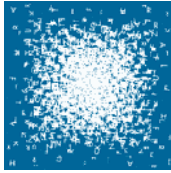


UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES

FACHHOCHSCHULE FRANKFURT a. M.
FB SOZIALE ARBEIT UND GESUNDHEIT
Dpt. of Health and Social Work



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FACHHOCHSCHULE WIESBADEN
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Dpt. of Applied Social Studies



Kurt Schumacher Ring 18
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Frankfurt/ Wiesbaden, May, 18th 2006

Workshop „Social Work Development and Gender Perspectives“ Frankfurt, June 23-25, 2006

Organized by: Joint Women's Studies Center of the Universities of Applied Sciences in Hesse, Germany. (gFFZ), Rotlintstr 45, Hinterhaus (backstage), Room 113)

The Intention of this workshop is to offer colleagues of befriended colleges and universities an opportunity to exchange experiences, research findings, political viewpoints and theoretical approaches to the question of gender in the context of social work in order to strengthen our connections.

The topic is broad so that we can share what colleagues are working on and what is discussed in the various countries. We hope to learn about efforts towards gender equality in different European countries, which will help us to understand the necessary processes in developing a European perspective on gender. The focus will be put on exchange and discussion.

For staff and students of Hesse this internationally oriented workshop with participants from various European faculties of Social Work will be an opportunity to enhance international knowledge and intercultural awareness within the frame of „Internationalization at Home“ and hopefully get motivated for student or teacher mobility.

Organizing Group:

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PROGRAM:

Friday, June 23rd 2006

10.00 – 11.30 Welcoming, Short Presentation of all participants and their affiliation

BLOC I: PRACTICAL ISSUES ON THE TOPIC OF GENDER AND SOCIAL WORK:

12.00 – 13.30 1. Session

Liesma Ose/ Ute Straub: Human Trafficking for sexual exploitation in Latvia

Trafficking in persons is a modern-day form of slavery, involving victims who are typically forced, defrauded or coerced into sexual or labor exploitation. An estimated 75% of the women who are trafficked within Europe annually are coming from former East bloc states. Liesma Ose will present results of her research on Human Trafficking for sexual exploitation in Latvia. We will focus on psychological clichés and reality and ask about appropriate social services in sending and target countries.

Elfriede Fröschl: Domestic violence approach in Austria

Austria has taken an innovative approach dealing with domestic violence which has become a model for other countries who have introduced similar legislation and social work intervention or are planning to do so. What is special and particularly effective about the Austrian model is its close linking of legal and social measures. In my analysis of the Austrian experience I will identify good practice indicators as well as problems and challenges. I will refer to the practical experience (training program for violent men) in Austria as well as relevant research about children who are exposed to domestic violence.

14.30 – 16.00 2. Session

Anne van den Berg: Single mothers and effects of intensive social aid towards their social integration process; presentation of a case study

Socially excluded people are those who are not allowed to belong, or are not able to belong, or are not willing to belong to society. Single mothers, as a group, are not excluded but they are at risk of becoming so when they have to face various sudden and or unforeseen problems simultaneously. A woman's competence to overcome this situation is influenced by protective factors, (such as self-esteem, resilience, autonomy, relatives, social network) and stress factors, (such as debt, homelessness, illness). Intensive aid intervention aims at the prevention of (further) social exclusion and at helping the re-integration into society and into the labor market. The objective of this study is to illuminate effects of intensive aid on the self-reliance and independence of (migrant) single mothers and ways that can improve the re-integration process of this group. It also aimed at shedding light on issues that have impact on the lives and well-being of these mothers and their children in their social context.

Elena larskaia-Smirnova: Clients or citizens? Social work with single mothers in contemporary Russia

The paper is based upon the theory of citizenship, which is employed for studying the status of single mothers as clients at welfare agency as opposed towards their status of citizens. The paper discusses conflicting discourses as the different ways of handling the tasks of helping single mothers in the society; problematization of single mothers' lives, as economical, legal, and moral "life strategies". Interviews with single mothers and social workers are analyzed.

16.30 – 18.00 3. Session

Alisa Tolstokorova: Gender Dimension of Social Work with Youth in Ukraine: Regional Perspectives

The paper spotlights the following issues: - National system for social work with women, children and youth: legal framework for social assistance and services to adolescents; governmental and municipal institutions, universities and research centers, youth and women's NGOs; national and local programs and projects. - Specificities of

social work with youth as defined by gender asymmetries in the demographic structure of main economic regions of Ukraine. - Gender dimension of social pedagogical work with different social groups of female youth: young women in urban and rural areas, girl-students, disabled young women and girls, socially deprived female youth, teenage mothers etc.- Innovative gender-sensitive forms of social work with teenage girls and boys.

