

School of Social Work Theory and Practice @IUC.Dubrovnik: Programme for 2013

Social work has a long history at Inter-University Centre (IUC) in Dubrovnik. It is a post-graduate level set of social work courses for social work professors, student, but also practitioners and users.

It is a good opportunity to discuss the contemporary issues in social work, while in a pleasant environment and with good people.

What makes our courses different is not only the environment but the pace and depth of the courses. Spending a week in a company of other engaged people, in contrast with conferences and congresses, enables the discourse, the dialogue to go beneath the surface, to get to know the people and to develop ideas together.

The School for Social Work Theory and Practice at the moment offers eight courses:

Social Work Theories and Methodologies
Social Work with Children and Youth
Social Work with Youth in Conflict with Law
Social Work and Spirituality
Contemporary Issues in Social Work:
Working with old age
Developing Neighbourhood and Community Support Systems
Social Work and Social Policies
Social Work and Deinstitutionalisation



The Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik (IUC) is an independent international institution for advanced studies.

Its objective is to encourage, promote and implement cooperation among students and scholars through projects, study programmes, courses and conferences across a wide range of academic concerns.

Participants come from universities and other scientific institutions worldwide.

Founded in 1971, at the height of the Cold War, the IUC became an important venue for the exchange of ideas across various divides, between East and West, North and South.

Based in Dubrovnik, formerly a self-governing Mediterranean city-state at the crossroads of varying cultural and political concerns, the IUC is building on its achievements and traditions in facing new challenges in a rapidly changing global environment.

Maintaining high standards of free and independent scholarship, the IUC is dedicated to network building for peaceful co-existence and pluralism regionally as well as internationally.

Over the years, more than 65,000 scholars and students have contributed to the work of the IUC.

More on: www.IUC.hr.

Course descriptions

Annual offerings of the school are organised in the form of symposia. Traditionally courses are held in June. Every five to ten years we organise a conference.

Applications for admission to a course should be sent to the organising course director and to the IUC secretariat in Dubrovnik. The course directors decide about admission.

An annual academic program for each of the eight courses is offered in the form of an annual symposium. The course is conducted five days per week, with morning and afternoon sessions. Its pattern will however remain flexible and will be determined by a specific requirement of the course.

Upon request, every participant shall receive a statement of participation. Certificates are issued only upon approval by the course director and the director general of the IUC. In order to earn a certificate, all participants are expected to properly register, pay the fee, actively participate throughout the five days, attending plenary sessions, small group sessions, field trips and other programs of the annual symposia.

It will be fair to state that the main difference between the course organising director, course directors, lecturers (resource persons) and the participants is in the amount of actual work, invested into the program before start of the annual symposia. Once it does start, we are all "students" and "teachers" at the same time. We exchange our ideas and experience in a highly participatory, very respectful, egalitarian manner. Ideally, we look for one third faculty and researchers, one third well established, experienced professionals and one third students. More and more often users participate in the courses and

have proved to be great asset for proceedings.

Program is offered at postgraduate level. Advanced, highly motivated undergraduate students are accepted with at least one letter of reference.

Language of the school is English.

Participation

Those interested in taking any of the courses may register with the IUC secretariat, school organising director, course organising director and/or any of the course directors by providing name, address, academic standing and affiliation.

2 ECTS are awarded for participation, 5 ECTS for participation with active participation (slides or abstract), 10 ECTS for active participation and published report and 15 ECTS for active participation and a published reviewed academic article. ECTS are awarded and certified by course directors. However, it is the participants' responsibility to make the arrangements with the home establishment for validation of the credits awarded if such an arrangement does not already exist.

Grants are available to scholars and postgraduate doctoral students from HESP for participants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of Georgia, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine. <http://www.iuc.hr/hesp-osi.php>

The Croatian ministry awards scholarship grants to postgraduate students and scholars of Croatian nationality <http://www.iuc.hr/croatian-ministry.php>

The School of Social Work is considering an application for an Erasmus grant in the future.

School organising director: Vito Flaker, e-mail: vito.flaker@fsd.uni-lj.si, phone: +386 31872847

Assistant director: Vera Grebenc, e-mail: vera.grebenc@fsd.uni-lj.si, phone: +386 40610109

University of Ljubljana, [Faculty for Social Work](#), Topniška 31, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Fee per course/symposium: EUR 75 for faculty and practitioners, and EUR 55 for students.

Information regarding travel and accommodation may be obtained from the IUC partner - Gulliver Travel Agency in Dubrovnik (O.S. Radica 32); contact person Ms. Dijana Botica at dijana.botica@gulliver.hr - Phone: +385 20 410 880.

Accommodation in the dormitory in IUC building is available from DORMITORIJ d.o.o.

