

# SUMMER UNIVERSITY

June 30th - July 11th 2014

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## 5th SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN SOCIAL WORK

VULNERABILITY, EMPOWERMENT  
AND SOCIAL WORK

LAUSANNE  
**2014**

School of Social Work & Health Sciences | EESP | Lausanne  
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Summer University in social work  
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# Welcome

On behalf of the State of Vaud, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the School of Social Work and Health of Lausanne and to our 2014 Edition of the Summer University in social work.

As we want the Summer University to meet your needs – both in terms of concrete knowledge for your daily work and new perspectives on your work – it is important that during your two weeks here you can experience a widespread, fruitful and intensive networking with students and professors from all over the world.

Among the different activities during your stay here, lectures and debates will focus on « Vulnerability, empowerment and social work ». We hope that you will contribute with your reflections to these contents and acquire useful skills and experience for

the future.

At the Board of Higher Education, we develop research and education as an important part to sustainable growth. You have made a very sound investment: I am sure that it will expand your horizons as well.

I wish that your time in our School of Social Work and Health will be most interesting and rewarding.

Chantal Ostorero  
General Director  
Board of Higher Education, State of Vaud

# Welcome

HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts, along with its 19,000 students, is very proud to support the fifth edition of the Summer University in social work.

The Faculty of Social Work is one of our six faculties of HES-SO. The study courses are offered in 4 Schools located in Geneva, Fribourg, Sierre and Lausanne. They are all part of this event that will offer rich exchanges among all participants from different countries and cultures.

We wish you a very interesting Summer University and are very pleased to welcome you at EESP Lausanne, one of the HES-SO Schools.

Luciana Vaccaro  
Rector

HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland

# Summer University 2014

## VULNERABILITY, EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL WORK

The Summer University in social work aims at promoting exchanges between participants from various backgrounds, at facilitating comparative analysis and at stimulating new theoretical and professional approaches in social work. It offers a privileged place for discussions and debates to professors and students coming from many different countries (Switzerland, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, France, Italy, India, United States).

The theme of this edition is « **Vulnerability, empowerment and social work** ». We will discuss the complex interrelations between vulnerability and empowerment, two central concepts that are too frequently grasped separately in theoretical approaches.

The conferences and workshops will be based on the most recent researches.

The international dimension of the event will help thinking critically and comparatively about what drives social work practice, often caught between an excessive concern for the protection of the most vulnerable and an idealistic ambition to enhance individual responsibilities and capacities.

This theme will be developed in close collaboration with the national research program, LIVES, entitled «Overcoming vulnerability: life course perspective» (<http://www.lives-nccr.ch/en>).

# Program

Conferences, lectures, workshops in small groups, visits of social facilities and institutions, cultural and social events are on the program of the Summer University; these various activities offer a unique opportunity to address social work issues and to identify similarities and differences with the participants' own national or regional contexts.

- Conferences and lectures will provide the chance to hear internationally renowned specialists from social work, social sciences and humanities faculties of Switzerland, Canada, China, France, India, United States, ...
- Workshops organized for small groups, with methodological support, will enable students to develop their own

reflections, based on their social work experiences as well as on the themes of the lectures.

- Field visits to social work services and structures will help students understand how social workers deal with concrete issues related to vulnerability and empowerment.
- Social evenings and other informal events will facilitate socialization between students and professors.

Switzerland, a multilingual and multicultural country in the heart of Europe, is ideally situated to host this fifth Summer University in social work.

# Program of the Summer University 2014

Week I from June 30th to July 5th

Monday, June 30th	Tuesday, July 1st	Wednesday, July 2nd	Thursday, July 3rd	Friday, July 4th	Saturday, July 5th
CRITICAL APPROACHES	CRITICAL APPROACHES	EMPLOYMENT	MIGRATION	HEALTH	CULTURAL OUTING
<p><b>M. Garrau</b> University of Paris Ouest (France) The twofold meaning of vulnerability</p>	<p><b>M. Oris</b> University of Geneva (Switzerland) Vulnerability. A critical perspective on a travelling concept</p>	<p><b>J.-P. Tabin</b> HES-SO Lausanne (Switzerland) Age bias in social policies</p>	<p><b>C. Boltzman</b> HES-SO Geneva (Switzerland) Migration, resources and vulnerability: which challenges for social work?</p>	<p><b>C. Rossier</b> University of Geneva (Switzerland) Social differentials in non-communicable diseases mortality and risk factors in a West African city</p>	
<p><b>Ph. Milburn</b> University of Rennes 2 (France) Beyond the concept of «vulnerability»: policies and practices</p>	<p><b>M. Chimienti</b> HES-SO Geveva (Switzerland) Social movements of irregular migrants</p>	<p><b>J. Assi</b> SUPSI (Switzerland) Corporate social responsibility: what opportunities for public and non-profit sector?</p>	<p><b>G. Janguo</b> Shandong University (China) Migration population and social inclusion policy in China</p>	<p><b>P. J. Lizy</b> Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (India) Problems of rural elderly women in Kerala and the need for social work intervention</p>	<p>8:00-18:30 Visit of the Grande Dixence dam</p>
Workshops	Workshops	Institutional visit	Workshops	Workshops	
Workshops	Workshops				
Official opening					



