# Social Work International Conference (SWIC)

## 3rd Edition

## "*THE CHALLENGES OF GLOCAL SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION, PRACTICE AND RESEARCH*"

### NOVEMBER 8th -9th, 2018, BUCHAREST

# *BOOK OF ABSTRACTS*

## SESSION 1

| Glocal Challenges of Social Work Education, Practice and Research | | |
|---|---|---|
| *17.15-19.00* | *Amphitheatre 103, ground floor* | Thursday, November 8th |

**Chair:** *Anamaria Szabo*

1. **Welfare state and work decommodification in East and West: an overtime comparison**

Mălina Voicu - *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*
Adrian Dan - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

Welfare state faced a wide range of challenges in Europe, in the past three decades. The transition from planned to market economy in post-communist states led to restructuring the welfare regime in Central and Eastern Europe. On the other hand, the changes in social risks and the economic crisis experienced by highly advanced economies required significant transformations of social policies in Western Europe. The current paper looks at how social attitudes related to welfare provision changed in Central and Eastern Europe and Scandinavian countries in the past three decades. We focused on role of the state in welfare provision and work decommodification and, using large scale survey data coming from three waves of European Values Study (1990, 1999 and 2008), we analyze the over time change.

The results show that, although universalist welfare regime and the communist one encouraged state involvement in welfare provision, in the beginning of 1990s there was a big deal of difference between the two group pf countries, the Scandinavian one displaying very limited level of support for state provision, while in the CEE the public shared the opposite view. Moreover, while in the universalist countries public did not support the idea that work is compulsory for individual, due to the high level of decommodification, in post-communist countries pro-work attitudes were very high, because communist regime linked together work and welfare. After three decades of social change in both, East and West, the gap in attitudes is much smaller. While post-communist citizens ceased to support state

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intervention, in Scandinavia support for state intervention grew bigger. Moreover, the public of Nordic countries became more proactive with respect to work and the post-communist one moved in the opposite direction.

*Key words*: welfare states, work decommodification, social attitudes, public opinion, social change

## 2. Challenges to Social Work Education in Bulgaria and Bachelor Program's Curriculum Development

Lydmila Vekova, Ognyan Koychev - *University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarsky", Bulgaria*

The paper reveals the basic challenges to the social work higher education in Bulgaria in the context of balancing the National goals and European values in the field. Specifics of the going on demographic, economic and social processes that influence the demands to the quality of the social work are presented. Employers' and students' expectations to the education and the qualification of social workers are discussed in connection with actualizing the educational standards to Bachelor program study. The authors present their viewpoints to structure the main trends in mastering the social work education as a response to the dynamics of the social environment and the capacities of the higher schools. A systematic pattern of the student's competencies being developed in the course of a Bachelor program is discussed in connection with efficient coping with the challenges to contemporary social work. The competency based approach to social work education is considered to have the potential of meeting the challenges of rising needs and expectations for a high quality social support.

*Key words*: social work education, competency based education, Bachelor program, curriculum

## 3. Community caregivers in the field of HIV and Aids antiretroviral adherence: a suggested empowerment programme

Herman Strydom, Roslind Mokwele - *North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa*

Background: This presentation is part of a larger project executed within the Intervention Research model with the specific focus on the content of the developed empowerment programme. Presently ART is considered the only option in South Africa that offers the possibility of dramatically reducing HIV and Aids-related morbidity and mortality, while improving the status of people living with this condition. The shifting to lay community caregivers is increasingly suggested as a potential strategy to overcome the barriers to sustainable antiretroviral treatment scale-up in high HIV-prevalent and resource limited settings.

Purpose: To develop an empowerment programme for community caregivers to facilitate HIV and Aids patients' adherence to antiretroviral treatment.

Research methodology: The Intervention Research model consists of 6 phases, namely problem analysis and project planning, information gathering and synthesis, design, early development and pilot testing, evaluation and advanced development and the dissemination of the data. Phase 1 focused on a literature study, while phase 2 focused on a needs assessment of a selected number of caregivers using qualitative

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methods such as focus groups and in-depth interviewing. The findings of phase 1 and 2 informed the development/design of the programme, which formed phase 3 and 4 of the project. In phase 5 the programme was presented to an experimental and control group of caregivers, after which some changes to the programme were executed and the project disseminated in phase 6 by way of 4 articles in accredited journals.

Results/practice implications: The programme was presented in a group work fashion, while the Information-Motivation-Behavioural model (IMB) and the Systems Theory were used as theoretical basis for the study. The programme was presented in 8 weekly sessions and included topics such as ART and adherence, psychosocial support and adherence, communication and counselling skills, disclosure, mental health, substance abuse, and positive living. The presentation will focus on a detailed discussion of the various sessions in terms of objectives, content, programme activities and evaluation.

*Key words*: community, caregivers, HIV and Aids, antiretroviral adherence, empowerment programme

### 4. Are there too many social assistance recipients in Romania?
Daniel Arpinte - *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania*

Periodically, the social benefits recipients, especially those receiving means-testing benefits, are grabbing the policy makers' attention which are looking to save money supposed to be wasted on benefits without impact on social integration. This kind of action has a large public support, the majority of the adult population being in favour of finding proper solutions to penalize those in need in order to restrict the access to benefits of those able to earn their living on the labour market. The social benefits recipients are often seen as lazy, unwilling to work, and they also are supposed to prove a weak participation to collective action in the benefit of the community while they are feeding their various addictions which waste their little resources received as benefits. On the other hand, the effort of the state for social assistance benefits and services shows a totally different reality: Romania has the lowest level of spending on social protection at EU level and uses insufficient resources for other social inclusion initiatives, as the social assistance services, except some services for children. Apart from projects funded by EU funds, very few local resources are directed to support vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner. This discrepancy between the perception of policy makers, endorsed by the majority of adult population, on mean tested benefits recipients, and the lack of adequate support for those in need will be explained using the data from RIQL database, EU-SILC, National Institute of Statistic and other relevant sources. The second objective of the presentation is to determine in which is the main impact of the scarcity on the overall social protection system and on the social assistance services.

*Key words*: social inclusion, means-testing benefits, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups

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| Glocal Challenges of Social Work Education, Practice and Research | | |
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| *17.15-19.00* | *Council Room, ground floor* | Thursday, November 8th |

**Chair:** *Mădălina Manea*

5. **Exploring the need for a Parent Centered Planning approach for parents with disabilities**

Elizabeth Lightfoot, Sharyn DeZelar - *University of Minnesota, USA*

Background. There has been growing international attention to the needs of parents with disabilities.

Studies in Canada, Australia, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States have all found that parents with various types of disabilities are more likely to have their children removed by the child protection system and/or have their parental rights terminated. While there has been some recognition that that the high rates of child removal is a human rights issue, there are limited social work interventions to assist parents with disabilities in parenting their children.

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is explore how the development of a new social work intervention, Parent Centered Planning, can be useful for social workers working with parents with disabilities. Parent Centered Planning is a practice intervention that is modeled off the person-centered planning approach, which is common in working with individuals with disabilities in North America. The person-centered planning approach involves the individual, family and friends taking the prime role in planning for the future life of a person with a disability. Parent Centered Planning shifts the focus from the individual to the family, with an emphasis on the needs and desires of the parent with a disability and his or her children.

