

Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice –
2016 – Volume 25, Issue 3, pp. 1–3
<http://doi.org/10.18352/jsi.492>

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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**NOL REVERDA,
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EDITORIAL

We would like to open this issue by informing our readers about the response to our call for papers. In view of the comprehensive changes that are underway in Dutch and Flemish society, caused by the transformation of our welfare states, we published a call for papers that provide a meta-level analysis of various themes in relation to decentralization. We have been happy to receive a number of interesting manuscripts from both Flanders and the Netherlands on a diverse range of topics, such as how social workers deal with involving the social networks of vulnerable families in care, and how the ideology and goals of community care relate to actual practice in the context of the care transition. The articles are currently under review, and the first special issue will be published in December of this year. In the meantime, we are still accepting manuscripts on the theme of welfare state transformation.

Our current issue begins with an article by Tine Van Regenmortel, Katrien Steenssens, and Roos Steens, who all work at Leuven University, Belgium. Earlier, Van Regenmortel published work on empowerment as a framework for social inclusion and modern care (2009/4). The current article addresses empowerment research, from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. Firstly, the authors describe the methodological consequences of empowerment research and, secondly, they reflect on its practices. They conclude that empowerment research is a useful way of studying complex social interventions among vulnerable groups.

EDITORIAL

The second article is by Johnson Chun-Sing Cheung, who is a social worker and a doctoral candidate at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. In his theoretical contribution, Cheung argues for greater recognition of social workers' practice wisdom, and that empirical research into their insights is therefore needed. However, such studies are hindered by the lack of suitable methodology. The author suggests a heuristic paradigm that includes tacit knowledge, intuition and "being there" in order to increase recognition of the relevance of practice wisdom among social workers.

The third contribution is by Isolde Driesen and Pamela Besselink, both of whom are researchers at *NIM Maatschappelijk Werk*, an organization for social work. Besselink has published in JSI previously, on the subject of parents in poverty (2013/4). Driesen and Besselink now report on research that addresses the effective factors in support for families with multiple problems. The authors aim to explicate the implicit knowledge that social workers have on these success factors in order to provide an answer to the extensive transformations that are taking place in the social domain. The results of their research are being translated into a practical approach for use in the "renewed" youth care context.

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. Recently, the editorial team has decided to accept prize-winning articles from other institutions as well for this section of our journal. The student publication in this edition is by Pieter Decelle, who recently graduated with a Master's degree in Social Work at University of Leuven in Belgium. His article addresses the ways in which the Flemish "social economy" attempts to decrease social inequality and exclusion on the labour market.

The papers that appear in this section have not been peer-reviewed. Instead, 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.

This issue concludes with our regular book review and Innovations in Social Practice and Education section. We review three books in this issue. Firstly, Gerda Scholtens discusses *Antwoorden op andersheid. Over ontmoetingen tussen mensen met en zonder verstandelijke beperking in omgekeerde integratie-settingen* (Answers to differences. On encounters between people with and without mental disabilities in reversed integrational settings) by Gustaaf Bos. Secondly, Harrie

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van Haaster reviews *Goede GGZ! Nieuwe concepten, aangepaste taal en betere organisatie* (Good GGZ! New concepts, new language and better organization) by Delespaul, Milo, Schalken, Boevink, and Van Os. Finally, Maaïke Smulders discusses *Krachtig kantelen in zorg en welzijn* (Effective tilting in care and welfare) by Louis Polstra and Noor van Leeuwen.

In the Innovations in Social Practice and Education section, Toby Witte discusses how views on the role of research skills for social work-students and professionals differ between institutes of higher education and the social work organizations.

Nol Reverda, editor-in-chief

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