UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
The Social Work Department
in partnership with
The Association of Schools of Social Work in Romania

Șoseaua Panduri 90
Bucharest, Romania

Council Room – Ground floor
Amphitheater 103 –Ground floor
Room 107 – Ground floor
EET time
www.swicub.com

Social Work International Conference (SWIC)

10th Edition

Voices for Change: Social Work Leadership in Policy and Advocacy

November 4th – 6th, 2026, Bucharest

Wednesday, November 4th

14.00- 15.00 **THE OFFICIAL CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY**
[Plenum, Amphitheatre 103]

Chair:
Daniela Nițǎ, Social Work Department, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

Speakers:
Magdalena Iordache-Platis, Prorector, University of Bucharest
Liviu Chelcea, Dean, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest
Corina Cace, Doctoral School of Social Work, University of Bucharest
Florin Lazăr, Vice-President, National College of Social Workers in Romania
Adrian Dan, Head of Social Work Department, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

15.00-16.00 ***PUBLIC LECTURE*** [Plenum, Amphitheatre 103]

Voices for Change: social work leadership in policy and advocacy: a partnership approach

Jill Manthorpe, CBE, Hon PhD, MA
Professor Emerita King's College London, visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and Queen's University Belfast

In collaboration with:

16.00-16.15 **COFFEE BREAK**

PhD Session: Presentations		
16.15-19.00	Council Room	Wednesday, November 4th

Chair: Georgiana Rentea

Reimagining leadership in social work: A call for a distinctive activist approach to social work leadership
Alyssa Venning, PhD student, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Christine Morley, PhD, Queensland University of Technology
Michelle Newcomb, PhD, Queensland University of Technology

Implementing Trauma-Informed Organisational Development in Public Child Welfare Services: Preliminary Findings from a Mixed-Methods Study in Germany (P)
Carolin Burghardt, PhD student, Ludwigsburg University of Education, Germany, Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, Germany

The Need to Develop the Emergency Social Work Profession in Romania: Mapping Emergency Social Services and Analyzing Human Resources
Armando Lincan, PhD student, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Doctoral School of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Global Standards and Local Realities in Social Work Practice within Night Shelters for the Homeless
Andrei Horațiu Ionescu, PhD student, University of Craiova
Adrian Godeanu, University of Craiova

Structural neglect in formal home care services for the elderly: A comparative analysis between public and private providers in Romania
Nicoleta Mereș (Cojocaru), PhD student, Doctoral School of Social Work, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Sector 3, Romania

The voices from social worker in Policy and Advocacy for internally displaced people in the Gaza Strip and Sudan (P)
Raouf Soliman Saleh Soliman, Directorate of Social Solidarity in Cairo, Egypt, Member of IASSW, PhD Student, Faculty of Social Work, Aswan University
Developing leadership competencies in social work in Romania
Sorina Marinescu, Master Risk Groups and support social services, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

PhD Session: Presentations		
16.15-19.00	Amphitheatre 103	Wednesday, November 4th

Chair: Florin Lazăr

Consideration of Evaluation Indicators for Guidelines on Support for Children's Lives (P)
Misaki Baba, PhD student, Prefectural University of Hiroshima/Graduate School of Advanced Academic Studies
Satoko Tanaka, PhD, Prefectural University of Hiroshima/Graduate School of Advanced Academic Studies

Advocacy in support of the social inclusion of Ukrainian refugee adolescents: barriers and challenges in social work practice
Roxana-Maria Popa, PhD student, Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara
Doris-Cătălina Avramescu, PhD student, Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara
Cecilia Andreea Cănilă (Corodescu), PhD student, Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara

Bridging the gaps in mental health social services quality policy: A proposed participatory approach in redefining the social services quality standards in Czechia
Tereza Ticha, PhD student, Faculty of Social Sciences University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Petr Salomon, Department of Social Work, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Institutional reconfigurations in social work: documentary analysis of DGASPC Sector 5 Bucharest
Florina Corina Căldăraru (Constantin), PhD student, Doctoral School of Social Work, University of Bucharest, DGASPC Sector 5, Romania

Resilience among families with children with disabilities, reality or utopia? A theoretical-critical approach
Loredana-Cristina Sanda (Stan), PhD student, Doctoral School of Social Work, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work of the University of Bucharest, Romania

Between acceptance and stigma: social perceptions of the LGBTQ+ community (P)
Alexandra Veronica Diaconu, PhD student, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanța, Romania