Methods: This paper uses four in-depth case studies of parents who participated in a federally funded intervention study in the United States testing the effectiveness of Parent Centered Planning to describe the needs of parents with disabilities and their experiences with parent-centered planning. The data comes from in-depth interviews with the participants, as well as the participant observations of the lead social worker. The four cases were chosen to demonstrate the variety of parental needs and highlight the mechanisms of the model.

Results. The four detailed cases illustrate the complexity of needs required by parents with disabilities. Despite varying levels of support, all had significant unmet needs, and none had participated in any type of formal planning that had focused on their role of being a parent. While parents were typically receiving some form of social work services, these services were not related to their parenting role, and were not coordinated. The four detailed cases illuminate the processes of parent-centered planning, emphasizing that this intervention does involve a significant amount of social worker involvement. In all four cases parents found the Person Centered Planning process to be helpful, at least in the short-term.

Implications. Parents with disabilities have complex needs and are at high risk for losing their children, and are in great need of formal or informal supports. Parent Center Planning appears to be a promising intervention for social workers working with parents with disabilities, which has may improve both outcomes of parents. The implications will be discussed in an international context.

*Key words*: Parents with disabilities, parental disability, disability, person centered planning, planning

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6. **The profile of social workers employed in town halls and their perception about the social work profession. An exploratory study in Brașov County**

Codrina Csesznek, Marinela-Cristina Čimon - *Transilvania University of Brașov, Romania*

Within the research project "The map of social issues and the need for social services in Brașov county. Primary directions regarding the development of social services in Brașov county", in progress between February 2018 and January 2019, we aim at exploring not only the social problems of the local communities but also the professional identity of the social workers in Brașov county. Thus, one of the objectives of the research is to complete the profile of the social worker employed in local administration in Brașov county, alongside the identification of their perceptions about the social work profession.

Between June and August 2018, we conducted 20 interviews with social workers employed in town halls, in Brașov county. The localities selected are on the list of communities that have a significant number of vulnerable groups. The interviews were semi-structured, face-to-face, and were recorded and then transcribed in Word. Data analysis was done using the Nvivo soft, by means of open, axial and selective coding techniques.

The main categories of data relevant for the topic of the present paper, organized by us as Nvivo codes, are: the educational background of the social workers, their professional path, their opinions about the social work profession, the main challenges at work, the greatest satisfactions their job can offer to them and the changes they would bring to make their job as social workers more effective.

The results of the research highlight a significant number of situations in which the social workers do not have specialized studies, but feel attached to their work; work is perceived as very complex, very demanding and with many challenging cases; the changes suggested include, mainly, legislative changes and the creation of specialized work teams.

*Key words*: social worker, educational background, challenges, satisfactions

7. **A commonality of norms: Recognising young people across an Ocean**

Catherine Phillips - *Lakehead University, Canada*

In this presentation, I report on two concurrent studies of young people who have been sexually exploited. One study was located in the Canadian context, and the other was located in the British context. Both studies examined the cultural framings through which young people are seen, understood and assessed.

The data was public reports, specifically Serious Case Reviews in England and legal trial documents in Canada. A thematic analysis of these documents revealed a common narrative of young people who are sexually exploited. I report on the broad socio-political framings of the young women in the data, and the particularity of their identity as "young people" within these two countries.

In this presentation, I use the work of the American philosopher Judith Butler. In drawing on Butler's work on recognition, I will demonstrate in this presentation that there are common norms embedded in the young people's interactions with professionals. These norms bring into sight a common experience

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of young people across an Ocean. Tracing Butler's theorisation, I argue that these norms produce hierarchies within the work of health and social care professionals, in relation to the sexual exploitation of young people.

Based on these results, I conclude that the application of philosophical and theoretical concepts provide a lens that highlights the global context of young women, while also maintaining a tension with the local socio-political context. It is both of these "global and local contexts" that ultimately informs the work of professionals.

*Key words*: young people; sexual exploitation; thematic analysis; theories of recognition

## 8. Social needs and problems in rural area from Brasov County. Causes and solutions from the perspective of social workers

Diana-Cristina Bódi - *Transilvania University of Brașov, Romania*

The subject of social problems in rural areas is a little studied in Romania. At present, there are some researches done in rural communities, in some projects with internationally funded . This research is the first of its kind for Brasov County. The method used in the present research was of a qualitative type, with semi-structured interview applied to 20 subjects, social workers in rural communities from Brasov County. The results of this study highlighted the complex social problems faced by rural communities, their causes, as well as the solutions that social workers identified in the current context. We consider that this study clarifies some unknown aspects of rural social issues, focusing on social needs that can provide ways to develop social services needed in rural areas.

*Key words*: social problems in rural area, rural communities, qualitative methodology

## 9. Evidences from conducting biographical interviews. Main issues and answers from two different research projects

Ana Maria Preoteasa - *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*

Biographical interviews are used in social research, with the aim to understand changes and how they are recounted by individuals, how their experiences are interpreted by themselves and their families (Roberts, 2002). The presentation will include evidences from conducting biographical interviews, from the interviewers' point of view. An interview is, at first, a relationship between interviewer and interviewee. From that perspective I will point out the unique role of the researcher. In the case of qualitative interviews, the researcher is at the same time the "instrument and procedure" (Jossleson 2013). The success of this type of approach depends mainly on the interviewer.

The data analysed are coming from two different researches, both concerning the transition to independent life. The first one aims to explore the life trajectories of youth from Children Protection system and the other looks at the challenges and coping strategies of young people reskilling from different professions to software development. The both are qualitative inquiries with small samples (12 interviews). In-depth life story interviews were conducted and that approach allowed a detailed analysis of how people re-interpreted their life events and designing their life and employment

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trajectories. Using a common methodology within two different categories of subjects allowed me to identify the main difficulties and strategies to be addressed.

My presentation compares the methodological issues encountered during the two endeavours and the common solutions identified. I considered the main technics used in interview as a relation between two people who met for the first time (as empathy, verbal and non-verbal responses) as well as ethical considerations regarding this type of interaction. The evidences from research document the methodological approach.

*Key words*: biographical interview, qualitative research, methodology, life-course, social problems

## SESSION 2

| Glocal Challenges of Social Work Education and Research | | |
|---|---|---|
| *9.00-10.45* | *Amphitheatre103, ground floor* | Friday, November 9th |

**Chair:** *Mihai-Bogdan Iovu*

10. **Self-perceived employability: a representation of future professional careers in Social Work field**
Florina Demian - *Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Background: The employability of graduates or the term "employability" has become more and more investigated due to the economic and social implications on the labor market. Studies argue it is also a performance indicator in determining the quality of higher education. Starting from the idea that the positive image/perception that an individual creates on his/her own employability, leads to strategies and behaviors that will keep progress and improve the chances of employment, this study will be focusing on the "self- perceived employability" concept.

