for office-holders to exert power and control over the client and determine the normative (legal and moral) behaviour. Legally, there no reasons have been identified for the mandatory report until the law reform in 2010. At the time of this reform, sexual crimes against children had arisen as a special reason for notification and the child protection process. Social workers' role as gatekeepers for a society's special resources has also become more visible because of the risk assessment. Children's and families' rights to these resources depend on how office-holders define these selected events from mandatory reports and how social workers estimate a child's risks in the future.

Key words: mandatory report, child welfare act, child protection

Availability of child welfare services in mainland Finland in 2010

Janissa Miettinen, Finland

In Finland, the child welfare system contains (a) universal, (b) preventive, and (c) child- and family-specific child welfare (Taskinen, 2007). The child welfare service system in Finnish municipalities has developed over time in relation to local needs, and the organization of child welfare services depends on the region and municipality (Rousu, 2007; Heino, 2009). However, nationwide research on the variety and availability of child welfare services in Finland is limited (Heino, 2008; Karvonen & Kauppinen, 2009). Based on earlier research (e.g. Belanger & Stone, 2008; Muuri, 2008), we developed a questionnaire instrument to measure the organization, accessibility, and problems in the accessibility of 39 open care support measures, 37 substitute care services, and 38 after care services. This survey was conducted by a questionnaire 4/4 in a research project coordinated by The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (AFLRA); in autumn 2010, four questionnaires were sent to every municipality (n = 326) in Mainland Finland (see Rousu & Miettinen, 2011). Altogether, 146 representatives of municipalities answered the questionnaire 4/4 (response rate: 44.8%). Urban municipalities were better represented in the data. The study presents the frequency distributions of the organization and accessibility of services, and it examines the relation between the availability and accessibility of services and the statistical grouping of municipalities 2010 and Kaste regions through contingency table analyses and chi-square tests (Winch & Campbell, 1969). The results of this study are presented.

Keywords: Finland, municipality, child welfare services, availability, accessibility, questionnaires

Case law of the European court of human rights related to child's rights concerning Finnish social work

Marja Väänänen-Fomin, Finland

Social work with children and families is sensitive to human rights issues. Children's human rights are manifested as legal and ethical questions in social work practice. As legal issues, the implementation of these rights and freedoms is based on human rights treaties that are binding on the states that are party to them. As a regional treaty, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms has a monitoring system where individual complaints are possible to the European Court of Human Rights. It also means advancing case laws relating to children's rights and social work. In Finland, municipal social work plays an important role in implementing and promoting children's rights. Social work has a legal mandate in child protection as well as many legal tasks in family law concerning paternity, adoption, maintenance, custody, and right of access. In many individual cases, the difficulty lies in how to define the best interest of the child in the balance between the child's and the parent's rights. Social work and its interventions have been judged in the case law specially through Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life and Article 6: Right to a fair trial. The aim of the presentation is to discuss the principles of the case laws concerning children's rights and social work and to consider the significance of case laws for social work practice. The examples are from judgments against Finland.

Key words: human rights, children's rights, ethics, social work

Workshop V 11:00–12:30 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Social exclusion of young people in Europe

Coordinators: Mirja Määttä & Sanna Ryynänen

This workshop addresses the question of social exclusion of young people in Europe from a variety of different angles, from the spatiality of social exclusion to a normalization function of social work.

The workshop presentations remind us about the different facets of social exclusion. They also open up perspectives on the possible ways of addressing it. Marek Mikulec invites us to reflect on the ghettoisation of European cities and its over-generational consequences. Raili Leskisenoja asks how social work could be developed in the light of Foucauldian analyses of power relations. Mirja Määttä raises the question of networked co-planning of policy papers that try to prevent youth exclusion. Maija Gellin shows the school conflict mediation as a learning opportunity for social skills, respect, and responsibility.

The combining theme of these four presentations is power relations and their multiple consequences in producing and maintaining social exclusion.

Presentations workshop V

Social Exclusion in the Czech Republic (Aimed at the City of Ostrava)

Marek Mikulec, PhD Student, University of Ostrava, Faculty of Social Studies,
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Moral identity of unemployed young adults according to Michel Foucault's theory

Raili Leskisenoja, PhD Student, University of Helsinki, Finland
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Conflicts can be learning situations

Maija Gellin, PhD Student, mediator, Member of European Council for Juvenile Justice (ECJJ), Project Director, School Mediation/Finnish Forum for Mediation, Finland, maija.gellin@sovittelu.com

Network governance tensions in the policy planning processes — A case study on recent child and youth policy formation in Finland

Mirja Määttä, Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Eastern Finland, Department of Social Sciences, mirja.maatta@uef.fi

Kai Eriksson, Research Fellow, University of Helsinki, Network for European Studies, kai.erisson@helsinki.fi

Social Exclusion in the Czech Republic (Aimed at the City of Ostrava)

Marek Mikulec, Czech Republic

An increasing number of people are permanently excluded from the labour market, and they are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. This relates to the process of deindustrialization and transformation of the society into one oriented toward the consumption and production of services. This is the case with the city of Ostrava (which used to be the 'industrial heart' of the country). Rising social inequalities influence the structuring of space. Excluded people are segregated away from mainstream society into certain localities. The increasing spatial concentration of poor people leads to the formation of ghettos. Therefore, new areas are created, where life is governed by rules that differ from those outside their borders because for their residents, the majority society ceases to be the reference society. They have no confidence in its abstract systems, especially if their exclusion removes many contacts with the access points of these systems. Such living conditions often have an impact on children. They usually receive only a basic level of education, and a greater part of their lives are spent within the boundaries of the excluded area. Their cultural capital is not sufficient for life outside the excluded locality, but it is very well adapted to life in it. Can social work succeed in solving this?

