

## A look inside Practice Research

The main aim of Social Work Research (SWR) is to develop knowledge in support of the mission and purposes of Social Work as a discipline and a profession. Along with this mandate come recurring discussions about the current state of SWR focusing on “both existing and new methods may be relevant in continuing to develop the ways in which the complexities of practice are researched. An inclusive approach (recognizing multiple perspectives) is important in articulating paradigms therefore purely quantitative or purely qualitative approaches are seldom applicable. Practice research may often require creating new methods or innovatively using existing methods in ways which are congruent with the principles of collaboration, complexity, dialogue, relationality and contextuality.” (Salisbury Statement 2008)

This statement shows the need for founding and orienting concepts in order to better study, develop and transcend knowledge which emerges directly from the complex practices themselves. For this demand, Practice Research seeks theoretical orientation to develop our understanding of the best ways to research the complexity of practice and suffice its own standards. In 2020, the *Handbook of Practice Research* was published, representing the current state of the art of the approach - a comprehensive work that captures the facets and the essence of Practice Research.

In this year’s meeting the SIG Social Work Practice Research would like to take the time to take a close look inside Practice Research and its academic world. We focus on theoretical foundations, concepts and epistemologies on which we base ourselves as practice researchers. In a way we are all practitioners, whether in research or in social work, using similar tools but with different depth/scope/manifestation. We want to go beyond *doing practice research* and think deeper about methodology, theoretical foundations, research ethics and diversity in its approaches.

We would like to pause together in order to move forward in conceptualizing and understanding PR, its promises, its potential, conditions and its position in the discipline. This can not only be developed in books. In good PR-tradition, we explore the concepts of knowledge and knowledge production to proceed in what started 2008 with the Salisbury Statement: What are the theoretical foundations on which we base ourselves? What disciplinary concepts of knowledge underpins our research? What features characterize Practice Research? What are the implications on roles, relations and interactions and where do they connect?

Main aim is to elaborate and go into dialogue about the theoretical basis of SWPR.

### Conference committee

Caterine Torbjørnsen Halås - Centre for Practical Knowledge, Nord University (Norway)

Elke Plovie - University of Applied Sciences UC Leuven-Limburg (Belgium)

Sui Ting Kong - Department of Sociology, Durham University (UK)

Vera Taube - Faculty of Social Work, University of Applied Science Würzburg (Germany)

Lars Uggerhøj - Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University (Denmark)

Martine Ganzevles – HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (the Netherlands)

Program of the SIG Meeting Social Work Practice Research 09.30 – 15.30

09.30 – 09.45 **Welcome and opening**

09.45 – 10.15 **Opening Keynote**

*Social Work Practice Research is here, and is here to stay - An overview and introduction to today's topics of discussion*

By Vera Taube, Professor of Social Work, University of Applied Science Würzburg, Germany and Martine Ganzevles, Researcher and Lecturer in Social Work, HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, The Netherlands

10.15 – 11.45 **Parallel working session I** – including small break

*Resilience of Social Workers in Health Care Settings during COVID-19 in Australia: informing a model for practice*

By Lynette Joubert, Professor of Social Work, University of Melbourne, Australia

*Dialogical participation as leading principle of feminist practice research in the field of intimate partner violence*

By Regina-Maria Dackweiler, Professor of Social Work, Hochschule RheinMain, University of Applied Sciences, Wiesbaden, Germany

11.45 – 12.45 **Lunch Break**

12.45 – 14.15 **Parallel working session II** – including small break

14.15 – 15.00 **Concluding Keynote**

*Theory and Practice Research: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly*

By Bruce Thyer, Professor of Social Work, Florida State University, USA

15.00 - 15.30 **Wrap up, new SIG convener, evaluation, plans for 2022 and topics for SIG conference at ECSWR 2023**

Lars Uggerhøj, Professor of Social Work, Aalborg University, Denmark