



Diversity, Innovation and standards  
in European Social Work  
20<sup>th</sup> International University Week  
April 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

**Abstracts** (under construction)

**1. Humor and the inner clown in Social Work**

*Prof. Dr. Martin Geisler/ Prof. Dr. Arne von Boetticher, EAH Jena (Germany)*

Humour has an important social cohesive function, building bridges in-between individuals and their communication. The inner attitude behind it, not to take everything too seriously, may help to reduce stress and emotional pressure - above all in social and pedagogic work. Humor is allowed to reveal problems and to breach codes, it may stimulate new ways of thinking. Humour is of help in crises, it shows deeper insights and it protects from getting ill. But is humour to be learned?

The one who acts light-hearted and footloose, who is able to perceive the world open minded as a child, is ready for creativity and innovation. It is also well known that a crisis is more easy to overcome with the help of humor instead of sorrow and fear. The inner clown is part of our personality. Humor awakes the child within and is allowed to explore the world in a light-hearted and naive way – and what's more: humour has not a real problem with it, if things go wrong. After a short theoretical approach to humour the main part of the workshop will consist of exercises and acts.

Even though there is no guarantee for it, laughter is explicitly wanted.

The workshop is open to up to 15 participants. It will take six hours in total and take place on Tuesday morning and afternoon (same group). Sign up if you are willing to explore your inner clown.

**2. Social Emotion in Social Work**

*Prof. Dr. Diana Düring & Prof. Dr. Nicole Harth, EAH Jena (Germany)*

This workshop consists of two parts, focusing on Social Emotion both from a Social Work and a more Social Psychological perspective. Emotions can be seen as social glue; the human ingredient that is necessary to social survival. The emotions that we experience and express help us to form and maintain social relationships. We claim that whenever we work with people, a basic understanding of self and other emotion may help to understand and regulate social interactions better. First, Harth will give a short overview on (social-) psychological emotion theories. Then, Düring will focus on Social Work as Professionalized Emotion Work. Together with the participants of the workshop, we will test some of these theoretical approaches using self-awareness tools, group games, and discussion.

**3. Promoting Youth Participation**

*Juha Niiranen, Senior Lecturer, Humak University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki (Finland)*

Nowadays young people encounter rapid social change which include globalization, social heterogeneity, reorganization of social institutions, migration and cultural flows. In addition, many studies, campaigns and initiatives have noticed the increase in the number of NEET youths. All these phenomena require social and political negotiation and participation. The situation is quite challenging for representative political system. Young people are increasingly skeptical about traditional forms of political engagement like voting, participation in election campaigns or party work. In the Finnish workshop, various aspects of youth participation are presented and questioned. Moreover, in the workshop attendees think and study collaboratively in order to promote alternative and active agency of young people.

**4. Counselling and social diagnostics**

*Prof. Dr. Markus Hundek & Prof. Dr. Andreas Lampert, EAH Jena (Germany)*

Counselling as a Basic Method of Social Work is a format of casework introduced by Mary Richmond and Alice Salomon into professional social work. The relevance of counseling becomes virulent in the double orientation of the social diagnosis, which clarifies not only what the problem is, but in the interplay of social and psychological factors of individual life and suffering and in the reflexive self-interpretations of those affected and the counseling system trying to formulate a concept and goals for a better life. By means of examples, the workshop aims to highlight this double-sided aspect of social diagnostics and to highlight its possibilities and its problems for the counseling process and every social work intervention.

**5. Do social workers have to be politically active? A quest for traces**

*Tobias Kindler, B.A.so.z./ Matthias Weber, M.A.; Dipl.Sozpäd (FH); lecturers FHS St. Gallen (CH)*

This workshop explores the relationship between Social Work and politics. Using the example of the Swiss Professional Association (AvenirSocial), it is shown that social workers do not always share the same understanding of politics. Together, we will discuss whether social workers have to be politically active and how social work can actively influence political decision-making.

**6. The Future Lab, innovation and knowledge-based social work**

*Jacob Christensen, Ph.D, senior lecturer & Mette Ørum Strange, M.A. B.A. social work, senior lecturer University College Lillebaelt, (Denmark)*

Our point of departure is the question: How can different frameworks/contexts and perspectives inspire different ways of understanding problems and solutions in social work? Based on cases from social work we will introduce students to the concept and practice of the Future Lab approach. We will facilitate students' work and demonstrate how a Future Lab setting inspired by Kurt Lewin and action research can contribute to the development and exploration of new ideas and angles.