Leadership in Palliative Social Work Practice: Development of a Standardized Social Assessment Instrument
Adriana Căruntu, PhD student, Doctoral School of Social Work, University of Bucharest

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PhD Session: Presentations		
16.15-19.00	Room 107 and Online	Wednesday, November 4th

Chair: Corina Cace

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Google Meet link link: https://meet.google.com/ibt-prdu-sqa

Generation 1.5 – Between cultures: Return intentions and implications for reintegration policies
Simona Marin, PhD student, School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy, Research Institute for the Quality of Life, Romania

Ethical Decision-Making in Social Work: Reflective Practice, Accountability, and Support Frameworks in Complex Situations
Michaela Límová, PhD student, South Bohemian University, Czech Republic

Institutionalized Suspicion: Suspicion as a Structural Condition in Child Welfare Systems
Megan McCarthy, PhD student, School of Social Work and Social Research, Portland State University; Independent Researcher, Family Rights Advocates Inc., United States
(online presentation)

The Digital Vulnerability Leadership Paradox: Ethical Governance and Social Justice in Contemporary Social Work
Erika Goldschmidt, PhD student, Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad, Romania (online presentation)

"You get used to ticking boxes on the platform and you think this is normal" - Digitalisation in social work and challenges for practitioners in Community Centres in Crete, Greece
Kyriaki Plotnikof, PhD student, Hellenic Mediterranean University, Department of Social Work, Greece
Vasileia Papadaki, Associate Professor, Hellenic Mediterranean University, Department of Social Work, Greece
(online presentation)

Behind The Waitlist: A Plan for Advocacy and Policy Changes to Address Structural Inequities in Mental Health Care for Black Youth in Georgia (P)
Sherri Cauthen, PhD student, Morgan State University, Georgia

Developing an India-Responsive Social Work Competency Framework for Leadership, Policy Practice, and Advocacy

Sharlin Sara Thomas, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi
Sudhir Maske, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

Community social work and social capital: a qualitative analysis of Lumilhub's experience in promoting participation in local youth policies
Giulia Casati Busca, PhD student, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano, Italy

19.00-19.10 **CLOSING SESSION FIRST DAY** [Plenum, Amphitheatre 103]

Thursday, November 5th

Workshop		
9:00-10:30	Room 107	Thursday, November 5th

Social Work Is Not Self-Harm: From Personal Awareness to Professional Excellence
Nadine Boyne, Social Work DISCovery CIC

Workshop		
9:00-10:30	Council room	Thursday, November 5th

Occupational Stress in Social Work: Self-Regulation, Resilience, and Burnout Prevention
Daniela Niță, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

10.30-11.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

11.00-12.00 ***PUBLIC LECTURE*** [Plenum, Amphitheatre 103]

Experiential Knowledge as a Transformative Strength in Social Work Education, Research and Policy
Kristel Driessens, PhD
Associate Professor at the Centre for Research on Environmental and Social Change (CRESC), University of Antwerp, Belgium

12:00-13:30 ***LUNCH BREAK***

Session: **Advocacy, Participation, and Empowerment**		
13:30-15:00	Amphitheatre 103	Thursday, November 5th

Chair: Anca Mihai

Postpartum Rage, Shame, and Silence: Social Work Leadership in Amplifying Maternal Voices for Policy and Practice Change
Karen Durham, University of Kentucky, United States of America

Independent Living in Community-Based Services: Voices of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
Inga Kārlliņa, Rehabilitation, Social welfare and social work unit, Riga Stradins University, Latvia
Anna Broka, Rehabilitation, Social welfare and social work unit, Riga Stradins University, Latvia

Co-constructing At-Homeness in Mental Health Residential Care: A User-Involved Study Toward an Integrative Framework
Jialiang Cui, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
Wu Jialing, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China

The Hidden Burden: Psychological Distress Among Women Married to Career Military Personnel
Hila Schwartz, Ariel University, Israel

From Survival Mode to Purpose Mode: Hypervigilance and Psychological Adaptation Among Black Men in Professional Spaces
Rashad Skinner, LCSW-S, Sapphire Therapeutic Services, Inc.

