

Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice –
2016 – Volume 25, Issue 1, pp. 1–3
<http://doi.org/10.18352/jsi.474>

ISSN: 1876-8830

URL: <http://www.journalsi.org>

Publisher: Utrecht University of Applied Sciences,
Faculty of Society and Law, in cooperation with
Utrecht University Library Open Access Journals

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EDITORIAL

We would like to begin this first issue of 2016 by announcing a call for papers on the decentralization of the welfare state. The transformation of the Dutch and Flemish welfare states is causing major changes in the way that our societies are organized: “decentralization”, “self-reliance”, and the “participation society” have become frequently used, yet much debated terms. Contemporary literature on these themes often relates to concrete activities regarding the developments outlined, but little has been written from a more reflective perspective. We would like to invite both social scientists and social professionals to provide a meta-level analysis on various themes in relation to decentralization. Articles could address topics and questions such as:

- Which scenarios can be discerned in the context of the participation society, with regard to community formation, citizenship, and self-reliance?
- What are the differences and similarities between citizenship initiatives, volunteering and informal bonds, as seen from both the governmental and the citizen’s perspective?
- How do welfare professionals attribute new meanings to the concept of social intervention?
- Does decentralization reveal new forms of individual vulnerability and social inequality and/or are these being reinforced by the transformations?

More information on the call can be found on our website (www.journalsi.org).

EDITORIAL

Meanwhile, we will open this issue with a contribution by Roel van Goor and Pauline Naber, who both work at Inholland University of Applied Sciences. The authors outline a practice-based perspective on working and learning in neighbourhood teams. Professionals in neighbourhood teams are performing a new set of tasks that require a new type of professionalism and a different way of working. Institution-related and supply-oriented work is being replaced by proactive operation within the neighbourhood, providing comprehensive support and care that is in line with the specific needs of families. On the basis of a study on existing innovative and successful community teams in healthcare that have already made the transition to this new way of working, Van Goor and Naber identified the recurring factors that have proved beneficial to the organization of working and learning processes in teams that operate independently. The article provides suggestions for municipalities and team leaders who are facing the same challenges.

The second article is by Raymond Kloppenburg and Peter Hendriks, who both are senior researchers at the Research Centre for Social Innovation at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. The authors present the results of a survey on internationalization in Bachelor's programmes in social work, which was conducted among 33 social work education institutions across Europe. The article aims to contribute to the existing debate on internationalization in which some stress its importance, while others question its relevance to a career in social work. The study shows that all (applied) universities have adopted an international perspective, and although many teachers support this, most of them disagree with how internationalization is being put into practice.

The third contribution is by Judith Metz, Lector Youth Spot at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. The article reports on a study about the possibilities of developing a research-substantiated method for girls' work. The practice of girls' work is characterized by an open approach method. However, current knowledge on girls' work, which is based on models such as Evidence-Based Practice, Practice-Based Evidence and Common Factors, does not seem suited to developing a method substantiated by research for open approach methods. The article describes the possibilities and difficulties in creating a knowledge basis for the application of open approach methods in the practice of social work, and proposes programme evaluation with subsequent methodical principles as an alternative.

Our fourth article is by Hille Hoogland, a medical anthropologist, PhD candidate, and project manager at De Regenboog Groep, and Jonathan Berg, who is a Master's student in Medical Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Amsterdam and a former project-assistant at

De Regenboog Groep. Hoogland and Berg present the results of a research into the experiences of food bank clients. Their point of view has remained understudied at both the national and international levels. Specifically, this article addresses the role of financial problems, shame and other emotions in the lives of food bank clients. The results show, firstly, that financial problems lead to psychological suffering – defined as both limitations regarding consumption and activities, and experiencing stress, insomnia, fear, panic, and depression. Secondly, it reveals that being a food bank client is a source of shame, which leads to a range of responses: seeking to put things into perspective, creating distance, trying to connect to other food bank clients, or attempting to hide the fact that they are a food bank client.

The issue continues with a contribution in the Students' Work section. Over the past few years, winners of the HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht best article award have been offered the opportunity to publish their articles in the Students' Work section. The papers that appear in this section are not peer-reviewed. Rather, they are published in consultation with the editor-in-chief and the managing editor. The students then have the chance to make amendments before finalizing their article for publication. The student publication in this edition is by Eline Bröker. She graduated as a social worker in 2015. In her winning article, she explains how a form of alternative detention that is practised in Denmark achieves remarkable results in decreasing recidivism among delinquents. In the Skejby house, students and delinquents live together in order to prepare the prisoners for their reintegration in society. She compares the Danish experiment to Dutch policy and explains why living with pro-social role models and being part of a non-criminal environment helps to increase the chances of successful reintegration.

This issue concludes with our regular book review section.

We have reviewed three books for this issue. Hilde Vlaeminck and Koen Hermans discuss *Superdiversiteit. Hoe migratie onze samenleving verandert* (Super diversity. How migration changes our society), by Dirk Geldof. Besides, Hilde Vlaeminck discusses *Omggaan met beroepsgeheim* (Dealing with professional confidentiality), a volume edited by Bernard Hubeau, Jos Mertens, Johan Put, Rudi Roose, Kris Stas, Freya Vander Laenen. In addition, Erik Jansen discusses *Ethiek van de digitale media* (Ethics of the digital media) by Marcel Becker.