**7. Psychodrama on Migration**

*Prof. Dr. Michael Opielka, EAH Jena (Germany)*

The workshop will use the psychotherapeutic and social therapeutic method of Psychodrama, founded by Jacob Moreno, as a tool for improving our perception of the stranger, the migrant and vice versa of the perception of the strangers towards “us” as social workers. Psychodrama is a complex role playing game which helps the participants to improve empathy and phantasy. The participants of the Workshop should carry with them personal experiences of Migration, from within their roles as social workers, fellow citizens, or migrants themselves.

*(This workshop may be continued in the afternoon)*

**8. continuation of Workshop 7****9. The unaccompanied foreign minors - System of protection in France**

*Arnaud Choquet, Lecturer, European School of Higher Education in Social Work, Lille (France)*

The lecture and workshop will include information and discussion of:

- Data about migration
- What's an unaccompanied foreign minor ? Criteria to benefit from a support
- The migration : motivations, travel, arrival in France
- The social support provided (evaluation, protection and exit from the protective structure)

**10. Intercultural sensitivity**

*Elisa Scholte, Lecturer - Academie voor Sociale Studies, Hanzehogeschool Groningen (NL)*

In this workshop participants will look at and develop their own intercultural sensitivity through exercises and the exchange of intercultural experiences. Furthermore they will get acquainted with different styles of communication, both verbal and non-verbal, and become aware of their own and others cultural heritage, holy cows and learn to (ex)change perspectives.

**11. Decolonizing knowledge and global indigenous approaches to social work**

*Dr.rer.pol. Mechtild Exo, M.A., Dipl.Sozarb., Lecturer, UAS Emden/Leer, Germany*

Postcolonial theory draws our attention to the multiple colonial legacies, the inequality sustaining entanglements of “the West and the rest” and the coloniality of modernity. With the de-colonial turn is the focus even stronger on the coloniality of the system of westernized knowledge. A decolonization of theories, epistemologies etc. is needed.



Even though these ideas might still be a bit new to us in Europe, they are more spread, much further developed and relying on decades and centuries of experiences with struggles in the non-Western world. This is not least and with good cause highly visible in the field of social work.

In the workshop I introduce to the (concept of) coloniality of knowledge and its consequences. Building up on this foundation we look together into global examples of the colonial imprinting of social work education and how it is being democratized. You can make yourself familiar with some indigenous social work approaches and their necessarily political character. The struggles for justice, self-determination and structural societal transformations are intertwined with these approaches and practices.

## **12. Europe goes local: youthwork does youth policy**

*Prof. Dr. Werner Lindner, EAH Jena (Germany)*

Referring to the European Youth Strategy 2010-2018 the Workshop introduces new professional skills required for practitioners in youthwork and discusses the situation of youthwork in different European countries: If youth works wants to enhance its position, it is no longer sufficient just to concentrate on the internal professional qualities within the given political and administrative frameworks, but to work on these frameworks themselves. Therefore youth work has to face new (and up to now: quite unknown) professional qualities, whose origins are situated in the fields of political sciences and political theories, professional lobby work and political consulting. The first task however is trying to understand the internal working modes of politics, then to transform these into pragmatical skills and at last to implement these into the internal job definitions.

## **13. Integration through Exchange - Transnational Exchanges programs for disadvantaged and unemployed youth**

*Antje Schlemmer, Dipl. Sozpäd. (FH) & Stefanie Tappert, M.A. Tibor e.V., Weimar (Germany)*

Transnational exchanges are quite popular to enhance competences of already high educated young people, e.g. Erasmus, Workcamps, voluntary services.

Especially disadvantaged young people, so called NEET's (who are not in education, employment or training) seem to be out of the reach in those programs. TLN Mobility (a program from the European Social Fund) offers NEET's a new perspective to increase their social and occupational skills and their chances on the labor market.

The workshop will focus on current issues about disadvantaged and unemployed youth in Europe and Germany and present the ideas and outcomes of the TLN program. Furthermore a Tool-box for successful transnational work with disadvantaged target groups with theoretical inputs and intercultural exercises will be given.

