

# THE BREAKTHROUGH OF THE SOCIAL

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

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*Conference*

Dubrovnik 2–6 September 2019

School of Social Work Theory and Practice, Inter-university centre,  
Dubrovnik

## ***A challenge – come to Dubrovnik***

The conference celebrates 30 years of social work courses at the IUC in Dubrovnik.

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 emancipation and social transformation.

To do so participants will revisit historical sources and envisage new pathways, possible roles and responsibilities of social work in order to enrich utopias with practical purpose through forms of wisdom and by reinvigorating our anti-oppressive mandate.

Social work needs to establish strong alternatives that are extremely important in 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 IUC School offers a place for dialogues in praxis at an international level to explore the new challenges and roles that social work will play in addressing these issues.

*Civilisation rests on the social – it needs to break through so we can carry on through imminent crises*

*We are coming together to construct social work as:*

*THE WISDOM OF DOING*

*A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY*

*AND*

*THE ART OF REMAINING HUMAN IN INHUMANE CONDITIONS*

The conference will address the theory and practice of social work; 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 for community work and community action; confront issues of old age; and investigate the possibilities for and obstacles to deinstitutionalisation. It will be:

*Programmatic* – bringing people together to construct an ambitious, and proactive rather than reactive, programme for the development of social work in the coming decades.

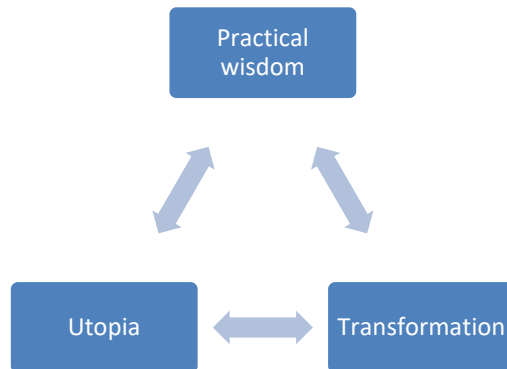
*Comparative* – comparing the experiences, trends, methods and theories in several countries and regions in order to learn from each other, to make trans-border flows possible, but also to construct commonalities of social work for the future.

*Critical* – informing action through critical investigation of the state of the art, and of the societal, historical, cultural, political and economic determinants of our work. The conference will provide an opportunity to think critically about the future direction and shape of social work internationally.

*Empowering* – in order to do what we want to do, for the transformations and innovations we want to take place, and to fight exclusions – we need power, possibly a different kind of power to the power

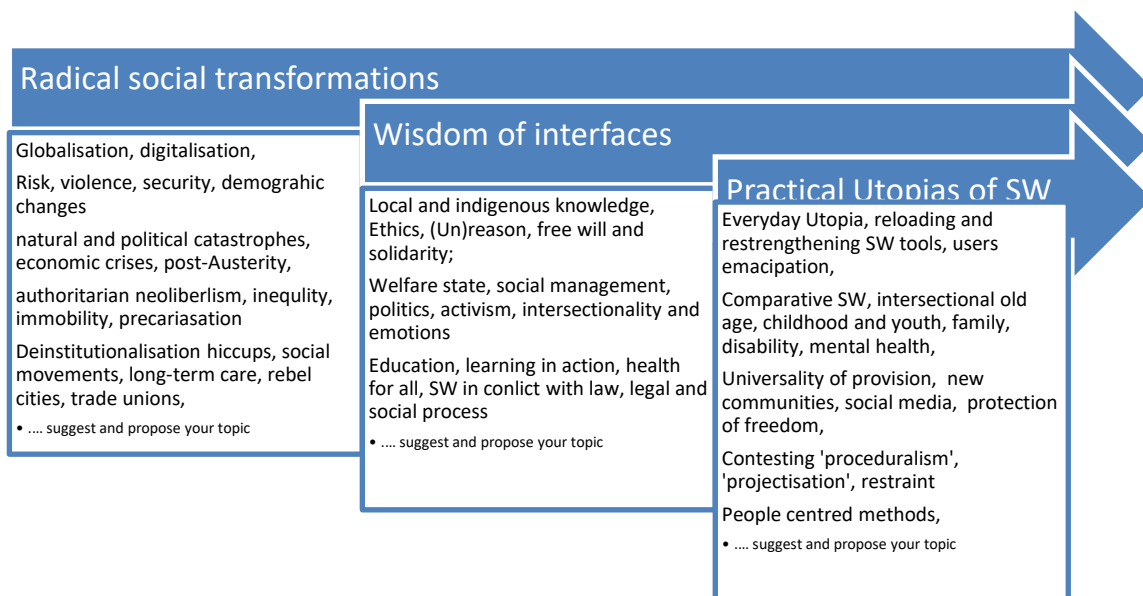
that we had in the past. We need to explore possible coalitions and make the conference not only an empowering event but one that sets the direction for the future of the school, as a generator of the power to remain human.

