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**NOL REVERDA,  
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## **EDITORIAL**

We would like to open this issue by providing some information on JSI's readership statistics. Since the launch of our new website, we have been actively collecting these data and communicating them to the editorial board on a quarterly basis. Currently we have 762 registered users on our website, and in the first three months of 2016, Google Analytics reported 9,832 website visits.

Furthermore, we would like to repeat our call for papers on the decentralization of the welfare state. As indicated in our previous issue, 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. Detailed information on the call can be found on our website: [www.journalsi.org](http://www.journalsi.org).

The transformation of the Dutch and Flemish welfare states was recently discussed at the meeting of the editorial board. We are happy to open the present issue with a contribution by Hanne Vandermeerschen, Marjolein van Poppel and Jeroen Scheerder, all part of the Policy in Sports &

## EDITORIAL

Physical Activity Research Group at the University of Leuven, Belgium. The authors present the results of a study on the facilitation of access to sports for people living in poverty in Flanders, Belgium. Living in poverty negatively affects people's opportunities to participate in sports. A Flemish policy on this matter exists, but it remains unclear to what extent local authorities are taking action to enable people in poverty to engage in sports. Furthermore, possible difficulties that prevent the local sports organizations from creating access to sports for people in poverty, as well as the policy outcomes of cooperation between sports and the social sector, are also being studied.

The next article is by Josje van der Linden, who is a lecturer on Lifelong Learning at the University of Groningen and teaches math education in the University of Applied Sciences iPabo in Amsterdam and Alkmaar. Her practice-based article starts with the observation that there are doubts concerning the possibility of implementing the sustainable development goal regarding "equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all". Van der Linden addresses the question how lifelong learning professionals can be supported through their contributions to society and its citizens, drawing from the experience of professionals both in the Netherlands and abroad.

The final contribution is by Peter Raeymaeckers, Kristel Driessens and Michel Tirions, who all teach within the Master's programme in Sociology at Antwerp University. Their theoretical article provides a reflection on the identity of social work research. The authors argue that if we define social work as eclectic, diverse and holistic, we risk overlooking the unique characteristics of the discipline. At the same time, social work research does not seem to have clearly definable boundaries. It is, however, possible to explain some of its characteristics. The article offers an explanation of the field in which social work researchers operate, the scientific methods of research, the interrelation between theory and practice, and societal concern as a shared characteristic among social work researchers.

This issue concludes with our regular book review and Innovations in Social Practice and Education section.

In the book review section, Fuusje de Graaff reviews *Beelden van de professional. Inspiratiebronnen voor professionalisering* (Images of the professional. Sources of inspiration for professionalization) by Ed de Jonge, and Ton Notten reviews *Het geheim van de laatste staat*.

*Kritiek van de transparantie* (The secret of the last state. The criticism of transparency) by Paul Frissen.

In *Innovations in Social Practice and Education*, Willem Blok and Jeannette Hartman discuss the outcomes and implications of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Social Work & Social Work Education, which was held on February 5, 2016, in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands.

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