

Social Workers Affecting Policy: Advances in Research
A pre-conference meeting of the ESWRA Research on Social Work
and Policy Engagement Special Interest Group

Amsterdam, April 6th, 2022

In recent years, there has been growing interest in diverse facets of the engagement of social workers in policy formulation and political processes. This body of research has examined the various routes that social workers have taken to impact policy, the forms that this policy engagement has taken, the degree of social worker involvement in it, and the impact of these efforts. Similarly, scholars have drawn on a range of theoretical approaches to better understand the factors associated with social workers' policy engagement. Different research strategies tools have been employed in these efforts, among them comparative and case studies using quantitative, qualitative and historical methods. The goal of this meeting is to discuss cutting-edge research on social workers' policy engagement, to identify research challenges, and to create opportunities for collaborative research efforts.

The meeting will take place at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Wibautstraat 3b, Amsterdam.

You can register for the conference there between 8:30-9:30.

The meeting will take place between 9:30-15:15 and consist of three paper sessions. The sessions will comprise of three to four presentations in each (**15 minutes for each presentation and 5-10 minutes for discussion following it**).

The Meeting Program

9:30-10:45 *Advances in empirical knowledge on the policy engagement of social workers*

Chair: John Gal

Riccardo Guidi & Mara Sanfelici "Social workers' policy practice in Italy: Initial findings of a national research"

Agnieszka Zogata-Kusz "Between civic engagement and professional commitment? Czech social workers and policy advocacy"

Michelle Van der Tier & Koen Hermans "Exploring the micro-macro relationship: A micro-institutional analysis of accountability practices in social work"

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00-12:15 *Advances in the conceptualization of the policy engagement of social workers*

Chair: Idit Weiss-Gal

Roman Balaz "Bridging a gap: The conceptualization of power"

Collin Den Braber "Public deliberation and how to reach collective consent in a diverse society"

Shachar Timor-Shlevin, Koen Hermans & Rudi Roose "Policy practice as radical incrementalism: Bridging the gap between minor and major challenges to neo-managerialism"

12:30 – 13:15 Lunch Break

13:15 – 14:55 *Advances in the study of facets of policy engagement*

Chair: Riccardo Guidi

Mary Nienow "Professional socialization of macro practice social workers"

Sigrid Leitner & Klaus Stolz "Political careers of social workers in Germany"

Hani Nouman "Breaking the glass ceiling? Minority social workers as policy actors"

Tobias Kindler & Dieter Kulke "Politicized social work future? A quantitative study comparing social work students' voluntary political participation in Austria, Germany and Switzerland"

14:55-15:15 *Concluding discussion and future plans*

Riccardo Guidi, Idit Weiss-Gal and John Gal