Don Frana Bulića 4, Phone: + 385 (0)20 326320, Fax. + 385 (0)20 326320,

Email : dormitorij@caas.unizg.hr
<http://www.caas.unizg.hr/gallery.html>

School publishes journal available at: www.dialogueinpraxis.net



SCHEDULE OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK THEORY AND PRACTICE FOR 2013

2.6. – 9. 6. 2013

Social Work and Spirituality: Experiences of Powerlessness

Social Work and Social Policies: International Social Work

9.6. – 16.6 2013

Social Work with Children and Youth: Children and Poverty

Social Work with Youth in Conflict with Law: Social Work Practice and the Austerity Measures

Social Work and Deinstitutionalisation: Institutions, Communities and Crisis

16.6. – 23.6. 2013

Social Work Theories and Methodologies: Social Work under Pressure: Challenges for Best Practice in Austerity Europe and the Post Welfare State

Developing Neighbourhood and Community Support Systems: Beyond Economics: Empowering the Communities to Withstand Systemic Shocks

Contemporary Issues in Social Work: Working with old age

Social Work and Spirituality: *Experiences of Powerlessness*

2.6. – 9.6. 2013

This course seeks to expand our knowledge of the diverse philosophical, humanistic and spiritual resources which guide us in our attempt to create a more just and peaceful communities. Participants explore the spiritual, ethical, cultural and professional values which inform our thinking and direct service. The course aims to explore the meaning and relevance of spirituality in social work, explore the social and cultural constitution of spirituality by deconstructing ideas, beliefs and practices in order to enable open dialogues about spirituality and working with people.

Course directors (alphabetically):

Sabina Hadžibulić, Belgrade, Serbia
Ksenija Napan, UNITEC Auckland, New Zealand
Lennart Nørreklit, University of Aalborg, Denmark
Jörg Zeller, University of Aalborg, Denmark

2013 Organising director: Jörg Zeller,
University of Aalborg, Denmark, mail:
zeller@learning.aau.dk

After having brainstormed and discussed the design of a better society (utopia) at the course 2012 we will continue these considerations 2013 – just looked at it from an upside-down perspective. For the majority of people, changes to a better society are used to be repressed by daily life experiences of powerlessness. To make changes to a better society possible requires apparently motivation strategies to discover people's individual and collective potentialities to create conditions for a better life. The subject of the course will therefore be “experiences of powerlessness” as stepping stone for the rediscovery of (the experience of) one's own power.

Social Work and Social Policies: *International Social Work*

2. 6. – 9.6. 2013

The Social Work and Social Policies course is a part of the annual School of Social Work Theory and Practice in Dubrovnik, Croatia. As its title suggests, its main focus is on the relationship between social work and social policy, with a particular emphasis on comparative, regional and global dimensions. It has traditionally explored the relationship between different welfare state and social policy models and their implications for social work. The course brings together experienced and beginning practitioners, activists, researchers and teachers to explore the contemporary challenges facing social work and social policy in different parts of the world.

Course directors (alphabetically):

Juha Hämäläinen, University of Eastern Finland Kuopio, Finland
Horst Sing, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany
Paul Stubbs, The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
Riitta Vornanen, University of Eastern Finland Kuopio, Finland

2013 Organising director: Juha Hämäläinen, University of Eastern Finland Kuopio, Finland; Email: juha.hamalainen@uef.fi and Riitta Vornanen, University of Eastern Finland Kuopio, Finland; Email: riitta.h.vornanen@uef.fi , telephone +358-17-162 648

The course will focus on international aspects of social work. The aim is to familiarize with international dimensions of social work theory and practice, de- and reconstructions of welfare systems and methodological challenges of comparative social work research. Attention will be paid to the mission of social work as a professional system in the globalizing world and its' opportunities to do in the international job markets. Room will also be given for discussions about the consequences of the tendency to internationalization to social work education.

Social Work with Children and Youth: *Children and Poverty*

9.6. – 16.6 2013

Children are vulnerable human beings who need care and protection and a childhood with optimal living conditions. The course focuses on protection of children from violence and abuse. Different approaches to prevention, treatment and care for children in need are considered. Attention is given to children and young people of all ages and to problems at the individual, social, and global levels. Factors that can cause problems for children, their families and municipalities are explored as well as methods for assessing these factors. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is a central principle for consideration of the above and is emphasised in the discussions of the course.

