THE NEWS

3–7 September 2023, University of Sarajevo

The second edition of the Summer School “Innovative Social Work Research in Southeast Europe: Integrating Justice, Human Rights, and Civic Engagement”, an endeavor of the undertaking of the Southeast Women’s Academic Leadership Network, comprised of social work scholars and educators from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Slovenia, and the US, hosted by the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, co-chaired by Prof. Sanela Bašić, Prof. Vjollca Krasniqi, and Prof. Barbara W. Shank took place 3-7 September 2023 at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo.

The summer school is envisioned as an alternative space of exchange of knowledge and ideas among social work scholars, social work students and practitioners in the region of Southeast Europe which shall provide more meaningful learning opportunities on a new or suppressed knowledge and expertise and improve the quality of social work education in the region.

Prof. Annamaria Campanini, President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work, Prof. Darja Zaviršek, President of the East European Sub-Regional Association of Schools of Social Work along with social work educators’ members of the Southeast Women’s Academic Leadership Network provided lectures demonstrating the ways in which social work research community is extending existing and developing new epistemologies and pedagogies in social work education for equitable access to welfare, social development, and an actively engaged citizenry.

Its relevance for international social work education – according to prof. emerita Julia Watkins and prof. emerita Barbara Shank – lies in ‘engaging in the discourse around human rights, social justice, and rights – based approaches, and for connecting interpersonal practices (micro – perspectives) with community work, policy development, advocacy, and social action (micro – perspectives)’ (p.vi). The summer school was closed with the workshop on enhancement of leadership skills.

To read the story in details, visit out website by clicking here

Prof. dr. Sanela Bašić  
University of Sarajevo, Department of Social Work

First Brazilian school to join IASSW

A very productive week at the University of Juiz de Fora, first Brazilian school to join IASSW! President Annamaria Campanini participated in a meeting with the group of research “Pesquisa en red sobre O Serviço Social na História: questão social e movimentos sociais - América Latina e Europa” that includes 38 academic institutions of 8 countries: Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay, Portugal, Spain and UK. We hope that the Brazilian schools will be active member with IASSW and will be an enriching experience for the school as well.
Participatory Methodologies: A Pedagogy in Knowledge-Justice and People-Centered Social Innovation

Participation and empowerment are considered to be the key drivers for social innovation and social change. It helps elicit the experiences, views, aspirations and struggles of communities at the grassroots. This presentation critically unpacks the same, especially in the context of poor and marginalized communities in India.

The eighth session of the IASSW and Power Us series was hosted live on 8th September, 2023 on Zoom. The session was led by Prof. Swati Banerjee, School of social work, TISS, Mumbai. The enriching session was participated by more than 50 participants from the social work fraternity. The 90 mins session was concluded with insightful discussions and queries from around the world.

Identifying the Missing Hero: Service User participation in housing first

The aim of this webinar is to discuss challenges and possibilities of co-producing change in social work, more specifically work with homelessness.

The ninth session of the IASSW and Power Us series was hosted live on 21st September, 2023 on Zoom. The session was led by Marcus Knutagård, School of Social Work, Lund University and Arne Kristiansen, School of Social Work, Lund University. The enriching session was participated by more than 25 participants from the social work fraternity. The 90 mins session was concluded with insightful sharing of their experiences from around the world.
Call for Abstracts:

Global South Solutions to Global Social Problems

Editors: Erick da Luz Scherf, BA, MS, PhD student (The University of Alabama School of Social Work); Dr. Rajendra Baikady, PhD (Central University of Kerala).

Tentative Description: The world is faced with severe crises such as climate change, food insecurity, pandemics, inequality, the increased cost of living, terrorism, and war that often intersect at complex levels: social, economic, environmental, and political. Many if not all the challenges we are facing today affect us all, albeit in different ways, and are not constricted to geopolitical borders. Yet, the Global South has been historically marginalized in the global knowledge society, which means that our contributions to solving the fundamental problems that humanity is facing are more often than not disregarded in Western academia and world politics. This book is a modest attempt at flipping this mindset and positioning Southern knowledge and our often-marginalized epistemologies at the centre of the debate on global social problems.

Global South Solutions to Global Social Problems will bring together authors from different parts of the world to discuss their views of old and new societal challenges and possible solutions to them. This book will cover the most pressing social issues of our time from an interdisciplinary perspective, bringing together authors from different backgrounds and disciplines, to provide solutions and alternatives to the current state of emergency we are living in.

Ideally, this book would be divided into five thematic areas: (I). Global Inequality and Social Justice; (II). Climate Change and Environmental Problems; (III). Unsafe and Irregular Migration; (IV). Peace, conflict and Violence; (V). Negative Impacts of Technology.

We are now accepting submissions of ideas for chapters. Abstracts should be limited to 250 words, with a descriptive title (please try to keep it short), and 5 keywords. Pending approval of the abstract and tentative title, full manuscript submissions will vary from a minimum of 6000 words to 8000 maximum (including references).

Important: Abstracts should be emailed to both editors at erickscherf@gmail.com and rajendra.baikady@mail.huji.ac.il; please do try to identify which of the 5 thematic areas described above your work would fit better in. In the email subject, you can write “Abstract submission to Global South Solutions book”. Please provide us with a short biography (100 words max.), your current institutional affiliation, and contact information.

Disclaimer: We accept submissions from authors in the Global North as long as they were born in or spent a considerable amount of time in the Global South and their research is related to the social issues in the Global South societies. We also encourage authors to collaborate from Global South and Global North. We will give preference to authors currently based in institutions in the Global South. Authors are encouraged to cite knowledges and practices in/from the South, if you are not sure what that would look like, kindly refer to this definition: https://southernperspectives.net/south-ways/southern-theory.

Deadline for full manuscripts: 25/June/2024.
During 19-22 of September 2023 in Ohrid, North Macedonia, the Institute of Social Work and Social Policy at the Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje organised an international conference “Social Work and Social Policy in Times of Global Crises”. The conference was attended by more than 130 participants who presented research, practices and policies on social policy and social work responses to crises. Annamaria Campanini, the President of the International Association of the School of Social Work was one of the keynote speakers and she delivered a speech on Contribution of Social Work Education to the SDGs in the Context of Multiple Crises.

Read the full story on our website - https://www.iassw-aiets.org/2023/09/22/social-work-and-social-policy-in-times-of-global-crises/?fbclid=IwAR2q1aGTDHxdbDNKgdLaBrL6sqdEKh0JP5EtE85QnMkW0icuDilNdBfYh8A

IASSW’s new website is LIVE now!

Please visit the revamped website at www.iassw-aiets.org

We invite all members and readers to share the recent news and updates of your organization to be published in this monthly newsletter. Kindly share your reports with relevant photographs to Ms. Jenny Joy, Communication Officer jenny@iassw-aiets.org.