CALL FOR ABSTRACT

"Ethics and Social Work - Etica e servizio sociale"
September 10-13, 2017, Enna, Italy

Ethical values have always occupied a fundamental place in the shaping of the identity and professional priorities of social workers. Despite this long tradition, there is currently a growing need to pay attention to these ethical dimensions. This need is linked to deep transformations occurring in the field of welfare systems, with the heavy impact of neoliberal policies that reduce spaces of professional discretion and responsibility, the dramatic reduction of resources which threaten the founding values of welfare as way to guarantee rights and social justice. At the same time demographic changes, growing inequalities, globalization and scientific developments seem too many to suggest deep changes in 'common values' – and perhaps, to put in question whether that idea can any longer be sustained.

The international definition of social work emphasizes an orientation towards social justice, sustainable development and respect for human rights. Yet while these are principles to which all adhere in theory, they are sometimes disregarded, compromised or not sufficiently considered in everyday practice.

Ambiguities, frequent contradictions / conflicts, paradoxical situations and complex decisions put professional practices under a constant strain. Lack of time and excessive workloads reduce the practical spaces to discuss and manage dilemmas in ethically sensitive ways. In such a climate, attention to the detail and complexity of ethical dimensions of social work may slip into the background, overcome by other pressures.

It is therefore vital to return attention to the ethical dimension, both in terms of theoretical analysis as well as in research and professional practice.

Following these considerations, the conference aims to:

- Re-launch the debate on ethics and social work, in the light of the challenges posed by current socio-political conditions and emerging phenomena.
- Provide opportunities to discuss and explore the meanings, impacts and implications of social work values in the context of recent social and cultural change.
- Provide a space for sharing and discussion about deontology and professional ethics.

Submission instructions: www.ethicsandsocial.com/abstract-en/

Submission deadline (NEW!): June 15, 2017

Through plenary contributions of national and international scholars alongside single presentations in parallel sessions, the Conference aims to address five main topics:

- Social change and social work value frameworks. Continuity and discontinuity.
- Actual ethical dilemmas and their implications for professional practice.
- Teaching ethics and continuous education in ethics and deontology.
- Areas of professional practice where there is a high likelihood of acting in contravention of the code of ethics.
- Codes of conduct and control of the professional community.

In light of these topics we invite you to submit your contributions to one of the following areas:

1) Ethical dilemmas in different areas of intervention.

   a. Children and family, child protection.
   b. Older people.
   c. Persons with disabilities or mental health problems.
   d. Severely marginalized people (e.g., homeless people, the Roma population...).
   e. People in the criminal justice system (e.g., detained, under probation…).
   f. Refugees and asylum seekers.

2) Ethics and code of conducts in Social work education. University education and continuous education

3) The control of the professional community: role, rules, functions, effectiveness

4) Ethics and code of conducts in relations with colleagues

5) Ethics and code of conducts in relations with organisations

6) Tools supporting professional ethics and decision making

7) Professional ethics and supervision

Further information: info@av-eventieformazione.it