## **14. If necessary continuation of workshop 7**



**15. Music was my first love - the power of music in Social Work**

*Prof. Dr. Jörg Schulz, EAH Jena (Germany)*

How to get clients into a conversation with the goal of preparing an interaction for evolving chances to treat persons more individually. Within the workshop there will be several examples of music in best practice as well as possibilities for own exercises.

**16. Endangered Diversity? Social work and group focused enmities**

*Eva Grigori, B.A., M.A.; Lecturer, UAS St. Poelten, Dept. Social Sciences, St. Poelten (Austria)*

How do we deal with social work users, professionals, stakeholders, and funders etc. who talk and act in a way, which is deeply discriminating or full of hatred? During the workshop we want to share international experiences and figure out strategies, which empower us to deal with phenomenons of rightwing-extremism, populism or neosalafism in professional routines.

**17. Emotional competence training in early childhood**

*Prof. Dr. Kristin Mitte, EAH Jena (Germany)*

The development of emotional competence is an important task in early childhood (< 7 years old). Children who have learned aspects like knowing their own emotions or how to regulate them can more easily socialize, are more popular, and have less behavior problems in later life. The aim of the workshop is to provide techniques for emotional trainings. In addition to a theoretical background from developmental psychology, we would like to try some emotional competence games that could be played with the kids.

**18. Violence prevention within School Social Work**

*Kathrin Beck, M.A., PhD-candidate, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio*

There are many different cooperation forms between the institutionally divided systems of child and youth welfare and education in Germany; one type of cooperation is school social work, which has neither a coherent terminology nor a single concept (Beck, 2017). While practicing their profession, school social workers are confronted with different forms of school-related violence; therefore, violence must be seen as a central topic, violence prevention as a key task in school social work. This workshop will focus on one extreme form of school-related violence, namely, school shootings.

On 20 November 2006, Sebastian Bosse entered his former high school and shot and wounded five people before committing suicide. He left behind several writings and videos that express his hate. So far, warning signs have been observed prior to every school shooting in Germany; thus, the critical development towards a school shooting can be detected at an early stage. The aim of this workshop is fourfold, namely, (1) to present basic facts about school social work in



Germany, (2) to give an overview of the various forms of violence which occur at schools, (3) to present one explanatory approach for the critical development towards a school shooting, and (4) to discuss preventive possibilities within school social work. During the workshop, self-made videos as well as diary and blog entries of Sebastian Bosse will be presented.

**19. Social Work with youth at risk – street work in Jena**

*Lisa Almert, B.A./Tom Taeger, B.A., Street Work Youth Team, City of Jena (Germany)*

**20. Social Work with Refugees in Jena**

*Andreas Amend, Dipl.Sozarb., Head of Integration Office, City of Jena (Germany)*

Since 2015 nearly one million of refugees came to Germany, seeking for asylum. Under temporarily dramatic circumstances, the Municipality of Jena gave and gives shelter to more than 2.750 refugees. In this workshop, we will examine achievements made and challenges remaining in the process of integration of this special group of migrants and the role of social work in the process. Special focuses will be laid upon:

- the legal situation of refugees
- social work in shelters (including a visit to a shelter)
- counselling of refugees
- integration in the educational system
- acquisition of language
- integration in labour

**21. Children of parents with mental health problems**

*Stephanie Starke, Dipl.Sozpäd. (FH), Aktion Wandlungswelten, Jena (Germany)*

This Workshop will focus on children of mentally ill parents – as high-risk population for the development of psychological disorders. Referring to the specific personal experience of Co-Workers St. Starke (and A. Henniger-Dietzel) in a social-psychiatric network of Jena, you'll get to know the NPO "Aktion Wandlungswelten" as a social service provider with various facilities for people with mental illness.

We try to offer an insight regarding the following topics (selection might change):



- Attachment Theory, resilience, risk and protective factors, trauma
- Mental health, psychosocial assessment, case management, life advice counselling and spiritual view
- Examples: Children of parents with mental disorders – How to make it through?

Field trip in the afternoon based on workshop: visiting

1. "Tageszentrum Forstweg" - a social psychiatric day care for adults with mental illness and
2. "Wohnverbund" - an inpatient residential home for (young) adults.

Please note: there will be an opportunity for up to four students to take part in creative art work at 4 pm with clients and arts therapist.