Gatekeeping Assistive Technology: Disability Certification and Hearing Aid Access in Romania (P)
Monica Zdrite, PhD student, Doctoral School of Social Work, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Session: **Advocacy, Participation, and Empowerment**		
13:30-15:00	Council Room	Thursday, November 5th

Chair: Adrian-Nicolae Dan

Poverty alleviation, combating marginalization and intersectional perspectives: The role of Romanian NGOs in community-based social work and community organizing
Anna-Ioana Ungureanu, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Public Financing of Long Term Care for the Elderly Population in Romania
Dragoș Garofil, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest;
Grațiela Iordache, National Authority for Quality Management in Healthcare, Romania

Revisiting Social Work Theory in Central Asia Through Al-Farabi's Concept of the Virtuous City
Kapin Batina, MA in Social Sciences, Kazakh State Women's Teacher Training University, Almaty, Kazakhstan
Gulnaz Shanbaeva, Senior Lecturer, Narxoz University, Almaty, Kazakhstan
Amitov Sultankozha Abdukadirovich, Candidate of Sociological Sciences, Kazakh State Women's Teacher Training University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, Independent Researcher, Alliance of Professional Social Workers of Kazakhstan

Representations of vulnerability on social platforms: implications for empathy and online activism
Ștefania Delia Vărzar, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

From public perceptions to social work advocacy: rethinking homelessness intervention in urban Romania (P)
Isai (Mustafa) Maria Mihaela, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanța, Romania
Alexandra Veronica Diaconu, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanța, Romania

Session: **Advocacy, Participation, and Empowerment**		
13:30-15:00	Room 107 and Online	Thursday, November 5th

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The origins, consequences, and preventative measures of compassion fatigue (P)
Savin (Tăme) Mihaela Andreea, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanta, Romania
Laura Rodica Giurgiu, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanta, Romania

Social workers as advocates in anti-poverty policies: professional leadership, collaborative governance and responsible welfare in the Italian context
Giada Cascino, University of Enna, Italy
Sergio Severino, University of Enna, Italy
Giancarlo Minaldi, University of Enna, Italy
Guido Ciffo, University of Enna, Italy

Michelle Oliva, University of Enna, Italy

Who has the right to become a mother? Visual disability, obstetric violence and reproductive justice in Romania: From invisibility to advocacy
Ciolpan Anca – Maria, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania

Childbirth Between Safety and Autonomy: A Reflection on Obstetric Violence in Romania
Diana Geanovu, Social Work, University of Bucharest

Unaccompanied Foreign Minors in the Juvenile Justice System: Social Work, Advocacy, and Policy Challenges in Italy
Laura Pinna, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sassari, Italy

15.00-15.30 **COFFEE BREAK**

Session: **Advocacy, Participation, and Empowerment**		
15:30-17:00	Room 107	Thursday, November 5th

Chair: Michelle Newcomb

Leading through voice and participation. How can children be active agents for sustainable development?
Alexandra Damaschin, Department of Sociology, Social Work and Human Resources, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania,

IFSW Europe New Social Workers Network: Strengthening New Perspectives Across Europe
Omar Mohamed, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Europe
Jose Rodrigues, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Europe
Jacob Spivack, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Europe

From Social Perceptions to Social Action: Reframing Community Understandings of Violence Against Women for Social Work Advocacy
Mioara Lăcrămioara Paraschiv, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanța, Romania

Building a Rural Clinical Social Work Workforce: Early Lessons from a Philanthropy-Supported MSW Program Expansion
Kate Turcotte, Colby-Sawyer College, United States of America

Enacting care ethics to support frontline staff: lessons from down under
Michelle Newcomb, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

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World Bank Symposium: Making reform work on the ground: social workers as translators of policy in Romania's social services reform		
15:30-17:00	Council room	Thursday, November 5th

Chairs: Manuela Sofia Stănculescu, Roman Zhukovsky, Georgiana Blaj
Discussant: Representative from the MMFTSS [to confirm]

One Front Door: SPAS as the Focal Point of Romania's Social Services Reform
Diana Cristea, Smaranda Witec, Alina Seghedi – World Bank

From 77 to 11, From Compliance to Outcomes? Reframing Romania's Nomenclature of Social Services and What the New Quality Standards Reveal
Cristian Roșu, Bogdan Simion, Bogdan Corad - World Bank

The Money Follows the Plan: Personal Budgets and the Social Worker's Role in Romania's "Money Follows the Beneficiary" Reform
Manuela Sofia Stănculescu, Georgiana Blaj - World Bank

One Method, One Record: A Common Case Management Standard and a Digital Case Record for Romanian Social Services
Mădălina Radu, Andrada Istrate - World Bank