# Program of the Summer University 2014

Week II from July 7th to July 11th

Monday, July 7th	Tuesday, July 8th	Wednesday, July 9th	Thursday, July 10th	Friday, July 11th
<b>ADDITION</b>	<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>AGEING</b>	<b>SOCIAL POLICIES</b>	
<p><b>D. Cohen</b> University of California Los Angeles (U.S.A) Empowerment and addiction</p>	<p><b>M. Modak</b> HES-SO Lausanne (Switzerland) Outsourcing childcare: enhancing familial empowerment or vulnerability?</p>	<p><b>S. Cavalli</b> SUPSI (Switzerland) Frailty in very old age</p>	<p><b>J.-M. Bonvin</b> HES-SO Lausanne (Switzerland) The impact of social policies on vulnerable people. A framework for a critical approach</p>	<p>..... <b>Students' presentations</b> .....</p>
<p><b>E. Kruk</b> University of British Columbia (Canada) Vulnerability, empowerment and social work practice in the field of addiction</p>	<p><b>R. McRoy</b> Boston College Graduate School of Social Work (U.S.A) Addressing the needs of vulnerable children and families</p>	<p><b>J.-F. Bickel</b> HES-SO Fribourg (Switzerland) Differential vulnerabilities and differential agency in aging, and the roles of public resources and services</p>	<p><b>L. Lima</b> Interdisciplinary laboratory of economic sociology, CNRS-CNAM (France) Social policies over the life course: some challenges for social work</p>	
Workshops	Institutional visit	Workshops	Workshops	<p>Closing conference <b>A. Grenier</b> McMaster University (Canada) Agency in the «fourth age»: The tension between vulnerability, expression and power</p>

09.00-10.30

11.00-12.30

14.00-17.00

# Lecture abstracts

Marie Garrau, Professor

University of Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense (France)

## The twofold meaning of vulnerability

Vulnerability can refer to a universally shared aspect of our human condition and be considered as an anthropological category; but vulnerability also increases depending on people's position in the social space, which means it can also be understood as a sociological category. In contemporary political philosophy, many authors conceive vulnerability first and foremost as an anthropological category. This is an important thing to do and an important move to criticize and displace the traditional vision of the human agent that we inherited from western philosophy. On the other hand, contemporary sociology has mainly focused on vulnerability conceived

as the product of social processes, insisting that we should always analyze vulnerability in the specific social contexts where it appears. In this communication, I will show that none of this perspective is fully convincing: conceiving vulnerability only as an anthropological category is problematic and can have unexpected political consequences. But so is conceiving it only as an effect of social processes, as sociology does it. I will argue that we should conceive vulnerability as having a twofold meaning and I will present the advantages of such a perspective as well as the questions it opens.

Garrau, Marie, « Regards croisés sur la vulnérabilité: «anthropologie conjonctive» et épistémologie du dialogue », Tracés, Hors série « Philosophie et Sciences sociales », novembre 2013.

Goodin, Robert, *Protecting the Vulnerable. A Reanalysis of our Social Responsibilities*, Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1985.

Nussbaum, Martha, « Human Functioning and Social Justice: In Defense of Aristotelian Essentialism », *Political Theory*, vol. 20, n° 2, 1992, pp. 204-240.

Philip Milburn, Professor  
University of Rennes 2 (France)

### Beyond the concept of «vulnerability» : policies and practices

The notion of «vulnerability» has spread as a key notion to define multiple situations and populations falling within the realm of public policies because of this status. It seems nowadays to cover most of the situations that used to be considered as pertaining to social protection, hence opening and closing gates to the different specific issues populations are facing. Its precise signification therefore deserves an in-depth examination to seize the rationales underpinning those policies. The presentation will at first invite you to a reflection on the contents given to the notion by its various promoters and users (social sciences, legal provisions, policy guidelines). With a few concrete examples, we will point out how the notion is inseparable to that

of responsibility, which comes as a definite counterpart in the ethical and technical categories borne by social policies.

The second part of the speech will aim at taking into account what consequences this process has on concrete practices unraveled by the policies. Vulnerability calls upon the «empowerment» of the populations – or rather the users or beneficiaries – in the designing of responses to their state and improvement of their situation. This implies a certain type of approach in social intervention and social work. How does the rationale of «vulnerability» influence these practices and what space is left for their specific issues beyond their social and policy status?

Artéan Marcel, Gandreau Lorraine, 2005, Empowerment : désirs et défis, Québec, CQEP.

Castel Robert, Haroche Claudine, 2005, Propriété privée, propriété sociale, propriété de soi. Entretiens sur la construction de l'individu moderne, Paris, Hachette.

Milburn Philip, 2013, « La catégorie de « vulnérabilité » et la question sociale ou le ressort d'une nouvelle gouvernamentalité » in : M. Bresson et al., Vulnérabilités, questions de recherche en sciences sociales, Fribourg, Presses Universitaires de Fribourg.

Michel Oris, Professor

University of Geneva, Center for the interdisciplinary study of gerontology and vulnerability, and NCCR LIVES (Switzerland)

### Vulnerability. A critical perspective on a travelling concept

From a scientific point of view, «vulnerability» is a travelling concept that does not belong to a specific discipline and, in this sense precisely, is a good candidate for an interdisciplinary journey. From a socioeconomic and political point of view, human vulnerability is a growing concern associated with more turbulent life courses and family dynamics, with the impact of economic changes in a global world on individual careers, with the injunction of self-realization, with the «psychologisation», if not the «pathologisation» of the social order. All those trends, especially the latter ones, deeply impact the conceptualisation and the practices of social work. Precariousness, exclusion, sufferings, distress, frailty are some of the associated concepts adopted by various disciplines, the whole resulting in quite a mess.

To operationalize vulnerability, to

disentangle between latent and realized states of vulnerability, to identify the processes of vulnerabilization but also of stability and resilience, to analyse the interactions between individual and social resources, the life-long construction of inequalities, the LIVES project takes the strengths of the life course and life span research traditions. With their roots in sociology and psychology, they offer experiences and tools for surveying as well as analysing longitudinal data with both quantitative and qualitative methods. More importantly, these research traditions bring an important body of theories. And indeed, LIVES challenge is to deepen the theories about vulnerability, to provide answers to citizen concerns and, ultimately, to help us to think and be actors of the needed renewal of the social policies and the social work.

Bresson, Maryse, Geronimi, Vincent, Pottier, Nathalie (2013), *La vulnérabilité : questions de recherches en sciences sociales*, Fribourg, Presses Universitaires de Fribourg.

