

THE NORDIC BALTIC DOCTORAL NETWORK IN SOCIAL WORK

NBSW

Summer school 8th – 12th of August 2016

"Practice Research in Social Work"

To be hosted by University of Tartu and University of Tallinn, Estonia

Place: Tartu, Estonia see <http://www.ut.ee/en> and <http://www.tartu.ee>

Topic: The 8th summer school of Nordic-Baltic Doctoral Network in Social Work will take place under the topic *"Practice Research in Social Work"*.

This course aims to unit PhD candidates in social work for five days of intensive lectures and discussions of different perspectives of knowledge and practice-minded research in social work. In social work, the connection between theoretical knowledge and practical work has been a central issue for a long time. During the last decades theoretical perspectives have been developed that bridge the gap between theory and practice and that increase the scientific value of experience-based knowledge. These perspectives create a scientific base to carry out practice-minded research to study and develop knowledge which emerge directly from the complex practices themselves. The global changes challenge the local contexts of social practice, demanding effective, knowledge-based and research-based practice from professionals. The changing circumstances and complexity of local social work practice underline the rationality for practice research.

Keynote Speakers: professor Marjo Kuronen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, professor Björn Blom from Umeå University, Sweden and professor Lars Uggerhøj from Aalborg University, Denmark.

Aim: The basic assumption behind the course is that it is no longer sufficient for human service practitioners to simply be well-intentioned, empathetic and technically competent. It asserts that expert practitioners should also be good social scientists who are capable of analysing the consequences of different intervention repertoires and adapting ways of organising and acting ("the work" of social work) to match unique local contexts. Practice research aims to create a reflective relationship between practices in different contexts and the prevailing conceptions and theories in the social sciences. This may contribute to increase the visibility of social work, but also to continuously re-evaluate the conceptions and the outcomes, which are important to develop better and more effective practice. The reflective relationship may also recognize new ways of including users' contributions, as well as practitioners' in research. Practice research is searching for ways to allow research-based knowledge to be considered as robust and context-sensitive knowledge.

This course aims to: **(a)** expand students' understanding of different perspectives on practice research; **(b)** deepen students' research skills and foster their critical thinking; **(c)** approach the topic from various perspectives of research.

How to participate? The summer school is open for doctoral students in social work. The summer school is free of charge for PhD students in NBSW network universities. PhD students will cover for the travelling, accommodation and meals themselves. **Deadline for applications the 15th of April. Send application to Helene Nicolaisen, Helene.Nicolaisen@ntnu.no (see application form).**

Accommodation and travelling: The summer school accommodation takes place in Tartu. More information about accommodation is given May 2016. You can fly to Tallinn or to Riga and take buss or order the transfer connection.

Extent: Students who present a short paper receive 4.0 ECTS, while students who present an accepted full paper receive the maximum of 7.5 ECTS, both will include five working days.

Paper instructions: To be able to obtain 4 ECTS for participating the summer school, the PhD-students should send a short paper of minimum 1000 and maximum 2000 words. To obtain 7,5 ECTS the long paper has to be at minimum 6000 and maximum 7000 words. The paper should take a starting point in a short description of the focus in your research continuing to a discussion connected to the theme of the summer school. Paper presentations include both a short oral presentation and a discussion based on the text. The paper should be sent to: Inger Marii Tronvoll, inger.tronvoll@svt.ntnu.no before 24th of June. Papers should be written in English.

Content: The summer school will each day contain a mixture of keynote presentations related to particular perspectives of the overall topic and workshops where the PhD students present and discuss their work under the guidance of experienced researchers or keynote speakers. The key note presentations of the summer school will approach the topic from various settings and open perspectives of practice research in social work and also in the Nordic and Baltic societies. On Wednesday afternoon, excursions will be offered in the county of Tartumaa.

Literature list: Participants are expected to read articles relevant to the topic before the summer school. Literature list will be sent out to students latest in 1st of May.

Program committee: Summer school is organized by NBSW, University of Tartu by Reeli Sirotkina, University of Tallinn Kersti Kriisk and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology by Anne Moe, Riina Kiik and Inger Marii Tronvoll.

Deadline:

April 15th : Application to: Helene.Nicolaisen@ntnu.no. Please use our application form.
May 1st : The organizers will tell whether you have been selected for summer school.
June 24th : Sending paper to organizers.

More information: General information: NBSW coordinator Lars Uggerhøj lug@socsci.aau.dk, Summer school information associated professor Inger Marii Tronvoll, inger.tronvoll@ntnu.no or lecturer Reeli Sirotkina Reeli.Sirotkina@ut.ee.