



Social Work International Conference

*Social Work in Changing Times:
From Resilience to Transformative Action*

November 2nd – 3rd, 2023

University of Bucharest

7th Social Work International Conference (SWIC) 2023

*Social Work in Changing Times:
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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 2nd – 3rd, 2023

Conference theme: *Social Work in Changing Times: From Resilience to Transformative Action*

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

Conference languages: English

Conference website: www.swicub.com

The Social Work Department of the University of Bucharest is pleased to invite submissions for presentations at the 7th edition of the *Social Work International Conference (SWIC)* to be held between **November 2nd and 3rd, 2023**.

Contexts of collective trauma remind us of the unstable equilibrium of social structures and individual lives in times of crisis. In the past five years alone, the World has experienced a plethora of socio-political and environmental risks: a pandemic and the global healthcare and economic crisis it generated; a geopolitical crisis representing one of the most serious threats to global peace and security since the Cold War; humanitarian crises sparked by wars and disasters with disproportionate effects on already socially excluded populations; an increasing backlash on human rights, intensified extreme weather conditions across the Globe etc. The widespread immediate effects and longterm consequences of all of these amplify the urgency of the call for cooperation, solidarity and visionary action toward a safer future for all.

In the increasingly interconnected World, while collective trauma emphasizes the fragility of human values such as peace, social security, inclusiveness, and sustainability, at the same time, it can lead to unprecedented acts of solidarity and innovative responses. Such responses require conscious efforts from all relevant stakeholders: from governments and public authorities to the civil society, community organizers as well as the market; from the first respondents to all the individuals concerned with their own safety. There remains the need for articulating coordinated responses in the form of intervention programs,



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social policies, reconstruction strategies not only for relief and resilience, but also for transformative longterm benefits. What does it mean to have a transformative vision for our future societies that can resiliently meet social challenges and at the same time successfully prevent similar risks?

Historically, social workers have played a vital role in crisis management, from humanitarian/relief work to interventions and programs for building the resilience of oppressed or excluded populations, from case management and community work to valuable contributions to social policy. How can social work as a profession and practice contribute to a transformative vision of the future? In order for transformative action to take place, are there new competencies/abilities needed to complement the existing ones (such as compassionate support, human connection, cultural awareness, fast targeted intervention)? What does it mean to think creatively in social work?

We invite researchers and practitioners from the field of social work as well as other connected social science fields to join us in reflecting on the idea of a transformative vision and action for better futures. 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 students.

Focus areas

The streams of the conference are divided based on the 6 focus areas:

1. Resilience and transformative action in **social work practice**: changes, adaptations, programs, interventions and initiatives at the local, national and/or global level.
2. Resilience and transformative action in **social work education**: projects, programs and strategies for the social workers of the future.
3. Resilience and transformative vision in **social work research**: extending the role and scope of social work research within a transformative approach.
4. Social work and **human rights**: best practices, theoretical frameworks toward resilience and transformative action for human rights.
5. Social work and **sustainability**: eco-social initiatives and environmental approaches in social work for building resilience and transformative action.
6. Social work and **technology**: digital and other technological solutions supporting resilience and transformative action in social work.

Key dates

Submission of abstracts: July 15th, 2023

Informing participants: September 10th, 2023

Registration deadline: October 1st, 2023

Conference dates: November 2nd – 3rd, 2023

Full-Text submission: December 3rd, 2023



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Publication of papers

All submissions to SWIC 2023 must be in English (abstracts and/or full-texts). They will be evaluated through a peer-review process. Selected full-text papers will be published in a special number of the [The Social Work Review](#).

Types of presentations

Presentation types include *individual* or *co-authored papers*, *poster presentations*, and *workshops*. The abstracts will be evaluated based on their relevance to the conference theme, methodological strength, relevance to social work and actuality of the topic.

Abstract submission

We are now receiving abstract submissions. To apply 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 **July 15th, 2023**.

Please address any enquiries about the conference to swicub@sas.unibuc.ro.

*The SWIC 2023 Organizing Committee looks forward to
receiving your abstract!*