

International Policy Practice Meeting 13 October 2022, 18:00 CEST (Zoom)

The expert committee “Politics of Social Work” of the German Association of Social Work (DGSA) in collaboration with the Institute of Social Work and Social Spaces (IFSAR) at the Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences invites all interested students, scholars, and social workers to participate in the third international policy practice meeting. This event will be a good opportunity to get in touch with politically interested and engaged social workers from different countries, discuss various professional options to bring about change in social policy, and to learn from outstanding researchers in the field of political social work. The meeting will last about three hours and consists of the following three presentations:

John Gal (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) & Idit Weiss-Gal (Tel Aviv University)

When Social Workers Impact Policy and Don't Just Implement It

In this lecture we will present an evidence-based theoretical framework for understanding why social workers engage in policy, both as professionals and citizens, and the impact of their actions. Drawing on concepts from social work and the political, sociological, psychological and the policy sciences, the Policy Engagement framework consists of four categories of factors that impact the engagement of social workers in diverse policy routes. The categories are Environments, Opportunity, Facilitation and Motivation. We will present the various categories and their components, describe the links between them and discuss their impact on the decisions by social workers to engage in policy change.

Riccardo Guidi (University of Pisa)

Social Work Professional Organizations in (Southern) Europe.
An Opportunity for Social Work and Policy Practice?

In many countries of the world social work practice has been shaped by complex socio-institutional processes. Social Work Professional Organizations (SWPOs) – i.e. those organizations self-governed by social workers which do not provide citizens with direct services – are key-actors of these processes. These sometimes emerge as one of the most relevant outcomes of the institutional recognition of social work and constitute a resource for the further developments of social work as a profession. SWPOs may play a relevant role in current societies. They may give single social workers several opportunities in terms of collective identification, ethics, protection, coordination, training, networking. Their action could be also relevant for the users and the policy-making, especially in the critical junctures. Nevertheless, knowledge about SWPOs is scarce and the comparative efforts are rare. This presentation will help to fill this gap by (a) sketching a theoretical framework to study SWPOs and policy practice, and (b) comparing the SWPOs of Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece).

Suzanne Pritzker (University of Houston)

Applying a Political Justice Lens to Social Work

This presentation explores the concept of political justice, its definition and application in the U.S. context, and its relevance to the broader field of policy practice. Political injustice manifests through barriers to political access that limit individuals' political voices and keep them from full participation in political decision-making. Examples of community-engaged social work research that examines and seeks to address historic and systemic barriers to political justice will be shared. This presentation will also discuss practice implications for social workers who seek to expand access to the political systems through which policy change is made.

Registration and contact

There is no registration fee. The meeting will be held online. Please register using the form on <http://www.policypractice.net>. You will receive a Zoom access code a few days before the event. We look forward to seeing you online. Contact: Tobias Kindler, Expert committee “Politics of Social Work” (DGSA), tobias.kindler@ost.ch