



# CONFERENCE FIRST CALL

## THE BREAKTHROUGH OF THE SOCIAL

Practical Utopias, Wisdom and Radical Transformations - Social Work  
@IUC: Lessons Learned and Future Challenges

Dubrovnik 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

The conference will celebrate 30 years of social work courses at the IUC in Dubrovnik. It will address the state of the art in the theory and practice of social work, address new ways of formulating and implementing social policy, examine key challenges in working with children and families, explore new approaches to children in conflict with law, present possibilities of community work and community action, confront issues of old age and investigate the possibilities for and obstacles to deinstitutionalisation.

The aim of the conference is to reassert the role of social work in societal change and to explore political, organisational and ethical issues through the lens of freedom and social transformation.

To do so participants will revisit historical sources and envisage new pathways, possible functions and responsibilities of the profession in order to enrich utopias with practical purpose through (indigenous) wisdom and by reinvigorating the anti-oppressive mandate of social work.

Social work needs to establish strong alternatives that are extremely important in the times of rising nationalisms, abrogation of human rights and decaying solidarity. These alternatives should use the tools and stories of social work in order to encourage and enable people to believe that another world is possible and work towards building it together.

*The conference itself will last three days. There will be fringe events (special workshops, interest groups etc.) prior and possibly after the conference.*

*Council of Course Directors (Programme Committee alphabetically): Janet Anand, University of East Finland, Kuopio, Finland; Miroslav Brkić, University of Belgrade, Serbia; Steve Case, Loughborough University, UK; Vlado Dimovski, Vito Flaker, Vera Grebenc, all University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Sabina Hadžibulić, Uppsala University, Sweden; David Kergel, University of Applied Sciences Niederrhein, Germany; Ronald Lutz, University of Applied Sciences Erfurt, Germany; Jana Mali, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Jim Mandiberg, Hunter College, New York, USA; Nina Mešl, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Ivana Milas Klarić, University of Zagreb, Croatia; Michaela Moser, University of Applied Sciences St. Poelten, Austria; Ksenija Napan, Massey University, New Zealand; Mari Nordstrand, Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim, Norway; Andreja Rafaelič, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Shula Ramon, University of Hertfordshire, UK; Branka Rešetar, University of Osijek, Croatia; Linda Rothman, HAN - University, Netherlands; Nina Schiøll Skjefstad, Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim, Norway; Đuka Stakić, Penn State University, USA; Ana Štambuk, University of Zagreb, Croatia; Paul Stubbs, Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia; Lorenzo Toresini, Merano-Trieste, Italy; Joe Yates, Liverpool John Moores University, UK; Jörg Zeller, University of Aalborg, Denmark; Nino Žganec, University of Zagreb, Croatia.*

### Preliminary Contacts:

Andreja Rafaelič:  
andreja.rafaelic@fsd.uni-lj.si

Jana Mali:  
jana.mali@fsd.uni-lj.si

Vito Flaker:  
vito.flaker@fsd.uni-lj.si

School for Social work Theory and Practice @IUC, INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE DUBROVNIK  
Don Frana Bulica 4, HR-20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia  
Tel: + 385 20 413 626 / 627, Fax: + 385 20 413 628, E-mail: iuc@iuc.hr