

Diversity and Methods in Social Work in a European Perspective

12th International University Week April 19th - 23rd, 2010

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

Abstracts

Plenary session **Child protection and social services in the actual debate – the example of Jena**
Dipl.päd. Andreas Amendt, head special social service, youth welfare office, City of Jena

Workshops *Each workshop has 4 sessions of 2,5 hours (Tue: 09.30-12.00/13.30-16.00h; Wed: 09.30-12.00/13.30-16.00h.) Participants stay in the same workshop for the whole period of 10 hours. Some workshops include excursions esp. in session III.*

1. Experience based learning/education and outdoor training

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

Outdoor training and experiential education are methods in social work and management, which follow the principle “learning by doing with head, heart and hand”. Groups and individuals get quite unusual tasks with some more or less difficult challenges. These are for example numerous different interaction plays, climbing or boating. The target of these activities is to transfer the social and individual experiences into the everyday life and to change productively self-estimation and communication.

In this workshop we will learn the theoretical and practical basics of outdoor training and experiential education. There are no background capabilities necessary for taking part at this workshop. We will be learning by doing. At the first day theoretical inputs and practical exercises will alternate. At the second day an excursion with the seminary-group to a climbing-hall will allow a deeper practical insight into the method.

Note: Participants have to pay an contribution of 5 €(not included in the congress fee) for the excursion. Please take gym shoes with you or you can lend climbing shoes for 3 €extra.

2. The Art and Social Work in the context of a multicultural society

Drs. Hanneke S. Sulman, Groningen (NL), NN

In this workshop we will take the diversity of our multi cultural society as a starting point. Culture can be defined as “Everything that people make, think and do”. Culture is made by people and, vice versa: people are made by culture. (Draaisma, D. Culture and Cognition, 2007)

According to the interculturalist Geert Hofstede culture consists of layers, like an onion: in the heart, there are the values and norms, in the next layer the rituals, then heroes, and in the outside layer: the symbols.

A human being uses “signs and symbols” to express himself, which for instance can be seen in the way you talk, dress, cook and in the way people make and use art (with the big and the small “ A”, like visual arts, music/dance, literature/poems etc).

Everyone is part of a (sub-) culture and uses in his own way these signs and symbols.

In this workshop we will enlarge our intercultural sensitivity and experience what art can mean as an artistic medium for a social worker in the diversity of a multicultural society. Besides discussing the subject, we will be drawing, looking, listening to music, maybe dancing.

3. Refugees in European Law and Policy

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Behlert (D), Prof. Panorea Vatou, (GR), D.Soc.Sc. Camilla Nordberg, (SF)

The European refugee's right is fixed fairly stiffly on the escape reason of the political pursuit. However, since some time this does not correspond to the social reality any more. The causes of today's migration streams lie above all in poverty, war, environmental destruction. In the workshop we will compile how politics and the law can reach to adequate answers to these new challenges.

Migration, Diversity and Citizenship in the (Nordic) Welfare States (*Nordberg*)

Drawing on existing debates in social science literature, the purpose of this presentation is to explore the links between migration, ethnic diversity and the welfare state. Scholars have been concerned with dilemmas related to whether ethnic diversity is eroding the welfare state and whether the welfare state can cater for the needs, rights and risks of an increasingly heterogeneous population. With regard to the Nordic countries, the centre of attention has been on whether a differentiated understanding of egalitarianism, universalism and solidarity is possible beyond that of a 'woman-friendliness' based on a majority identity. The presentation points to the importance of conceptualising and contextualising the notion of the 'welfare state' when we want to understand the ways in which increasing migration and societal diversity may challenge the welfare state. A more general theoretical discussion is mirrored against an empirical study of claims-making by Finnish Roma.

Domestic Violence among Refugee and Immigrant Women in Greece (*Vatou*),

Incidents of violence against immigrant and refugee women are not publicly known due to legal, economic, ethical, social and other obstacles. Cultural "peculiarities" influence them to submit and accept a violent male behavioral conduct. Working with abused women demands specialized training, availability and sensitivity towards the issue, the ability to remain objective.

4. Addiction, Rehabilitation & Music

Prof. Dr. Jörg Schulz, Jena (D), NN

This workshop will introduce the students to different possibilities of using music for rehabilitation of addicted and challenged people. Drug addicted as well as people with handicaps (which rank from minor physical problems to severe psychological problems) get a "chance by music". The development of two cases will be explained to the students as well as they will get possibilities to do exercises in this field.