Purpose: This study aims to determine the degree of self-perceived employability, of the third year social work students, within an university with a remarkable academic reputation from Romania.

Methodology: The study starts from the following research question: how do students perceive their own employability after completing their Social Work bachelor degree? Data will be collected using the Self-Perceived Employability Scale developed by Rothwell et al. (2008) which consists of 16 items and focuses on four components: my university, my field study, the state of the external labor market, and self-beliefs.

Results: determining the degree of self-perceived employability and comparing its two components - internal employability and external employability. The results of the study will map out a reality in terms of the third year students' expectations on their own employability. Conclusions: The research will make important contributions for multiple stakeholders (universities, teachers, employers, filed practice instructors etc.) interested in improving the educational process and increasing the employability of students from Social Work program.

*Key words*: students, social work, auto-perceived employability, internal employability, external employability

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## 11. The prerequisites of a competences-based social work education in Romania
Emilia-Maria Sorescu - *University of Craiova, Romania*

Context. There is a mutual causal relationship between the evolution of social work education and the evolution of the profession itself. A high quality education provides highly qualified social workers, which leads to the development of the profession. On the other hand, the complexity of the professional requirements at various places of work challenges the educational system to evolve, so at this moment it feels the need to conceptualize and operationalize the professional competencies necessary for the social workers and the centering of the social work education on their development.

Research objectives. The research aimed the operationalization of the social worker's professional competences and identifying concrete teaching methods for the formation of these competences at the students.

Research methodology. An inventory of social worker competencies was made based on international literature. Using this inventory, we operationalized the competences of the social worker as they are recorded in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education. The approach was continued by highlighting some specific teaching and evaluation methods and means specific to competence-based education.

Results. The list of the operationalized social worker's competences is a useful tool both for the teaching staff and for the students and the social workers to have a set of benchmarks in initial and continuing professional training. The emphasis on concrete ways of the competence-based approach in the social work higher education and the arguments supporting this approach are a reflection challenge for those involved in the initial training of social workers.

Conclusion: The definition and the operationalization of social worker competences and the competences-based social work education are necessary steps in the evolution of this profession, as well as a necessary stage in building a scientifically and pedagogically based system of initial and continuous professional training of social workers in Romania.

*Key words*: Competence-based education, social-work competencies

## 12. Protecting our children in a dangerous, globalized world through innovative professional education and targeted education for young people
Jane Reeves - *University of Kent, United Kingdom*

Child protection (CP) is a shared global issue with child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, neglect, grooming and physical harm world-wide concerns. The WHO estimate in the last year, globally that 23% of children have suffered physical abuse, 36% emotional abuse, 16% physical neglect and 26% sexual abuse (WHO 2017). Child maltreatment is widespread and the consequences last a lifetime. The Centre for Child Protection (CCP) at the University of Kent have developed a range of innovative and immersive training tools which can be used "at scale" for professionals and young people designed to help keep them safe. The focus of this presentation is to demonstrate these tools (on sexual abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation radicalisation and grooming), show the teaching and learning theories and strategies they contain and look at the effectiveness and impact of them. As part of their development of educational CP tools, CCP worked as part of a large, cross European Erasmus + project to look at CP issues across Europe and one outcome was to develop an e-learning tool on refugee

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families "on the move" across Europe. It is acknowledged that there are key global contexts where children and young people are particularly vulnerable to abuse and being a refugee is one of them. In 2016, 28 million, or 1 in 80 children in the world were living in forced displacement - including 12 million child refugees and child asylum seekers, and 16 million children living in internal displacement due to conflict and violence (www.unicef.org). The Erasmus "family on the move" eLearning tool integrates the educational principals developed by CCP into a free resource for practitioners across Europe hosted by Terre Des Hommes. This presentation will demonstrate this resource designed to tackle one element of the globalisation of changing and shared social work realities.

*Key words*: globalization, innovative, training, education

### 13. Active aging: family norms and opportunity structure. A comparative approach

Mălina Voicu - *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*
Sorin Cace - *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*
Mădălina Manea - *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy / University of Bucharest, Romania*

Most of the highly advanced economies are confronted with population ageing. Due to the drop of fertility rate and the rising in life expectancies, which came together with modernization and industrialization, many countries in Europe and North America have now a significant contingent of seniors over 65 years old. The issue of demographic change brought into discussion the very conception of ageing and its associates. Thus, the view on ageing changed in the last decades, ageing being conceived not as a passive lifecycle, when individual life is affected by physical frailty and social isolation. The new conception of ageing is built around the idea of successful ageing, which stands at the intersection among the preservation of physical and mental capacities, avoiding disease and disability and engagement with life. The concept of active aging is one of the core elements of successful ageing, residing in the seniors' engagement on labor market and volunteering activities, which are complementary to informal help within family or local community.

The current presentation focuses on the connection between volunteering among seniors over 65 years old, as indicator for active ageing, on one side and family norms, attitudes towards elderly and opportunity structure for volunteering in a country, on the other side. Using data coming from World Values Survey 20012-2014, combined with macro-level indicators provided by Quality of Government dataset, the current analysis tests the research hypotheses using logistic multilevel regression models on data collected in 48 countries spread worldwide. The results show that family norms and opportunity structure matter for volunteering among seniors, while social attitudes towards elderly have no significant effect.

*Key words*: population aging, active aging, volunteering, family norms, opportunity structure

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## 14. The Effects of a Personal Development Course on Social Work Students

Sorina Daniela Dumitrache - *University of Bucharest, Romania*
Florin Lazăr - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

Social work practice involves dealing with vulnerable people, with those in suffering and who have lived different traumatic experiences. Therefore, in order to better assist their clients, future social workers need to be aware of their own personal vulnerabilities and resources.

Third year undergraduate social work students attended an elective personal development course and seminar (55 students in 2017 and 55 in 2018) which had the main objective to respond to students' needs of self-reflection, self-knowledge, personal and professional growth. All the students were engaged in an art-therapy intervention combined with experiential methods (Gestalt, Person-centered therapy and Unifying Therapy).

During the semester students, voluntarily wrote their reflections on the impact of the course in personal diaries. At the end of the semester anonymous overall feedback about the course was given by students.

Through this paper we aimed to emphasize the students' own reflections during and after attending this course, and the effects of this seminar as reflected in their feedback notes and diaries.

In the process of analysing the impact of this seminar, we grouped the information we collected from students' feedback and diaries into 5 main categories: Self-reflection and personal development acquisitions, Relevance for the social work domain, Course content, Interest for the Professor/trainer and Recommend the course to others.

The results showed that at the end of the programme the participants were more aware their own resources and exhibited a higher level of understanding the way their own personal life scenario can influence the relationship with the people they assist.

Our findings highlight the need to include personal development courses/training within the curricula of social work schools. On the long-term, it can improve social workers' retention in the field after graduation and to have them better prepared to cope with the everyday emotional labour.

