

# THE NORDIC BALTIC DOCTORAL NETWORK IN SOCIAL WORK (NBSW)

12th Summer School 10th - 14th August 2020 Helsinki, Finland



## *Experiences, encounters and engagement in social work research*

to be hosted by the Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki (Finland), in cooperation with the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki and Sosnet – The Finnish National University Network for Social Work.

The Nordic-Baltic Doctoral Network in Social Work (NBSW) is a joint network of the doctoral schools, universities and other institutions in social work in seven countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

We invite PhD students from the Nordic, Baltic and other countries to participate in the summer school. It aims to bring together PhD candidates in social work for five days of intensive lectures and discussions on experiences, encounters and engagements in social work research. Submission of a paper (optionally short or long, see further instructions below) connected with the theme of the summer school is a prerequisite for participation.

During the Summer School 2020 in Helsinki, special attention will be paid to the different, yet interlinked

aspects of experiences, encounters and engagement(s) in social work: What is the role of the *experiences* of various actors in social work? How do social policy reforms, the increasing application of technological tools and new organizational models and working methods affect *encounters* in social work? What are the possibilities of furthering *engaged* social work practices?

The role of **experiences** is vital within social work education and practice: Experiences during education and field placements have a substantial impact on students' identities and future choices. The experiences of social workers regarding different aspects of their work are central to their views, reactions and actions. Clients' experiences of encounters with social services are essential indicators of social work relationships and practices.

Social policy reforms and technological development(s) (automatization, digitalization etc.) affect, not only the working environments of social workers but also the service encounters and experiences of clients.

Thus, the Summer School will also focus on the changing faces of **encounters** (close encounters, distant encounters, or lack of encounters). Recent national and international studies have pointed to the various consequences of the “technological revolution” in social work. Some technical solutions have enabled closer and more meaningful encounters between social workers and clients. Other technological developments - often connected to more overarching administrative reforms - have, however, lead to more distant, shallow, or even non-existing encounters within social work. Thus, what are the possibilities for meaningful encounters and relationship building in the changing context of social work?

The concept of **engagement** can be understood as the key ingredient when conducting meaningful social work in the modern society. A central challenge in this era of technological revolution is

how to conduct engaging social work in a society in which a growing extent of encounters take place in a digital environment? Engagement is also a central aspect in terms of how social work organizations can engage social workers to remain within professional social work. How does one make social work engaging when social workers experience that they have too little time and too heavy a workload?

## DATES & TIMES

Monday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 from 13:00  
- Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 until 13:00

## PLACE

University of Helsinki, Swedish School of Social Science

## CONTACT

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### **For general questions:**

E-mail: [hanna.sjogren@helsinki.fi](mailto:hanna.sjogren@helsinki.fi)

### **E-mail for applications:**

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### **E-mail for submitting**

#### **papers:**

[helena.blomberg@helsinki.fi](mailto:helena.blomberg@helsinki.fi)

**LOOKING FORWARD TO  
MEETING YOU!**

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Helena Blomberg, Harry Lunabba and Christian Kroll  
(University of Helsinki) in cooperation with the  
coordination group of the Nordic-Baltic Doctoral  
Network in Social Work.

## PRELIMINARY PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

The summer school entails a course which provides 4 ECTS credits with a short paper (1000-2000 words) submission and presentation and 7.5 ECTS credits with a longer paper (6000-7000 words) submission and presentation. Papers and presentations must connect the participant's doctoral research project with the theme of the summer school.

## DEADLINES

April 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 - Application deadline

May 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 - Decisions about participation will be announced

May 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 - Literature list for reading, practical information for participants

June 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 - Paper submission deadline