Key words: social exclusion, segregation, ghetto, post-industrialism, social polarization

Moral identity of unemployed young adults according to Michel Foucault's theory

Raili Leskisenoja, Finland

In his poststructuralist theory, Michel Foucault argued that the use of power justified norms rather than law. This is known as discursive power. Power is collective and does not refer to human property but to the ability to collaborate. Power belongs to the group and it matters how it is used. Discourse defines and shapes subjects. Structural power is divided hierarchically. The exercise of power can be localized and studied by centres of resistance. Individuals form a reflexive relation with themselves, with other people, and with the community by historically changing practices that they embrace from their environment. According to Foucault, morality is a practiced, not discovered, set of values and rules for action that are presented to individuals and groups by various institutions. The individual creates himself or herself as the moral subject by his or her own actions. Foucault believes that social work uses power for normalization. The task of social workers is to help the individual become an independent, working citizen, which is the measure of normalcy. Another goal of social workers is to facilitate inclusion and prevent exclusion. Social workers should help marginalized people to enhance their capability and reshape their moral identity if they have low self-esteem. Foucault's theories are useful tools for analysing the power relations and moral identity of service users. The theories can be applied to develop social work.

Key words: young adult, moral identity, normative power, social work, study

Conflicts can be learning situations

Maija Gellin, Finland

While discussing conflict management in schools, we usually still lean on adults' authority. Adults take care of order and peace by using punishments and sanctions. Definitions imposed by adults limit youngsters' participation. Isolating a pupil from a peer group or stigmatizing him or her with some negative role makes his or her integration back into the group difficult, and this can even lead to social exclusion. Recent research on juvenile values shows that the most important values are responsibility and promise-keeping. A punishment culture does not support these values. Sanctions may keep youngsters away from misbehaviour, but what do they learn? — Avoiding punishments by not getting caught. What about promise-keeping? 95% of school mediation cases lead to kept promises. Mediation also works as early prevention. Pupils themselves estimate the seriousness of a conflict. Every harmful issue can lead to mediation without an adult giving the definition for it. In mediation, parties meet face-to-face, talk about opinions and feelings, and create a common solution. No labels of bully or bullied, or bad or good are given. Promises are made between peers — not for the authority — and that is why these promises are carefully kept. In Finland, some schools have started a journey toward a restorative learning society. These schools see daily conflicts as learning opportunities: they practise social skills, respect, and responsibility — valuable issues for preventing the exclusion of individuals. Pupils are still building up their identity, but at the same time, they really should be understood as experts of their own peer societies. With co-operation, we can work against marginalisation together.

Key words: social learning, school mediation, participation, early prevention, peer support

Network governance tensions in the policy planning processes — A case study on recent child and youth policy formation in Finland
Mirja Määttä & Kai Eriksson, Finland

The public sector produces a vast array of different policy papers for promoting wellbeing and preventing risks. The plans are often produced in networks that seek partnership arrangements between the public, private, and voluntary sectors. The aim of networked co-planning is to improve the applicability of the programmes, and legitimate policy means. The paper identifies challenges in the networked planning processes in the recent Finnish child and youth policy planning, which is steered by the Youth Act (2006) and Child Welfare Act (2007). The empirical data consists of group interviews of officials, who have taken part in the planning processes in five case municipalities, and discussions with the ministries, expert organizations, NGOs, and other organizations who participated in forming the national child and youth policy development programme. These national and municipal planning processes are examined in the light of the tensions between processes and rationalities seeking political consistency and political multiplicity or the demands of democracy and bureaucracy, which are inherent in network governance. We ask about what kinds of aims were emphasized in the planning processes. Do they focus on enhancing youth participation and their wellbeing or developing services? Or do they stress upon multi-agency collaboration or influencing political decisions?

Key words: network governance, policy planning processes, child and youth policy, Finland

Workshop VI 11:00–12:30 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Family welfare and social work with families in Europe

Coordinators: Maritta Törrönen & Anne-Mari Jaakola

In this workshop, which focuses on family welfare and social work with families in Europe, we have an opportunity to hear interesting presentations concerning different aspects of family life and work with families. The most natural way of providing welfare and well-being is the family. Maritta Törrönen raises this point in her presentation. She views Finnish family life through a qualitative study of the factors that lead to the well-being of families in their everyday life. Minna Ylikännö and Anne-Mari Jaakola address another viewpoint regarding family life and, in particular, the welfare of children. They focus on how children spend their time in everyday life. In their presentation, their aim is to analyse Finnish children's time spent alone in the past twenty years. The other two presentations in this workshop focus more on social work and work with families. Andreas Baldschun studies the occupational well-being of the Finnish child welfare workers using a multidimensional model. This topic is very important, and this presentation raises two important factors for occupational well-being: personal and organizational. Heidi Pohjanpalo analyses the elements that affect the success of child welfare work. She examines child welfare custody processes and tries to determine the preconditions for effective custody.

Presentations Workshop VI

Finnish families with children in their everyday lives

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Children's time alone — should we be concerned?

