

Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice –
2020 – Volume 29, Issue 4, pp. 1–3
<http://doi.org/10.18352/jsi.660>

ISSN: 1876-8830

URL: <http://www.journalsi.org>

Publisher: Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences
Open Access Journals

Copyright: this work has been published under a
Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No
Derivative Works 3.0 Netherlands License

SZABINKA DUDEVSKY,

TOBY WITTE

EDITORIAL

The last issue of the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* was published only a few months ago; the world looks different in many ways though. The Covid-19 has had far reaching consequences in the -professional- lives of each of us. Higher education as well as the social work practice had to make a quick changeover to online lessons and support. What the consequences are of the deprivation of social and physical contact we do not know yet. Possibly an interesting theme for one of the next issues of JSI.

Next season the editorial team will start with some alterations. Roelof Hortulanus, the nestor of JSI will resign from the team. Roelof is emeritus professor Social intervention and local social policy at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht. He is member of the editorial team of the *Journal of Social Intervention* since 1995. An interesting interview with him by Erik Jansen was published in our latest issue (nr. 29) in May. We are grateful to Roelof for his inspiring contribution over such a long period and will say goodbye at the editorial meeting on the 29th of September.

We are proud to present you four new members of our team. Patricia Molegraaf is lecturer and researcher at the Research Centre Urban Talent, University of Applied Sciences Rotterdam. She will share the assignment of managing editor with Szabinka Dudevsky over the next few months.

EDITORIAL

Charlotte Vissenberg is lecturer and researcher at University of Applied Sciences Windesheim, Flevoland. She is member of the research staff of the professorship Client perspective in support and care, specialized in the area of shared decision-making.

Yke van der Schoor, is PhD candidate at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht. The focus of her research is on welfare work, resilience and community building.

And last but not least we are happy to welcome a new member from Belgium. Didier Reynaert is professor Social work at the Centre of Expertise Quality of Life, University of Applied Sciences of Gent. His expertise lies in the field of social work and human rights.

This summer issue of JSI contains two articles. Eric Schoenmakers is PhD researcher at Fontys University of Applied Sciences Eindhoven. His paper 'Why and how to talk about loneliness' addresses the interesting subject of loneliness. Although loneliness is subject of growing concern of the (Dutch) government and social work organisations, it is still a taboo topic. Social professionals perceive a role for themselves in signalling loneliness, but find it difficult to talk about it with their clients. There appears to be a shyness in bringing up the topic. Schoenmakers argues why talking about loneliness is important and gives examples of questions to help professionals to talk about it with their clients. Talking about loneliness is not easy and quick solutions for loneliness are not realistic and may be not even a desirable objective. But his paper shows convincingly the importance to open the conversation. Especially in these times of social isolation it inspires us as a professional and as a person to ask our client, neighbor or relative about feelings of loneliness.

'The loneliness epidemic', as mentioned by king Willem Alexander, is not only plaguing the elderly. Young people also experience feelings of alienation, seclusion and solitude. Recent quick scans show that the Covid-19 crisis affects young people to a considerable degree. On LinkedIn a group of youth workers wrote an online document 'Jongerenwerk tijdens Covid19', assembling tools to stay in contact with youngsters.

Youth work is the expertise of Judith Metz, the author of our first contribution 'Living labs as spaces for knowledge production, education and practice innovation'. Metz is professor at Youth Spot, Research group on youth work in an urban area at the University of Applied Sciences of Amsterdam. In an elaborate and diligent paper Metz gives an analysis of the living labs (e.g. the 'Academische Werkplaats Jeugd' and the 'Werkplaats Sociaal Domein') as a common approach for strengthening the knowledge base of social work. The article reflects on six years of collaboration

SZABINKA DUDEVSZKY, TOBY WITTE

with students, youth workers, educators and researchers in Living Lab Portfolio Youth Work. Against the background of literature on living labs and social work practice research Metz makes visible that living labs do not automatically result in collaborative learning and implementation. For both separate guidance is required to realize a fruitful collaboration between research, practice and education.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and wish you a sound, safe and social summer.

Szabinka Dudevszky, managing editor ad interim

Toby Witte, editor-in-chief