*Keywords*: social work students, self-reflection, personal and professional development, social work education, diaries, feedback

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| Glocal Challenges of Social Work Practice | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***9.00-10.45*** | *Council Room, ground floor* | Friday, November 9th |

**Chair:** *Elizabeth Lightfoot*

### 15. Exploring the Application of Restorative Justice Principles in Child Protection Work: The State of Vermont as Case Study

Anamaria Szabo - *De Montfort University, United Kingdom*

Would it be obsolete to say that the potential of restorative justice to cut across different fields is high? Or would it even matter if we were to look at the actual process of 'cutting across'? Questions such as these may have come to the minds of many restorative justice believers that situate themselves at the boundaries of different disciplines. Dr Szabo sees herself as one of these restorative justice believers, and for her the idea that restorative justice can permeate and find its home in different systems was born when she realised that RJ is and should be more than just outcomes, that it can transform us in ways that we may not foresee, and that it must be about human relationships and our innate ability to care. And this idea became a daring research project for Dr Szabo. We say daring because it meant that she had to temporarily relocate from Romania to Vermont for a period of 6 months, get a driver's license, buy a car and drive about 8,000 miles across different parts of Vermont to interview around 70 people in a language that is not native to hers. But in the end it was all worth it, and this conference, she thinks, is among the best forums to share some of the findings and reflect on what can be done next with respect to research and practice on this topic, in Vermont, Romania and elsewhere. Coming back to the data collection process, it took place in 2015, with funding from a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award, and with the joint support of the University of Vermont (in particular of Professor Gale Burford), of the Department of Children and Families in Vermont and of the University of Bucharest where she was based at that time. Conventionally, the research aimed to explore how restorative justice principles permeate child protection work, to learn how such principles are applied by professionals when dealing with child protection cases and to understand how families feel about the application of such principles. Unconventionally, she has searched for answers to questions such as those mentioned at the beginning of this abstract, a process which turned out to be, at least for a restorative justice believer such as Dr Szabo, the opening of a new door that may have very well put her on a journey of a lifetime. And it all started in Vermont, the place where you can enjoy the best maple syrup in the world.

*Key words*: Restorative Justice, Child Protection, Vermont

### 16. The implications of social constructionism in social work. Reconsidering the problems of vulnerable groups

Alexandra Galbin - *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi, Romania*

This paper provides an introduction of social constructionism in social work practice. Social constructionism states that knowledge is socially constructed and provides a different perspective on social problems. This paradigm emphasizes the importance of language in constructing our social realities. Thereby, our realities are the result of the language we use, and also a result of how we interpret various situations. In social work practice, the social constructionism has an important role in creating

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meaningful discussions between professionals and vulnerable persons. These meaningful interactions are centered on the resources of people involved and their potential in solving problems. Focusing on the social constructionism paradigm the professionals are able to reconsider the challenges that vulnerable persons are facing, by changing the approach of their intervention.

*Key words*: social work practice, social constructionism, vulnerability

## 17. The art of co-creation: working on deep and sustainable social change
Jos Pauwels - *Artesis Plantijn Antwerp, Flanders, Belgium*

A rapidly changing and highly interdependent world presents us with major ecological and social challenges. These challenges seem to transcend our social work influence. The world no longer seems to be a feasible place.

If social work is to regain the force of empowerment and prepare our students as future social workers to change social realities in a profound and sustainable way, we will have to develop new methods.

Despite his great merits, empirical thinking assumes a sharp reduction in the complexity of social reality. In order to thoroughly influence reality, we need new, expanded scientific models. Working from a layered reality model (Popper, Penrose, Ellis, ...) Working from a layered reality model (Popper, Penrose, Ellis, ...) we can speak of a shaping archetypal layer. It is this layer with conscious and unconscious mental models and constructs that shapes the social reality that we live. Social work that focuses on social change will have to take into account the specificity of this layer f.e. the auto-poietic and systemic character of institutions and mental models (Luhmann, Maturana, ...)

In this paper we develop a co-creative methodology for working on deep sustainable social change.

Stable and sustainable change occurs through agogic action which occurs as organically as possible. Change will thus follow the phasing and rhythm of natural change and will match the systemic character of our community. With the co-creative model, we bring to light the dynamics of the re-emergence and evolution of reality: both the microcosm of personal change, and the origin and dynamics of social fabric and social order. With the art of co-creation, we outline the rhythm of nature following a dynamic pattern of organic ecological change. Our hypothesis is that co-creative action can lead to ecological, inclusive and harmonious means of living together.

*Key words*: Co-creative; sustainable change; social change; methodology, mental models

## 18. Global solutions to local problems: international NGOs' interventions in reducing disasters in rural Romania
Anca Mihai – *University of Bucharest, Romania*

Background. Romania is currently experiencing a shift in disasters' management, changing the focus from the intervention in emergency situations to disaster risk reduction. While the efforts conducted at national level are aiming to ensure the implementation of activities which address different phases of the disaster (preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery), a clear focus is set on the post-disaster

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phases. The branches of international NGOs in Romania complement the state post-hazard interventions, supporting the recovery of the individuals affected by flooding.

Purpose. The purpose of the presentation is to reflect on the strengths and the constraints the local staff of the international NGOs faces in the implementation of the post-hazard activities, when trying both to respond to the needs of the local population and the mission of the organisation.

Methods. The data is collected through in-depth interviews (N=5) with representatives of 3 international organisations active in Romania in disaster risk reduction. On average, the length of the interviews is approximately 66 minutes, ranging from 28 minutes the shortest registered discussion and 96 minutes, the longest. The respondents are responsible for activities at central or county level, having experience at local level.

Results. The implemented activities are in line with the mission and the objectives of the organisations, being widespread around the world through the branches. Most respondents mention benefitting from financial, material and/or human resources identified through the international networks of which they are part of as a result of being contracted by the organisation. The availability of funding determines the length and type of intervention, which are also influenced by the local context. The techniques used during implementation, such as children friendly spaces or vouchers are tested and practiced in other countries as well. A commonality among the analysed organisations is the process of implementation. Not only are the stages of intervention similar, but the practice allows for enhanced coordination among NGOs.

Implications. The needs of the beneficiaries (local population affected by flooding) are assessed and addressed within the limits of the organisations' purpose. The intervention is rather standardised, despite the efforts to adapt to the local context. Even though the consequences of the flooding have direct effects at local level, the solutions of the international NGOs to address them are global in nature. A main disadvantage to this approach is the fact that the humanitarian assistance approach overlooks the social, economical and political dimensions of vulnerability.

*Key words*: disaster risk reduction, international NGOs, post-hazard intervention, humanitarian assistance, vulnerability.

### 19. Professionals' attitudes to violence in residential care of children

Maria Roth - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*
Éva László Bodrogi - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*
Imola Antal - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*
Dávid-Kacsó Ágnes - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*
Dora Călian - *Lawyer*
Anca Mureşan - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

This research is part of the project "Support to adult survivors of child abuse and neglect" (SASCA, www.sasca.eu) financed by the European Commission, funded through the EC Justice Programme (www.sasca.eu). Reforms in the child protection care units might be hindered by professionals' attitudes to change, explained by the concepts of total institutions, as conceptualised by Goffman or the disciplinary institution, described by Foucault. The study analyses the results of the self-administered

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on-line survey completed by 144 professionals in Romania, with the following objectives:

- To understand how much is known among the professionals about the violence that has been going on in the past, or is going on now in the Romanian residential care.
- To understand the perspective of professionals and their attitudes towards the difficulties faced by children in residential homes, who experienced peer violence, bullying, child abuse and neglect by professionals or other adults in the centre or outside it, discrimination in the school and community;
- To summarize the opinion of professionals about the modalities of therapeutic and restorative practices which could improve the lives of young people who suffered different forms of violence in residential care;
- To reveal the attitudes which hinder the necessary changes in order to safeguard the children in residential facilities.

