



## School of Social Work Theory and Practice

@IUC.Dubrovnik

Courses:

*Social Work Theories and Methods*

*Social Work with Old Age*

*Social Work and Deinstitutionalisation*

**September 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Security and violence**

**Under attack of 'proceduralism'**

*September session coordinator:*

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of Ljubljana

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### Security and violence

The cross-cutting theme of human security is complex, multileveled and multi-layered, embracing, the protection of communities and individuals from violence, conflict, and injustice. Threats to human security are varied – political and military, but also social, health, economic, demographic and environmental.\* A multitude of factors contribute to making people and communities feel insecure, from terrorism, climate change, aging demographics, forced migration, sectarianism, poverty and infectious disease. However, human security is an expansive term referring more generally to forces and events that result in the degrading of quality of life. Human security can only be achieved when individuals and communities are confident of an existence free of fear and want.† Human security and peace are, therefore, essential elements in social justice, whilst the promotion of human development, health, welfare and legal structures and robust political governance is critical to social work practice.

In the last few decades there has been a shift in public and professional discourse from *social* to *physical security*. From the fear of poverty to the fear of violence. Paradoxically, poverty became a social fact, while violence became one of the strongest collective phantasies. The shift of attention from structural to phenomenal violence; the former being masked and the latter magnified. The institutional violence of exclusion and the economic violence of dispossession are normalised; violent crime, family violence and madness are demonised along with terrorism, and attributed to 'violent' migrants. Violence in itself became a 'folk devil' and a cause of 'moral panic'. Violence of the wretched has been denied its expressive faculty and the violence of the powerful granted expression, often to demonstrate the limits of unrest and democracy. Non-violence has become, paradoxically, a major force (*vis* – as in root of the term violence) of social conflict resolution. However, dialogue is possible only in the ram of social security and not of physical insecurity.

### Under attack from 'proceduralism'

As Bill Jordan stated, social work is not needed where procedures and their outcomes are fixed and predictable. Social work is a profession dealing with the unpredictable, unknown and is open ended. On the other hand we witness an invasion of procedures into social work and everyday life. They are usually employed to increase the governability of people and, thus the bureaucratising, economising and also medicalising of our lives –taking social work's creative substance away. However, procedures are needed to be productive in both safeguarding people's rights (when there is a need for restraint) and enabling their access to rights – resources and means – entitlement (e.g. to long-term care). Procedures are in essence 'incorporeal metamorphoses' (Deleuze), transforming a person's status radically without changing him or her physically. In doing this, they tend to be, in our bureaucratic, guardian and excluding society 'ceremonies of degradation' (Garfinkel) – means of disempowerment, of transforming people into objects, estranging them from the community of equals and the powerful. The point is to stage and employ procedures that will be a *celebration of promotion* – enabling people, promoting their opportunities and enhancing their status. To accomplish this, a highly ethical stance, as well as effort is required. There is not so much need for a *legal* but *ethical* base, which in turn is undermined by the 'proceduralism' itself.

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\* Kofi Annan (2001) "Towards a Culture of Peace." <http://www.unesco.org/opi2/lettres/TextAnglais/AnnanE.html> 08/22/01

† Yukio Takasu (200) "Toward Effective Cross-Sectorial Partnership to Ensure Human Security in a Globalized World." Statement by Mr. Yukio Takasu, Director-General of Multilateral Cooperation Department, at the Third Intellectual Dialogue on Building Asia's Tomorrow. Bangkok, June 19.

## Courses:

### Social Work Theories and Methods

Social work is *praxis* – the knowledge of doing – improving human and social life. Methods as ‘a way to reach the goal’ are an inseparable part of such a knowledge. Theories and methods of social work are diverse – in different countries, traditions, culture and politics. Its *filie rouge* is the ethical consistency of action.

#### 2018 Organising directors:

Mari Nordstrand and Nina Schiøll Skjefstad, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim.

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Course co- directors: Vito Flaker, Ljubljana, Michaela Moser, St. Poelten.

### Social Work with Old Age

The needs of the older generation are increasing and continually changing. Demographic changes pose a significant interest. Old age from a marginal concern has become of central importance for social work. The transversal understanding of older people, their needs, and the assertion of the user as a partner in the helping process.

#### 2018 Organising directors:

Jana Mali, Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana

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Course co-director: Ana Štambuk, Zagreb.

### Social Work and Deinstitutionalisation

Deinstitutionalisation has become central to social work, as it changes the lives of service users, works in an interdisciplinary manner, and reorganises and renews methods and epistemology (users/strength/recovery) – in different settings (mental health, old age, disabilities, prisons, even schools etc.).

#### 2018 Organising director:

Vito Flaker, Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Course co-directors: Miroslav Brkić, Belgrade, Andreja Rafaelič, Ljubljana, Shula Ramon, Hertfordshire, Lorenzo Toresini, Merano-Trieste.

Some topics participants will address (besides the transversal topics): Intergenerational Learning, Comparative Spotlight on Quality Aging, Widowhood, Care Management, Social Work Management, Social Work in the Digital Age, Conflict and Masculinities, Legal Capacity, Advocacy, Social Work Field Education, Power Balance in Supervision, Reports on the Deinstitutionalisation in various environments.

Registered participants up to date (in alphabetical order): Janet Anand, Addisu Tegegne Bayle, Anita Barišić, Miroslav Brkić, Dinka Caha, Nika Cigoj, Anida Cmanjčanin, Vlado Dimovski, Vito Flaker, Barbara Grah, Birte Heidkamp, Gordana Horvat, Jelena Janakievska, Mirko Jankelić, David Kergel, Valentina Koljanin, Anja Kutnjak, Ladislav Lamza, Lea Lebar, Jana Mali, Ivana Milas Klarić, Mari Norstrand, Sandra Perić, Simona Ratajc, Sirotkina Reeli, Hanna Katariina Ristolainen, Nina Schiøll Skjefstad, Petar Šajfar, Ana Štambuk, Sue Taplin, Anže Trček, Zoran Vesić. From: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia and UK.

## Contact

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Fee per course/symposium: EUR 90 for faculty and practitioners, and EUR 60 for students. Payable to the IUC at the time of the event.

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The School publishes a journal which is available at:

<http://dialogueinpraxis.fsd.uni-lj.si/>