CROSSROADS
IN SOCIAL WORK

Could we break free from the shackles of fear and limitation?

3 -7 June 2019

University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
School of Medical Engineering & Applied Social Sciences

www fh ooe at campus linz
Organizing Team

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School of Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences
Garnisonstrasse 21
4020 Linz / Austria
International Days
Crossroads in Social Work

The horrors of both World Wars are still present in the social work profession’s open attachment to the Declaration of Human Rights and its establishment of a Global Definition. Warfare on a global scale has taught us, at least philosophically, to question authority as a concept…and the postmodern condition of the individual has been conducive to questioning the idea of Western grand narratives. These narratives might affect our telling of history, our dealings in politics, our exchange of goods, services, knowledge, our (global) economy, even each individual in the sense that the lack of a grand narrative can leave an identity fragmented or isolated. Thus, the postmodern era may have produced disoriented, disjointed individuals, many of them in search of social inclusion.

As early as 1995, the landscape gardener and urban planner Tom Turner suggested that “the built environment professions are witnessing the gradual dawn of a post-Postmodernism that seeks to temper reason with faith”. He argued in favor of “timeless” design, of “archetypical” arrangements in the Jungian sense…in a way, a return to the idea of essential human qualities and preferences, but, this time around, without decisive moral judgment. A range of others have pointed out that the postmodern era seems to have been supplanted by a different attitude…as social work practitioners, are we aware of this shift as well? And if so, which of our current challenges could be seen as expressions of a new era? Most importantly, are we well-equipped to handle them?

The Department of Social Work and the International Office Linz are happy to welcome you for a 5-day programme of lectures, workshops and cultural activities – offering everyone the chance to meet people from different countries and to look at Social Work from an international and intercultural perspective. In addition, we will visit social organisations active in a variety of different areas, such as child and family welfare, immigration or violence prevention.
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (FH Upper Austria)

The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria is the largest university of applied sciences in Austria and is an integral part of the tertiary education system. The organisation is defined by the requirements of regional employment and research needs. Four locations in Upper Austria’s central area offer innovative and interdisciplinary academic degrees, each with a different focus.

>> School of Informatics, Communications and Media - Hagenberg Campus
>> School of Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences - Linz Campus
>> School of Management - Steyr Campus
>> School of Engineering - Wels Campus

You will find more information at:
www.fh-ooe.com
School of Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences

The focus in Linz is health and social welfare. Our aim is to prepare students for the leadership positions of the future. Because our programmes are designed around a common theme, the synergy effects are obvious: more knowledge, and a multitude of partner organizations, such as the Austrian Red Cross, leading charities (Caritas, Diaconia, Hilfswerk), Upper Austria Regional Health Insurance, Austromed, MAZ, and numerous human services organizations.

All degree programmes combine comprehensive training with practice. The School of Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences offers study programmes at undergraduate (bachelor’s) and graduate (master’s) level.

The course of study for a degree in Social Work trains students to advise and counsel people in distress, and enables graduates to plan and organize the helping process. Medical Engineering combines medicine and medical device technology, and prepares students to bridge the gap between the two. Human Services Management focuses on the business skills graduates need to work in organizations in the social services field.

The programme in Public Management combines business administration, accounting, controlling, business information systems, law, and public finance.
# Programme - International Days - week 1

## Monday, 3 June 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00</td>
<td>Departure from FH Upper Austria for trip to Hallein &amp; Salzburg (optional)</td>
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<td>19:30</td>
<td>Arrival back in Linz</td>
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## Tuesday, 4 June 2019

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian Stark <em>(Head of Master's degree programme Social Work, FH Upper Austria)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:45</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>Andreas Zehetner <em>(Vice-President for Internationalisation, FH Upper Austria)</em></td>
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<td>10:00</td>
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<td>Iwona Hunstorfer <em>(Head of International Office, FH Upper Austria)</em></td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>Group picture / Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Lecture / Workshop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lamiya Rzayeva: The Development of Social Work as a Profession:</td>
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<td>The Case of Azerbaijan - <em>SR-A 209</em></td>
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<td>Susan Rose: The Persistence of Childhood Trauma among Incarcerated Women</td>
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<td>Holger Nieberg: Prospective Social Work - Professional Responses to the</td>
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<td>Challenges of the Future - <em>SR-A 203</em></td>
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<td>Michael Helmbrecht: The Increasing Group-Focused Enmity in Europe –</td>
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<td>Challenges for Social Work - <em>HS 7</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>World Café</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Linz City Tour (optional)</td>
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## Wednesday, 5 June 2019