5. Recovery-Oriented Social Work

Drs. Menno van Veen, Groningen (NL)



cos there's.... Something inside so strong (Labi Siffre)

"Recovery is the development of significance and [new] meaning in a life during the struggle to overcome the traumatic consequences of a mental or chronic illness"

"Experts by experience have knowledge and insights at their disposal that they have developed through reflection on and analysis of concrete disability experiences, as well of themselves as of others suffering from [psychiatric] diagnosis. Furthermore they are able to transfer these insights to others."

In the field of Social Work and Care there is a revolutionary development going on. In New Zealand, in parts of the USA and in the Netherlands. This new approach leads to less emphasis on disability, less emphasis on illness, less reliance on [medical] experts and more attention towards possibilities, coping with life and the expertise of [former] patients themselves.

In the workshop Recovery-Oriented Practice participants will learn and experience what this new development in the world of Social Work & Care implies. Together we will study and discuss the effects of this new approach.

There will be presentations, exercises, even music but also discussions on this topic. Participants will receive case material developed by experiential experts. Also participants will be confronted with the implications of this new approach for themselves and by doing so get the opportunity to take the first steps to incorporate this way of working and thinking in their own way of supporting people.

“Recovery is not cure, on the contrary it’s a person accepting that in most cases the disorder or disability can not be cured and nevertheless recapture control over their own life, their own destiny. It’s something someone can only do himself, but it helps if social workers and others take up a recovery oriented attitude.”

6. Ethnography in theory and practice of youth work

Prof. Dr. Birgit Bütow, Jena (D); Prof. Dr. Christian Spatscheck, Bremen (D)

Where do young people meet in Jena? What current trends of youth cultures do they follow? What do youth cultures mean at all in these days? What are the current needs of young people in public spaces?

This workshop tries to identify issues around the current and local development about the “life world” (Lebenswelt) of young people in Jena. For social workers / youth workers it seems to be highly important to stay informed about the current situation of their target groups and to develop suitable offers for them.

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

7. Social Work with youth at risk – street work and fan projects

Dipl.Päd. Sabine Stolzenberg/Sandy Hildebrandt, Jena (D),

Session 1 (Basics)

- Theoretical basis of streetwork (acceptance, outreach, critical partiality)
- Brief history of streetwork as a method of social work in Germany
- Target-groups and issues of contemporary streetwork

Session 2 (Practice)

- Standards in practice
- Possibilities and limits of streetwork
- Obstacles in streetwork (trust, reliability, closeness vs. distance; repression vs. understanding)

Session 3 (Excursion)

Session 4 (Future)

- Streetwork in times of low budgets
- European dimensions of streetwork

8. Long Life Learning – adult education: concepts and experiences in Europe

Prof. Dr. Erich Schäfer, Jena (D), NN

The workshop argues with the topical developments of the educational institutions of the 4th sector, the adult education and continuing education. The results of the research of a study on the effects of changed basic conditions of the institutions of the adult education in Thuringia and the demands for a modern concept of adult education will be introduced. Different institutions and facilities will be visited and compared concerning the target groups, methods, finances and the staff with each other. The participants should introduce her knowledge and experiences with the adult education from your countries.

9. Social Work and the Transformation of the Welfare State – an International Perspective

Prof. Dr. Michael Opielka, Jena (D); N.N.

Aside the new culturalist discourse in the field of social policy and its academic analysis one may observe a “cultural turn” within social policy itself. It reflects not only the ongoing “crisis of the welfare state” – interpreted as a combination of a lack of economic efficiency and political legitimacy – but moreover a threefold socio-cultural development: the victory of the Western capitalism and its welfare state idea over state socialist utopias by the late 1980s, the complex processes of de-secularization which come with an informational globalization, and, thirdly, the re-actualization of community bonds as countermovement towards familial change and marketization. Following this developments we can observe a deep transformation in the logic of the welfare state and social work which is marked by politics of “activation” as liberal answer to mass unemployment and poverty, a new emphasis on migration and integration, and an emergence of family and gender policies. Students from the Jena Master Class in Social Work and members of the Department will present and discuss papers on actual problems of welfare state development.

Session 1 – Tuesday April 20, 9.30-12

Introduction – The Structural and Cultural Transformation of the Welfare State and its Implications for Social Work (Michael Opielka)

Deprofessionalization and Soviet Social Policy – A Case Study on the Medical Profession in Early Soviet Russia (Daniela Gruber)

Comparing Migration Policies Sweden–Germany (Katharina Voigt/Miriam Pommer)

Session 2 – Tuesday April 20, 13.30-16.00

Basic Income in Germany and the United States (Josefine Meng/Katja Knauth)

Basic Income and Poverty Protection – Comparing Germany and Brazil (Rea Mauersberger)

Roundtable: European Social and Political Reality in Favor of Social Work?

