

# “We are all in this together“

## Internationalisation in Social Work

ARLT SYMPOSIUM | 15 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2021 | ONLINE CONVENTION

Global crises cause long-term changes to societal structures, social conditions, and Social Work. The way how the effects of climate change, the coronavirus pandemic, structural racism and discrimination, and the economic crisis are dealt with affects mainly marginalised groups and exacerbates social inequalities. It is thus vital to face these new challenges, abandon existing patterns, find new solutions, cross national borders, and exploit the potentials of digital and internationally organised Social Work.

In addition to managing the effects of crises, it is of paramount importance to search for impulses to implement long-term changes of social conditions and societal structures with the goal of achieving social justice for all.

At the symposium “**We are all in this together**“ - **Internationalisation in Social Work**, we seek to address current challenges according to the basic understanding of Social Work as a human rights profession (IFSW). How do global developments and crises change the conditions for the scope for action in Social Work? What are the resulting challenges for practice, training and research?

We invite social services users, practitioners, researchers, students, lecturers, civil society representatives, and representatives of marginalised groups, politicians and Social Work professionals to critically reflect on existing patterns, discuss new ideas, share findings of empirical research and best practices with each other, and use this opportunity for networking. Together we seek to advance theoretical and practical approaches to international Social Work.

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

We ask for submissions on the topic areas by **15 May 2021**. The following formats are available:

- **Presentations for thematic panels**  
[90 min. panel, 15-20 min. for each submission]
- **Workshops** [45 min.]
- **Poster submission**

We look forward to receiving submissions of papers from different countries that bring together perspectives from practice, training and research and reflect on global and local implications.

Please find the detailed submission requirements and further information on the convention at:

[arltsymposium.fhstp.ac.at](https://arltsymposium.fhstp.ac.at)

## TOPIC AREAS

### Expectations vs. Reality

- What role do ethical principles of the profession (codes of ethics, human rights) and strategies of international organisations such as the IFSW Global Agenda play in practice, training and research? To what extent is it acceptable to question ethical principles of the profession?
- How are human rights integrated into the concrete practical realm? What role do structural framework conditions, resources, personal attitudes, political/institutional missions, etc. play? How can these challenges be met in the concrete practical realm? Are there any examples? Which conditions are needed?
- To what extent are the international and global dimensions of Social Work included in curricula and teaching? Where can international perspectives in training be found?
- How does the global responsibility of the profession (standing up for social justice) manifest itself on a local level, in group and community work, or in the context of individual cases?

### Decolonialisation

- How does global Social Work address alternative forms of knowledge and methods of knowledge creation and practice, which have not been established (yet)? How can we translate, e.g. “Ubuntu“, the first topic on the Global Agenda, into a western context of Social Work?
- What are concrete approaches to anti-racist Social Work?
- What does decolonialisation of Social Work mean with regard to our understanding of human rights?
- Which fundamental agreements, common principles and framework conditions does global Social Work need? How can global Social Work organisations contribute to this end?

### Fighting Causes or Mitigating Symptoms?

- How does the way how global crises are dealt with exacerbates socio-economic inequalities and discrimination when it comes to access to work, education, healthcare, etc.? Which concrete developments make this visible?
- Which global approaches and ideas exist on making climate, social and healthcare policies more just for everybody? What is the potential of concepts such as universal basic income, universal healthcare, green Social Work? How can these be combined with short-term measures for the improvement of living conditions?

### Normativity and Diversity

- Which basic normative attitudes shape Social Work? To what extent should they be conveyed accordingly already during training? How much difference and diversity is possible?
- What role do institutional forms of organisation such as trade unions play at the national and international levels? What kind of relations should be maintained with political movements? How much political involvement can and should be expected?
- To what extent do professional laws represent a useful instrument towards strengthening professional identity and maintaining ethical principles?

### ORGANISERS & CONTACT

The convention is organised by the Ilse Arlt Institute for Social Inclusion Research at the Department of Social Sciences of the St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences (Austria) within the framework of the annual Arlt Symposium.

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