17.00-17.15 **COFFEE BREAK**

Session: **Advocacy, Participation, and Empowerment**		
17:15-19:00	Room 107 and Online	Thursday, November 5th

Chair: Corina Ilinca

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From Family Needs to Social Policy: The Role of Social Work Advocacy in Disability Support Across the Life Course in Romania
Săndica Ion, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Digital Use, Privacy Concerns, and the Acceptance of EHRs and Telemedicine
Simona-Nicoleta Vulpe, Octavian Andronic, Ștefan Frasila, Ruxandra Roșca, Adrian Dan, Mihaela Daniela Baltă, Radu Dumitrescu, Corina Ilinca, Ștefan Busnatu, Andrada Artamonov, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania, and Center for Innovation and e-Health, Romania

AI Advocacy Competence among Social Work Students at Sultan Qaboos University: Preparing Future Social Workers for Policy Practice in the Digital Age
Ahmed Thabet Helal Ibrahim, Department of Sociology and Social Work, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman (online presentation)

Reimagining Elderly Care Through Social Work Advocacy: Evidence from Nepal
Sanon Tamang, Central Department of Social Work, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Relational Vulnerability in a Practice-Visible Youth Network: A Social Network Analysis of Ambiguous Dyads
Theodora Niopa, Center for Adolescent Support and Empowerment, Initiative for the Child, Veria, Greece

Session: **Education, Research, Training, and Capacity Building**		
17:15-19:00	Amphitheatre 103	Thursday, November 5th

Chairs: Avital Weller, Felipe Mercado

Data Without Compassion Is Surveillance: Social Work Leadership for Healing-Centered Systems
Felipe Mercado, Department of Social Work Education, Fresno, California State University, Founder/CEO, Wise Souls LLC

An auto ethnography of Agenda 2030 in social work education assessment and evaluation: Implications to social work curriculum implementation and development
Tariro Portia Tendengu, Midlands State University School of Social Work, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe

Expanding Psychosocial Support Capacity in Emergencies: Social Work Students as Community-Embedded Responders
Avital Weller, The School of Social Work, Sapir Academic College, Israel
Nati Biton, The School of Social Work, Sapir Academic College, Israel
Leah Shelef, The School of Social Work, Sapir Academic College, Israel
Hadas Shaharabani Saidon, Otef Lev Initiative, Israel
Nurit Yirmiya, Otef Lev Initiative, Department of Psychology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, Sapir Academic College, Israel

The role of participatory leadership in social work in crisis management and the shadow of uncertainty
Omneia Salah Zaki, Egyptian Social Planning Department, Egypt

A closer look at parenting stress: Parent, child, and contextual characteristics
Osnat Lavenda, Ariel University, Israel
Adi Hershkovitz-Freudenthal, Ariel University, Israel

Elazar Leshem, Ariel University, Israel

Session: **Education, Research, Training, and Capacity Building**		
17:15-19:00	Council Room	Thursday, November 5th

Chair: Jocelyn Hermoso

The (Re)politicization of Social Work Education: Institutionalising Marginalised Lived Experience Through the Centre for Experiential Knowledge in the Czech Republic
Eliška Černá, Department of Social Work, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Alice Gojová, Department of Social Work, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Gilbert Noam, Department of Social Work, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Petr Salomon, Department of Social Work, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Experience of everyday ageism and the quality of life of Romanian seniors placed in residential centers
Petrică-Cristinel Codrea, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Mihai-Bogdan Iovu, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Adriana Teodorescu, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Professional supervision pathways in Sicily: Between Super-Visions and Mind-Shifts in the experience of E.SI. S in Palermo. An analysis of the impact of supervision on the professional culture of social work
Giuseppa Giovanna Mazzola, Direttrice-supervisore professionale-Scuola di Servizio Sociale E.SI.S Palermo, Italy
Rita Affatigato, Supervisore professionale Scuola di Servizio Sociale E.SI.S Palermo, Italy

Capacity-building of gerontological social workers: A qualitative evaluation of a blended social work baccalaureate and a gerontology graduate program
Jocelyn Hermoso, San Francisco State University, United States of America

Methodological Choices behind Transparent Staffing Benchmarks for Romanian Social Services
Mihai Vilnoiu, World Bank