Misztal, Barbara (2011), *The challenges of vulnerability. In search of strategies for a less vulnerable social life*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan.

Milena Chimienti, Professor

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland/HES-SO,  
Haute Ecole de Travail Social/HETS, Geneva

### Social movements of irregular migrants

Since the 1990s various social movements of people in vulnerable situations have arisen in Europe. In France, Spain and Switzerland in particular, movements of «undocumented» migrants have emerged since the mid 1990s claiming their collective regularization.

In this lecture we will try to understand why collective action by people in situations of vulnerability, who by definition seek to avoid the attention of authorities, occurs? And how people with few economic, social and legal resources manage

to mobilize collectively? So doing we will analyse the impact of irregular migration on conceptions of rights and citizenship.

This is of particular interest at a time when even the rights of «regular» migrants are subject to much debate and analysis. Second, we will explore the role of mobilisation by irregular migrants and their supporters. We will discuss scholarly debates about how to understand such mobilisation, as well as drawing on specific examples from France and the UK.

Balibar Etienne (2004). *We, the People of Europe?: Reflections on Transnational Citizenship*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chimienti Milena (2011). "Social movements of irregular migrants. A comparative analysis in Western Europe", *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 34(8): 1338-1356.

Chimienti Milena and Solomos John (2011). "Social Movements of Irregular Migrants, Recognition and Citizenship", *Globalizations*, 8(3): 343-360.

Chimienti Milena and Achermann Christin (2007). "Coping strategies of precarious migrants in relation to personal health and health structures: the case of asylum seekers and undocumented migrants in Switzerland", in Björngren Cuadra Carin and Cattacin Sandro (eds) *Difference Sensitivity from an Organisational Perspective*. Malmö : IMER, pp. 65–74.

Isin Engin F. (2009) "Citizenship in flux: the figure of the activist citizen", *Subjectivity*, 29, pp. 367–388.

Jean-Pierre Tabin, Professor

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland/HES-SO,  
Haute école de travail social et de la santé | EESP | Lausanne

### Age bias in social policies

« Young people that are neither in employment nor in education have become a serious concern for policy-makers, in particular in developed economies. This group, called "neet" (not in education, employment or training), often constitutes at least 10 % of the youth population, and disproportionately includes youth with a low level of education in developed economies. Many countries have introduced policies to tackle this phenomenon, targeting specific subgroups of the neet such as school drop-outs or unemployed youth » (International Labour Office, 2012).

In OECD countries, the problem of young people not being in education, employment or training (the so-called « NEET ») has been frequently raised in the political and social fields since

the beginning of the last crisis. I will discuss in this presentation the consequences of the use of age intervals in order to classify people. What is the reasoning behind the use of the NEET category in the political field? Do social workers who deal with youth unemployment endorse the political normativity about NEET? What normative representation of the life course stands behind this preoccupation? What kind of power relation is supported by this classification?

The communication is based on original empirical data collected in Switzerland within the framework of the NCCR Lives project (<http://www.livesnccr.ch/en>), IP 5, with the help of the doctoral student and researcher Anne Perriard).

Bacchi Carol (2009), *Analysing policy : what's the problem represented to be?*, Frenchs Forest, Pearson Education.

Calasanti Toni et Slevin Kathleen F. (dir.), (2006), *Age matters : realigning feminist thinking*, New York, London, Routledge.

Tabin Jean-Pierre et Enescu Raluca (2012), « The normative impact of unemployment insurance : a european perspective », *Journal of Comparative Social Work (JCSW)*, 2. [www.jcsw.no](http://www.jcsw.no).

Tabin Jean-Pierre, Probst Isabelle, Waardenburg George, Castelli Dransart Dolores Angela, Pasche Geneviève et Bolzman Claudio (2013), « Decommodification and welfare state : the case of workplace accident victims », *Revue suisse de sociologie*, 39(1), 129-146.

Yates Scott et Payne Malcolm (2006), « Not so NEET? A critique of the use of «NEET» in setting targets for interventions with young people », *Journal of Youth Studies*, 9(3), pp. 329-344.

Jenny Assi, lecturer and researcher,  
University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern  
Switzerland (SUPSI), (Switzerland)

### Corporate social responsibility: what opportunities for public and non-profit sector?

Neoliberal economic globalization has created the ideal conditions for multinational corporations to increase their profits and to maximize the value for shareholders by exploiting the economic, social and environmental resources of the planet. However, the numerous negative externalities generated by this line of action have highlighted the need to bring ethics back to the market. While governments are looking for new social and economic progress measurement indicators that do not simply consider GDP, companies are also asked to play their part, taking responsibility for their impact on society, and therefore becoming more socially responsible. In fact, companies are asked to abandon the shareholder value paradigm, and to adopt that of stakeholder value, in order to generate shared value for customers, suppliers, employees, the community, future generations, the public sector and society in general, as well as for the owner and the

shareholders. Effectively, corporate social responsibility is now the only way by which to increase quality of life and build a more sustainable society. In this new scenario companies are asked to collaborate with the State and with NGOs in order to find, and agree on, solutions that will make it possible to tackle various social problems (e.g. aging population, poverty, vulnerability, deprivation, social exclusion, work-life balance, health and working conditions, etc.). Although the shareholder value paradigm still largely prevails, an understanding of the Corporate Social Responsibility approach may provide an opportunity to think differently about the welfare state and social work. In fact, many interesting initiatives have been adopted by a number of major companies, that can therefore promote new forms of collaboration between the private, public and non-profit sectors, with the aim of reinforcing social cohesion and promoting well-being.

Assi J., Carletti C. & Klaus R., *Per un nuovo dialogo tra mercato e società*, Ed. Salvioni, Bellinzona, 2006.