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Outcomes of taking children into care

Heidi Pohjanpalo, Researcher, PhD Student, University of Eastern Finland,
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The importance of child welfare employees' occupational well-being for successful work with families and children

Andreas Baldschun, PhD Student, University of Eastern Finland,
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Finnish families with children in their everyday lives

Maritta Törrönen, Finland

This paper discusses the everyday life of families with children and their well-being. It analyses the everyday life of families and things that strengthen them or weaken them. Well-being is interpreted through the perspective of the trust relationships Finnish families have with the people close by, or with the society as a whole. The Finnish economy is doing well currently; however, the polarization of the population is increasing. The Finnish society is struggling with the ideas of individualism versus collectivism and how these relate to providing services to families. This study uses a qualitative methodology and phenomenological analyses. It involves interviews of the members of 21 families. The well-being of parents is closely linked to gender, generation, working life, level of subsistence, and the overall well-being of the family. The accumulation of social, cultural, and economic capital is connected to the experiences of satisfaction and life quality. Good life quality is highly connected with factors such as adequate housing, work satisfaction, overall good health, and the development of relationships where people have strong trust in each other. As a result of the subjective nature of the determination of well-being, we believe that less subjective measures such as living conditions and economic circumstances should be considered important in delineating well-being. However, it should be noted that even under such difficult circumstances, people can find small moments of happiness and love in their life.

Key words: families with children, well-being, everyday life, phenomenology

Children's time alone — should we be concerned?

Minna Ylikännö & Anne-Mari Jaakola, Finland

In recent years, there has been public concern about how children use their time. There have been claims that children exercise too little and instead spend their time passively with a computer. Consequently, there have appeared claims that children spend less time with their family members and friends and increasingly lack decent social skills (see e.g. Rimpelä 2008; Österbacka 2010; Pääkkönen 2008; Endestad et al. 2011). In this paper, we use time use surveys conducted by Statistics Finland in 1987–1988, 1999–2000, and 2009–2010 to study how Finnish children spend their time alone. The data includes children aged 10–19 who live with their parents. The results reveal that in 2010, both boys and girls spent four hours alone in the weekdays and ten minutes more on weekends. The time spent alone has increased by 40 minutes in twenty years for both genders. In 2010, 29% of children spent less than two hours per day alone. However, for 27% of children, the daily time spent alone exceeds six hours. These children devoted significantly more time to computer use than those spending less time alone. They also spent less time in exercising and in social activities. Furthermore, family background and the educational level of parents have an impact on the time children spend alone. To conclude, time spent alone is at high levels in Finland among one-third of the children aged 10–19. Much of the time spent alone is devoted to computer use. Hence, we should be concerned but also more aware of the changing patterns of new media use and social activity among adolescents.

Key words: time use research, children's wellbeing

Outcomes of taking children into care

Heidi Pohjanpalo, Finland

The main objective of my research is to analyse and explain what kind of outcomes are attained by child protection measures with used resources, what are the child protection processes like, and which factors seem to be the preconditions for effective placements and affect success. Data collected from the social work documents of 246 cases of children taken into society's custody in 1990–1998 in a Finnish town, including four pairs of twins, are being analysed by quantitative methods. These four pairs of twins are also being studied more thoroughly by qualitative methods as a part of the doctoral thesis. Special interest is focused on the child protection processes, the course of life from the beginning of the custom in child welfare till the end of 2010, outcomes of taking the child into care, and problems passed on from generation to generation. The doctoral thesis will be the beginning of a follow-up study of a random sample of 40 cases of 246 children that is conducted as a postdoctoral research using multiple methods. The detailed data collection from the documents (social workers' journals, final acts and different kinds of resolutions, letters, etc.) is already completed and remains to be examined in detail. The first rough results of some background features of the 246 cases will be presented at the Constructing European Social Welfare and Social Work in the Midst of Diverse Traditions, Policies, and Practices conference in the University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio.

Key words: child welfare, child protection, outcomes, taking into care, child protection processes

The importance of child welfare employees' occupational well-being for successful work with families and children

Andreas Baldschun, Finland

This paper provides knowledge about the processes responsible for creating and maintaining the occupational well-being of child welfare employees presented in a multidimensional model for child welfare professions. Successful social work with families and children depends on various factors that often remain unknown. However, one factor playing a major role in successfully performing child welfare is the well-being of the employee. The well-being of child welfare employees is under threat from various kinds of mental distresses that are caused by the special work conditions and by the nature of child welfare work with mentally ill, traumatised, and deprived clients. As a result of these work-related distresses, absenteeism of employees and turnover rates are disproportionately high. Logically, absenteeism inevitably produces costs for the organisations and interrupts worker–client relationships. The key processes in developing psychological distress as well as employee well-being are seen in the worker-client relationship and the interaction of the organisation with their employees. The presented model reveals the importance of constructive interaction between organisations and their employees for creating and maintaining occupational well-being. Applying this model will contribute toward enhancing the level of occupational well-being of child welfare employees as well as the organisational well-being.

Key words: child welfare, mental distress, worker-client relationship, occupational well-being model

Workshop VII 15:30–17:00 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Ageing and gerontological social work

Coordinators: Riitta-Liisa Kinni & Seija Okulov

The presentations in the workshop on aging and gerontological social work can be divided into two main themes: poverty in old age and old people as service recipients in an institution.

Old people and poverty:

Dana Sýkorová contributes with a plan for a follow-up research on poverty in old age. The results of previous large-scale multisource research provide information about how old people experience and interpret their life situations when faced with losses. It brought up questions about old people coping with poverty and the role of social work in the coping strategies.

Satu Ylinen and Sari Rissanen deal with this subject on the basis of a literature review. They have identified the risk factors of poverty among the elderly and described the experiences of poverty. According to their findings, most research focuses on individual-level risks, although community- and policy-level risks have also been found.