Sustainability of Delivering Integrated Community Services in Romania's Marginalized Communities
Daniel Arpinte, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania
Eugen Glăvan, University of Bucharest, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania
Mădălina Manoilă, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania
Anca Monica Marin, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania

19.00-19.15 **CLOSING SESSION SECOND DAY** *[plenum, Council Room]*

19.15-21.00 **CONFERENCE DINNER**

Friday, November 6st

Session: **Education, Research, Training, and Capacity Building**		
09:00-10:45	Council room	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Martin Lu Kolbinger

Perceptions and Practices of Self-Care: A Cross-National Study of Social Workers in Israel and Romania
Einav Segev, School of Social Work, Faculty of Therapeutic Professions, Sapir Academic College, Israel
Florin Lazăr, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Preparing Social Workers for Digitalization: Are AI, VR and Conversational Avatars Missing from Social Work Education?
Anastasia Karpunina, School of Sociological Studies, Politics and International Relations University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
Nicoleta Filip, PhD student, Doctoral School of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania
Adrian Cristian Titorencu, PhD student, Doctoral School of Social Work, University of Bucharest

Tackle the Future through Experimental Education
Martin Lu Kolbinger, University of Applied Sciences, Salzburg/ Angewandte Sozialwissenschaften, Austria

What ethics? Whose ethics? The continually contested and evolving ground for social work in Aotearoa New Zealand
Angie Dang, Te Wananga O Aotearoa, New Zealand

Session: **Leadership and Governance in Social Work**		
09:00-10:45	Amphitheatre 103	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Joan Marie Blakey

When Values Are Tested: Social Work Leadership, Crisis, and Advocacy Under U.S. Federal Immigration Enforcement
Joan Marie Blakey, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, School of Social Work, United States of America

Integrated Complexity: Embedding an Anti-Racist Model within Local Authority Children's Services
Antonia Ogundayisi, University of Essex, United Kingdom

Global Social Work Frameworks and Local Realities in Night Shelters
Adrian Godeanu, Head of the Night Shelter at the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (District 6), Master of Science - Universitatea Națională De Știință și Tehnologie, Bucharest, Romania

Who Gets Heard? Decolonising Leadership and Governance Through the Emotional Lives of Black African Social Workers
Mary Francis, Principal Social Worker, Adult Social Care

From Episodic Inspection to Continuous Oversight: SafeServe - A Proof of Concept for Digital Governance of Long-Term Care Services in Romania
Alexandru Artimon, Manuela Sofia Stănculescu, Georgiana Blaj - World Bank

Session: **Leadership and Governance in Social Work**		
09:00-10:45	Room 107 and Online	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Tatiana Casado

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Educational Technology and Gamification for Curriculum Integration in Social Work Education: A Case-Based Escape Room
Tatiana Casado, Department of Philosophy and Social Work, University of the Balearic Islands, Palma, Spain
Sofía Villatoro Moral, Department of Applied Pedagogy and Educational Psychology, University of the Balearic Islands, Palma, Spain
Elena Cuartero-Castañer, Department of Philosophy and Social Work, University of the Balearic Islands, Palma, Spain

Preparing social work supervisors as leaders: Findings from a Design and Development study
Nadia von Wielligh, Hugenote Kollege, South Africa

Energy Poverty: A Challenge for Social Work and Policymakers
Iva Tichá, Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Nikola Francáková, Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Social Work Education in Portugal: the role of sociospatial approaches
Elisete Diogo, CARE-Research Center on Health and Social Sciences, Portalegre Polythecnic University, Portugal and REPENSSE - Rede de Estudos, Pesquisa, Extensão e Ensino sobre Serviço Social e Educação, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Daniela Monteiro, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Department of Social Sciences and territory, Universidade Aberta, Brasil

Between formal planning and relational practice: Challenges for service coordination in Spanish social services

Tatiana Casado, Department of Philosophy and Social Work, University of the Balearic Islands, Palma, Spain
Sonia Delali Acheampong, Department of Child Welfare and Social Work, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway
Walter Schönfelder, Department of Child Welfare and Social Work, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway

10.45-11.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

Session: **Global and Local Perspectives**		
11:00-12:45	Council room	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Florin Lazăr

Children, Marriage, and Social Value: Interrogating the 'Stigmatised Merchandise' Metaphor in Yoruba Divorce Narratives "Children, Marriage, and Social Value: Interrogating the 'Stigmatised Merchandise' Metaphor in Yoruba Divorce Narratives