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<td>Lecture / Workshop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dashamir Berxulli / Lulzim Dragidella / Kriste Shtufi: The Development of Social Services in Kosovo: A Historical View - <em>SR-A 205</em></td>
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<td>Jaap Bruijn: The Route Back to a Human Scale or Social Work Based on</td>
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<td>Idealism - <em>SR-A 203</em></td>
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<td>Sarah Redmond / Colin Watt: 1) Let’s Keep Moving... “The Challenge of Retaining Social Workers in the Constantly Shifting Sands of Social Work Practice”; 2) Back to Where we Started, Though Knowing the Place for the First Time! - <em>HS 7</em></td>
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<td>Sarah Collins: Social Work Students and Interprofessional Education - <em>HS 7</em></td>
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<td>Andrew Wills: Diversification of Social Work Under UK Austerity - <em>HS 2</em></td>
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<td>Students MA Social Work: Sensitization for Intercultural Diversity - <em>SR-A 205</em></td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation / Site Visits</strong></td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Integration Office Linz - SR-A 203</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Child Welfare Office Linz</td>
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<td>Neustart (Social Work with Offenders)</td>
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<td>18:30</td>
<td>Dinner for Lecturers</td>
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**Thursday, 6 June 2019**

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<td>• Cosimo Mangione: The Voice of the Survivors of Natural Disasters in</td>
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<td>the Recovery Management Process - HS 7</td>
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<td>• Jeanne Wagner: Emotional Intelligence and Why it Matters - HS 2</td>
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<td>How to Deal with It? - SR-A 203</td>
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<td>• Charlotte Sweet / Franz Schiemayr: Post-Postmodern Zeitgeist,</td>
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<td>Technology, Individuals – Is the New Era Ideologically in Line with</td>
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<td>Sustainable Development? Or: The Stories People Tell… - SR-A 205</td>
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<td>• Heinz Lynen von Berg: Right Wing Populism and Extremism – Danger to</td>
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<td>or Challenges for Social Work and Political Education? - HS 2</td>
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<td>• Yazmin Mendoza Reyes: Linkage for Success - Best Practices in México</td>
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<td>and Latinamerika - HS 7</td>
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<td>• Doris Schartmüller: Release from a Life Sentence: Uncertainty and</td>
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<td>Hope - SR-A 203</td>
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<td>• Charlotte Wekker: Community Work in the Netherlands - SR-A 205</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation / Site Visits</strong></td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>LENA (Social Work with Sex Workers) - HS 7</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>SOS Human Rights (Social Work with Asylum Seekers)</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Violence Prevention Center (Counselling for Female Victims)</td>
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**Friday, 7 June 2019**

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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Departure from FH Upper Austria</td>
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<td>09:30</td>
<td>Guided Tour: Historical Site - Concentration Camp Mauthausen (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Martina Mittenhuber: Human Rights Policy and Performance System in Nuremberg - HS 2</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Closing Session and Evaluation - HS 2</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Photo Competition Award</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Farewell Lunch</td>
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Cultural Day (optional)

Monday, 3 June 2019

Hallein Salt Mine

Join us on an exciting journey deep into the Dürrnberg, where miners were hauling a treasure out into the daylight over 2500 years ago, one that took its rightful place right next to jewels and diamonds: known as „white gold“.

For some 450 years, visitors from around the world have been entering the Hallein salt mine, deep inside the Dürrnberg. Which makes the Hallein salt mine the first in history to open its tunnels to the public. Visitors from near and far included many crowned heads, guests of the archbishops. All were fascinated by the mysterious subterranean world. And to this very day, the mines which the Ancient Celts clawed meter-by-meter out of the earth over 2500 years ago have lost none of their magical appeal.

https://www.salzwelten.at/en/hallein/the-mine

„SALINA“ - village of the Celts on the Dürrnberg

There are many books that recount the daily life of Celts. But actually experiencing their daily life yourself, well, that’s something different. That’s why Salina Celtic Village on the Dürrnberg exists. Located right next to the salt mine in Hallein, it takes you back to the world as it was 2,600 years ago - to the exciting days of the Celts. Join us for this journey through time!