Old people and institutions:

Seija Okulov presents the results of an interview study carried out in a sheltered housing unit for old people. Her interest has been in the unit as a community and the social support that the house provides for its residents.

Riitta-Liisa Kinni contributes with a theoretical sketch of the process of needs assessment of an elderly patient in interprofessional work in a hospital. According to the results of a previous case study, the role of social work in interprofessional working is rather vague.

Presentations Workshop VII

Needs assessment and membership categorization analysis

Riitta-Liisa Kinni, Coordinator, Aducate Centre for Training and Development,
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The sheltered house for the elderly as a community and how the community is experienced by the residents of the house

Seija Okulov, Coordinator, Aducate Centre for Training and Development,
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Poverty in old age. (Presentation of a Research Project)

Dana Sýkorová, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic, dana.sykorova@osu.cz

Elderly poverty: Risks and experiences — a literature review

Satu Ylinen, Senior lecturer, University of Tampere, satu.ylinen@uta.fi

Sari Rissanen, Professor of Social Work, University of Eastern Finland,
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Needs assessment and membership categorization analysis

Riitta-Liisa Kinni, Finland

Allocation of services for elderly people is done on the basis of needs assessment. For such assessment, various measures have been developed to determine the condition of a person as accurately as possible. In the interprofessional context of elderly care, the assessment results of various parties are supposed to build up a holistic view. When conducting assessments from the ethno-methodological and social-constructionist viewpoints, the case is not so straightforward. Membership Categorization Analysis (MCA) can be used to analyse how the assessment is done in the everyday working of an interprofessional team in an institution. The members of an interprofessional team in a hospital categorize patients according to the social order of the institution by sharing certain ways of reasoning in their interaction. Categorizing the patients is people-processing work. MCA makes how this is done, by whom, and using which criteria visible. In a case study, it was shown how an elderly lady was processed from a person coping at home into a person needing institutional care. Professionals in the interprofessional team possess disparate tools in making accountable assessments and are therefore yielded agency to variable extent in the process. Gerontological social works seeks their place in the interprofessional process.

Key words: elderly, needs assessment, categorization, people-processing, gerontological social work

The sheltered house for the elderly as a community and how the community is experienced by the residents of the house

Seija Okulov, Finland

The purpose of this study was to analyse the influences of the community and the communality in a sheltered house for the elderly. The main questions were what sort of communality there exists in a sheltered house and what kind of social support the sheltered house for the elderly provides. I was studying one sheltered house somewhere in the Kuopio region in eastern Finland. I chose eight of the residents of the house for personal interviews. I also interviewed the staff of the sheltered house using the focus group method. All interviews were taped and transcribed, and they were then analysed by an inductive content analysis. The results of the study show that the sheltered house for the elderly is a community that is made of structural, functional, and emotional factors. Because the existence of the community in the sheltered house for the elderly is based on action and mutual experiences, the communality demands initiative and activity from the residents. The ability to act is connected with most of the factors of the community. According to an estimate, the ability to provide sheltered housing for the elderly is not adequate at the moment.

Key words: community; community factor; communality; aging; sheltered house for elderly

Poverty in old age. (Presentation of a Research Project)

Dana Sýkorová, Czech Republic

This contribution will present a research project being implemented by the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava. Formulated research questions will be discussed with regard to the results of a previous large-scale research project of the elderly — *Strategies of Maintaining Personal Autonomy* — a multisource, mixed-method/integrative research that provided detailed information on how seniors experience and interpret their life situation when faced with losses related to ageing and old age, and it enabled the identification of ‘strategic and improvisatory ways’ through which seniors try to cope with these losses and to maintain personal autonomy, including financial self-sufficiency. However, the findings referred to a common population of seniors, and not those would be considered endangered by poverty or poor by social work. Moreover, the data were obtained at a time of relatively more favourable socioeconomic conditions in the Czech Republic. Thus, new questions arise, forming the basis for the follow-up research on poverty in the old age. Our considerations or research questions, introduced at the conference, will be set into the framework of discussions on the capacity of the theoretical ‘resources-of-poverty model of survival’ and the inspiring proposal to replace it by the ‘model of poverty-of-resources’ allowing for the limited nature of survival strategies.

Key words: old age, seniors, poverty, resources of poverty, poverty of resources.

Elderly poverty: Risks and experiences — a literature review

Satu Ylinen & Sari Rissanen, Finland

The aim of this abstract is to provide knowledge of poverty among the elderly for social work practices by reviewing the existing literature. The research tasks were (1) to identify risk factors of poverty among the elderly on individual, community, and political levels and (2) to describe the experiences of poverty in a wellbeing framework. Research articles concerning experiences of poverty (n = 11) were chosen for content analysis by means of a systematic literature review. Findings: The risk factors for poverty can be identified on different levels in society, although most of the research focuses on individual-level risks. At the individual level, gender, being single, education, working history, and health status are quite clear indicators for poverty. At the community level, it seems that elderly rural people particularly face many challenges. At the political level, the causes of poverty among the elderly are partly connected to the different kinds of welfare reforms. As an experience, poverty implies many kinds of exclusion from physical, social, and mental wellbeing. It seems obvious that poverty impairs the satisfaction of basic needs such as nutrition or health care, but at the same time, life becomes confined to the home and social wellbeing is missing. Financial worries, anxiety, and attempts at adaptation govern everyday life and mental wellbeing.