The results have shown contradictions and mixed values in the answers of the professionals: willingness to prevent violence is mixed with distrust in the system and maintenance of the present status quo. Therefore, the employed personnel working in residential care should benefit of regular supervision which should strengthen their professional values and principles, and empower them to act accordingly. Taking into consideration that professionals do not really count on leaders and managers for safeguarding children, it is recommended that policies of the child protection system strengthen the roles for exercising control and monitoring the institutional process of safeguarding violence, and make their roles more visible in the public policies.

*Key words*: residential care, violence against children, restorative practices, professional attitudes, on-line survey

## SESSION 3

| Glocal Challenges of Social Work Research and Practice | | |
|---|---|---|
| *13.30-15.30* | *Amphitheatre103, ground floor* | Friday, November 9th |

**Chair: *Herman Strydom***

### 20. Challenges in doing MA research on social work in Poland - perspectives of international students
Agnieszka Naumiuk - *University of Warsaw, Polamd*

The aim of the presentation is to show Polish experience and challenge experienced by young foreign researchers (MA students). It will be examined by their experience to study books, articles and documents written mainly in Polish and having contacts/doing research in the field with professionals from social work and their clients who spoke only in Polish. This will show the difficulty of glocal approach in their research (local - Polish perspective on global social work issue that is studied by foreign researcher). The presentation will discuss, through few examples of doing MA research in social work, how me as Polish supervisor and my international students tried to overcome these difficulties, what was successful, what were learning lessons we took, and also what mistakes were made. There will be discussed the issues of research ethics, supervision and local expertise roles, the language and translation issues etc.

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*Key words*: international research in Poland, cultural sensitivity, language problems, MA research

## 21. The Effect of Perceived Social Support on Internet Addiction in University Students: A Sample from Turkey

Orhan Kocak, Merve Kaya, Yavuz Aslan, Osman Akay - *Istanbul Univeristy Cerrahpasa, Turkey*

The individual, a social being, needs the support of the network of relationships surrounding him to cope with the challenges he faces in life. Social support encompasses all the systems in which the person lives and lives throughout his life. Individuals need social support mechanisms such as family, peer groups, neighbors, and so on to meet expectations of being loved, appreciated, valued, trusting, belonging, accepted.

An addiction that can be defined as an unintended request for any person, substance or asset, disrupts the economic, social and psychological life of the person. In recent years, the internet has become widespread in every field, and the dependency on the internet and its products is increasing. Both families and young people are affected by internet addiction. One reason for the emergence of internet addiction is that young people cannot receive social support from both the family and the environment.

This study will be conducted with university students in Turkey in two different cities. In addition to demographic questions, Perceived Social Support and Internet Addiction Scale will be used. The effect of perceived social support on internet addiction on university students will be examined by using some statistical analysis.

*Key words*: internet addiction, social support, university students

## 22. Is obesity a social problem in Romania? Implications on social assistance

Cristina Siclovan- *National Health Insurance House, Department of Curative Programs, Romania*

More than half of Romanians are overweight or obese, and in childhood obesity we are third in Europe according to WHO statistical data. But what are the reasons for this? This research is a qualitative one because I have a goal to understand the issues of people with morbid obesity (body mass index of 40 kg / m2 or more) and how they relate to the disease. How they perceive their current status, how they interact with family, friends, school or work colleagues. If they asked for help from the society and who they called. The study group comprised 10 patients, 5 children and 5 adults included in the National Health Insurance House Program on the treatment of nutrition and metabolic disorders. I used the unstructured interview method to let the people surveyed talk freely about their life, about the problems faced by them in the complicated process of losing extra pounds, about the failures, hopes, and victories, even if short-lived, in fighting this silent but persistent disease: obesity. The conclusion we have reached is that changing diet and lifestyle are not easy to achieve, because it involves changing the life of the whole family of the obese person; and for the single person, deprived of family support, without the assistance of social or community assistants, and other specialists, the positive transformation from people overweight to normal weight is almost impossible.

*Key words*: obesity, body mass index, slimming, social issue

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## 23. Alcoholics' motivation to become sober and maintain their sobriety within Alcoholics Anonymous support groups

Adriana Lavinia Bulumac - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

The purpose of the survey is the identification and study of the main motivational factors underlying the entry and maintenance of abstinence of alcoholics who choose as a method of recovery The Twelve Steps Program of Alcoholics Anonymous. This study evaluates the motivational factors behind the entry and maintenance of alcohol addicts who choose as a method of recovery the program in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Alcohol addiction raises special problems for specialists because alcoholism cannot be cured, there is no medical treatment that will finally solve the problem of consumption and because in most cases the results obtained are short term and unsatisfactory. The motivation to become sober along with a strong desire to stop alcohol consumption are the factors that ensure or, on the contrary, endanger the entry and, especially, the maintenance of abstinence. From the moment I got in touch with Alcoholics Anonymous and with the Twelve Steps recovery program, I wondered what's the difference between those who managed to recover from alcoholism and those who fail. The question I asked myself was why some manage to get abstinent and maintain themselves without relapse, and others are relapsing or do not manage to get sober. The type of research used is the qualitative empirical research, the research method used is the sociological survey, the research technique used is the in-depth interview, and the data collection tool used is the interview guide. The interview guide used in this empirical research contains 20 open questions. The qualitative empirical research "The motivation of alcoholics to enter and stay abstinent within the support groups of Anonymous Alcoholics" was carried out within the support groups of Alcoholics Anonymous in Bucharest, more precisely within the West Group, the Serenity Group and the Radu Voda Group, between April and May 2018. The first research question is "What determines and motivates the alcoholic to become sober?", After analysing the information obtained during the interviews I identified the intrinsic motivation as preponderant, associated with low self-esteem, with dissatisfaction and with the desire to change. I also noticed that an important role in alcoholics' abstinence played their families which sought a solution to the problem of alcohol consumption or simply forced the alcoholic by various methods to seek a solution. In addition, physicians who treated them and who recommended them to participate in an Alcoholic Anonymous Meeting also had a significant contribution to the recovery of alcoholics. The survey managed to answer all of the five research questions in a satisfactory way.

*Key words*: alcoholism, sobriety, Alcoholics Anonymous, motivation, intrinsic motivation, AA community, labelling

## 24. Are the Social Work journals different? Positioning Social Work into Romanian publishing landscape

Bogdan Voicu - *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*
Adrian Dan - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

This paper investigates publishing patterns in Romanian social science and tries to individualize Social Work journals into the more general scene of publishing into social science. We exploit an original

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dataset, composed of 54 journals in social sciences published in Romania, and their 2015 issues. We explain first why social work should be different or similar to other social sciences. Then, we split our sample of journals into four types, according to their scope: social work, partly social work, mainly sociology, other social sciences. Latter we describe these four categories in terms of homophily (citations of the same journal), impact to other journals, authorship, etc. The comparison between social work and other social sciences allow a better understanding of the social work within the landscape of social science publishing in Romania.