Folake Olubunmi Lanre-Babalola, Department of Social work, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria
Musediq Olufemi Lawal, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria
Gbadebo Fatai Adeleke, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria

The predictability power of the ICD-11 adjustment disorder components: A longitudinal study using ROC curves comparison

Menachem Ben-Ezra, School of Social Work, Ariel University, Ariel, Israel
Yafit Levin, School of Social Work, Ariel University, Ariel, Israel
Martin Robinson, School of Psychology, Queen University of Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom
Shir Mor-Ben-Ishai, School of Social Work, Ariel University, Ariel, Israel
Brigitte Lueger-Schuster, Unit of Psychotraumatology, Department of Clinical and Health Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, School of Social Work, Ariel University

Social Work in a Mobile Europe: Practice-Based Reflections on the Transnational Lifeworlds of Romanian Migrants in Germany

Doinița Grosu, B-Tu Cottbus-Senftenberg, Faculty of Human Sciences, Institute of Social Work, Germany

Competency Gaps among Romanian Social Services Professionals: The Role of Individual and Institutional Factors
Adriana Lavinia Bulumac, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Social Work Department, University of Bucharest
Florin Lazăr, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

The Role of Spirituality in Alcoholism Recovery in the Context of 12-Step Programs
Adriana Lavinia Bulumac, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Social Work Department, University of Bucharest

Session: **Social Work and Policy-Making**		
11:00-12:45	Room 107	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Adrian-Nicolae Dan

Absence of a Structured Policy as a Context for Shaping Parental Attitudes Toward Seeking Professional Mental Health Support in Pediatric Oncology
Elbaz Shevach, Department of Social Work, Ariel University Ariel, Israel

Understanding the needs of d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing Moscow's residents: insights for evidence-based policy development
Nikita Bolshakov, Associate Professor at the Department of Sociological Research Methods, HSE University, Russia

A Holistic Social Work Approach to Enhancing the Sustainable Empowerment of Rural Women Entrepreneurial Families in Sri Lanka (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Sector)
Sandya Sirikumara, National Institute of Social Development, Sri Lanka
Janaka Bandara, National Institute of Social Development, Sri Lanka

Same services, different economics: public and private social services in Romania
Attila Gabora, UBB Cluj
Manuela Sofia Stănculescu, World Bank

Blocked by Design: Structural Barriers to Social Work Voice in Post-Communist Europe
Carmen Elisa Goraș, University of Bucharest

Session: **Social Work and Policy-Making**

11:00-12:45	Amphitheatre 103 and Online	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Anna Broka

SWIC Conference - Online Room 1, Time zone: Europe/Bucharest
Google Meet Link: https://meet.google.com/qrp-yoxu-zgv

Bridging the Digital Divide in Welfare Services: Policy Recommendations for Older Adults in South Korea's Super-Aged Society (P)
Subin Kim, Ewha Womans University, South Korea

The social construction of ageing and old age in Roma communities from North-Western Romania: A life history approach
Florin Varga, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania

Multiple sclerosis beyond diagnosis: stigma, identity transformation, and the limits of institutional support
Aristica-Roxana Milică (Părăluță), University of Bucharest

Quality Assurance in Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities: Bridging Research, Practice, and Policy
Anna Broka, Rehabilitation, Social welfare and social work unit, Riga Stradins University, Latvia

The Hidden Long-Term Care Market: Evidence from Platform-Mediated Interactions in Romania
Georgiana Blaj, Manuela Sofia Stănculescu - World Bank

12.45-14.00 **LUNCH BREAK**

Session: **Social Work and Policy-Making**		
14:00-15:45	Amphitheatre 103 and Online	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Adrian-Nicolae Dan

SWIC Conference - Online Room 1, Time zone: Europe/Bucharest
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Assessment of the intention for professional reintegration among disability pension beneficiaries in Romania
Elena Magdalena Moghior, INEMRCM, Romania
Adrian-Nicolae Dan, Social Work Department, Faculty of Social Work and Sociology, University of Bucharest, Romania

Social vulnerability reflected in Romanian social policy regulations
Simona Maria Stănescu, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy (online presentation)

Evidence for Better Practice and Family Policy: Resilience in Kinship Care Families
Aiga Romāne, Meiere, University of Latvia, Latvia

Learning from Systemic Failure: Independent Monitoring as a Governance Mechanism for Policy Learning in Romanian Social Services
Theodora Ene, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Session: **Social Work and Policy-Making**		
14:00-15:45	Council room	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Einav Segev

