

Women Interest group Report	Chair: Darja Zavirsek Co-chair: Fran Waugh	Carolyne Noble, Helle Strauss, Nilsa Burgos , Janet Walker , Davis McNabb
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Dear colleagues,

The WIG mainly focused on three issues:

- 1.) the preparation of the Women's Stream of the Dublin conference 2018; we provided the reviewers for over 300 abstracts; the WIG served as reviewers and a lot of communication took place during the final selection of the papers;
- 2.) WIG applied with a double workshop on women from the IASSW reflection on the leadership issues: "WOMEN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: WOMEN IN THE IASSW REFLECTING ON THEIR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES. A CRITICAL WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE FROM WITHIN" (Minerva Room, Friday 6th July from 9.15- 11.15am); The symposium is meant to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Women's Cocos in the IASSW.

Abstract:

Social work is historically a women's profession, but not necessarily also a profession in which gender power relations are reflected, or the struggle for gender justice imbedded in; nor is it a profession of universally strong women leadership in social welfare services and the social work academia. What then are the experiences of women leaders within the international social work organization and how they narrate them? Do they, much like the women in male-dominated professions, experience phenomena known as the "glass ceiling", "sticky floor" and "leaky pipeline"? Are they supported by other women, and if so, in what ways? What are the personal characteristics of women who are global leaders, and how do women themselves reflect on the process of becoming leaders? Do they remember the struggles of the IASSW to recognize gender power imbalance, and the inequalities experienced by women? How did women take active stand against these processes? How did the IASSW incorporate critical awareness on gender injustices in the organization, and who were the pioneers of the women's perspective and the Women's Cocos established thirty years ago? What were the issues they worked on in their social work careers as women leaders and what they achieved; what were the obstacles they experienced and what the support strategies? What is the present situation of the feminist social work within the international social work and what are the future struggles? The symposium will bring together the leading figures of the international social work arena who actively partook in the IASSW either as presidents or leaders of committees, task groups, project activities and think tanks, and will provide the space for them to reflect upon their experiences in a historically based, contextual manner from a social work perspective, and will provide space for the participants engage in discussion.

Speakers: Lena Dominelli, Carolyne Noble, Julia M. Watkins, Vimla Nadkarni, Lynne Healy, Angie Yuan, Vishanthie Sewpaul; Annamaria Campanini. Moderator and chair: Darja Zaviršek

- 3.) Dissemination of the findings of the IASSW Questionnaires on women's issues around the globe; Fran and Darja analysed 53 questionnaires on women's issues which we received from academics and schools of social work who are IASSW members. We combined with Rossitsa Simeonova, Elona Dhembo, and Erika Bejko to submit an abstract which was accepted. They will be providing a symposium on Friday 6th July, 12.00, Minerva, Women 8.

Abstract :

Women from postsocialism reflect upon women's issues in leadership, academia and social work practice.

This symposium focuses on women issues in leadership, academia and social work practice by discussing both international and national cases based on the critical social theories, and feminist social work perspectives. The panel includes 3 presentations reflecting on findings from a recent international research and two national cases (Albania and Bulgaria). The international case will give an analytic overview about the current pressing gender issues defined by social work educators and will define the areas which are seen as most important from social work and women's human rights perspective. Since 2016 the Women's Interest Group of the IASSW commenced an on-going survey based on an open ended questionnaire, among the IASSW members. The case of Albania depicts on the role women in Albania have been playing in academia. Several issues concerning the difficulties Albanian women are facing in regards to career opportunities and promotion in academia and recommendations on how these could be addressed in the future are discussed. The case of Bulgaria discusses gender and leadership issues related to current situation and tendencies in academia and social work education and outlines perspectives for further developments. The audience is invited to reflect and discuss on the presented cases by sharing other national and international practices and perspectives.

Fran and Darja presentation on the IASSW questionnaires analysis:

Abstract:

WOMEN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATORS REFLECTING ON GENDER ISSUES IN TEACHING, RESEARCH AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE: A COMPARATIVE GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Since 2016 the Women's Interest Group of the IASSW commenced an on-going survey based on an open ended questionnaire, among the IASSW members. The survey asked the respondents to: a.) review the current pressing issues facing social work educators in their countries and world regions; b.) describe their personal interest in the area of gender issues; c.) provide an overview of the topics which they address in the curriculum in the courses they teach in their social work programmes; and d.) identify emerging women's human rights issues which will need to be addressed in the near future. The survey was initiated on the ground that there continues to be an uneven attainment and at times exploitation of women's rights across the world and therefore gender and women's perspectives need to be universally included in social work curricula. So far the researchers received 40 responses across different world regions; all of the respondents were women. Since the research is still in the process, we expect more respondents to answer the questionnaire by spring 2018 and will be included in the survey analysis. The presentation will give an analytic overview about the current pressing gender issues defined by social

work educators and will define the areas which are seen as most important from social work and women's human rights perspective. The analysis is based on the critical social theories, and feminist social work perspectives.

-Fran and Darja made an e-mail list of all persons who replied to the questionnaires and expressed the wish to get involved; the meeting will be held after the symposium on the 6th June lunch time.

Sincerely,

Darja Zaviršek (chair); Fran Waugh (co-chair)

June 26, 2018