Key words: poverty, elderly, risks, experiences

Workshops VIII 15:30–17:00 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Perspectives of health and disability in social work

Coordinators: Mark de St. Aubin & Leena Leinonen

This workshop will highlight themes and challenges in social work within the context of health care and rehabilitation. Global and national issues concerning health and well-being will be explored from a variety of direct practice and policy perspectives. Topics addressed include

- Grief counselling and ‘participant supervisor method for empowerment’ as two effective practice methods in working with the disabled and their caregivers;
- Education needed to address the burnout risk of social workers;
- Role dissonance/congruence between social work’s roles as social advocate and therapist;
- Factors influencing inclusion or marginalization of social work in medical teams; and
- Challenges and opportunities for improving the effectiveness of international social work research.

Presentations Workshop VIII

Psychotropic medication and interprofessional social work in Italy

Davide Galesi, University of Trento, Italy, davide.galesi@unitn.it

Burnout in social work — how to educate social workers?

Zuzana Kašpárková, Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, kasparkova.zuzana@post.cz

The therapy orientation and professional identity of Finnish social workers in psychiatric health care

Leena Leinonen, University Teacher, University of Eastern Finland, leena.leinonen@uef.fi

Empowerment of the rehabilitation process

Jenni Rytönen, Rehabilitation counsellor, Mikemet Oy, jenni.rytkonen@mikemet.fi

Chronic sorrow: Helping families with the ongoing loss of disability and chronic illness

Mark de St. Aubin, Associate Professor/Lecturer, University of Utah, USA, mark.destaubin@socwk.utah.edu

Psychotropic medication and interprofessional social work in Italy

Davide Galesi, Italy

The consumption of psychotropic drugs is constantly increasing in Europe and in Italy as well. This process is not connected with an actual epidemic of mental illness, but is rather related to the medicalisation of psychoemotional distress: indeed, both physicians and patients often prefer to control the emerging pathologies of the action through biological tools instead of with a wider redefinition of the self. In this context, interprofessional collaboration between psychiatrists and social workers is essential, because the latter can carry out interventions that reduce the social determinants of distress, thus accomplishing more integrated support. The Italian case study shows that interprofessional collaboration in psychotropic medication is pursued using different organizational models, where social workers are placed inside or outside the local Medical Health Centres. The effects of these models are ambivalent: sometimes they produce a ‘marginalization’ of social work and operators play the functions of advocate, counsellor, and educator; sometimes they develop high interprofessional collaboration, where social workers become consultant for clients and have to monitor even the effects of the medication. The factors that influence the strength of the interprofessional collaboration in the different Italian local areas are related not so much to the formal organizational models or the normative systems but to the approach developed by the dominant professional group, that is, physicians: when their culture of medicalisation is relativised and a more integrated approach of community care is sought, innovative solutions can be achieved.

Key words: psychotropic drugs, medicalization, interprofessional collaboration, prevention, mental distress

Burnout in social work — how to educate social workers?

Zuzana Kašpárková, Czech Republic

This paper deals with the issue of education of social workers as a group at risk of burnout, and its aim is both to discuss burnout in social workers in the research and to present partial conclusions from research in the Czech Republic. In short, burnout is described along with its phases, and the profession of a social worker is outlined. The theoretical part is complemented by an analysis of the current situation in the region as a necessary element for design innovations in education programs on social work. The conclusion sets out the intention of the dissertation, which aims to carry out research on burnout in social work and propose incentives for innovations in the education of future graduates.

Key words: burnout, social worker, methods for studying burnout, education innovation

The therapy orientation and professional identity of Finnish social workers in psychiatric health care

Leena Leinonen, Finland

Social work in Finland has traditionally been strongly linked with social policy. The main task of social workers including those in the field of mental health is to provide social advocacy to the patients and to take care of concrete issues in everyday life. However, in psychiatric health care, social work is usually performed from a therapeutic starting point. Many Finnish psychiatric social workers have schooled themselves as legalized therapists. The aim of the study is to analyse and visualize the interface between social work and therapy, which have traditionally been separated from each other in Finland. The results shows that almost one-third of Finnish psychiatric social workers have schooled themselves as legalized therapists. This indicates that social workers believe that using therapy methods as a tool in social work makes it easier to confront psychiatric patients and their problems. On the basis of these results, it is justified to say that there are some major problems concerning the professional identity of Finnish psychiatric social workers. Therapy-centred social workers may totally neglect the main task of social work that is related to social policy.

Key words: social work, psychiatry, work orientation, therapy, professional identity

Empowerment of the rehabilitation process

Jenni Rytönen, Finland

The present study deals with the rehabilitation process of empowerment. The purpose of this doctoral thesis is to examine what empowerment is in the rehabilitation process and how to participate in the supervisor process to contribute to empowerment and further rehabilitation. The research problem is to find a participating instructor-effectiveness of the method of the empowerment rehabilitation process. In addition, the study determines what kind of context can be used to create a social enterprise empowering the rehabilitation process. More specifically, the study explains how a social enterprise's activities and objectives support and reflect the empowerment rehabilitation process of the method used. The aim is to obtain data on how effectively the participatory method can direct empowerment in promoting the rehabilitation process and what factors are found to facilitate this empowerment process. The study also aims to highlight the method performance and the effectiveness of a social enterprise and in the context of rehabilitation. The study involved in the supervisor-manual method for modelling shape. The study result of rehabilitation research in the field of social work constitutes new information. The study is qualitative and the empirical material is structured using theme interviews, which have the same depth. The material is analysed by applying content analysis.

