

## **Call for Papers**

2<sup>nd</sup> European Conference for Social Work Research

# Social work research in local, national and international contexts: the challenges of comparison and generalisation

22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, University of Basel, Switzerland

Proposals are invited for papers contributing to the European Conference for Social Work Research, taking place at the University of Basel, Switzerland, on 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.

The second of a major annual series, the conference will bring together researchers and research users from across Europe to present and exchange research ideas, findings, developments and applications. The 2012 conference is organised by the Swiss Society of Social Work and co-hosted by the University of Basel and the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Conference for Social Work Research provides an ideal opportunity for researchers to discuss their research, explore the research of others and forge new contacts.

### **2012 Conference Theme**

In an increasingly globalised world the relationship between the local, regional, national and international is becoming ever more blurred. Social work practitioners will often work within a localised context, yet draw on policies and practices devised elsewhere. Similarly those researching social work practice, policies and programs are increasingly drawing on the findings, methods and ideas of researchers from across the world. Modern means of communication and increased ease of travel means that traditional barriers to the exchange and development of ideas are becoming less problematic. But still the local, regional and national contexts and policies are specific and structure social work practice. How do we face these far reaching challenges in our research practice?

The conference focuses on the following questions:

1. What are the various ways in which locally collected research results can be transferred or generalised?
2. Where do we stand with international comparative studies?
3. Are there examples of good practice in the generalisation, dissemination and utilisation of research?
4. What are the possible ways that social work researchers can collaborate across regional and national boundaries? What examples of good practice can be developed in this over the coming years?
5. What is the relationship between social work theory and research?
6. What is the scope and significance of research for practice development?

Submissions should preferably be based on **examples** of locally, nationally or internationally significant research in any area of social work and social care or treat basic epistemological questions. Proposals should address at least one of the questions above.

### **Proposal types**

The conference will include any research that has implications for knowledge development, scientific debate, practice or policy. Abstracts are encouraged in all substantive areas, drawing on qualitative, quantitative, mixed or historic methodologies as well as meta-analysis. Proposals are invited for papers from both established and early career social work and social care researchers. You are invited to submit abstracts for presentations of one of THREE types:

1. Oral paper presentation
2. Workshop
3. Poster

#### **1. Oral paper presentation**

In addition to the invited keynotes, there will be further oral paper presentations (30 min. presentation, 15 min. discussion). If applying for an oral paper presentation, please submit an abstract of 500 words maximum. The oral paper presentations will be organised in thematic sessions. To make it easier to arrange these thematic sessions, please add 3-4 thematic keywords to your proposal.

#### **2. Workshop**

The ECSWR 2012 will offer up to forty workshops. Every workshop lasts 90 minutes and has to be structured by the applicant(s). Please bear in mind that workshops are supposed to be interactive with participation and discussion from those attending. Therefore the workshops typically have an introductory part (presentation) and a participatory part (theme/questions to work on). If applying for a workshop, please submit an abstract that describes both parts and the relation to the working context of the applicant(s) (500 words). Workshops can be proposed either by individuals or by groups. In order to stimulate exchange inside the social work research community the organisers would like to invite members of existing research networks (at local, regional, national or international levels) to use this opportunity to present specific parts of their current or past work and discuss related questions.

#### **3. Poster**

Posters typically are a good medium to present research results that can be condensed to one or more very precise points. A poster proposal should highlight these points and their importance to the overall conference theme. If applying for a poster, please submit an abstract of 300 words.

**All proposals** should include the following:

- The kind of presentation (oral session, workshop, poster)
- Background and purpose: description of the problem, study objectives, research question(s) and/or hypothesis.
- Results: specific results in summary form.
- Conclusions and implications: description of the main outcome(s) of the study and implications for knowledge development, practice, policy, or further research

- Please indicate if you refer to your own research
- Please make clear how your proposition will contribute to one or more of the conference questions.

*Please note that all abstracts are to be submitted online, using the conference online abstract management system (easy chair). Access on [www.ecswr.ch](http://www.ecswr.ch)*

**Submission deadline:** 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

Submissions will be selected through a peer review panel, and decisions notified by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.

The conference language is English.

Further information: [www.ecswr.ch](http://www.ecswr.ch)