*Key words*: scientific journals, social science publications, social work publications

### 25. Glocal challenges for the Romanian probation system

Cătălin Ionete - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

Although a part of the penal system, the probation system also incorporates important social work features, given that one of its major purposes is to work towards facilitating social reintegration.  My presentation looks at how the Romanian probation system, and more particularly the largest probation department in Romania, Bucharest Probation Service, deals with the challenges posed by the ever growing number of probationers who live and work abroad, while remaining under the supervision of a Romanian probation service. The very nature of the penal sentences that the probation system supervises is quite localized, namely they have to do with places and institutions pertaining to the state in which they have been issues, and still a substantial and growing number of offenders live and work abroad while at the same time meeting the terms and conditions of their probation sentence in Romania. This raises a number of practical challenges for the probation practitioners as well as for the offenders. My presentation attempts to look at the problem both from the point of view of the practitioner in probation and from that of the offender who, while living abroad, attempts to meet the demands of their probation sentence. My presentation is based on extended participatory observation of how the Bucharest Probation Service deals with these challenges in practice as well interviews with practitioners and offenders.

*Key words*: probation, emigration, work, sentencing, social reintegration

| **Glocal Challenges of Social Work Education and Practice** | | |
|---|---|---|
| *13.30-15.30* | *Council Room, ground floor* | Friday, November 9th |

**Chair:** *Emilia-Maria Sorescu*

### 26. Social Work Education in Bulgaria

Vesela Ivanova, Vaska Stancheva-Popkostadinova - *South-West University "Neofit Rilski" – Blagoevgrad*

Social work education in Bulgaria has a long tradition; however, in the last decades it is developing in a new perspective, trying to encompass the social-political changes in the country.  It raises the question if it is enough to think locally and make changes focused on cross-national policy and program

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comparisons rather than global issues and practice roles. Currently, there are ten universities in Bulgaria offering bachelor's and master's degree programs related to social work, which provide basic qualification for social service workforce. Since 2012 doctoral programs in Social work have been developed in some Universities, providing studies in the relevant field.

The paper aims to present the current state of Bulgarian social work education and the way these changes are reflected within curricula and programs. Furthermore, the article discusses the limited attention to social issues that extend beyond national boundaries.

Review and analysis of published documents regulating training on social work in national and international context, review of curricula and programs of the Universities, providing Social work education in Bulgaria.

Although data from this review indicates that there are similarities in most areas of curricula, there are some distinctive features in the studies provided by various Universities. Training in some Universities (South-West University, Trakia University) is based on medical-social model, while others mostly emphasize on its economic aspect (Veliko Tyrnovo University), etc.

There is a discussion about the way Bulgarian Universities imply global concerns in national curricula.

In recent years Social work education in Bulgaria is developing intensively. Curricula still need to be changed according to the needs of the practice, cooperation between academic staff and practice social workers should be positively encouraged, and international dimension of social work education must be strengthened.

*Key words*: education, social work, bachelor, master program, doctoral study

### 27. Life after graduation: What do I do with a social work degree?

Mihai-Bogdan Iovu, Forina Demian – *Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Background: The social insertion on the labor market of a young graduate marks a decisive step in the process of transition to adulthood. From the perspective of higher education, having a higher education degree should increase the employment chances of a young graduate.

Purpose: This paper aims to describe the situation of the young social work graduates from a top public university in Romania, in the areas of competencies gained during their bachelor studies, first job experience after graduation, and current working status.

Methodology: A descriptive study focusing on social work graduates during 2011-2017 was run using the data collected at university level through a questionnaire administrated by the Center for University Development and Quality Management. Results: The results of the study, which are still in analysis process, refer to the process of labour market insertion of the social work graduates, and constitute a starting point in more structured survey on this issue. These may be used in improving the social work bachelor program in order to fulfil the demands of the national and European labour market.

Conclusions: Even if the level of graduate employment is not the only criterion for evaluating the success of higher education, it is important to determine the returns on the individual and collective investment made in higher education in order to evaluate the system's performance and contribute to its progressive improvement. After more than 25 years of continuing social work education, this study is a first attempt to evaluate the unemployment/underemployment debate in the field.

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*Key words*: graduates, social work, labour market, future plans

## 28. Development of Veterinary Social Work field in Romania: Education and Community-Oriented Programs

Alina Simona Rusu - *Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

According to the literature in the area of human-animal interactions, Veterinary Social Work (VSW) is a growing field addressing the services and competencies at the intersection of veterinary medicine (and other animal-oriented professions) and social work practice (e.g. Holocombe et al., 2015). Four competency areas are defining the VSW: grief and loss of companion animals, compassion fatigue in the animal-oriented professions (including volunteers working in animal shelters and NGOs specialized in animal protection activities), the connection between human and animal violence, and the animal-assisted interventions (AAI, animal assisted therapy and activities). This paper presents several examples of good practice (education, research and community-oriented programs) within the collaborative frame between veterinary medicine, social work, special education and psychology, addressing the development of VSW field in Romania. In terms of education, the learning objectives and the structure of the postgraduate academic training in Animal-Assisted Therapy and Activities for Persons with Special Needs will be presented, alongside with statistical information reflecting the interest of social workers in Romania for including animal presence in their practice. In terms of community-oriented programs, the paper will present the structure and the principles behind the Day of Human-Animal Interactions community-oriented event (DHAI), which is a humane-education program involving volunteer students from de fields of veterinary medicine and social sciences (psychology, social work and special education). DHAI aims to increase the community awareness toward responsible ownership and optimal human-animal interactions (including the prevention of abusive treatment of animals). Also, the paper will present the ideas behind two interdisciplinary curricula, i.e. one addressing the inclusion of animal-assisted interventions in the education of SW students in the direction of their civic engagement (Rusu & Davis, 2018) and one addressing the SW competencies that veterinary students should develop in order to prevent the compassion fatigue that is frequently associated with animal-oriented professions.

*Key words*: veterinary social work; animal-assisted intervention; interdisciplinary education

## 29. Innovative aspects in the initial and continuous training of professional foster parents in Romania

Marinela - Carmen Grigore – *Universitatea Ovidius din Constanta, Romania*

Context/Background: In Romania, the number of children in the residential protection system, which has negative effects on child development, has been able to decrease by substantially improving and developing alternative family-type child protection services. Thus, according to statistics, two-thirds of children in the protection system are in family-type services (66%). Although foster care is an optimal solution for child care in a family environment, which needs affection, permanent attention and individualized care, many foster parents decide to withdraw from work, not having the necessary skills to grow a teenager or a young disabled person. Foster care, although it is a temporary measure of child protection, in most cases continues for a very long period of time, due to the non-identification of a definitive protection measure for the child or teenager. So although the foster parent is formed and guided to care for a small child, although it is initial formed and receives information about the child's

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development, including the specific characteristics of puberty and adolescence for healthy or disabled children, these theoretical trainings are not sufficient, compared to the daily difficulties. We believe that there is a need for a unitary initial and continuous training strategy for the foster parents that must include in the training curriculum the assessment of the personality structure and their life history, as well as the development and permanent personal optimization, emotional support and specialized support for to meet the challenges of the chosen profession.