Leadership, Advocacy, and Social Diplomacy: The Role of Social Workers in Migration and Refugee Response
Sherif Omar, Independent Researcher in Social Work, Egypt

'It Feels We're Invisible': Emotions of Early-Career Social Workers Engaged with At-Risk Youth in Wartime: An Ecological Mapping
Einav Segev, Sapir Academic college, Israel

Practice of Medical Social Workers' Support for A-bomb Survivors in the Budding period of Hibakusha Relief (P)
Kyoko Yamaji, Faculty of Health and Welfare, Prefectural University of Hiroshima, Japan
Satoko Tanaka, Faculty of Health and Welfare, Prefectural University of Hiroshima, Japan

Examination of Employment Support Measures Based on the Needs of Single Parents (P)
Satoko Tanaka, Faculty of Health and Welfare, Prefectural University of Hiroshima, Japan

Integrating Social Work into School Safety: A Proposal for a Visible Network of Trusted Adults
Marius-Ștefan Enescu, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Session: **Social Work and Policy-Making**		
14:00-15:45	Room 107 and Online	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Barbara Casula

SWIC Conference - Online Room 2, Time zone: Europe/Bucharest
Google Meet link link: https://meet.google.com/ibt-prdu-sqa

A Holistic Social Work Approach to Enhancing the Sustainable Empowerment of Rural Women Entrepreneurial Families in Sri Lanka (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Sector
Sandya Sirikumara, Research Officer, Research Division, National Institute of Social Development, Sri Lanka
Janaka Bandara, Lecturer, School of Social Work, National Institute of Social Development, School of Social Work, National Institute of Social Development, Sri Lanka

Equality on Paper, Discrimination in Practice? The Roma Experience in Romania
Elena Spiridon, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy

Rethinking Field Placement in Social Work Education: Towards Integrated and Innovative Teaching Practices
Barbara Casula, Università di Sassari, Italy
Laura Pinna, Università di Sassari, Italy

Stigma, Discrimination, Human Rights Violations, and Grievance Redress Mechanisms in HIV Service Delivery: A Social Work Assessment among Female Sex Workers and People Living with HIV in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (P)
Shambel Walle Worke, Addis Ababa Network of PLHIV Associations (ANOPA+), Ethiopia

15.45-16.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

Session: **Social Work and Policy-Making**		
16:00-17:45	Room 107 and Online	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Corina Ilinca

SWIC Conference - Online Room 2, Time zone: Europe/Bucharest
Google Meet link link: https://meet.google.com/ibt-prdu-sqa

The Invisible Policy Profession: Mapping the Place of Social Work in Governance in India
Joyashri Dey, Department of Social Work, Assam University, Silchar, India
Gitanjali Sharma, Research Scholar, Department of Social Work, Assam University, Silchar, India

Refugees with disabilities and the salience of their framework of reference
Bogdan Voicu, Romanian Academy/Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania
Alexandra Deliu, Romanian Academy/Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania
Florentina Teodora Mihalcea, Romanian Academy/Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania
Lucian Dinu, Romanian Academy/Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania
Mara Cace, Romanian Academy/Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania

New Social Services in Residential Care Homes in Poland – Opportunities and Challenges in the Process of Deinstitutionalisation (P)
Ewelina Zdebska, University of the National Education Commission in Kraków, Poland, The University of the National Education Commission in Kraków, Institute of Management and Social Affairs, Department of Social Work and Social Services

The Hidden Faces of Human Trafficking
Carmen Palaghia, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University, Iaşi, Romania

Session: **Social Work and Policy-Making**		
16:00-17:45	Council room and Online	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Daniela Niță

SWIC Conference - Online Room 3, Time zone: Europe/Bucharest
Google Meet Link: https://meet.google.com/fqj-cbmr-efy?authuser=1&hs=122

The social intervention needs of children left in the care of relatives in the context of parental economic migration
Cerasela Mihaela Tîrcolea, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mihaela Luminița Sandu, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mariana Floricica Călin, Ovidius University of Constanța

Parental divorce and the child's emotional development: the role of protective factors and social assistance interventions
Andreea Badea, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mihaela Luminița Sandu, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mariana Floricica Călin, Ovidius University of Constanța

Adolescents' Perception of Domestic Violence and the Role of the Social Worker in Prevention and Support
Cristian Ionescu, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mariana Ene, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mihaela Luminița Sandu, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mariana Floricica Călin, Ovidius University of Constanța