Key words: rehabilitation (YSA), rehabilitation process, empowerment (YSA), peer support, participant supervisor

Chronic sorrow: helping families with the ongoing loss of disability and chronic illness

Mark de St. Aubin, USA

The concept of chronic sorrow can be applied to those caring for loved ones with a variety of disabilities and/or chronic conditions representing losses that do not lend themselves to resolution or integration in the same way that losses of finality do. This session explores the nature of this ongoing grief response and presents intervention principles that can guide our practice with both paediatric and adult populations. Case examples are presented for the discussion and illustration of suggested therapeutic strategies.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to

- Identify the characteristics of chronic sorrow as a response to ongoing, irresolvable losses associated with disability and a variety of chronic illnesses.
- Compare and contrast the concept of chronic sorrow with that of both disenfranchised and ambiguous loss, and view this type of problematic grief through a more normative lens.
- Apply practice principles that show promise in helping family caregivers develop resiliency to live with and abide by the challenges of such an irresolvable loss and the new reality it creates.

Key words: chronic sorrow, chronic illness, disability, family support

Workshop IX 15:30–17:00 11th October, Medistudia Group Work Room

Human rights, minorities and ethics

Coordinators: Marja Väänänen-Fomin & Veli-Matti Poutanen

Social work as a profession is committed to promote human rights and social justice. Human rights are considered as a general and universal regulative idea for social work theory, ethics, and practice. They can be seen as a goal, as a universal representation of social justice, and as a materialized conception and legal rights at the same time. They can be seen as answers to experiences of injustice and the powerlessness of individuals, groups, and social minorities. Globalisation and welfare crisis, the features of contemporary society, are having a large impact on people's life and societies' infrastructure in Europe. This means challenges to social work's advocacy mission of rights of their client's in marginal. Human rights, status of minorities, and ethics require continuous international discussion. This workshop includes four presentations. Merja Tarvainen, Eastern University of Finland, analyses human rights of persons with disabilities in the context of the formation of Finnish social policy. Miriam Šramatá, Trnava University, discusses the status of Roma as a target of the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion in the Slovak Republic. Monica Pfaller-Rott and Barbara Wasner, Catholic University of Eichstätt, contribute prospects and challenges of social work in European networks of civil society and human rights organisations. Doris Boehler, Fachhochschule Vorarlberg, presents new learning methods for ethics within sensitive areas such as intercultural competence.

Presentations Workshop IX

Touching your emotions — learning through experiences

Doris Böhler, Lecturer in Social Work, University of Applied Sciences Vorarlberg, Austria, doris.boehler@fhv.at

Present situation of roma minority in Slovakia

Miriam Šramatá, University of Trnava, Slovak Republic, miriam.sramata@centrum.sk

European networks — a means of integration

Monika Pfaller-Rott, Catholic University of Eichstätt, monika.pfaller-rott@ku.de

Barbara Wasner, Catholic University of Eichstätt, barbara.wasner@ku.de

Topical themes on disability policy

Merja Tarvainen, University of Eastern Finland, mktarvai@student.uef.fi

Touching your emotions — learning through experiences

Doris Böhler, Austria

In this presentation, the importance of experiential forms of learning within social work education (Bachelor & Master's degree) is argued and illustrated using two concrete examples developed and tested in my personal teaching experience. These examples follow the assumption that emotions form an integral part of the academic learning process, especially in the fields of working with minorities and critically debating human rights issues. Emotions can be evoked and critically reflected upon to progress within learning processes. As Moon (2005) states in her paper on reflection in higher education learning, 'We reflect on things for which there is not an obvious or immediate solution. Often the latter will be instigated by or associated with a range of feelings and the experience of such reflection may be emotional or spiritual'. A creative way to start and engage in this process of guided reflection is through experimental learning techniques, two of which are briefly outlined as follows: 1. Simulation game about the right to asylum on 'Island Phantasia' ending in a critical discussion of underlying assumptions, values, and ethical considerations. 2. An 'Observational Study Exercise' asking students to leave their 'comfort zone' and to experience two excursions to places of comfort and discomfort, followed by a written reflection paper. This presentation concludes through a linkage of the presented teaching methods to the desired learning outcome of social work students to gain competence in reflecting critically upon ethical issues with special regard to difference and diversity.

Key words: reflection, emotions, applied ethics, experiential learning, diversity

Present situation of roma minority in Slovakia

Miriam Šramatá, Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic is one of the countries with the highest share of Roma in their populations. There are approximately 500,000 Roma in Slovakia, accounting for approximately 10% of the population. The largest populations of Roma live in regions that have the largest numbers of families at the brink of poverty owing to loss of employment, low average wages, work-related mobility, and rather strongly present pathological social phenomena. The worst situation is in segregated rural or urban settlements with Roma living in poor housing with no standard hygiene habits and poor nutrition. The state government, local authorities, nongovernmental organizations, churches, volunteers, and others have been striving to ameliorate Roma issues. The author focuses her presentation on priority areas that need to be targeted, including living conditions, education, unemployment, and health protection. These areas are repeatedly found in the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion in the Slovak Republic. The last of them is the plan for 2020 that emphasizes the basic strategic principles of Roma inclusion: destigmatisation, desegregation, and deghettoisation. The basic vision of the strategy for 2020 should therefore pursue two main objectives — reducing the gap between Roma and non-Roma NGOs and strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of Roma NGOs so that they are capable of self-financing and the spending of the European Union. The author describes the goals and task of social work and social policy in terms of this strategy.

