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## EDITORIAL

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This first issue of 2021 of the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* contains three inspiring articles on various relevant matters, from strategies for navigating the challenges of participatory action research, to common factors in group based parenting support and insights into experiences from voluntary workers in debt counselling in Rotterdam. All three articles have in common that they focus on new ways of putting social work research into action to improve future social interventions.

This issue opens with an article which underlines the importance of strengthening the knowledge development for Participatory Action Research (PAR) in addition to the more traditional social science research methods. Social work research is witnessing a growing popularity of Participatory Action Research. By approaching research as a collaborative self-reflective inquiry, PAR is well geared to engage people with lived experience of the topic under study. In doing so, the researcher takes the role not of an 'expert' but of a facilitator. Yet putting PAR's commitment to participation and reciprocation into practice is complicated and poses many ethical, methodological and logistical challenges. In this article the authors propose a model that identifies strategies to actualize participation and reciprocation throughout the different stages of a PAR process. With this they hope to spark critical discussions on PAR in social work and inspire new and established participatory action researchers in their journey. The authors of this article, Kaat Van Acker, Erik Claes, Harm Deleu, Nele Gulinck, Liesbeth Naessens, Mieke Schrooten, members of the Odisee social work research team and (former) youth workers Tom Flachet and Ali Moustatine are based

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in Brussels and engaged in urban issues such as migration, refugees, urban youth, poverty, social exclusion.

The second article identifies common factors in group based parenting support, focussing on experiences of parents, volunteers and youth professionals. Ever since the reforms in the Dutch social domain, the aims of parenting support are to empower parents and embed them in supportive networks. However, it remains unclear what factors within group based parenting support contribute to these aims and through what mechanisms. This study by Rosanne Spruijt, Annelies Kassenberg and Dorien Petri of Hanze University of Applied Sciences, professorship Integrated Youth Policy, together with Jolanda Tuinstra, professor in Social Quality at Stenden University of Applied Sciences, aims to identify the common factors in group based parenting support by employing a participatory narrative study design. This knowledge, together with research into the role youth professionals and volunteers play in this process, contribute to parents experiencing reinforced parenting roles and supportive networks.

The last article is by Yke van der Schoor, PhD student, and Anja Machielse, professor of Humanism and Social Resilience, both from the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht.

This research article provides insight into the experiences of volunteers involved in a local debt counselling programme in the city of Rotterdam, organised by a social welfare organisation. Household debt problems in the Netherlands are rising; both the number of households in debt and the average amount of debt per household has increased in recent years. Volunteers play an important role in these programmes, by supporting people with financial problems and guiding them to professional debt counselling. The article focusses on the added value of volunteers in the project, and the bottlenecks volunteers identify in the project.

We hope you will enjoy this new issue and wish you all the best for 2021!

Patricia Molegraaf, managing editor  
Szabinka Dudevszky, managing editor  
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