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EDITORIAL

Welfare systems are in transition all over Europe, including the Netherlands. Citizens are confronted with the consequences of major changes due to the transition of the welfare states into a participation society. One of the results is that citizens have to take more responsibility for their own income, the support services, social environment, education, health and sickness. For its first issue of 2014, the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* has decided to focus on this transition by publishing an edited lecture. We have done this before (see Banks, 2011/2012) and the choice of this type of publication is relevant to the content of our Journal. This time the lecture is by Gerard Donkers, based on the latest publication of his book on individual autonomy in a changing world, called *Veranderen in Meervoud*. We have decided to publish a critical analysis of this book by Henk Geertsema, who was also the co-referent.

Individual responsibility and citizen engagement are key concepts in the transformation of the traditional welfare state into a participation society. What does this transformation imply for social interventions and the role and position of the citizen? This issue includes a special contribution on this question from a “change management” perspective, in which Donkers (lecturer at LESI) and Geertsema (a social worker) attempt to provide a theoretical foundation by introducing the concept of “self-regulation”. This issue features a substantial analysis of this concept by Donkers and critical analysis by Geertsema. Related (reviewed) articles on the subject of the transformation

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of the social sector in the Netherlands can be found in previous editions of this Journal: Notten (2013/2) and Jansen (2013/4).

We continue with an article by Koen Hermans, who is a professor at the University of Leuven. His article is on evidence-based practice in social work and in it he develops a broad view on evidence-based practice, building on the discipline of evaluation research which acknowledges the complexity of the concept of effectiveness. This intervention or programme theory consists of two parts: the action theory and the theory of change. Furthermore, Hermans proposes two methods with which to explain and ground interventions theoretically and three ways to devote sufficient attention to the complexity of social interventions.

Our second article is written by Lode Vermeersch, a senior research associate, and Anneloes Vandenbroucke, a research manager, both working at HIVA (Research Institute for Work and Society of the University of Leuven). This article examines the importance of participating in social, cultural and recreational activities for people living in poverty. It draws on some theoretical perspectives on this type of participation and examines how encouraging participation can be integrated and how ways of thinking and talking about socio-cultural participation have evolved in social policies in Europe. The authors used Belgium as a case study.

Next in this issue we have an article by Vina Wijkhuijs and Henk Sollie which focuses on Roma. Roma constitute the largest ethnic minority group in Europe – they are resident in almost in all EU countries and live on the margins of society. The European Commission has instructed all EU member states to develop a strategies to improve their socio-economic situation. This approach will be different for all EU member states. The article focuses on problems that occur some of the Roma who live in the Netherlands on the basis of the following question: What is known about the problems that occur in families with a Roma background and what recommendations can be made to promote their integration? The article is based on 33 interviews with professionals from different welfare organizations and social services.

The fourth and final reviewed article in this issue is by Ed de Jonge of HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht in the Netherlands. De Jonge states that in order to understand the occupational identity of social work better, we can nowadays call on two landmark publications written by distinguished sociologists: on the one hand *Professionalism* (2001) by the late Eliot Freidson and on the other hand *The Craftsman* (2008) by Richard Sennett. For social work is often characterized as both a profession and a craft, very often with no clear distinction being made between these

two terms, and possibly even an assumed equivalence. De Jonge describes the many similarities but also the fundamental difference between professions and crafts.

Following Maaïke Kluit (1/2012), Ingrid Nordt (4/2012) and Myrna Derksen (4/2013), Jen van Horen was offered the opportunity of publishing her article in the Students' Work section. She is a former student in Social Work at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. Students' work appearing in the Journal is not peer-reviewed but in consultation with the editor-in-chief and the managing editor, students have the opportunity to make some final amendments before finalizing their article for publication. Van Horen, as well as Myrna Derksen, wrote one of the articles that won the 2013 HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht best article award. In her winning article, Van Horen focuses on stress among social workers. Due to their growing workload and the nature of their work, social workers are at risk of developing stress and stress symptoms. Van Horen discusses *mindfulness* as a potentially effective and useful way of reducing stress.

Finally, this issue concludes with our regular book review and News from Higher Social Education sections.

Two books are discussed in the book review section. Ronald Schilperoort discusses *Zonder sociaal geen psychiatrie* [No psychiatry without the social], written by Gerard Lohuis and Alice Beuker. Schilperoort wrote his review with respect to current developments – in 2015 much of the financing of the AWBZ will come from the municipalities – and by looking at how insights from social psychiatry can contribute to developments in the world of care and welfare. Ton Notten discusses *De volkshogeschool in Nederland. 1925–2010* [Community college in the Netherlands. 1925–2010], written by Maarten van der Linde and Johan Frieswijk. In his contribution, he looks back on nearly a hundred years of adult education in the Netherlands.

Ton Notten has not only contributed to our book review section, but he has also written an article for the News from Higher Social Education section. In this section he discusses New public management and leadership. His contribution explains how Dutch universities of applied sciences provide a link between teaching, research, professionalization and the innovation of practices and policies, and that the most important challenge relates to the connections and exchanges *within* and *between* these connections. To support his argument, he introduces what he has called a Lasagne Innovative Model.

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