Key words: Roma minority, social inclusion, social work

European networks — a means of integration

Monika Pfaller-Rott & Barbara Wasner, Germany

European integration is also a process of institutional change for Eastern Europe. An important part of this institutional change is the inclusion of civil society organizations in policy making at the European level. Civil society organizations are asked to contribute to engage themselves in policy-making and policy implementation. The vast majority of organizations engage themselves in the fields of business and internal markets. But there also exist a constantly growing number of organizations in the field of social policy. Progress in the field of social work and, in turn, human rights is also driven by the increasing networks of civil society organizations at the EU level. Social work in human rights organizations is (more or less by their own nature) internationally oriented and so strongly integrated in European networks. But inasmuch the integration of these organizations from the different member states is not equal, there exist considerable differences. In our contribution, we show the prospects and challenge of networking and the different degrees of integration of human rights organizations in European networks. We identify the main reasons for these differences and discuss the ability and willingness to contribute to European networks in the context of social work.

Key words: European networks, civil society, human rights organizations

Topical themes on disability policy

Merja Tarvainen, Finland

Human rights, basic rights (civil rights), inclusion, and equality are key concepts of the current disability policy. The disability policy is a multilevel policy. Policy statements with mentioned concepts can be read out as policy documents made at levels of international cooperation and in state contexts. Global cooperation is central to the disability policy; the aims of the disability policy are global. Global policymaking and international cooperation have played a central role for both human rights and the emergence of disability policy (since the 1960s). The disability policy is concerned with questions of social, political, and sociopolitical membership as well as belonging and participation. During the 20th and the 21st centuries, these have become issues of rights and rightness of an importance that is remarkable when viewed historically. The process of rightness with regard to social responsibilities and sociopolitical belonging are topical nowadays. The main principles of the current disability policy (explained in the policy statement *Valtioneuvoston selonteko vammaispolitiikasta 2006*) in Finland can be crystallized in the form of three rights: (1) right to equality, (2) right to participation and inclusion, and (3) right to required services and measures of support. Services can be central with regard to enabling social and societal participation. Services are societal practices; societal practices reflect the realizations of human rights as well as the ethical considerations and ideas of society, agencies, and human beings. The disability policy provides an outlook on social security, sociopolitical inclusion, and participation.

Key words: disability policy, human rights, welfare services, rightness, policymaking

Young Academics Conference

Wednesday, 10th October 2012, Medistudia Auditorium ML3

Coordinator: Andreas Baldschun

Presentations

Preventing financial exclusion in Europe - facts about and strategies against!

Markus Rossa, Catholic University of Eichstätt, Germany

Poverty and social exclusion in urban area

Marek Mikulec, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Tutor: Mgr. František Znebežánek, Ph.D.

Comparisons of social work education system between Finland and Taiwan

Lan-Li Huang, University of Eastern Finland

Supervisor: Prof. Juha Hämäläinen, Prof. Riitta Vornanen

Life experience under the influence and on the street

Eliška Lindovská, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Tutor: PhDr. Alice Gojová, Ph.D.

YAC-Workshop

Building an academic research career

Life experience under the influence and on the street

Eliška Lindovská, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Tutor: PhDr. Alice Gojová, Ph.D.

Keywords: ‘Multiple Exclusion Homelessness’ concept, homelessness, substance misuse, housing, social services for homeless people

Research question:

In what way do homeless substance misusers and social services for homeless people construct the life experience ‘under the influence and on the street’ and in what way on the basis of that do they interact?

Present state of the research problem:

The author entered the field and chose the role of participant–observer in Kostrzynska (in Granosik, Gulczynska, Marynowicz-Hetka (eds.), 2010). The author attended a low-threshold centre for homeless people in Ostrava, where she is conducting a part of her research. She is currently gaining the trust of the workers there as well as of the service users of the centre. In the presentation, I would like to emphasize on my field experiences, the dilemmas I was faced with, and the challenges the research has brought to me thus far as a researcher (entering the field, role of the researcher, leaving the field).

Theoretical background:

Social exclusion and homelessness

There are people at the sharpest end of homelessness and other social problems. Literature (Fitzpatrick, Johnsen, White, 2011) refers to them as those experiencing ‘MEH’ (Multiple Exclusion Homelessness). Recently, there is a growing body of evidence about the MEH concept abroad. Preliminary results of MEH research from Great Britain (Fitzpatrick, Johnsen, White, 2011) state that homelessness is the most common form of exclusion experienced by the users of

low-threshold services. This study also introduces four domains of deep social exclusion (street culture, homelessness, substance misuse, and institutional care). There is no empirical evidence about the MEH concept in the Czech Republic, but we have some empirical results in particular domains of MEH that resonate with the empirical results from abroad and are related to the street life of homeless people.

Housing and homelessness

A research from the Moravian–Silesian County in the Czech Republic shows that most respondents (392 homeless people in shelters and hostels) would accept social services support to obtain stable housing as this proved to be their primary interest (Faldynová, Orgoníková, 2006). Lux, Mikeszová, and Sunega (2010) see the main goal of help in placing the client in a long-term accommodation as soon as possible. At the same time, they comment on the accumulation of problems (such as offending, debts, and addiction) and state that clients with such complex needs should enter into a continuum of care housing model owing to their need of engagement in individual social work and in compulsory programme participation. On the other hand, Felton (2003) argues that this approach of deserved housing (possibility of obtaining stable housing only in the case of successful completion of programmes promoting abstinence and stable mental health) does not function for everyone and in its strict form for anyone. In the Czech Republic, law No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services in its valid version reacts to the needs of homeless people with the definition of social services for the target group of rough sleepers or people in socially disadvantaged situations linked to housing loss. The definition of such target groups and social services for them does not enable multidisciplinary work with clients who have other housing needs (such as needs related to mental health, substance misuse, or offending).