*Three main topics will be discussed*



We will explore how radical social transformations affect social work, its ability to visualise its practical utopias and its wisdom to connect the various social forces. We will seek the wisdom needed to steer the transformations socially and build transversal and achievable goals. We will try to articulate the vision of how to employ the social work tools, traditional and employ new ones to engineer new and transformative collaborations across the disciplinary line in the time of change.

Below we list the issues to be discussed along the lines of the topics. The discussion will be not only theoretical. You are also invited to present examples of good practices, concrete ideas of how to do something new, and how to change and go forward. Prepared contributions are invited and we count on the spot ideas, debates and reflexions.



One of the 'products' of the conference will be that we will issue the *Breakthrough of the Social Manifesto*.

## **Format**

To imagine and shape social work future we do not need a fair, an exhibition of what one has been done in the past – the conference will NOT BE REPORTING ON THE PAST – it will be SHAPING THE FUTURE. We have to come together to consider how social work practices should be repositioned to meet both the challenges, and the opportunities, of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Instead of recounts on the monstrosities of the neo-liberal regime, the conference aims to act as a space to reform our ideas and pronounce actions that will bring about a transformative, visionary and transversal social work. The conference will be made up of a series of, fully participative, interactive and lively workshops, assemblies and celebrations. These will facilitate *Dialogue in Praxis* which will generate an ambitious manifesto for 21<sup>st</sup> century social work (with good fun and comradery).

Each of the three days will be marked by one of the key central themes of the conference. The topics will be introduced by a plenary lecture and a panel at the beginning of the day. The themes will then be picked up through the ensuing parallel sessions (in the morning) and special issues pertaining to the themes will be considered in the afternoon.

### **Structure of the conference day**

Each conference day will begin with a *plenary lecture* introducing the main topic of the day. It will be followed, after a short break, by a *panel* where panellists will comment on the lecture and add to it. The panel will be an interactive one, with participants being encouraged to take the floor and steer the discussion.

After the first, plenary, part there will be *parallel sessions*. In these sessions, participants (three to four per session) will present their *papers*, resonating with the topic of the day but, of course, going into other directions were appropriate.

In the afternoon, there will be *thematic workshops* on special topics, reflecting the day theme in its special occurrence. The workshops are a more interactive form, staged by an individual participant, or a group introducing related topics. These should happen in a lively and interactive manner. Short videos, role plays, and other interactive forms of engagement are strongly encouraged.

The day will finish with an *assembly/plenum*. This will be a thematically open-ended

gathering (within reason!!) of all the participants to reflect and report on the day's topic, presentations, panels and workshops, but also to announce the topics of the next day – allowing for both personal and collective processing of the key messages and the formulation of relevant actions for the future. There will also be a welcome assembly on Monday evening.

N. B. The programme below can still be subject to change (due to the contingencies at hand).

There will be a welcome assembly at the IUC on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 19.00.

