



# Social Work International Conference

The Challenges of Glocal Social Work Education, Practice and Research

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, November 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> 2018, Bucharest

## Social Work International Conference (SWIC) 2018 *The Challenges of Glocal Social Work Education, Practice and Research*

November 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Bucharest, Romania

### Call for Abstracts

**Organizers:** *Department of Social Work, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest* in collaboration with the *Romanian Association of Schools of Social Work (ASSWR)*

**Conference dates:** November 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Conference venue:** Faculty of Sociology and Social Work (90 Panduri Street, Sector 5, Bucharest)

**Conference languages:** English

**Conference website:** [www.swicub.com](http://www.swicub.com)

The Social Work Department of the University of Bucharest is pleased to invite submissions for presentations at the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Social Work International Conference (SWIC)* to be held in Bucharest between **November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

Worldwide, social work is at the juncture of various influences, being subject to external, as well as internal, pressures. At the same time, these pressures are encountered both at international and local level in social work education, in practice and (maybe to a lesser extent in) research. Some of these challenges are discussed below and are proposed as potential starting points for the contributions submitted to the conference:

- At the level of **education**, external challenges include factors such as the increased focus on performance indicators for teaching and learning, the need of universities to adapt the social work curricula to labor market requirements, the political interference and budget constraints. Internal challenges include but are not limited to: the involvement of service users in education, the tension between generalist and specialist social work education, further academization of social work education, preparing students for changing social realities, attracting motivated students to social work education and maintaining the interest of students for post-qualifying social work practice, etc.
- Social work **practice** is under the influence of external social, economic and political actors/factors, being subject to budgetary cuts/constraints, a focus on performance/evidence-based practice, retrenchment of welfare policies, ideologically-based decision-making, non-specialist practice, more focus on monitoring and surveillance and on respecting/ensuring ethical-practice and (sometimes) a rather negative public image of the social work profession. Within the current social work practice, challenges arise from realities such as the diversity and emergence of new social problems/groups, professional burnout, dealing with increasing workloads in the context of austerity budgets, developing toolkits and practice guidelines, or the often lack of structured practice supervision.



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- In social work **research** external challenges relate to factors such as generally reduced funding for social research, overlapping research areas with related domains (e.g. sociology, health, psychology), whilst internal challenges may refer to developing new research strategies (more specific and/or more creative), participatory research strategies to include service users, practitioners and other stakeholders throughout the research process, dealing with increased pressures for academic valorization/publications of research findings over more popular/non-specialist publications, less opportunities for publications in social work than in related disciplines, etc.

Some of these challenges are to be discovered at local level only (e.g. depending on the level of development of social work education, practice, research in the country/region), whilst others have a wider, global influence on social work. The global – local tension in any of the above-mentioned areas is expected to be explored by the presenters at the conference, in order to better capture the glocal challenges of social work.

We welcome scientifically sound and original contributions from researchers, educators, practitioners, and students from social science in the areas listed below. Submissions can be empirical, theoretical or practice based. We accept submissions from both experienced researchers/practitioners and undergraduate, master and PhD students.

## Focus areas:

The streams of the conference are divided based on the 3 main areas from the perspective of internal and external challenges:

1. *Glocal challenges of social work education*
2. *Glocal challenges of social work practice*
3. *Glocal challenges of social work research*

## Key dates

**Submission of abstracts:** September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**Informing participants:** September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Registration deadline:** October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Conference dates:** November 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Full-Text submission:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

## Publication of papers

All submissions to SWIC 2018 must be in English (abstracts and full-texts). They will be evaluated through a peer-review process.

Accepted full-text papers will be published in a special number of the [The Social Work Review](#).



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## Instructions for authors

Presentation types include individual or co-authored papers, poster presentations, and organized workshops. The papers will be selected based on criteria such as: compliance with the conference theme, relevance, actuality of the subject.

## Registration

Registration is now open. To register please fill out the [Abstract Submission Form](#).

Abstract submissions should include the following:

Title of the presentation

Name and affiliation of the author(s)

3-5 keywords

The abstract body (300 words or less, maximum 3000 characters) should follow as much as possible the below structure:

- Background/Context
- Research objective
- Methodology
- Main results and/or implications for social work education, practice and/or research
- General conclusion

All submissions are made through the [Abstract Submission Form](#), by **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**.

## Travel and Accommodation

Participants must organize their own travel arrangements and cover the transportation and accommodation costs. Organizers will not be able to reimburse travel and accommodation expenses. Applicants who need a visa to enter Romania will be provided with confirmation of registration papers.

Please address any enquiries about the conference to [swicub@sas.unibuc.ro](mailto:swicub@sas.unibuc.ro).

The SWIC 2018 Organizing Committee looks forward to seeing you in Bucharest this fall!