Life-size illustrations show you what it was like to live and work in a Celtic settlement.

Thanks to archaeological excavations of grave sites on the Dürrnberg and other finds from Ice Age settlements elsewhere, it was possible to reconstruct countless little details precisely. The Dürrnberg, incidentally, is one of the most important Ice Age dig sites in Central Europe.

https://www.salzwelten.at/en/hallein/salina-celtic-village
Salzburg

Salzburg is the city where W. A. Mozart was born and the shooting location for „The Sound of Music“. The narrow lanes and broad squares of this baroque city have taken their deserved place on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The internationally acclaimed Salzburg Festival, the magnificent panorama and the countless temptations of Christmastime make Salzburg a complete artwork in its own right, and one that is quite beyond compare.

https://www.salzburg.info/en/salzburg

After the guided tour of the Hallein Salt Mine and the visit to Salina Village, we will take you by bus to Salzburg where you will have enough time to explore this picturesque city individually.
**Lectures and Workshops**

**Tuesday, 4 June 2019**

**Lamiya Rzayeva**  
Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (Azerbaijan)  
Room SR-A 209

**The development of Social Work as a profession: The case of Azerbaijan**

Being one of the post-soviet countries, Azerbaijan is one of these countries, which started social work as a profession in early 2000s. Although, first generation of social workers started to pop up in early 2000s, social work education established in 2005 in MA, in 2008 in BA degrees. So far, 9 social work schools are existing in the country, however there are many significant results achieved so far together with the tremendous challenges and gaps.

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**Susan Rose**  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA)  
Room HS 2

**The Persistence of Childhood Trauma among Incarcerated Women in the US**

This presentation will discuss the results of a study of 110 incarcerated women in a US jail. Women were asked about early childhood trauma, later adult stressful events, and their current mental health problems. Results indicate that incarcerated women have high rates of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), stressful life events, and that these in combination with the stress of incarceration affects their current mental health status and their hope that they can change their life circumstances. Recommendations for practice and policy changes will also be presented.

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**Holger Nieberg**  
MSB Medical School Berlin - Hochschule für Gesundheit und Medizin (Germany)  
Room SR-A 203

**Prospective Social Work - Professional Responses to the Challenges of the Future**

Society is undergoing rapid alteration. Never before have so many developments and changes affected people’s individual lives and social coexistence. Technological revolutions, virtualization of social space, changed family structures and educational ideals, multiple life schemes and employment options as also condensed communication patterns and time structures are just a few indicators of the massive differentiation of today’s society and people’s lives. This differentiation does not remain without side effects – because it also differentiates problems and stress factors of a society and its people, which creates new demands on the social work of the future. A pronounced prosperity gap, high poverty risks for single parents, educationally disadvantaged and old people, parental uncertainty regarding successful child-rearing, new forms of psychological violence (eg cyberbullying), increasing diagnoses of mental illness and burnout syndrome or the emergence of right-wing populist movements are indicators of a differentiated problem complex within diverse social contexts. More than ever, social work will be required to meet these requirements in a multi-professional way – the help system must also be differentiated. The lecture gives a prognosis on how municipal help systems have to react in a timely fashion in order to be prepared for the future.
Michael Helmbrecht  
Technische Hochschule Nürnberg (Germany)  

The increasing group-focused enmity in Europe – Challenges for Social Work  
The increasing ideology of inequality is an alarming development for concerned citizen as well as for the democratic systemconcept in total.  
The social scientific concept „group-focused enmity“ – developed by Michael Helmbrecht.

Wednesday, 5 June 2019

Dashamir Berxulli / Lulzim Dragidella / Kriste Shtufi  
University of Prishtina „Hasan Prishtina“ (Kosovo)  

The development of social services in Kosovo: A historical view  
Kosovo is one of the poorest countries in Europe. Besides the war that Kosovo went through less than 20 years ago, the country is characterized by high unemployment rate, low economic growth, political instability, a fragile democracy, and problems implementing rule of law. This situation calls for continuous and adequate social policies addressing the growing needs of the population. The workshop will historically look at the development of social services in Kosovo, emphasizing the current situation, and pathways of further development.

