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EDITORIAL

On June 21, 2010, Douwe van Houten died. Douwe van Houten was a respected member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* for many years. He made a major contribution to the Journal and was a highly esteemed colleague. In an "In memoriam", the Journal remembers Douwe van Houten.

Additionally, this third issue of the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* of 2010, includes an article by Potting, Sniekers, Lamers and Reverda. The legitimization of social work is the subject of much discussion, and in the Netherlands is heavily influenced by, among others, Hans Achterhuis' critical book *The Market of Welfare and Happiness (De markt van welzijn en geluk, 1979)*, which states that social work creates dependency among its clients. Since then, many authors have discussed what was called, the "legitimacy problem" in social work. One of the responses to this problem was a call to make social work more measurable, for example by introducing more evidence-based practice in social intervention and social work. In their article, Potting, Sniekers, Lamers and Reverda explain a method to promote reflectivity among social professionals, which may contribute to the legitimization of social work. This method developed in the research project "Procivi", which started with the idea of applying evidence-based practice (EBP) in a study of the methods used by community workers, as a means of scientifically "proving" the value of these methods. Interestingly enough, it appeared to be very difficult to conduct a

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proper effect analysis and as a consequence, the focus of the project changed. Procivi no longer applied EBP, but changed into a "research in action", where researchers and professionals came together to reflect on professional practices. Critical reflection and reflectivity became the main concepts of the project. Potting, Sniekers, Lamers and Reverda describe how Procivi developed and how they used various research techniques and reflective instruments to stimulate reflection. The key outcomes of the project are presented, and based on these outcomes, the authors argue that systematic reflection in and on the work practice can be an alternative way of legitimizing social work.

We continue our publications on the theme "Urban and Community Development" with two articles, both of which take a rather uncommon approach to aspects of urban development. The first article, by Meesters, Basten and Van Biene, explores the possibility of narrative research for discovering demand patterns among village or neighbourhood residents. Their article includes two main elements. First, they describe how they performed a narrative analysis of demand patterns in Hatert, a deprived area in the city of Nijmegen (the Netherlands). Researchers conducted interviews with residents, and analyzed those interviews from a narrative and constructivist view: interviewees were invited to tell their "story" about the village and the analysis prioritized this perspective and point of view of the interviewee. The analysis also focused on the positions of the residents and other actors in these narratives. The researchers then searched for "transdisciplinary meaning": experts with differing backgrounds (scholars, professionals, field experts) came together to create a common understanding of the data.

The second part of the article illuminates some of the demand patterns present in Hatert. It describes how youngsters in Hatert are viewed as a problem by the majority of the residents, who attribute all kinds of negative traits to the young people living among them. This majority logic is opposed to a minority logic, expressed by only a few respondents, which supports youngsters. With regard to the pedagogical climate, the majority logic pleads for a return to "good old times", and the accompanying values and rules of conduct. The minority logic refers to the importance of solidarity, and states that the village as a whole should take responsibility for the upbringing of children. Finally, the authors describe how these patterns and logics could be relevant to social policy and social interventions in Hatert. Interestingly enough, they argue that the majority logic should not automatically be the leading factor in determining social policy. In fact, the minority logic may provide important points of application for social policy and social intervention.

The second article in our series on "Urban and Community Development" deals with the interrelatedness of the urban environment and public health. MacGregor argues that urban regeneration should be seen as a major element in public health intervention and that changing

the physical, social and economic characteristics of the urban environment can facilitate health improvements for disadvantaged communities. The article sheds light on the concept of urban development, and shows that most concepts of urban regeneration take health problems into account. The article describes how the built environment can have implications for public health with a special focus on the relationship between the interlinking health effects (both positive and negative) of social relations, space, place and health. Furthermore, MacGregor examines the positive and negative health implications of urban regeneration, and elaborates on the health and social effects of urban regeneration, including housing improvements, mental health and the economic impact of participants' health outcomes within urban regeneration projects. The article concludes with some comments on how urban regeneration can enhance and mitigate social inequalities in health.

Ter Haar, Aarts en Verhoeven examine how organizational identity is formed in a permanently changing environment. They carried out a case study, researching the process of organizational identity formation of the Netherlands Institute for Sport and Physical Activity (NISB). The authors elaborate on the concept of organizational identity by referring to a contextual and interpretative approach, in which identity formation is constituted by the enduring interaction between an organization and its surrounding networks and dynamic context. As a consequence, the authors speak of the formation of an interactive identity. Dilemmas and decision-making have been selected as the starting point for data collection in the study, as organizations face dilemmas when confronted with changes in the environment. The organizational response to those dilemmas is often ambiguous and reveals the value contrasts that organizations have to deal with. As a consequence, dealing with dilemmas leads to a constant reconsideration of organizational identity. The researcher interviewed 26 respondents about the dilemmas formulated and decision-making. The results show that in order to preserve its mission, the NISB is constantly adapting its identity to suit the environment. In that process, multiple identities develop, but the organizational mission remains a stable backbone. In other words, a robust working method and a stable mission are constantly shaping a new interactive identity.

In the book review section, Meindert Slagter discusses *Employee share ownership. Frequency, characteristics, supporting practices and consequences* [Werknemersaandeelhouderschap. Frequentie, kenmerken, ondersteunende praktijken en gevolgen], and Josje van der Linden discusses *Buried in an unknown location. The Strikes of April–May 1943, research into those who went missing during the war* [Op een onbekende plaats begraven. De April-Meistakingen van 1943, een onderzoek naar oorlogsvermissing]. In the "News from Higher Education" column, Jolanda Berends explains how the "Canon Sociaal Werk", an online presentation of

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the history of social work in the Netherlands and Flanders, is used in the study profile *Social Management* in one of the Bachelor's programmes at the Institute of Social Work in Amersfoort (the Netherlands).

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