Research objective: Analysis of the need to improve the initial and continuous training of foster parents through innovative methods leading to their psycho-emotional and behavioral support.

Methodology: The research aims to analyze the extent to which foster carers are aware of the need for continuous training as psycho-emotional support to cope with the changing and changing demands of this profession and will identify the psycho-emotional methods that lead to behavioral changes helped to continue in a positive way this profession with profound humanist valences.

Main outcomes: The results obtained will add value to the process of evaluation and training of the foster parents through the new methods and techniques used both by the social worker and the psychologist in the multidisciplinary team.

Overall conclusion: In the alternative family protection system, an innovative approach is needed, with an emphasis on the psycho-emotional understanding and support of the person responsible for the psycho-emotional and social care of the child and / or youngster in foster care.

*Key words*: child protection system, foster parents, family-type services, psycho-emotional support, professional training

### 30. Counselling Families with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Sandica Ion - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

This study is an extension of the results of the empirical qualitative research conducted in the course of my PhD programme, in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest.

Background: It is known that parents of children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder suffer stress in their daily life caused by the specific autistic behaviour manifested in society, people's negative reactions, isolation, worries for the child's future, feelings of grief, exhaustion.

The main purpose of this extension of the study is to create a tool of intervention in the social work field for offering real help through counseling, based on the 11 types of needs identified in my PhD study results.

The methodological instruments used: semi structured interviews with parents focused on five discussion themes (the impact of the child's diagnosis on the family, the formal or informal help/support that the family has received over time, family course in their daily life, marital relationship/ relationship with extended family, community and expectations for the future); genogram and participative observation which were applied to the 13 families who participated in the research.

Results: The felt needs of the parents, correlate with the social psychological problems identified on the genograms (for at least three generations) demonstrated the relationship of how they express their needs in society.

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Conclusions: The results show 11 types of felt needs that families with ASD children are dealing with in their daily life in Romania.

*Key words*: counselling, needs, autism spectrum disorder, families, social protection, social work, education

## SESSION 4

| Glocal Challenges of Social Work Practice | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *15.45-17.45* | *Amphitheatre103, ground floor* | Friday, November 9th |

**Chair:** *Bogdan Voicu*

**31. Interactions in an extreme poverty context: an analysis of low- threshold services in a local context of Southern Italy**
Maddalena Floriana Grassi - *University of Bari, Italy*

The poor are poor because of someone else who, interacting with him or her, defines the other part in that way, in a specific time and in a particular contest. Simmel's approach to the study of poverty considers its symbolic-relational element as the determining dimension. For this reason, a poor in a society is different from a poor in a different one, since in every context her or his position and definition change with the policy's and the worker's view. In line with a thriving literature, the research starts from a definition of the relationship between poor and social workers as a structural relationship, in terms of a persistent model of relationships between social positions (Laumann and Pappi, 1973). Modernity and postmodernity allow us to understand that the new poverties are often caused by the weakening of family and community links and by the individualisation process (Saraceno and Dovis, 2015). More precisely, this paper will focus on the structural relationship between social workers and users through the categories of gift theory (Mauss, 2002) emphasising the "money- mediated disengagement relationship" (Simmel, 2013) in the process. Therefore, the research will explore the dimensions and the relations between poverty and social work in the context of everyday work. This research will adopt a mixed methods approach aimed to integrate three kinds of criteria: firstly, a description of the context through the study of nets of low-threshold services (SNA), secondly ethnographic observation of multiple working realities, and lastly a set of semi-structural interviews. In line with changes in social working practices, from glocal perspective, the research will be performed in the city of Bari, Apulia, Italy. To conclude the results will be interpreted from a critical practice perspective of social work theory (Dominelli 2002).

*Key words*: social work, extreme poverty, structural relationship, low-threshold services, critical practice

**32. Building resilience of poor children from rural areas - Risk factors related with child's poverty and long-term effects on children's development**
Darie Beatrice – *Al. I. Cuza University, Iaşi, NGO World Vision Romania*

Children are the social group most exposed to poverty and social exclusion, Romania being in the top

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of the EU countries. 49, 2% of the children were at risk in 2016, with almost 23% over the European average (Eurostat, 2018). Over 74% of the poor children of Romania live in rural areas. Most of the country reports refer to children living in rural areas as a vulnerable group from the social and educational point of view claiming for urgent measures (CE, 2016). Poverty is impacting people of all ages but children are particularly a vulnerable group due to increased care and protection needs and also due to the irreversible results on long term starting from birth to adult. There should be a serious concern of the policy makers in education, economic, social protection, social work, child rights areas to counter child poverty and its effects. Programs that focus on child poverty and social exclusion are scattered through different sectorial policies and at different administrative levels. Existent measures are more focused on families, predominant policies being social/financial benefits. Despite all these, there are poor children who have a good health, succeed in school, are well socially integrated and do not perpetuate family model. These children could be considered resilient. Resilience is a multifaceted process that produces the ability to successfully overcome adversity. The working paper is focused on identifying risk factors related to child's poverty and the effects on different areas of child development. Methodology mixed literature review from researches of the international studies with secondary data from recent Romanian studies concluding on the wellbeing of children from rural areas. Researching resilience would bring hope in a successful prevention. If we would better know some of the mechanisms that make children overcome poverty adversities, we would better mobilize resources to increase their resistance. What we should learn from those children's lives could be applied to improve the quality life for other children. To what extend can we build in Romania "a resilience oriented child protection system"?

*Key words*: child's poverty; child's resilience; risk and vulnerability at children living in poverty; individual, family, community protective factors.


### 33. The Philippine's War on Drugs: A Phenomenological Exploration of the Surviving Family members towards Recovery

Jowima Ang-Reyes - *University of the Philippines, Diliman*


There are many victims of War on Drugs launched by the Duterte Administration which took over the Philippines starting June 2016. The study was undertaken to examine how the female spouses and mothers of those victims of extra-judicial killing were affected, how they coped, and how they recovered.

The interest of this study focuses on the recovery stages and processes that the surviving family members are undergoing or have undergone in dealing ad coping with the loss of their loved ones through Extra Judicial killing. The participants were of legal age, have all experienced the death of their loved ones to EJK incidents either by experiencing either of the circumstances, directly witnessing the killing of their family members, or violence being enacted upon their loved ones which led to their death or indirectly, by being informed of the death of a loved one or a family member. Further, the participants claim to have experienced or undergone a healing process in the past months and show evident changes or healing as evidenced through changes in behavioral aspects of their lives like individual functioning, self-care, family and social relationships, and service to the larger community. They are in the process of regaining their social functioning and such as observed by the referrers in their making efforts to re-engage in family maintenance and economic and social endeavors. They are

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members of groups involved in its justice advocacies, seeking justice for the death of their loved ones, and are openly using their involvement as an avenue of their recovery process and are actively involved in healing or other forms of psycho social support activities among other people.

