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## Historical perspectives in social work research

Date & time: Friday January 27, 2023 from 9u30 - 12u30 (Brussels time)

Join for free: <https://ugent-be.zoom.us/j/92695993717?pwd=dLNuQks1Rmg5ZDNSYzFVejAzVUpQT09>

Meeting ID: 926 9599 3717

Passcode: 2XTyYtr5

**09.30 - 09.45 - Welcome and introduction: Prof. dr. Rudi Roose (Ghent University, Belgium)**

**09.45 - 10.30 - Prof. dr. Lieselot De Wilde (Ghent University, Belgium)**



- ***The future of social work: interwoven with history***

In this presentation we will challenge and discuss 3 dominant and closely interconnected preconceptions about history and historical research: (1) the past is considered to be distant from the present (2) the past is considered to be absent from the present (3) the past consists of a single coherent story. In sum, the past is considered to be a closed and finished chapter in order to be the subject of historical research. This point of view implies a clear rupture between the past and the present which has been contradicted by numerous historical pedagogical research projects. These studies show that the past is not irrevocably gone but quite the opposite: appeals to the present. Leaving us with the complex issue of how Western welfare states can seize the opportunity to reflect on current policies while being inspired by the past. In this sense, social work should not distance itself from the pre-professional beginnings (Lorenz, 2007) but should try to find meaning in its confusing past. In order to re-imagine what contemporary and future social work might represent in the quest for social justice.

**Lieselot De Wilde** specialises in the history and philosophy of education. She gained her PhD in Educational Sciences (2015), focusing on governmental interventions in the parent-child relation during the 20th century. Her research interests include: childhood studies, history of childhood and youth and historical sociology of childhood. Her publications currently deal with foster care, personal files, citizenship and politics of apology. She mainly conducts qualitative research, e.g. oral history, biographical research and archival research. She is affiliated to the Department of Social Work & Social Pedagogy at Ghent University, Belgium.

**10.30 – 11.00 - Break**

**11:00- 11.45 - Prof. dr. Stefan Köngeter (Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland)**



- ***Transnational History of Social Work – Insights into the History of the Settlement House Movement and methodological reflections***

This talk will present insights into the transnational history of the Settlement House Movement. It will show the seemingly contradictory finding that the globalisation of industrial capitalism and knowledge production, which at first glance weakened the meaning of the nation, eventually strengthened its role in dealing with these global processes. The Settlement House Movement contributed to this transnational advancement of the nation (in form of the national welfare state) by interpreting and tackling the social question of the 19th and 20th century as a crisis of a national community. Against the background of the changing and ambivalent meaning of the nation as a common reference point for the settlement house movement, the presentation will continue with reflections on the methodological nationalism (i.e. neglecting or essentializing the nation state) in social work research and the importance of reflecting the translation of terms properly through time and space.

**Stefan Köngeter** is currently Professor for Social Work and co-head of the research institute 'Social work and social spaces'. His research interests comprise a broad range of topics in social pedagogy, social work and sociology: transnationalization of social welfare, history of social work and social pedagogy, child and youth care, residential care, professionalization of social pedagogy and social work. He is currently co-convening the Special Interest Group "Social Work, History, and Research" of ESWRA. Recent research projects dealt with the transnationalisation of the settlement house movement in Germany and Canada and the translation of social work ideas between Germany and Palestine in the 1920s and 1930s.

**11.45 - 12.30: Questions and debate**