Assi Jenny, Lucchini Mario, Spagnolo Amedeo, *Mapping Patterns of Well-Being and Quality of Life in Extended Europe*, *International Review of Economics*, vol. 59 issue 4 December 2012. p. 409 - 430.

Lucchini Mario, Assi Jenny, «Mapping Patterns of Multiple Deprivation and Well-Being using Self-Organizing Maps: an Application to Swiss Household Panel Data», *Social Indicators Research*, vol. 112 issue 1 May 2013. p. 129 - 149.

Claudio Bolzman, Professor

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland/HES-SO,

Haute Ecole de Travail Social/HETS, Geneva and chief of the IP2 du PRN LIVES

### Migration, resources and vulnerability: which challenges for social work ?

This presentation explores the relationship between migration, resources and vulnerability, taking into account life course and citizenship perspectives. It argues that there are specific forms of vulnerability affecting international migrants and also that it is important to identify individual and collective resources necessary to overcome vulnerability. With respect to vulnerability, one of the main risks experienced by migrants is to become denizens, that is not being recognized anymore as full members of the society, as human beings having «the right to have rights», as persons with the possibility to influence the common destiny (Arendt). The status of a denizen is also related to the conditionality of the presence and to uncertain residence in the "host" society. These processes can lead to cumulative inequalities. In relation to

resources, they are not independent from a specific context. They are built up in a specific social, economic, cultural, political and institutional setting. One of the main challenges of migrants is to transfer their resources from one society to another, and this is seldom a simple and one-dimensional process. Migration is also an opportunity to discover new resources and to mobilize them in order to improve the situation. Social work can play an important role in accompanying migrants transfer or create resources, to reinforce their status of citizens, but sometimes in impeding them to mobilize their resources and claim their citizen rights. Challenges and opportunities are not the same according to stages of life course at the moment of migration. The presentation will be illustrated with examples from different researches.

Arendt, H. (1982), «Le déclin de l'Etat-Nation et la fin des droits de l'homme» in *L'impérialisme*, Paris, Fayard.

Bolzman C. (2012), «Democratization of ageing: also a reality for elderly immigrants?» in *European Journal of Social Work*, 15, 1, pp. 97-113.

Vuille M., Bolzman C. & Hirsch Durrett E. (2013), «Professional stances and personal values in the realm of transnational family reunification with older parents: social work practice in an emerging field», *European Journal of Social Work*, 15, 3., pp. 407-426.

Wall, K, Bolzman, C. (2013). «Mapping the New Plurality of Transnational Families: A Life Course Perspective». In Baldassar, L. & Merla, L. (Eds.), *Transnational Families, Migration and the Circulation of Care. Understanding Mobility and Absence in Family Life* (pp. 68-96)., Oxon, Routledge.



Gao Jianguo, Professor

Department of Social Work, School of Philosophy and Social Development, Shandong University (China)

### Migration population and social inclusion policy in China

The total number of migrant population in China had reached 250 million in 2011, which is among the largest size and the highest rate of internal migrations in the world. However, the unique household registration system of China distinguishes Chinese internal migration from migration in other developing countries. Migrant population in China is systematically blocked from equal access to the opportunities and resources in employment, residence, education and social welfare benefits. One of the social problems caused by floating migration is its certain negative effects on the family members left behind in the rural areas. The problems from social and economic gaps between migrant workers and urbanites are crucial for overall development. There are various essential factors that determine the social

inclusion process, such as evolution of market-oriented economy, government's strategies in the pattern of urbanization, and more broad social and political participation. The new social work profession in China has begun to fulfill its positive role in three main domains: policy advocacy, education and direct services. Social workers can find better approaches through understanding the lived, subjective experiences of the individual migrants, as well as their cultural, historical and social background. The important policy priorities in the context of globalization include integrating residence and household registration, coordinating the multi-track social security systems, removing any discrimination on migrant status in compulsory education, and improving public goods provision in rural communities.

Hu, Xiaochu (2012). China's «New Generation» Rural-Urban Migrants: Migration Motivation and Migration Patterns. *Migration Information Source*, 2012. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1978546>.

Kam Wing Chan (2012). Migration and development in China: trends, geography and current issues, *Migration and Development*, 1:2, 187-205. To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/21632324.2012.739316>.

Wang Xiaolin and Zhang Lu (2013). Social Exclusion of the Migrant Population in China. *International Poverty Reduction Center in China, 2013 Working Paper Series No.4*. <http://www.iprc.org/front/article/article.action?id=3978>.

Xiang Biao (2005). How far are the left-behind left behind? A preliminary study in rural China. *Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, Working Paper No. 12*, University of Oxford, 2005.

Clémentine Rossier, Assistant Professor  
Institute of Demographic and Life Course Studies (I-DEMO)  
University of Geneva (Switzerland)

### **Social differentials in non-communicable diseases mortality and risk factors in a West African city: Implications for contextualized prevention programs**

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) now account for more than half of the global burden of disease and this share is expected to continue to increase in the coming decades. The greatest increase is expected in Africa. This shift in the balance of causes of death has several roots. As child mortality decreases in the poorest countries, more individuals survive to adulthood, when the risk of NCD death is greater. In addition, important economic, social, and cultural transformations are taking place in low income countries which propel more individuals to adopt less healthy habits; these changes are magnified among the burgeoning urban populations. As a result of these varied evolutions, the expected growth in NCDs in cities is one of the most important health challenges of the coming decades in Sub-Saharan countries. However, it is not clear to date whether the poor and slum dwellers are more likely to be obese and/or have cardiovascular diseases in African cities, as has

been documented in other regions of the world. Indeed, NCD could also touch all social classes and all types of neighborhoods in these cities. A sound knowledge based on socio-economic and contextual differentials in NCDs and their risk factors in urban Sub-Saharan Africa is needed to develop well-targeted NCD prevention and management strategies for African cities. The work presented here aims to fill the gap in our understanding of socio-economic differentials in NCD risk in low and middle income neighborhoods in urban Africa. Using data from Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, it documents differences in NCD mortality among adults aged 35 and over in formal versus informal neighborhoods. It also documents prevalence of behavioral risk factors of NCDs in these neighborhoods (tobacco use, alcohol consumption, physical activity, overweight, and hypertension), and draws implications for the contextualization of prevention programs.