Public policies, social cohesion and implications for social work practice

Cristian Ionescu, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mihaela Luminița Sandu, Ovidius University of Constanța
Mariana Floricica Călin, Ovidius University of Constanța

Session: **Social Work and Policy-Making. Social Work Today**		
16:00-17:45	Amphitheatre 103 and Online	Friday, November 6st

Chair: Rebeca Cojocaru

SWIC Conference - Online Room 1, Time zone: Europe/Bucharest
Google Meet Link: https://meet.google.com/qrp-yoxu-zgv

Media narratives and drug policy in Romania (P)
Rebeca Cojocaru, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Ethnography as a Critical and Reflexive Stance: Developing Political Competencies in Social Workers in Migration Services
Alessia Fellin, Social Work Practitioner and Independent Scholar

The Influence of the Rise of the Far Right on Women's Trust in Social Services
Truță Carmen, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Trauma-Informed Courtroom Protections and Healthcare Access for Domestic Violence Survivors (P)
Rachel Gage, MSW Graduate Student, Department of Social Work, Liberty University
Healthcare Advocate and Researcher

17.45-18.00 **CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION** [Plenum, 102 amphitheatre]

Social Work International Conference (SWIC)
10th Edition
Voices for Change: Social Work Leadership in Policy and Advocacy
November 4th – 6th, 2026
Bucharest

Invited speakers



Jill Manthorpe, CBE, Hon PhD, MA, is Professor Emerita King's College London, visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and Queen's University Belfast, former Director of the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Health and Social Care Workforce, within the Policy Institute.

In this presentation Jill will outline some of the core propositions covering leadership in the social work profession – at national and local levels. She will illustrate this with some English initiatives; how do social workers lead? She will also consider the multiple facets of social work leadership in research – whether this is of social work research, about other topics or playing roles in research infrastructure. Using her experience, she will outline ways in which social work research leaders can influence and shape policy making. In the next section, Jill will identify components of practice leadership and in partnership through initiatives such as 'communities of practice'. In thinking about the relevance of leadership to practice, Jill will comment on one overall leadership imperative – the need to be listening to silenced voices. She will illustrate ways of hearing these in practice, in social work education, and in research.

Leadership models such as activism often encompass advocacy; Jill will recommend not seeing this too simplistically, but to understand the many approaches to advocacy and their operation at different levels and in different contexts. She will outline how it is becoming more nuanced than advocating *for* people with lived experience of social work, and more about advocating *with* people who want social work support. The notion of being an ally may resonate with experiences here. In terms of policy advocacy, she will address how trust can be earned with policy makers and relevant stakeholders; often with decisions needing to be taken about time pressures and choice of methods.

Jill will conclude with highlighting the importance of seeing followership as the other side of the leadership coin. She will draw attention to how that is increasingly considered in relation to research activity, but less so in education and practice. Making sure this is a constructive social relationship, combining the best of independent thinking with obligations to employers and people using social work services, is perhaps as great a challenge to the profession as the emphasis on leadership.

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Kristel Driessens is Associate Professor in the Master of Social Work at the **University of Antwerp,** lecturer in the Bachelor of Social Work and Senior Researcher at the **Research Centre for Social Inclusion** of **Karel de Grote University of Applied Sciences and Arts (KdG) in Belgium**. She coordinates **Bind-Kracht**, a training organisation on poverty and social work, recognised by the Flemish Government. Her research focuses on poverty, social exclusion, client perspectives in social work, empowerment, participatory research methodologies, and the integration of experiential knowledge into education, research, and policy.

This keynote explores how experiential knowledge can strengthen social work education, research, and policy by complementing scientific and professional expertise. Drawing on perspectives from structural social work, participatory research, and co-produced education, it argues that lived experience is a valuable form of knowledge that can contribute to understanding social problems and developing more effective responses.

With examples from our own practices in the fight against poverty in Flanders, we demonstrate how these initiatives promote critical reflection, transformative learning and a greater awareness of structural inequalities amongst students, social workers and policy makers. Particular attention is paid to issues of epistemic justice, a structural perspective on poverty and social exclusion and the risks of tokenistic participation.

Meaningful collaboration between experiential, professional, and scientific knowledge on complex social challenges is essential for creating more democratic, socially responsive, and socially just practices in education, research and policy.