Findings show that the respondents – all women – found inner resources to survive the impact of the violent death of a loved one. Likewise, they were helped by cultural values, support groups and therapeutic activities. The study evolved a framework/model of how victims of trauma due to the violent death of a loved one recovered from the experience.

*Key words*: human rights, recovery, surviving family members

## 34. Verbal and emotional bullying, effects and recommendations for minimizing the phenomenon

Sevastin Ruxandra, Olariu Florina, Rosu Mihaela – *University of Bucharest, Romania*

Verbal and emotional bullying is wide spread in preschools, schools even in high schools, but it's a subject often confused with children's games. In this paper, we take a look on the concept, the verbal and emotional bullying, the main characteristics of the abuser and the victim, consequences of this behavior, and recommendations we taught to be working.

This type of abuse, seen mostly in schools among youngsters, has developed in time a lot of ways, one more hurtful than the other. Although children react almost the same way, based on their different gender, location, social-economic status, age, the results may vary from country to country.

From an exploratory view, we chose to talk about verbal and emotional because: this problem affects many children in schools; it's important to understand the long-term effects caused by this kind of abuses. Typically, anti-bullying programs include preventive measures that can be taken into consideration when cases of bullying occur.

The approach chosen by us was the semi-structured interview. We chose 10 people who faced the types of bullying we analyzed, some of them having problems from kindergarten, primary school, general, but also in high school. These interviews were not audio recorded, but "gathered" in writing. The average duration of the interviews was 25 minutes, the longest ones lasted 30 minutes and the shortest ones 20 minutes.

To build or create a successful response for fighting against this kind of aggression, it would be a real help that all parties to focus on how to understand the phenomenon and how to find together ways in dealing with it correctly. Although bullying may not be completely eliminated, a successful cooperation between children, parents, schools and specialists can change the school climate and make it more enjoyable.

*Key words*: bullying, prevention, children, school, awareness

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| Glocal Challenges of Social Work Practice | | |
|---|---|---|
| **15.45-17.45** | *Council Room, ground floor* | Thursday, November 2nd |

**Chair:** *Mălina Voicu*

### 35. Specialized intervention to protect victims of family violence

Rodica Gabriela Enache, Raluca Matei, Roxana Onea - *Ovidius University Constanţa, Romania*

Background: Domestic violence is an extremely complex phenomenon that affects a person on a long-term basis in all physical, social, economic and psychological plans. The person who is prevented from exercising his fundamental rights and freedoms is a victim of violence.

Purpose: In this paper we will present the rights of victims of domestic violence as well as the services they need to receive for legal assistance, psychological counseling and social reintegration.

Methodology: In this research we used the focus group as a research method to investigate 30 students at social work, social workers and psychologists.

Results and/or practice implications: The results of the survey showed the consequences of violence against victims, the need for psychological counseling of victims of domestic violence, as well as the categories of services and institutions to which victims of domestic violence may appeal.

*Key words*: domestic violence, aggressive behaviour, family resilience

### 36. Counseling - an integral part of the social assistance practice

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Looking at us or at other people around us, we can see that there is a tendency in each of them to advise, support and encourage those around them who face certain problems, pass through existential, sentimental, financial, etc. periods of crisis. Referring to people who call for social assistance services, intervention in their lives needs to be effective. They don`t need to be compassionate but helped to overcome the crisis they are going through. Counseling is a basic element in social assistance. Through the counseling, the link between the social assistant and the beneficiary is established. They connect emotionally and establish a relationship of trust during counseling. Counseling is the way a counselor (social worker) establishes a relationship of trust with the person he counsels, assists her, and goes along with her throughout the counseling process, helping her discover or rediscover herself, understand, accept, develop and decide which are the best solutions they can take to solve their problems and overcome and prevent similar situations as they are facing.

*Key words*: counseling, social work practice, beneficiary

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### 37. Creating positive habits in kids

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In this everchanging world, full of technology, of peer pressure, of advertising of big companies, I think it is necessary to teach the kids positive and good habits, to develop in them passions and interests and have purpose, beside school. Except the school side, these were the objectives of the after-school that I would like to present, Betel-Hope.

We used different methods, like games, presentation of biblical movies and discussions after, 1-1 tutoring and mentoring, going out and playing in the park or forest, preparing a Christmas fair, handmade activities.

Some things that proved to work were to make a habit of having fun in forest outskirts, give the kids fake coins if they were good or read, that could be exchanged to some products; having them to make embroidery, milkshake day every Thursday.

Some challenges that we as a local afterschool inside a church were facing were the: the mass-media influence; the different values of the school/family, less positive that need to be attacked and the fact that is sometimes hard to change habits and create new ones. We based on the power of daily things and incremental to succeed.

*Key words*: media-education, peer-education, positive-habits, afterschool, skills

### 38. Interprofessional collaborations between social workers and international development professionals: Perceptions from practice

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Background/Context: As the areas of activity of social workers continue diversifying in a globalizing context, new interprofessional collaboration pathways emerge, raising the issue of how social workers might effectively work collaboratively with other professionals and, at the same time, retain their professional identity (Crawford, 2012). In recent years we have witnessed a growing focus of the social work scientific literature on collaborative practice patterns and more and more the analysis goes beyond the traditional scope of the interdisciplinary teams in which social workers are accustomed to work (Quinney & Hafford-Letchfield, 2012).

Purpose: This paper looks at the ties between social work and international development at the level of practice and explores the possible "meeting places" of social workers and international development professionals. Social workers frequently cross paths professionally with international development workers, but their collaboration seems to be rather randomized and unstructured.

Research questions: What is social workers' level of awareness of the connection between social work and international development initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals or the Global Development Agenda? How is the interaction between social work and international development perceived by professionals in both fields? How well is this connection leveraged in social work

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practice? What might be done to improve collaboration between social work practitioners and international development workers for a more efficient glocalized social action?

Methodology: To answer the research questions, an exploratory study was carried out utilizing a mixed-method research design: (1) survey through a self-administrated questionnaire answered by social work professional organizations from 21 countries and (2) semi-structured interviews with Romanian NGO workers (n=15) who were either actively engaged in or exposed to international development-related activities in their own work in the social field.

Main results and implications: Although strong theoretical and ethical connections exist between the two fields, they are not very well understood and utilized in practice. Whilst social workers and international development professionals acknowledge the benefits of their interprofessional collaboration, collaborative practice is still insufficiently leveraged by the two professional bodies. Community settings appear to be the ideal "meeting places" of social workers and international development workers. The use of collaborative practice with international development professionals has implications that go beyond the practice environment, at the level of career (enhancing career progression thorough more diversified career pathways), education (embodying international development-related concepts in the social work curricula), theory and methodology (diversifying the theoretical approaches and research methodologies used to diagnose and propose solutions to emerging global social problems).

*Key words*: social work practice, international development, interprofessional collaboration, collaborative practice