Alwan A. et al. 2010. «Monitoring and surveillance of chronic non-communicable diseases: progress and capacity in high-burden countries.» *The Lancet*, 376:1861–1868.

Solomons NW. 2005. «Programme and policy issues related to promoting positive early nutritional influences to prevent obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease in later life: a developing countries view». *Matern Child Nutr*; 1(3):204-215.

World Health Organization. 2011. *Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2010*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Ziraba A. K., Fotsos J. C., Ochako R. 2009. «Overweight and obesity in urban Africa: A problem of the rich or the poor?» *BMC Public Health*; 9: 465.

P.J. Lizy, Assistant Professor

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Department of Social Work, Kerala  
(India)

### Problems of rural elderly women in Kerala and the need for social work intervention

One of the most important improvements in the health sector is the rapid increase of the aged population i.e. the population aged 60 years and above. India had 90 million elderly persons in 2011, with the number expected to grow to 173 million by 2026. Of the 90 million senior citizens, 30 million are living alone, and 90 per cent work for a livelihood (Aarti Dhar, 2012). Longevity leads to increasing vulnerabilities of the elderly, arising out of poverty, rural living, income insecurity, illiteracy, age-related morbidity, dependency, decreasing support base, etc. There is multiple discrimination experienced by older persons in India, particularly older women, including access to jobs and health care, subjection to abuse, denial of the right to own and inherit property, and lack of basic minimum income and social security (UNFPA & HelpAge

International, 2012). Higher levels of abuse are reported by the elderly living in rural areas compared to those in urban areas. With a large population, second only to China, India has to give serious attention to the issues relating to the aged population.

Present study has been conducted to enquire about the problems and life satisfaction of the rural elderly women in Kerala and thereby the need for social work intervention. The data has been collected through a self-structured interview schedule. The results of the study reveal that: More than half of the elderly women face various problems and are dissatisfied with their health. About one fifth of the women are not satisfied in their life, an immediate area of social work intervention.

Aarti Dhar, (2012), «Concerns Over an Aging India», The Hindu, October 7.

UNFPA and HelpAge International, (2012), «Ageing in the Twenty-First Century : A Celebration and A Challenge», UNFPA and HelpAge International Publishers.

David Cohen, Professor

UCLA, Luskin School of Public Affairs, Los Angeles (USA)

### Empowerment and addiction

The modern technical discourse on addiction (to substances) is strongly influenced by biological psychiatry and the institutional mental health movement, which view «substance abuse» it as a biological vulnerability and which assign hope for resolving the problem to future, speculative scientific discoveries concerning the human brain and genome rather than the transformative, purposeful actions of individuals, groups, and societies in their environment. The analysis of power and powerlessness, and the causal role of oppression in producing

addictive behaviors in disenfranchised individuals, is central to the empowerment perspective. As well, definitions of addiction and foci on illicit rather than prescribed substances need to be considered. In this presentation, we will apply an empowerment perspective — focusing on the relations between oppression and individual powerlessness, dependence, and inefficacy — to the issue of addiction to substances in the United States (concepts, definitions, practices, and policies).

Freeman, E. M. (2013). *Substance abuse intervention, prevention, rehabilitation, and systems change: Helping individuals to empower themselves*. New York: Columbia University Press.

McCubbin, M., & Cohen, D. (2003). *An empowering approach to mental health social work*. GRASP Working Papers, Université de Montréal. Available at: <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.199.7629&rep=rep1&type=pdf>.

### Vulnerability, empowerment and social work practice in the field of addiction

A social work understanding of addiction will be elaborated through an exploration of the work of two leading Canadian visionaries specializing in the field of addiction: Gabor Mate's («In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts») examination of the role of trauma in the etiology of addiction, and Bruce Alexander's («The Globalization of Addiction») focus on dislocation as a precursor of addiction. I will discuss how these theories have informed my work on the unique needs of women struggling with substance addiction, and implications for policy and practice with women in addiction recovery. In particular, I will examine the results and implications of two recent studies, on the core components of an effective residential recovery program from the perspective of a highly vulnerable group of marginalized women struggling with hard drug addiction, and on the engagement of substance using pregnant women in addiction recovery. Both studies

identified three core needs of women that are often overlooked in mainstream addiction recovery programs: biopsychosocial-spiritual safety, order and predictable routines within a supportive structured environment, and social connection and reconnection. Both studies point to the need for an empowerment-based approach to practice with women that emphasizes a biopsychosocial-spiritual, strengths-based, individualized, collaborative and non-prescriptive orientation, and the establishment of a hierarchy of needs, menu of choices, and trauma-informed intervention. Elements of both an abstinence-based and harm reduction-oriented treatment program, a blend of traditional and non-traditional methods, are vital for this population. I will conclude with an overview of the role of social work at both the macro and micro levels in the field of addiction, with an emphasis on policy and practice with marginalized women struggling with hard drug addiction.

Alexander, B. (2008). *The Globalization of Addiction*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

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Mate, G. (2008). *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction*. Toronto: Alfred Knopf.

Marianne Modak, Professor

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### Outsourcing childcare: enhancing familial empowerment or vulnerability?

Within social work practices, both notions of vulnerability and of empowerment are often implicitly related, as if a vulnerability situation would necessarily indicate needs to be provided for. Parents made vulnerable by their troubling adolescent would thus find a way out with parental support measures they are thought to be praying for.