Research design and methods

For the purpose of the dissertation thesis, a qualitative research strategy was chosen (Creswell, 2007). As a meta-theory for the methodological part, I used an interpretative paradigm. Grounded theory methods are considered. Grounded theory methods are a set of flexible analytic guidelines that enable a researcher to focus their data collection and to build inductive middle-range theories through data analysis and conceptual development. The data analysis begins early in order to help the researcher to focus further data collection. The result is an analytic interpretation of the participant's worlds and of the processes constituting how these worlds are constructed. It can be used to analyse relationships between the human agency and the social structure (Denzin, Lincoln, 2008).

Methodological procedure

I have already processed literature, relevant research, and research reports (Czech and foreign). Therefore, I can state that I have gained a fair understanding of the intended topic. In May 2012, I started the field research (I am establishing contacts with clients through my stay in the day centre and through my last employment as a substance misuse worker. I use the snowballing technique for this purpose. I have also conducted first interviews regarding interactions between homeless substance misusers and social services (the data-gathering phase)).

In the autumn, I will go through the first data analysis and interpretation. I expect myself to be back in the field for data verification and for conducting some more interviews in the winter. Around spring, I should finalise the interpretation.

Literature

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Poverty and social exclusion in urban area

Marek Mikulec, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Tutor: Mgr. František Znebejánek, Ph.D.

Key words: poverty, social exclusion, urban area, segregation, inequality

Research question: How do people living in the excluded locality Zárubek (Ostrava, Czech Republic.) create and accept social order?

Present state of the research problem: Poverty and social exclusion is a current topic, but qualitative research in such a specific locality (Zárubek, Ostrava, Czech Republic) will be unique.

Theoretical background: An increasing number of people living in economically highly developed countries (including the Czech Republic) are permanently excluded from the labour market and are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Their numbers are increasing regardless of the stage of the economic cycle (Keller, 2010). Bauman (2008) wrote that today's excommunication cannot be seen as a result of momentary misfortune that can be corrected — it has a touch of irrevocability. A characteristic feature of social exclusion is its multi-dimensional nature (Percy-Smith 2000). Bhalla, Lapeyre (1997: 418) distinguishes three basic dimensions of social exclusion: economic, political, and social.

The process combining social exclusion and spatial concentration of excluded people is called segregation. It is a consequence of growing social polarization. The result of this is segregation of differentiated social groups into different residential areas of the city. It is a spatial expression of social inequalities (Burjanek 1997). People or groups are outside the common daily life of the mainstream society. These places are usually characterised by poverty, unemployment, and poor-quality housing (Lux, Mikeszová, and Sunega 2010).

The increasing spatial concentration of poor people leads to the formation of ghettos. Ghettos are space-bounded areas where a racially and culturally homogenous discriminated population under pressure of the majority creates their own institutions that are parallel to those of the majority society. Nevertheless, these institutions are only an imperfect parallel and are not a fully functional alternative (Wacquant 1997).

Ghettos are presented as places of disorder and deficiency. Whyte (1993) says that what appears as social pathology or decomposition may be just another type of social arrangement. People are not sufficiently equipped for life outside the excluded locality, but they are very well adapted to life inside (Radostný 2005; Zimbardo 2005). This is also one of the reasons for spreading resistance to the majority in their environment. Such living habits have a strong tendency to self-reproduce (Lewis 1966).

The theoretical background for this type of study is provided by the approach of the Chicago School, that is, the socioecological approach, which was developed in the 1920s in the United States (Burgess, Park 1925; Wirth 1964).

Research design and methods: According to Blumer (1969), research involves two phases: exploration and inspection. Now, I am in the first phase — exploration: processing literature and relevant pieces of research; starting the field research; creating ties in the locality; and collecting information about the locality from the Police, documents, archives, municipal authority, etc. The aim is to perform qualitative research (long-term research in the locality); for this purpose, I have chosen an interpretative framework — symbolic interactionism.

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Comparisons of social work education system between Finland and Taiwan

Lan-Li Huang, University of Eastern Finland

Supervisors: Prof. Juha Hämäläinen, Prof. Riitta Vornanen

After studying the international social work master program in Finland, I have observed that Finland and Taiwan have integrated the social work education system from USA and Western countries since the early 19th century. One hundred years later, the social work education systems in these two countries show different patterns. For both Finland and Taiwan, the social work knowledge was from similar resources. Nonetheless, some factors have led to differences in Finland's and Taiwan's social work education systems. Therefore, I have studied (1) what the similarities and differences are, (2) what factors cause these similarities and differences, and (3) what we can suggest to these two social work education systems. In this thesis, the main research method is the qualitative research method. The results of the thesis are produced through interviews and documentary research. The thesis also studies literature. Thus far, findings of the similarities and differences have generally been influenced by history, welfare systems, politics, and culture. When mentioned in practice, the relationship between professors and students multiplies the learning performance. When this thesis is finished, I hope that its results can clarify the divergences of the two social work education systems by combining Asian and Nordic concepts. Furthermore, I hope that this thesis can provide different viewpoints when these two systems face changes or challenges.

Key words: social work education, comparative study, Finland, Taiwan

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10-12 October 2012, Kuopio, Finland