Course directors (alphabetically):

Paul de Heer, HAN-University, Netherlands
Jim Lurie, NTNU Social Research, Norway
Caroline Meffan, University of Hertfordshire, England
Torill Tjelflaat, NTNU Social Research, Norway

2013 Organising director: Paul de Heer, HAN-University, Netherlands; mail: paul.deheer@han.nl

Children are vulnerable human beings who need care and protection and a childhood with optimal living conditions. The course focuses on 'Children and poverty'. As in other years the course is linked to the UN-convention on the rights of the child, and more specific on Article 27 of this convention which is about the adequate standard of living: Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical, social and mental needs. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this. Different approaches to prevention, treatment and care for children in poverty are considered. Attention is given to children and young people and to problems at the individual, social, and global levels. Poverty is related to problems for children, their families and municipalities and to problems of nongovernmental organizations in their way of working. Methods for assessing these factors are discussed.

Social Work with Children in Conflict with Law: *Social Work Practice and the Austerity Measures*

9.6. – 16.6 2013

The symposium focuses on providing space to critically reflect on the extent to which theory and research have been employed by those in power to inform and legitimize policy and practice in the field of 'youth justice' or, more broadly, 'children in conflict with the law'. Particular attention will be paid to how 'global' knowledge can be mobilized to develop effective and humane responses to 'children in trouble' and how this can be developed and sustained in order to influence practice. Symposium participants will also pay attention to the all important consideration of 'local' transferability of practice models including the processes of interpretation and implementation.

Course directors (alphabetically):

Richard Hester, Open University, UK, England
Janet Jamieson, Liverpool John Moores University, England (guest)
Đuka Stakić, Penn State University, USA
Joe Yates, Liverpool John Moores University, England

2013 Organising director: Janet Jamieson, Liverpool John Moores University, School of Humanities and Social Science, 68 Hope St, Liverpool L1 9HW, UK
Phone: +44(0) 151 231 5080
E-mail: J.Jamieson@ljmu.ac.uk

As the *soi disant* 'austerity measures' are felt across Europe and other parts of the globe, social work practitioners may be asking the question- 'How will this new age of austerity impact on my practice and the lives of those with whom I work?' In the field of youth justice (or work with young people in conflict with the law), the impact of this reduction in public welfare may be felt in terms of the following: overall reduced resources and services, a further intensification of target driven culture, 'payment by results' – monetisation of social work time, redeployment and redundancies of staff, an increase in crime (or fear of crime) as a result of increased relative deprivation, an erosion of professional standards – qualifications.

Social Work and Deinstitutionalisation: *Institutions, Communities and Crisis*

9.6. – 16.6. 2012

Deinstitutionalisation has become central to social work, as it changed the lives of service users, its multidisciplinary work, its organisation, methods and the epistemological position. Recognition of service users' strengths and potential for recovery in its new meaning became possible only with de-institutionalisation. This radical change has implications also to the interactions and power relations between social workers and service users, their family members, other professions and the general public. We explore the deinstitutionalisation in different settings. We learn from the experiences of people who have experienced institutionalisation and de-institutionalisation how to prevent mini institutionalisation and trans-institutionalisation in the community.

Course directors (alphabetically):

Vito Flaker, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Shula Ramon, University of Hertfordshire, England
Lorenzo Toresini, Centre for Research in Mental Health, Merano, Italy

2013 Organising director:

Vito Flaker, Faculty for Social Work,
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia,
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We will examine the question of how the institutions address the issue of crises. We will concentrate on the personal crisis and how to resolve it outside institutions or within the institutions with no restraint or closing. We will also explore the relationship of personal crises and social, political and economic crisis of the moment. More than this, we shall explore the institutional crisis and its relationship to the deinstitutionalisation. Does return to the community necessary mean the deinstitutionalisation? Can the lessons learned through the deinstitutionalisation of the health and social services be useful in the other walks of life? Is real deinstitutionalisation possible without recreating the community?

Social Work Theories and Methodologies: Social Work under pressure: Challenges for best practice in austerity Europe and the post welfare state

17.6. – 23. 6. 2013

This course seeks to explore the development of social work knowledge and its use in different countries, examining a range of theoretical models and taking into account the significant influence of traditions, culture and politics on the development of diverse models in different countries and on social work as a whole. Previous topics have included: construction of social work identity, risk, assessment and management, measuring success and outcomes, knowledge base in working with diverse groups, ethical dilemmas in regard to management and policies, improving strategies and methods; methods and techniques in different countries, strategies in the climate of austerity.

Course directors (alphabetically):

Carmel Byers, University of Hertfordshire, England
Vito Flaker, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Mari Nordstrand, Sør-Trøndelag University College, Trondheim, Norway

2013 Organising director:

Carmel Byers, University of Hertfordshire, England
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The economic and social realities of Europe with the current austerity measures, are posing severe limitations on the social work role. The decline of the welfare state, rise of the business and consumer models, changes in demography due to migration and refugee populations, and diminishing economic resources are posing difficult challenges for the profession both in the voluntary and statutory sectors, confronting social workers with dilemmas on a daily basis. In addition to this, social work methods and interventions that could be viewed as owing their existence to the welfare state, are now in danger of appearing obsolete in the face of its' decline. This places social workers in the position of seeking new approaches, as well as new resources and alliances of power.