Questioning the meanings embedded in this kind of implicit link, my communication presents a theorization elaborated with Pascal Gaberel about «outsourcing childcare», i.e. the distribution of upbringing and education activities a child requires within and outside the nuclear family towards various service providers, as the State, the market economy, and the primary networks.

If studies document extensively these service providers, to analyze the outsourcing process from a family members' perspective is much less common: what does it mean for the

latter on a day-to-day basis? How does it affect their cohesion? Such an analysis shows the impact this outsourcing has on the dynamics of the family, forced to constantly change the delimitations of its private sphere. At the social level, this means that families are at the same time the object and the subject of their own adaptation to the process, relatively to their insertion in the economy and the primary networks, and to their accordance with social policies.

Consuming costly resources unequally distributed, this process empowers families that control the relationships within their environment; but it may as well strengthen the vulnerabilities to be solved (in front of the coordination of multiple external actors for example). In fact, childcare outsourcing appears as an important work, penalizing some families and preventing social integration for some others.

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Ruth McRoy, Professor

Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, Boston (USA)

### Addressing the needs of vulnerable children and families

The intersection between family structure, poverty and child well-being are significant issues in the field of social work today. It is important to examine children's economic status, living arrangements, and child well-being over time, in order to identify trends and find ways to improve family outcomes. This session is designed to explore the knowledge, skills and values of students about issues associated with vulnerable children

and families throughout the world. Socio-economic and demographic data will be provided to contextualize the discussion of children and families in poverty and specific examples will be given of challenges, as well as risk and protective factors. Research findings and case examples will be used to highlight strategies that have been developed to improve child and family outcomes. Policy recommendations will be provided.

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Stefano Cavalli, Professor

Center of Competence on Aging, Department of Health Sciences,

University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)

### Frailty in very old age

One of the aims of the life course perspective is to analyze how, in a given society, the biographical experience is structured and organized (Dannefer 2003; Cavalli, 2007). Nowadays, in Western countries, the period after retirement can be divided into two stages: A «third age» where people enjoy relatively good health and lead an active life rich in opportunities, followed by a «fourth age» where senescence makes uncertain the daily life. But where is the boundary between these two stages of life situated? And what are the specificity and challenges of the very old age? Using Swiss and international data – e.g., «Changes and events across the life course», «European Social Survey», «Swiss Interdisciplinary Longitudinal Study on the Oldest Old»

–, both quantitative and qualitative, we will see how the fourth age can be defined using the concept of frailty, a multisystem reduction in reserve capacity (Lalive d'Epinay and Cavalli, 2013; Spini, Ghisletta, Guilley and Lalive d'Epinay, 2007). The very old age is not synonymous of disease and dependency (or even poverty and loneliness). Frail elders are at risk for adverse outcomes like falls, hospitalization or institutionalization, but gains (i.e. desirable changes) are possible until very late in life, and people are often able to cope with the difficulties. We will also have the opportunity to debate about the generalization of these remarks in other national contexts, and discuss their application in the practice of social workers.

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Dannefer, D. (2003). Toward a global geography of the life course. Challenges of late modernity for life course theory. In J. T. Mortimer & M. J. Shanahan (Eds.), *Handbook of the life course* (pp. 647-659). New York: Kluwer.

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Jean François Bickel, Professor

University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Western Switzerland – School of Social Work at Fribourg (Switzerland)

### Differential vulnerabilities and differential agency in aging, and the roles of public resources and services

Aging is a multi-layered, bio-psychological process, which may be considered as a core component of the inherent vulnerability of the human being. But it is also highly differential across individuals, times and places in the exposure to (some of) its manifestations, in the capacities and ways to cope with it, in its consequences for the daily life and participation in groups and society. This differential (partly social) vulnerability to aging intersect with another component of the human vulnerability: the social nature of the human beings and their dependence to others and collectivities for their own development, for accessing to resources and opportunities to secure actual life conditions and future life chances, to open the scope and effectiveness of their agency, for building personal meanings and identities. This inherently social vulnerability of the human (social) beings is hugely differential, too.

Within this very broad framework, the specific aims of the conference are threefold. First, to give insights on the extent to which those (differential) vulnerabilities have maintained or/and changed during the last decades, as well as how they evolve while old persons advance in age; various dimensions will be examined independently as well as how they intersect, with situations either of compensation between each other, or of accumulation of problems and disadvantages. Second, to throw light on the specific roles played by the access to public resources and services in these dynamics of compensation or accumulation. Lastly, to examine how these dimensions and their intersections relate to a differential agency and capacity to participate to the socio-cultural and public life. In conclusion, the contingency of the agency of the aging individuals will be emphasized.

Bickel, J.-F. (2014). La participation sociale, une action située entre biographie, histoire et structures. In C. Hummel, I. Mallon & V. Caradec (Eds.), *Veilles et vieillissements. Regards sociologiques* (pp. 207-227). Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes.

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Lalive d'Epinay, C., Bickel, J.-F., Maysire, C., & Vollenwyder, N. (2000). *Veilles au fil du temps. 1979-1994: une révolution tranquille*. Lausanne: Réalités sociales.

Lalive d'Epinay, C., & Spini, D., et coll. (2008). *Les années fragiles. La vie au-delà de quatre-vingts ans*. Québec: Les Presses de l'Université Laval.

Jean-Michel Bonvin, Professor

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Haute école de travail social et de la santé | EESP | Lausanne

### **The impact of social policies on vulnerable people. A framework for a critical approach**

Social policies pursue normative objectives (work, employability, capabilities, etc.) and are based on specific cognitive or informational bases. Nowadays, this information and expectations very much revolve around the issue of work and employment; therefore recipients are assessed along their degree of employability, i.e. their likelihood to find a job, and they are expected to deploy all their efforts towards a quick and possibly long-lasting professional integration where paid wages will substitute cash benefits. The threefold move toward activation of beneficiaries, individualization of interventions and territorialisation of the modes of governance illustrates this overall trend in contemporary social policies.