Jaap Bruijn  
Hanze University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)  

The route back to a human scale or social work based on idealism  
We do not live in an era of change but in a changing era. In this age of scaling up of social work institutes and evidence based social work, social workers seek with an intense desire for the human scale in their work. How do social workers find the route from the systemworld to the lifeworld?  
In this lecture, Jaap Bruijn talks about his experiences and presents the results of a small-scale study of how professionals distance themselves from their institutional systemworld by connecting a personal awareness process with a desire for change.
Uncertainty about Future and Lack of Awareness - the Cause of Apprehension

1. Correct Prediction - an Essential Tool for Building Prejudice Free Society
We need to know the dynamic world around us to survive and succeed. Information related to our social existence should be available and transparent. But, the dynamic aspect of it is an important issue. Unpredictability of possible misfortunes, be it disease or disaster, lead people to be scared and prejudiced believing in supernatural power. With lot of data, and powerful algorithms, we can now predict dynamic systems, like weather, finance, geopolitics, health conditions, with high accuracy. In this talk, I will discuss a class of algorithms for modeling and prediction, based on scale free network.

2. Social Awareness Assessment from Social Media
In this lecture, I would like to present our research works on extraction of important topics and change of topics over time in online social media like twitter, blog and video sharing websites by using text mining and machine learning techniques and how the extracted knowledge can be used for assessing social awareness in fulfillment of society’s needs with a case study after great east Japan earthquake.
Sarah Collins  
Concordia University Wisconsin (USA)

Social Work Students and Interprofessional Education

This lecture will examine why it is integral that interprofessional education opportunities be embedded within social work curriculum. We will discuss how effective interprofessional teams can positively impact individuals as well as our society. We will explore some of the common barriers to interprofessional practice and highlight why it is critical that social work students understand and practice the core competencies for interprofessional practice. The lecture will highlight a traditional approach to implementing interprofessional education as well as a nontraditional approach.

Manane Petrosyan / Nune Geghamyan  
Yerevan State University (Armenia)

Towards Social Work Professionalization in Armenia: education and demand of the labor market in post socialist countries

The lecturer will address the problem of social work professionalization in Armenia, a country with no social work tradition, where the education process as for many professions and for social work goes through crisis and faces severe discrepancies with labor market requirements. Approximately 2500 people in Armenia, including 500 in non-governmental organizations, work as some type of social service professional or social worker and for many years the scope of work for these workers did not extend much beyond the distribution of financial support. As a result people with different backgrounds were recruited in the field, for example, less than 10% of these workers have attained any university-level education in social work and social work continues to struggle for institutionalization through nearly 25 years of post-soviet reality. The insufficiency of dialogue between educational institutions and labor market leads to the suspension of institutionalization. The absence of “own school”, insufficient research works and the passivity of sharing best practices of educating, put the educators themselves in a set of cycle, thus deepening the crisis.

Andrew Wills  
University of Plymouth (UK)

Diversification of social work under UK austerity

The UK is currently pursuing a twin-pronged socio-political policy of reduction of public spending and a neoliberalist political ideology of the reduction of the role of the state. Traditionally social work has been primarily located within the state with means-tested access to public social care, but under the twin assaults of austerity and neoliberalism, state-social work is being reduced in scope to a para-legal administrative process within a purely reduced utilitarian ethic, and more extreme limitations on the role of redistributive social justice. The subsequent unmet residual need is increasingly being partially met by three mechanisms of competitive commissioning-out to private-for-profit companies and charities; alternative ‘back-stop public services by default such as police, health and emergency services; and not-for-profit social enterprises as resurgent but piecemeal provision of community social work. The impact is a slow partial de-professionalization of ethical UK social work.
**Wednesday, 5 June 2019**

**Students MA Social Work**
Natascha Baschinger / Andrea Djukic / Marlene Horejsi / Birgit Klonner / Eva Mader / Elisabeth Möseneder
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (Austria)

**Sensitization for Intercultural Diversity**

Dealing with intercultural situations and conflicts is a common reality, not only in social professions. Life in today’s society requires a high measure of sensitivity for diversity, including tolerance, mutual understanding and (a culture of) acceptance. Awareness and recognition of one’s own culture and background while encountering a stranger with appreciation – this is a complex process, but it strengthens the fabric of society and liberates individuals.