Session 3 – Wednesday April 21, 9.30-12

Voluntary Work in Comparative Perspective (Marion Haas)

Lobbying for Social Work and Social Welfare in the E.U. (Katja Job/Claudia Koziolk/Sophie Ortmann)

Session 4 – Wednesday April 21, 13.30-15

Final Discussion: Social Policy and Social Work Education (All Workshop Participants)

10. Non formal and informal learning in Social Work. Social Work as a (new) actor in education

Prof. Dr. Werner Lindner, Jena (D), NN

In recent years, non-formal and informal learning in particular, have experienced at the European level but also in Germany, a new appreciation. This learning mostly takes place outside of traditional educational institutions and brings with it the social work in the center of a new learning and educational significance.

In the workshop will be presented at first some basic statements on informal and non-formal learning and presented for discussion. In the following steps the actual debate will be concretized by examples based on of practical experiences of the participants.

11. Child protection and crisis intervention

Dipl.Psych. Bold Bjardambyn, Jena (D); Judith Wunderlich, Athens (GR); Prof. Dr. Thomas Trenczek, Jena (G)

In this workshop we will show and discuss the handling of notices/signals of **child endangerments and the** crisis intervention by special crisis intervention centres for kids and juveniles (so called “Inobhutnahme”). Experts of two shelters will explain their fundamentals as well as special challenges of their daily work. Their will be at least one excursion to visit a shelter and talk with the staff.

12. Victim Support Schemes – Perspective of Victims in the work with delinquent youth

Prof. Dr. Eugen van Kerkhoven (B); DiplSozpäd. Nancy Letsch/ Daniel Speer (D)

Part 1 (*Prof. Dr. Eugen van Kerkhoven*): The Annual Conference of Victim Support Europe

will be held on the 27th and 28th of May 2010 in Berlin. The conference is titled "Justice for victims in Europe". Before the 1970s, victims had very little to do with the criminal justice system, except perhaps telling the police or being called as a witness. Victims certainly wouldn't have had any personal rights as a victim or received dedicated support. This all changed. Over the years the number of victim support schemes grew all over the world.

In this workshop we will work about the nature of crime with special attention to juvenile delinquency and the impact on victims and communities. We will compare different answers in social work and in the criminal justice system. What works for (juvenile) delinquents and what works for victims? What are effective alternatives in our society? We compare different systems in Europe and give examples of alternative programs: 'Voyce (Victims Of Youth Crime)', YAR (Youth At Risk) and PACT (Program for youth under Criminal justice ACT) e.g. We focus indeed on restorative justice defined voluntary, community-based response to criminal behaviour that attempts to bring together the victim, the charged youth and the community in an effort to address the harm caused by the criminal behaviour.

Part 2 (*DiplSozpäd. Nancy Letsch/ Daniel Speer*): The aggression-restraining course is a confrontational method to increase the inhibition thresholds of violent youth. A special target group are right-wing extremist delinquents whose xenophobic prejudices should be worked on. The training course is a combination of a violence reduction and an educational program. The main idea is to change the perception and the attitudes of the criminals towards violence in order to raise the aggression barriers. Among others, the participants of the training have to analyse their criminal actions from culprit's and victim's perspective.

In the workshop we are going to present the training, especially its structure, its goals and a couple of selected exercises. Although we do work with culprits, in the workshop we will focus on those parts of the training which contain the victim's perspective. The workshop participants will be involved in particular exercises. Such as the youth in the training the students are going to list expense factors caused by assaults for example surgery and treatment costs. Furthermore, we introduce justification strategies (so-called excuses) typically used by criminals. The youth take those excuses to justify their assaults and other criminal actions. Therefore, the workshop participants will learn to recognise them.

13. How much commitment do you give to your work place? Psychological contracts within social work employment situations.

Stefanie Hecht, M.A., Bremen (D); NN

Psychological contracts describe the expectations and obligations that are reciprocally perceived between employees and organisations. Psychological contracts reach beyond the legal employment contract and rest upon a shared agreement about output and reward. They contain the rules of cooperation, that are taken as self-evident but not formally defined. Psychological contracts are a complex interaction between individual, organisational and environmentally factors and have a big influence on job satisfaction. Injuries of psychological contracts can cause bullying, burn-out-syndrome or inner cancellation.

In the last years the flexibilisation of the labour market and the welfare state have caused changes in the structures of employment situations in social work and also on the arrangements of psychological contracts.

This workshop takes a look on psychological contracts and their influence on work-life situations of social workers. After a basic presentation of information this workshop aims to discuss and reflect about working -(and) life. We want to look how to get work-life balance, especially in difficult work situations and conditions in social work and which strategies of coping and prevention are possible.

The program is subject to change.