Hence, when analyzing social policies, it is essential to have a normative and analytical framework that allows questioning the normative aims and the cognitive bases that lie at their very core. We claim that the capability approach can fulfill this objective and thus qualify as a critical perspective to social policy insofar as it combines the three components of any critical social science according to Horkheimer, namely a normative, a cognitive and a political dimension. The conference will present these three dimensions and their contribution to an analysis of social policies that allow tackling more thoroughly their impact on vulnerable people.

Bonvin, J.-M. (2008), «Activation Policies, New Modes of Governance and the Issue of Responsibility», *Social Policy and Society*, May, 367-77.

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De Munck, J. (2011), «Les trois dimensions de la sociologie critique», *SociologieS [online]* – available at: <http://sociologies.revues.org/3576>.

Sen, A. K. (2009), *The Idea of Justice*, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA.

Léa Lima, Assistant professor

Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, LISE (France)

### Social policies over the life course: some challenges for social work

Social-policy actors in the modern welfare state are facing two major challenges:

1) Activation of social rights. An active welfare state takes two main forms. The first form is the liberal welfare model or more soft interpretations of the idea of counterparts to social benefits. The second form is the implementation of aim-oriented principles (instead of backward principles): in the social investment model, individual social benefits and collective social policies are submitted to an evaluation of the consequences and economic or social efficiency of the schemes.

2) Individualisation of rights and personalisation of services. The activation

of social rights goes together with a shift from «status based rights» into «fact-based rights». Administrative categories establishing stable welfare classes are giving rise to more interpretable categories of action that allow more adaptation to a variety of life-course situations. Social-policy actors also have to deal with competing sets of norms and beliefs about individual choices. Therefore implementation of social policies can open up areas of controversy.

The conference will show the impact of evolution in welfare doctrine on social work and social workers today.

Enhel C., Lima L., Nicole-Drancourt C., «From selective exclusion towards activation : a life course perspective on the French social model», in Anxo D., Bosch G., Rubery J. (ed.), *The Welfare State and Life Transitions. A European Perspective*, Edward Elgar, 2010, pp. 325-365.

Lima L. (dir.), *L'expertise sur autrui. L'individualisation des politiques sociales entre droit et jugements*, Bruxelles, P.I.E. Peter Lang, 2013.

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Lima L., «Les jeunes vulnérables, laboratoire de l'Etat social actif ?», in INJEP, *Rapport de l'Observatoire de la jeunesse*, La Documentation Française, 2012, pp. 186-200.

Amanda Grenier, Professor

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(Canada)

### Agency in the «fourth age»: The Tension between Vulnerability, Expression and Power

Questions of agency in the «fourth age» reflect a tension between vulnerability, expression and power. Over the course of the 1990s and 2000s, debates in gerontology focused on the period of the «fourth age» as a complex socio-cultural construct. These contributions have moved beyond the long-standing use of the fourth age as an uncritical age-based criterion in research samples or simply as a marker of eligibility for services. They have for example, produced a new set of challenges for interpretations of the «fourth age» and, in particular concerns about the extent to which agency may be said to operate within this period of the life course. The assumption that agency is either present or absent is one that plays out in academic debates and organizational practices. Although the focus on older people at advanced age with impairments is long overdue, concerns with regard to the role of agency –and

how agency may be expressed within late old age are beginning to emerge. This paper will examine the following questions: how do circumstances considered typical of the «fourth age» challenge current understandings of agency? How do we understand and account for agency in the situations of frailty and impairment? The paper will, first, seek to clarify the way in which the «fourth age» has been constructed; second, the literature on agency will be assessed; third, the contradictions and tensions between approaches to agency and the fourth age will be reviewed; fourth, the potential contributions of emotion and communication will be explored. The discussion will conclude with consideration of what a reappraised sense of agency could mean for understanding aging and late life, in particular where communication, expression and power are concerned.

Gilleard, C., and Higgs, P. (2010). «Aging without agency: theorizing the fourth age», *Aging and Mental Health*, vol 14, no 2, pp 121-128.

Grenier, A., & Phillipson, C. (2013). Rethinking agency in late life: structural and interpretive approaches. In J. Baars, J. Dohmen, A. Grenier, & C. Phillipson, (Eds.), *Ageing, meaning and social structure: Connecting critical and humanistic gerontology* (pp. 55-79). Bristol: Policy Press.

Marshall V. W. and Clarke P. J. (2010) «Agency and social structure in aging and life course research», in D. Dannefer & C. Phillipson (eds) *Handbook of Social Gerontology*, London: Sage, pp 294-305.

Settersten, R., and Trauten, M. (2009). *The New Terrain of Old Age: Halmarks, Freedoms and Risks*. In Silverstein, M., Bengtson, V.L., Putney, N., Gns, D. *Handbook of Theories of Aging*, 2nd Ed. New York: Springer Publishing Company, pp. 455-469.

# Summer Universities

[www.summeruniversity.ch](http://www.summeruniversity.ch)

Each year during the summer, students from all partner universities — abroad and in Switzerland — study together during 2 or 4 weeks. They follow a specific academic program organized jointly by swiss and foreign instructors. Each program focuses on a certain academic discipline. In addition, students and professors participate in cultural activities that foster the cultural exchange between the participants. The Summer University programs are held alternatively in Switzerland and abroad.

- Two to four weeks Summer University program
- Mixed class of Swiss and foreign students
- Teaching in English
- Team teaching between Swiss and foreign professors
- Visits of social facilities
- Cultural activities

The main objective of the Summer University program is to enable students to acquire the necessary skills to succeed in a global society. The ultimate goal is to help students:

- Develop a capacity for professional flexibility within an international context
- Create and develop an international network
- Acquire the capacity to communicate in an unfamiliar cultural context
- Develop new leadership skills in order to overcome the barriers of distance from home, culture, time zone and language
- Build long-term relationships with academic partners

## Conditions, assessment and credits

Lectures will be given in English. They are free and open to the public.

