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EDITORIAL

The *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* is highly ambitious. Although the Journal is based in the Netherlands and Belgium, the editorial team's goal is to reach an international readership with relevant and influential articles on social intervention practices. The transformation of the *Journal of Social Intervention* into an open access, online journal, is an important step in our efforts to reach more Dutch/Flemish and international readers. This is also expressed in our ambition to establish an international editorial board. With all these changes taking place, the editorial team felt the urge to reiterate the focus and scope of the Journal in order to determine what articles are of relevance for the Journal and its readership, and to bring this focus to your attention. Discussions like these tend, fortunately, not to result in clear-cut definitions. Nevertheless, we have been able to draw some conclusions.

Firstly, it is of the utmost importance for the Journal to bridge the gap between social intervention practices and the scientific reflections on these interventions. Professional practices are considered crucial for generating intervention theories and programmes and, conversely, should take account of the most recent insights into social theories. As such, both social intervention practices and theories form the core substance of the Journal.

In addition, we discussed the adjective "social". This concept does not refer to a specific domain, but reflects a variety of relevant interventions in the field of Social Pedagogy, Social Work, Youth

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and Community Work, Organizational Development, Adult Education, the Care Sector et cetera. As such, the focus and scope of the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* is not restricted to any of these domains, but to all of them, and professionals and academics of these domains are invited to contribute.

Finally, we identified three different, but mutually non-exclusive, perspectives on social intervention. First, a social intervention is defined as the explicit response to social issues that supports the target group of the interventions and that has policy/political implications. As a consequence, the Journal forms a platform to gather, discuss and combine knowledge about all the interventions that have an impact on social issues and the stakeholders involved in solving these issues. Professionals such as social workers, community workers, youth workers et cetera, are of crucial importance in these interventions, as is the reflection upon them. The Journal therefore encourages authors to critically reflect, examine and analyze the role and position of these professionals in social intervention practices, as well as the intervention itself. Second, social intervention as a normative concept invites professionals and scientists to reflect on facts, values and ethics. Obviously, the central aim of social interventions is to make a contribution to society and to the individual lives of those who are part of society, yet the contribution is also directed at the lives of those whose participation is at stake. Finally, social interventions do not take place in a vacuum, but are influenced by developments in adjacent domains, by the political climate et cetera; they form a stimulus for professionals to cooperate and for social scientists to develop multidisciplinary approaches. In conclusion, the Journal's intent is to publish articles on practices and theories of social interventions, which examine the effects on clients and citizens, the performance of the professional, the value base of the intervention and the context in which the intervention takes place.

The present issue stresses the multifaceted character of the Journal, and combines articles on theory, practice and research on social intervention practices in different domains. As promised in our most recent issue, we continue with the second and final instalment of a contribution by Van Mens-Verhulst and Radtke about the relevance of the intersectionality approach, an influential approach in the field of social inclusion, for social intervention practices. Contrary to the first instalment, the authors highlight the difficulties of the intersectionality approach when applying it to social interventions, and conclude that this approach may be a Trojan Horse. Tine van Regenmortel uses the concept of empowerment to discuss its value in rethinking issues of an inclusive society. Van Regenmortel provides an illuminative insight into the empowerment paradigm and its core concepts, and illustrates how the paradigm contributes to the inclusion of

vulnerable citizens whose participation in society is threatened, such as people living in poverty. One of the merits of this article, in view of the focus of our Journal, is the combination of the theoretical analyses of empowerment and the rethinking of the implications of these theoretical notions for providing “empowering” care.

Stijn Verhagen addresses the Dutch home care sector and the debate concerning the benefits of market incentives for this sector. Verhagen shows that four competing logics of care relating to the home care sector have manifested themselves in the debate on market incentives: the economic, political, familial, and professional logic of care. While some actors point out the conflicts and incompatibilities between the logics of care, others emphasize their mutual complementarities. The latter is relatively rare, but where the parties do emphasize the mutual complementarities of the logics of care, they also manage to develop policy lines which could serve as the basis for developing effective solutions to home care problems. This observation suggests a connection between the debate on the one hand and actual policy and operational practice on the other. We are pleased that a large number of articles have been submitted on the theme of “Urban and Community Development”. In this issue, Lub, Van Arum and Sprinkhuizen discuss the experiences with preventive strategies in tackling signs of neighbourhood disorder in residential areas in the Netherlands. The well-known broken windows theory, which holds that signs of urban decay will lead to further neighbourhood decline, forms the heart of these strategies. A list of possible signs of decay was formulated and discussed with citizens and professionals, so that these signs of decay can be recognized and repaired. Action research was conducted to assess the usefulness of the system and to determine which factors contribute to a preventive approach and which factors hinder such policies. Lub, Van Arum and Sprinkhuizen discuss obstacles to effective strategies in their article.

Finally, Ton Notten compares community schools and magnet schools in an attempt to formulate an answer to segregation in Dutch schools.

In the book review section, you will find reviews by Meijering, *The new age of innovation. Driving co-created value through global networks* and Meijering and Slagter, *Inleiding Social Work. Vanuit internationaal perspectief* (Introduction to Social Work. From an International Perspective). Ton Notten wrote an article entitled “Het woud van de sociale agogiek: snoeien maar!?” (The forest of social work: prune it back!?), discussing: *Vele takken, één stam. Kader voor de hogere sociaal-agogische opleidingen. Profileren sociaal-agogische opleidingen* (Many branches, one trunk. A framework for the Bachelor's programmes for social workers); *Opvoedingsrelaties versterken. Landelijk opleidings- en competentieprofiel van de hbo-bacheloropleiding Pedagogiek* (Strengthening teaching relationships. National educational and competence profile for the

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professional Bachelor's programme in Pedagogy); *Alert en ondernemend 2.0. Opleidingsprofiel Culturele en Maatschappelijke Vorming* (Perceptive and proactive 2.0. Educational profile for Cultural and Community Education).

Leonie van der Valk, Eefje Driessen and Tamara Boering write about the potential of Islam in the social care for religious Muslims. In the "Social Education News" column, they present some of the findings of a study into the ways in which clients use their religion to help them solve or cope with problems and deal with bereavement.

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