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## **EDITORIAL**

In this final issue of 2014, we once again present articles on a wide range of themes in the field of social intervention. Two of the articles report on research in the areas of informal care and social cohesion through sports, respectively. The third contribution concerns a recently developed policy proposal for online support in Belgium. Furthermore, we publish a paper in the Students' Work section.

Before introducing the contents of this issue in greater depth, we would like to report briefly on the round table discussion "Feelings of home and citizenship" which was held on 6 November by the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* together with the editors of the book *Een vreemde, thuis in den vreemde* [A stranger, feeling at home in foreign contexts]. The debate on the shifting meaning of "home" and the feelings associated with it, which is highlighted in the book from both a theoretical and personal perspective, was the starting point for discussion. Keynote speakers Jan Willem Duyvendak, Baukje Prins and Febe Deug took the debate further, by presenting their ideas on the implications of contemporary migration, fluid identities and shifting notions of "home" for the meaning of citizenship. Each speaker approached the question from their own field of expertise, and invited participants to join them in discussions, using both their professional knowledge and personal experiences. The results of these debates will serve as input for articles on the subject of citizenship, which will be presented in a theme-issue of the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* in the summer of 2015.

## EDITORIAL

This issue opens with an article by Jenny Zwijnenburg, autonomous professional, researcher at AanEen and welfare professional at Stichting DOCK, and Leni Beukema, professor in sustainable HRM at Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen. Although informal caregivers have previously been the subject of discussion in this Journal (see 2007/2 and 2012/4), Zwijnenburg and Beukema take a novel approach. Their article discusses the findings of an action research project on how professionals can facilitate network support and network meetings for informal caregivers. The study was conducted among professionals working in several deprived areas of Rotterdam and aimed to show how network meetings can provide support, and which professional issues are brought to the fore using this method. It turns out that the answer to this question is not unambiguous, due to the diversity of caregiving situations. In addition to this, the authors argue that the changing role of welfare professionals – shifting towards the role of connector rather than individual helper – requires discussion in the field of social work.

The second contribution is by Stijn Verhagen, professor at HU Utrecht University of Applied Sciences, and Nanne Boonstra, research manager at Stichting De Verre Bergen. The authors report on the findings of a research project involving soccer and social capital in the city of Utrecht. The study compares social cohesion and inter-ethnic contact before and after the launch of the “Bridging Social Capital through Soccer” project within two soccer clubs in Utrecht. The findings show that although sport endorses segregation, formal sport participation can also enhance social inclusion and inter-ethnic contacts, and that the interventions implemented during the project can contribute to understanding and respect.

The third article is by Philippe Bocklandt, project leader of the online care research team within the Bachelor of Social Work at the Artevelde University of Applied Sciences in Ghent, Belgium. In previous issues, the embedding of ICT applications in social work was addressed by Van Laere (2005/1), in our theme-issue on “digi-interventionism” (2008/1), and by Van Haaster (2008/4; 2014/3). Bocklandt describes how, over the past decade, welfare and healthcare in Belgium have gradually developed online support and how the Flemish government signalled the need for a framework for online help policy. In cooperation with welfare and healthcare organizations, the Artevelde University of Applied Sciences has developed such a framework and formulated several recommendations that are now awaiting political support for implementation within the Flemish policy context. The article describes these “building blocks”.

Following the publication of articles by students Myrna Derksen (4/2013), Jen van Horen (1/2014), and Birgit Hoogenberk (2/2014), Kim Jansen was offered the opportunity of publishing

her thesis-article in the Students' Work section of this issue. Students' papers appearing in the Journal are not peer-reviewed, but they are published in consultation with the editor-in-chief and the managing editor. Students have the opportunity to make some adjustments before submitting their article for publication. Kim Jansen won the 2014 award for best article at HU Utrecht University of Applied Sciences. In her winning article, Jansen describes how professionals working in residential disability care for young people aged 12 to 16 are compromising between protecting young people from consequences that they cannot oversee and providing the necessary care on the one hand, and paying attention to the rights, wishes, interests and dreams of their clients on the other hand. She discusses the facilitating and impeding factors that influence the opportunities for autonomy and personal input within the context of residential care. Concluding, she provides some suggestions for professionals working with young people in order to maximize the amount of say that adolescents have in their care.

This issue concludes with our regular book review and News from Higher Social Education section.

We will review two books in this issue. Ton Notten discusses *Naar een lerende economie. Investeren in het verdienvermogen van Nederland* [Towards a learning economy. Investing in the earning power of the Netherlands], a report by the Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid [Scientific Council for Government Policy]. In the second review, Corinne van Beilen discusses *Education and skills for development. Transforming support programmes for early school leavers in Uganda*, a PhD dissertation written by Cuthbert Tukundane.

In the News from Higher Social Education section, Erik Sterk and Maurice Specht discuss the role that social work can and should play in the emerging participation society. How can social work (re)define its position in a "market" that is full of social entrepreneurs and their innovative initiatives? The answer to this question is, of course, multi-layered, but useful food for thought.

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