Registration is open to students holding a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in social work, social welfare or social sciences.

Fees (including lectures, teaching materials, transportation to field visits, social evenings and other organized events) are CHF 800 for two weeks.

6 ECTS credits will be awarded to students meeting the following requirements:

- Preparation on selected literature and draft of a project
- Participation to the entire Summer University program
- Finalization of an original social work project in a small group
- Short personal essay on participation in the Summer University

## Advisory board

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Prof. Michel Oris, University of Geneva  
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## Partner universities

Boston College Graduate School of Social Work (USA)  
[www.bc.edu/schools/gssw](http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw)  
School of Philosophy and Social Development, Shandong University (China)  
[www.sps.sdu.edu.cn/spsd/grad/english/index.htm](http://www.sps.sdu.edu.cn/spsd/grad/english/index.htm)  
UCLA, Luskin School of Public Affairs (USA)  
[www.luskin.ucla.edu](http://www.luskin.ucla.edu)  
Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (India)  
[rcss.rajagiri.edu](http://rcss.rajagiri.edu)  
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UBC, School of Social Work (Canada)  
[www.socialwork.ubc.ca](http://www.socialwork.ubc.ca)

# Master of Arts HES-SO in social work

The Master in social work emphasises training on research, with participation in a thematic research, with participation in a thematic research workshop and completion of a personal research project (Master's thesis).

ECTS credits are 90. The duration is 3 semesters of full-time study or part-time study spreading the course over 6 semesters. The program comprises 4 compulsory modules:

- Theory of social work
- Comparisons of social policies
- Change and innovation organisations
- Research theories and methods

There are also a number of optional specialism modules based on various topics encountered in social work:

- Professional autonomy and responsibility
- Interculturality and disability
- Local policies
- Gender and social work
- Research and intervention
- Welfare and the working environment
- Ageing
- Media, communication

The Summer University in Social Work is also offered as an optional specialism module to the students enrolled in the Master's program.

For information:

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# International relations and mobility in social work

In keeping with the Bologna accords, the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HES-SO), works with various higher education institutions at national and international level. Based upon individual contacts (lecturer to lecturer) and/or institutional contacts (school to school), collaborations are initiated and ratified through mutual agreement contracts in the fields of professional higher education and applied research.

## CULTURE OF MOBILITY

International exchanges enhance sharing of knowledge, know-how as well as field experiences for professionals, lecturers and students. The population of Switzerland is more and more diversified; it is therefore highly beneficial to all persons involved in the social work and social care fields to encounter social and health realities and organisations which prevail in other countries. The schools for social work, convinced of the pertinence of a true "culture of mobility", wish to promote an awareness of international issues and dimensions among its students, its staff and their field partners.

## OPENING, EXCHANGES AND SYNERGIES

Past experiences show that international exchanges provide a rich training and teaching opportunity for students. National mobility is also encouraged and promoted through specific «in depth» modules (OASIS) offered in all social work schools of the HES-SO. For lecturers who have multiple duties (teaching, research and mandates from the field), contacts with new partners, networking activities as well as exchanges about teaching and training tasks lead to stimulating synergies for all partners and institutions involved.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HES-SO) has four schools for social work. They have concluded more than 80 collaboration agreements with higher education schools and field practice institutions all over the world. This cooperation also takes place within the framework of European exchange programs.

For information :

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International relations in the Social Work Schools of the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (UAS-WS) :

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# Research in social work

## WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES WESTERN SWITZERLAND

Since its beginnings in 2002, the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (UAS-WS) has devoted much attention and effort to research in social work.

From 2002 to 2012, UAS-WS professors and their teams conducted more than 200 studies, corresponding to a funding of over 26 million Swiss francs by Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), the European Union (EU), public and private funds.

Current social issues have been the focus of research projects, including studies of

- Social policies
- Social intervention
- Social problems (drug addiction, violence, handicap, quality of life, prevention, migration, integration, citizenship, transition to adulthood, discrimination, etc.)
- Specific populations
- Social work and social care professions

Research is coordinated by a steering committee with representative of four schools of social work belonging to UAS-WS; further, a scientific committee is in charge of evaluating submitted projects in two priority programs and to allocated research grants for young researchers.

Research in social work is close to concerns of the field; it aims at improving professional knowledge, and contributes to finding concrete solutions to social problems.

Social work research in the UAS-WS enjoys an excellent national and international reputation. An active policy aimed at fostering research opportunities for young professionals contributes to its continued success. The findings of research are systematically disseminated through publications as well as communications at conferences.

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# NCCR LIVES

Many of the lecturers participating at the Summer University in Social Work are part of a large research network of about 150 researchers across the country, namely the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES – Overcoming Vulnerability: Life Course Perspectives (NCCR LIVES).

This interdisciplinary programme aims at studying the emergence of vulnerabilities in post-industrial societies. Research topics focus for instance on family (Modak), migration (Bolzman), (un)employment (Tabin), social policy (Bonvin), and old age (Oris, Bickel, Cavalli).

By using a longitudinal and comparative approach to better understand the effects of new social risks throughout the life course, LIVES researchers are particularly interested in the resources that individuals mobilize at the psychological, social, and institutional levels to face these risks.

The NCCR LIVES supports the knowledge transfer activities of its members and partners, such as the Summer University in Social Work, and knowledge exchange events (forums, round tables, etc.), which bring together professionals from political, administrative and non-governmental organisations.

The ambition is to eventually develop empirical and theoretical bases to inform the development of new social able to efficiently face the many challenges of vulnerability across the life course.

Graphisme : Service communication HETS&Sa - EESP / [info@eesp.ch](mailto:info@eesp.ch)  
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## SUMMER UNIVERSITY

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