For the professional and the student social worker, questions frequently arise and uncertainties are expressed concerning what is the role of social work in contemporary society? Are we still able to adhere to our values and ethics and how might these be compromised by the current agenda. How might we overcome the dilemmas and conflicts we face daily and maintain best practice? Is there still a place for social justice, and radical social work in Europe today?

As in previous years, we invite you to spend an interesting and stimulating week exploring and discussing issues relevant to the above topic in a relaxed and friendly environment. Through a range of presentations and workshops, it is hoped that participants will be able to gain knowledge and insight into the various social work perspectives from different European states, and explore and discuss a range of theories and methodologies to meet the current challenges.

Developing Neighbourhood and Community Support Systems: Beyond Economics: Empowering the Communities to Withstand Systemic Shocks

16.6. – 23.6. 2013

Although the community is traditionally a place where social work has been established and developed it seems that in recent decades this tradition has faded away. Social workers are less involved in direct work with communities and community development is more a political phrase than a reality. Social workers have to rethink their role in the community, especially when it comes to the questions of solidarity, principles of participation, empowerment, respecting human rights and personal dignity. The aim of the course is to create an open place for discussions and expertise which can encourage social workers to reclaim ethical community work.

Course directors (alphabetically):

Vera Grebenc, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Ronald Lutz, University of Applied Sciences Erfurt, Germany

Reima Ana Maglajlić, Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, Hungary

Nino Žganec, University of Zagreb

2013 Organising director:

Vera Grebenc, Faculty for Social Work, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Email: Vera.Grebenc@fsd.uni-lj.si

We are witnessing an epoch of change where social and economic arrangement that hitherto represented basis for social security and welfare has become a source of risk and precariousness. In the process of growing global economies the degree of dependency of local communities upon the market production and consumption as well as dependency on the state and international sustenance and support has grown. Economic development and demographic change have however put people at risk and there is a little certainty that systems of social and material security, care and other welfare provision will be available

from the dominant providers in the future. While there might be more innovative systemic solutions to be sought, there is also need for research and invention of the ways of ensuring sustainability and empowering the communities to withstand the systemic shocks in the future and provide the basic security by informal means that stem from themselves rather than from the state and the market. Rationale of the proposed endeavour is to combine the social sciences knowledge and social work and development methodologies for the purpose of fostering bottom-up, grassroots responses in the communities.

The construction of tentative models of empowering communities may be done by promotion of community actions and re-conceptualisation of the theoretical and practical assumptions and also by conceptualisation of basic grids of community work and organisation based on previous experience and predictable trends. The symposium is a chance to become involved: as researchers academics, practitioners, students, people with own experience and community resource persons, in order to learn from each other and construct pragmatic knowledge traversing the layers of economics, sociology, social policy, social work and community organisation, to ensure integration of abstract concepts with local knowledge in a dialogic procedure. Cooperation and working together of the teams of different sites will be encouraged in order to learn from each other *in situ* and to make the lively exchange and immediate comparison possible.

Contemporary Issues in Social Work: Working with Old Age

16.6. – 23.6 2013

A new course in School of Social Work at IUC. There are many issues in social work that our courses do not cover. We decided to cover this gap and provide an opportunity for discussions of the topics otherwise neglected: old age. If the course will generate the interest we will keep it in the future.

Course directors (alphabetically):

Jana Mali, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Ana Štambuk, Faculty of Law Zagreb,
Department of Social Work, Croatia

2013 Organising director:

Jana Mali, Faculty for Social Work, University
of Ljubljana
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Demographic changes are of significant interest to social work. The issue of old age has shifted from being a marginal concern in the middle of the 20th century, to be of central importance for social work in this century. The specific nature of social work lies in transversal understanding of older people, their needs, and in the assertion of the user as a partner in the helping process. Social workers should have knowledge about the aging process, social policies concerned with older people and various practical approaches and methods. They also need to possess various professional skills such as the ability to communicate, make decisions, and participate in multi-disciplinary teams. To be able to determine the situation of an old age person, they need to have specific knowledge for assessment of an older person's psychological, emotional, cognitive and social abilities, the verification of his or her ability for self-care, the identification of an older person's strengths and the strengths of their environment as well as potential obstacles in an otherwise supportive environment. Older people must be seen in the context of the communities to which they belong, either geographically or as communities of interest. This year we will focus on presentation the pallet of methods and skills in the field of social work with older people.