### **Programme committee**

Vito Flaker, University of Ljubljana; Steve Case, Social and Policy Studies Unit, Loughborough University, UK; Vera Grebenc, University of Ljubljana; David Kergel, University of Oldenburg, Germany, Jana Mali, University of Ljubljana; Ksenija Napan, Massey University, New Zealand; Branka Rešetar, University of Osijek; Linda Rothman, HAN-University, Netherlands, Nina Schiøll Skjefstad, Sør-Trøndelag University College, Trondheim, Norway; Paul Stubbs, Institute of Economics, Zagreb; Ana Štambuk, University of Zagreb, Croatia; Nino Žganec, University of Zagreb.

### **Organising committee:**

Andreja Rafaelič, Institute for Social Care of Slovenia and University of Ljubljana; Dinka Caha, University of Osijek, Jodie Hodgson, Liverpool University, UK; Lea Lebar, Institute for Social Care of Slovenia; Anže Trček, University of Ljubljana.

### **Board of directors (other than programme committee):**

Miroslav Brkić, University of Belgrade, Serbia; Janet Carter Anand, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland; Vlado Dimovski, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Marsida Grami, University of Tirana; Sabina Hadžibulić, Uppsala University, Sweden; Paul de Heer, HAN-University, Netherlands; Ronald Lutz, University of Applied Sciences Erfurt, Germany; Jim Mandiberg, Hunter College, New York, USA; Nina Mešl, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Michaela Moser, University of Applied Sciences St. Poelten, Austria; Mari Nordstrand, Sør-Trøndelag University College, Trondheim, Norway; Shula Ramon, University of Hertfordshire, England; Djuka Stakic, Penn State University, USA; Torill Tjelflaat, formerly NTNU Social Research, Norway; Lorenzo Toresini, formerly Centre for Research in Mental Health Merano, Italy; Joe Yates, Liverpool John Moores University, England.

The conference was organised with the financial support of the British Embassy, Zagreb and CROP and hospitality of the municipality of Dubrovnik.

Programme of THE BREAKTHROUGH OF THE SOCIAL: Practical Utopias, Wisdom and Radical Transformations – Social Work @IUC: Lessons Learned and Future Challenges; Dubrovnik 2–6 September 2019, School of Social Work Theory and Practice, Inter-university centre, Dubrovnik