Jura Gudliauskaite: Gender issue in social welfare of Lithuania: shifts, continuities, new challenges relating to family welfare policy

Presentation and discussion about challenges concerning gender equality and equal opportunities in Lithuania in the context of Lithuanian welfare state policy relating to gender issue in family and labor areas

Saturday June 24th 2006

BLOC II: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE QUESTION OF GENDER IN SOCIAL WORK

10.00 - 11.30 4. Session

Annette Hug: Gender Mainstreaming in Projects of Community Work: Strengthening equality or stereotypes?

While theorists of Gender Studies have analyzed how gender is "done" differently in different contexts, gender mainstreaming guidelines require the mapping of differences along the line of biological sex. As practitioners with an interest in theoretical advancement, do we have to resign to the fact that Gender Studies are heading off to stars we cannot reach? Or is there a chance of "undoing gender" while "mainstreaming gender"? These questions will be discussed on the basis of actual student projects.

Nijole Vieckiene: Community Work for social Inclusion: gender aspects

The report highlights the role of women in community social work in Lithuania. Two studies identify the problems of different groups in community and assess women's role for social inclusion in Lithuania. The goal of the study "Training against Social Exclusion" was to gather information, which would let us identify and substantiate the problems of disadvantaged groups and assess the relation between changing context and social exclusion in Lithuania. The study "Community Work for Social Inclusion" analyses the experience of Community Centers in Lithuania where women dominate. Comparison of these two studies shows tensions in professional and personal life of women as community social worker.

12.00 – 13.30 5. Session

Elvyra Giedraitiene/Arunas Acus: Students' Attitude to Career in Social Work in Lithuania in the Context of Gender

The report of a pilot research shows the conformity of social worker's profession acquisition and career perspective in the context of gender. It highlights the relationship between the social status of social work as a profession and personal self-realization in the field of social work. The intention of the research is to identify factors that might influence a professional career of women like competition, place of residence, hidden discrimination and lack of self-confidence or experience. Other questions are directed towards student's value orientation and preparation for a career like professional orientation at school, aspects of professional vocation or accidental choice.

Pavel Romanov: "This isn't a male business." Gender and power in Social Work in today's Russia

The paper addresses possibilities and limitations of women's career in social work in Russia, considers issues of power in labor relations within social services and analyses, how the professional identity of a social worker is being constructed by women.

14.30 – 16.00 6. Session

Elisabeth Harlow: Is Social Work still Women's Work?

Over recent times, however, social work in England has been undergoing a transformation and its previous identity as a caring profession has been eroded. Alongside this, there has been a serious problem in the recruitment and retention of social workers (Audit Commission 2002; SCHWG 2003): women have been turning their backs on social work and men have not been taking their place. From a gendered perspective, this paper reflects on these developments, the changing construction of social work and the motivation to become a practitioner. In consequence, the question is asked 'Who are the social workers of the future?'

Margrit Brückner: On re- and de-gendering social politics and social professions

The paper argues that so far unacknowledged gendering of social politics and social professions resulted in a gender-bias mainly unfavorable to women. Nowadays there are efforts undertaken to de-gender social politics and social professions which show a double face: partly introducing more equality, partly leading to the vanishing of women and their traditional strongholds. Gender democracy seems to entail on one side making women's life contexts and "female" activities publicly visible, on the other side to deconstruct restricting notions of masculinity and femininity. This will be discussed by looking into: 1. social policies, 2. caring professions, and 3. domestic violence.

Sunday, June 25th 2006

BLOC III: COMPARING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING GENDER AND SOCIAL WORK

10.00 – 11.30 7. Session

Gudrun Ehlert: EUSW – European Platform for Worldwide Social Work – Gender and Social Work

After a short general introduction about the objectives of EUSW, an ERASMUS thematic network in Social Work, I will present some research results about gender and social work education in Germany, Spain and some of the EUSW network partners. The results show that gender as a relevant category for social work is up to now not implemented systematically in social work education. The Amsterdam treaty which made the concept of Gender Mainstreaming binding to all EU-Member States in 1998 and the Bologna –Declaration (1999) and following Communiqués which bind the member states to change their systems of higher education could be a chance for changing the situation.

12.00 – 13.30 8. Session

Monika Simmel-Joachim: Gender Difference and Social Justice – International Social Work Traditions revisited.

The paper reviews the dialogue of international relations, peace policy, gender difference and its professional approach of social work to realize social justice. Politics of gender differences ended after the Second World War in Europe and America and were brought up again by the "new" women's movement. The question is discussed whether un-doing gender by denying differences and pretending equality is responsible for the elimination of political attitudes in professional concepts and developments of Social Work.

14.30 – 16.00 9. Session: Summary, Discussion of the results and outlook

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