In this workshop, we invite you to experience the feeling of being a “foreigner”…as well as to explore how you feel encountering “foreigners”. Our aim is to exemplify the significance of how individuals are culturally socialized for common perceptual, attribution and assessment processes. By the end of this workshop, you should be well prepared for the concrete requirements of dealing with cultural differences.

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**Thursday, 6 June 2019**

**Cosimo Mangione**
Technische Hochschule Nürnberg (Germany)

**The Voice of the Survivors of Natural Disasters in the Recovery Management Process**

Recovery management after a natural disaster such as a flood or an earthquake is a complex and mostly long process aiming to restore community life to the same level as that prior to the situation before the disaster occurred. Studies devoted to this topic have shed light on the highly dilemmatical situation connected with the recovery and have questioned one-sided political decision making processes. A participatory approach should obviously be strived for because of the plurality of different actors’ points of view, personal interests and divergent perspectives about reconstruction. To give a voice to the affected local community and to systematically involve survivors is considered essential for a successful recovery. Furthermore the participation of the local affected community is vitally important in order to foster resilience, community empowerment and to generate a deep feeling of ownership. Against these findings there is plenty of evidence, that in many cases the needs, expectations and plans of the local community are not taken into consideration by recovery planners. This contribution addresses the tensions inherent to a participation-oriented decision making process and the importance of recognising the survivors’ voice. It is based on narrative interviews with survivors of the Italian earthquakes in L’ Aquila (2009) and Amatrice (2016). By looking back at their experience they try to make sense of what happened to them and in doing this they offer a pronounced counterbalance to the perspective of decision makers.
Jeanne Wagner  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA)

**Emotional Intelligence and Why it Matters**

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is defined as the ability to recognize, understand and manage our emotions and influence the emotions of others. The five elements of EI are: 
Self-awareness, Self-regulation, Motivation, Empathy, Social Skills

EI is a proven attribute in successful leadership, as well as in personal and professional relationships. It is an essential tool in social work leadership. Participants will learn the characteristics and strategies associated with emotional intelligence and examples of how it can enhance personal and professional relationships.

**Learning Goals:**
1. Identify the components and characteristics of emotional intelligence.
2. Learn emotional intelligence techniques in professional settings to optimize relationships and outcomes.

Rasa Naujaniene  
Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)

**Complexity of relationships in social work. How to deal with it?**

Relationships are essential in social work practice. Though social workers face with complexity and constantly changing dynamics within professional relationships. Relationships have a big impact on how social worker feel about yourself as a professional, about their professional life and life itself. During this workshop we will discuss not only about nature of relationships in professional life, but also will exercise how to identify, appreciate and take steps in development of supportive relationships.

Charlotte Sweet / Franz Schiermayr  
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (Austria)

**Post-postmodern Zeitgeist, Technology, Individuals – is the new era ideologically in line with sustainable development? Or: The Stories People Tell...**

What will the ongoing changes in the political, economic and technological structures of human societies do to the human individual? How will they affect social interactions and conceptualizations of what it means to be human? What will happen to the Declaration of Human Rights as a global ethical standard?

This workshop is an inquiry into possible answers. Departing from the postmodern condition of the individual, which seemed to necessitate the questioning of grand narratives, we recognize that the fragmentation and co-existence of differing or even contradictory narratives appears to have become an acceptable norm. Today’s individuals, therefore, seem to be presenting as naturally fragmented selves…and if, indeed, these fragmented human single units are adapting to an interlinked economy/society 4.0, what are the resulting social repercussions and needs? How can professional social workers adapt their methodologies to reach the post-postmodern public?
Heinz Lynen von Berg  
University of Applied Sciences Bremen (Germany)  

Right wing populism and extremism – danger to or challenges for social work and political education?

Right wing populism and right wing extremism movements use fear to manipulate the people. West European societies are shackled by right wing populism resentments on one side and the loss of attractiveness of democratic parties and procedures on the other. But what are the challenges for social work and political institutions especially political education? In the workshop firstly we define the meanings of both terms: what are the differences and what are the overlaps of right wing populism on one hand and extremism on the other. Secondly we analyse the reasons of the attractiveness of right wing populism in our times. Thirdly we investigate in which circumstances and situations social work is confronted with these phenomena. After that we discuss the possibilities of prevention and intervention measures. We will work out interactively various possibilities to show the limits of certain approaches of social work and political education. Which approaches can be identified? Which professional attitude should social workers use?