| Time and place  | Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> September | Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September<br><b>Radical Social Transformations.</b>   | Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September<br><b>Wisdom of Social Work Interfaces</b>  | Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> September<br><b>Practical Utopia of Social Work</b>  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 9.00–9.45<br>Plenary<br>Hall  |                                   | Opening – Dživo Brčić, deputy mayor, conference organisers, Mila Carovska, Minister of Labour and Social Policy (NMK) <i>Transformative social policy.</i>   | Noemi Lendvai (UK/HU) <i>The rise of new authoritarianism in Hungary and Poland: social insecurities, dispossession and bare life.</i>   | Iain Fergusson (UK) <i>Practical Utopias of Social Work.</i>   |
| 10.00–11.00<br>Panel<br>Hall  |                                   | <b>Radical Social Transformations</b> Ksenija Napan (moderator), Janet Anand, Branka Rešetar, David Kergel, Mila Carovska  | <b>Wisdom of Social Work Interfaces</b> Paul Stubbs (moderator), Shulamit Ramon, Žarko Šunderić, Rahel Kahlert, Noemi Lendvai  | <b>Practical Utopia of Social Work</b> Michaela Moser (moderator), Nina Skjefstad, Jana Mali, Vito Flaker, Iain Fergusson  |
| 11.15–12.45<br>Parallel<br>sessions<br>Hall                             |                                   | <b>Human rights and hearts</b><br>Branka Rešetar (CRO) <i>The implementation of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Fundamental Rights Report.</i><br>Ksenija Napan (NZ) <i>Shifts in climate, politics, minds and hearts – social work on shaky grounds.</i>  | <b>School is out?</b><br>Rutger Wissing (NL) <i>Future orientated Education.</i><br>Marija Vincek (SLO) <i>Planning and implementing the educational operation in the public.</i><br>Vida Vincek (SLO) <i>Elementary school from the students' perspective.</i>  | <b>Family resilience</b><br>Aiga Romane-Meiere (LAT) <i>Transformations towards resilient kinship care families.</i><br>Ana Štambuk (CRO) <i>The future perspective of the elderly: their role in the modern family.</i><br>Kinga Varga (HU) <i>Development of policymaking and the establishment of the contemporary child protection system in Hungary.</i><br>Niki van Aar (NL) <i>Continuity in Dutch foster care.</i> |
| 11.15–12.45<br>Parallel<br>sessions<br>Room 2/ 1 <sup>st</sup><br>floor |                                   | <b>Digitalisation and social work</b><br>Birte Heidkamp-Kergel, David Kergel (GER) <i>Neoliberal thinking and social work in the era of digitalisation.</i><br>Ajda Šulc (SLO) <i>Challenges of researching and coping with new, digitalised forms of peer bullying.</i><br>Michael Klassen (GER) <i>Digitalisation and social work – how can social work system theories contribute to the digitally supported inclusion of refugees.</i> | <b>Services tailored to needs</b><br>Vito Flaker, Dragica Fojan, Anja Bohinec, Gaja Stibilj, Anja Kutnjak, Anja Lazar, Anže Trček, (SLO) <i>Rapid assessment and response as a tool of transforming an adult training centre.</i><br>Sanela Shkrijelj (NMK) <i>Development of social services in North Macedonia.</i><br>Rahel Kahlert, Kai Leichsenring (AU) <i>Transforming long-term care in Slovenia by piloting integrated LTC delivery with single-entry points.</i> | <b>Down by law</b><br>Leona Vaughn (UK) <i>Professional Vision' in safeguarding risk-work for PREVENT: resisting and complying with race erasure.</i><br>Steve Case (UK) <i>Children first communication when assessing children in conflict with the law.</i>   |
| 11.15–12.45<br>Parallel<br>session<br>Room 2/ 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>floor  |                                   | <b>Re-owning spaces and places</b><br>Michaela Moser (AU) <i>Affordable, cooperative, inclusive! Strengthening old and new forms of co-housing and neighbourhoods.</i><br>Toni Pranić (CRO) <i>Understanding social problems – space, identity and durable inequalities.</i>   | <b>Are institutions here to stay?</b><br>Sanja Lepić (BiH) <i>Our voices – Advocating for rights of people with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.</i><br>Andreja Rafaelič, Katarina Ficko (SLO) <i>Reforming social care in Slovenia: deinstitutionalisation and social inclusion.</i><br>Juš Škraban (SLO) <i>Hearing voices experiences and traumatic life events.</i>   | <b>Systematising the system</b><br>Mateja Nagode, Aleš Istenič (SLO) <i>Evaluating the long-term care pilot projects in Slovenia.</i><br>Jana Mali (SLO) <i>Social infrastructure of long-term care in Slovenia – a social work perspective.</i><br>Amir Crnojević, Medeja Novljan (SLO) <i>Model of long-term community care – Ljubljana Home Care Service.</i>   |

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| 11.15–12.45<br>Parallel sessions<br>Room 5/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor |                         | <b>Social work impact on policies</b><br>Philip Gillingham (AUS) <i>Social work decision making and big data: current and future developments.</i><br>Barbora Gřundělová, Zuzana Stankova (CZ) <i>Searching for new pathways of implementation of employment policies.</i><br>Slavko Žarkov (NMK) <i>The impact of social dialogue on sustainable and decent jobs in the labour market.</i>                               | <b>Quality services</b><br>Sandra Perić, Miroslav Brkić, Zoran Vesić, Mirko Jankelić, Miroljub Nikolić (SRB) <i>Ethics in social work with persons with intellectual and mental disabilities.</i><br>Lea Lebar, Vesna Dolničar, Mojca Šetinc (SLO) <i>Strengths and weaknesses of e-health and e-care in Slovenia – lessons learned in the ITHACA project</i><br>Himu Gupta (UK) <i>Quality in social care.</i>   | <b>Local planning</b><br>Dinka Čaha, Toni Pranić (CRO) <i>Social mapping – from method to educational and community resource.</i><br>Jošt Cafuta Maček (SLO) <i>Evaluating community based long-term care: Domžale project.</i>  |
| 13.15–14.45<br>Parallel sessions<br>Hall                          |                         | <b>Transformations and metamorphoses</b><br>Gil Espenido (PHI) <i>Social workers as anti-imperialist activists.</i><br>Miroljub Nikolić, Mirko Jankelić, Sandra Perić, Miroslav Brkić, Zoran Vesić (SRB) <i>Inconsistency of a modern society as a factor for social inclusion of persons from vulnerable groups.</i><br>Shulamit Ramon (UK) <i>Reducing power differentials between social workers and their clients</i> | <b>Open space</b>   | <b>Power of social work</b><br>Mari Nordstrand, Nina Skjefstad (NOR) <i>Parallel supervision – student of social work.</i><br>Linda Rothman (NL) <i>Empowerment of the professional.</i><br>Jenny Zwijnenburg (NL) <i>“Measuring” the value of social work from an empowerment perspective</i>   |
| 13.15–14.45<br>Parallel sessions<br>Room 2/ 1 <sup>st</sup> floor |                         | <b>Culture and Empowerment</b><br>Gordana Horvat, Anita Blagojević (CRO) <i>Integration of migrants into society.</i><br>Nino Žganec (CRO), Jovana Škorić (SRB) <i>Cultural competence in social work – theoretical reflections and challenges of future research.</i><br>Eva Grigori (AU) <i>Social work as a neo-fascist agenda.</i>  | <b>Golden age</b><br>Mojca Urek, Nina van der Vaart, Irma Rabelink, Elisa Bus, Trish Hafford-Letchfield, Alfonso Pezzella, Sandra Connell, Agnes Higgins, Brian Keogh, George Robotham, Anže Jurček (SLO) <i>LGBT+ in old age: challenges for social work in long-term care.</i><br>Zoran Vesić, Miroslav Brkić, Sandra Perić, Mirko Jankelić, Miroljub Nikolić (SRB) <i>Active aging in Serbia.</i><br>Anamarija Kejžar (SLO) <i>Innovative aspects of long-term care.</i> | Tilo Fiegler (GER) <i>Housing, education and the development of social spaces in the context of child poverty.</i>   |
| 13.15–14.45<br>Workshops<br>Room 2/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor         |                         | Michaela Moser (AU) <i>Organising political change across Europe! A wisdom Council on how to shift politics and society towards providing a good life for all!</i>  | Andreja Pavlickova, Donna Henderson (Scotland UK), Jon Txarramenadieta (Basque, Spain) <i>Capacity building for integrated care SCIROCCO.</i>   |  |
| 13.15–14.45<br>Workshops<br>Room 5/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor         |                         | Ernest Mešić, Dominika Senčar, Elvira Abdić, Domen Pocięcha, Špela Režun, Peter Lenart (SLO): <i>Smile for everyone (massage workshop).</i>   | Tanja Kleibl, Ronald Lutz, Urszula Markowska-Manista (GER) <i>Indigenous knowledge and border thinking.</i>   | Tatiana Chubarova (RUS), Paul Stubbs (CRO), Noemi Lendvai (UK/HU) <i>Book Launch: Social Policy, Poverty, and Inequality in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union: Agency and institutions in flux</i> , Sofiya An, Tatiana Chubarova, Bob Deacon and Paul Stubbs (eds.), published in September 2019 by ibidem Press in the CROP International Poverty Studies series. |
| 15.00–16.00<br>Hall   |                         | Assembly  | Assembly  | Assembly   |
| 20.00<br>Hall   | Welcome assembly at IUC | Reception (gathering with snacks, music and reminiscing) at Lazaretto, Ul. Frana Supila 10  |   |  |