Yazmín Mendoza Reyes  
Universidad Panamericana (Mexico)  

Linkage for success - best practices in Mexico and Latinamerika

Mexico and Latin America have one similarity: multicultural. And one difference: we don’t like to work together. But why? We refuse to listen to the one who thinks differently. If you take that to small parts of society, such as the place you work or the University you’re studying, then probably you use saying „no“ to different perspectives, not because you’re bad but you do not practice very often.
Release from a Life Sentence: Uncertainty and Hope

Release from a life sentence comes with many challenges for the incarcerated. While a life sentence usually means many years, if not decades, of incarceration, the exact release date from prison usually remains unknown. Both the length of incarceration and the uncertainty about release from a life sentence can impact the reintegration process in many different ways. In this workshop, we will explore these ways and come up with alternatives on how to best meet these challenges.

Community work in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands there is a strong history of social casework. In the mostly individual oriented society that is ok. But nowadays, with the problems of loneliness, the lack of participation of large groups in society and the complexities in living together, it is necessary to build up the community. A workshop about social inclusion and the work of the modern social worker in order to reach that.

Human Rights Policy and Performance System in Nuremberg

Since more than 20 years the City of Nuremberg is implementing the human rights idea as a guideline of municipal policies. The presentation refers to the historical background, gives an insight in the main working areas and discusses current challenges.
Austria

Austria is a small, beautiful country with a great cultural heritage and is located in the very heart of Europe. It is the home of Mozart, Freud, and “The Sound of Music.” Austria’s snow-capped mountains, crystal-clear lakes and rivers, historic cities – Vienna and Salzburg – make it one of the most beautiful places in the world.

The economy is very much export oriented and the standard of living is high. Our national language is German, but most people speak some English.

Area: 83,789 km²
Population: 8.36 million
Capital: Vienna
Climate: temperate; continental; cloudy; cold winters with frequent rain and some snow in the lowlands and snow in mountains; moderate summers with occasional showers

Highest mountain: Grossglockner, 3,798 m

www.austria.info/us

Linz

No other Austrian city has changed as dramatically as Linz has in recent decades. Linz is a modern urban centre with a flourishing economy, a city where the quality of life is exceptional. In 2009, a trip to Linz was especially rewarding because this city on the Danube was **European Capital of Culture** and it is indeed a special place.
Linz straddles the Danube and, with a population of 190,000, it is Austria’s third largest city. It links the Mühlviertel region, which ends at the Czech border in the north, with the rolling hills that become the Austrian Alps in the south.

The Linz Metropolitan Area is the hub of a thriving regional economy. Here, technology, industry and high sustainability standards are no contradiction: Linz is one of Austria’s most environmentally-friendly communities, with green spaces making up 60% of the city.

Cultural life in Linz is highly diverse, ranging from interactive art at the Ars Electronica Center to 19th- and 20th-century art at the Lentos Kunstmuseum, music at the Brucknerhaus, home of the world-famous Bruckner Orchestra, drama in the Landestheater, opera and musical in the Musiktheater, contemporary art at OK Offenes Kulturhaus Oberösterreich, and exhibits at the Oberösterreichische Landesmuseen (Upper Austria Museums). Here, culture also means history: astronomer Johannes Kepler, composer Anton Bruckner and poet Adalbert Stifter lived in Linz, and Mozart’s Linzer Symphony has immortalized the name of the town in which it was composed.

The best way to experience Linz is by strolling around town – across the Hauptplatz or through one of the narrow lanes and inner courtyards of the baroque Old Town below the Castle. A modernized railway climbs Pöstlingberg; at the top, you will be treated to panoramic views of the city, and on a good day, you can see all the way to the Alps. An outing on a Danube cruise ship is another unforgettable experience.

But culture and beautiful scenery aren’t all Linz has to offer. Landstraße is the main street of one of Austria’s best and busiest downtown shopping districts. Here there are also restaurants, pubs, and cafes for every taste. Students generally choose the city center, as well as to pubs and restaurants near the Johannes Kepler University. The areas around Hauptplatz, the castle and Land-strasse are especially popular. For spectacular views, try the restaurants on Pöstlingberg, Schloßcafe in the castle, or SkyGarden on the top of Passage shopping center.

www.linz.at/english/tourism/
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