

Call for the International Summer School 2019 **June 3rd – 7th, 2019 in Muttenz (Basel), Switzerland**

Subject

Social Work in the Digital Age - How Digital Developments and Digital Inequalities Shape Modern Discourse in Social Work Theory and Practice

In many societies, digital incompetence is equal to social exclusion. The digital divide between privileged and underprivileged populations is rapidly expanding to the increasing advantage of the digital literate. Social work must be cognisant of the challenges facing those affected by this inequality. The main question is: How does digital inequality affect family, work, leisure, education, human rights, and ethics? Social work has the responsibility to bridge this digital divide, to provide safe environments, to develop ethical standards, and to encourage social work students and professionals to discuss the many challenges of the impact of the digital age. To overcome and bridge the gap between digital natives and digital immigrants means to understand digital developments as fundamental human rights issues with respect to child and elderly protection, educational access, and work opportunities.

The 2019 Summer School aims to provide participants from various countries with an opportunity to develop a broad understanding of “the digital age,” its challenges and chances, problems and progresses, and inconsistencies. The phenomenon of digital inequalities and various related issues require close attention and critical reflection. International participants will discuss the current discourse on digital developments, new forms of media use, and different forms of inequalities with a view to developing a broad perspective on this key issue. They will consider how the new media have changed human communication and how social work has adapted to widespread digital change over the past 20 years. Other topics include how digital inequalities shape modern discourses in social work theory and practice. Discussion will consider the risks and challenges as well as the advantages emerging from the new opportunities that digital innovations might provide for overcoming inequalities. Bridging the digital divide matters not only for social work practice but also for modern societies as a whole. From their respective international perspectives, participants will explore the modes of digital impact on social work education, theory, and practice, especially in terms of ethics, human rights, social policy agendas, and welfare regimes. The 2019 Summer School provides an excellent opportunity to build the knowledge and skills needed to deal with the many challenges associated with digital developments and inequalities.

Key questions are:

- Why do digital inequalities matter for social work practices and professionals in various contexts? Which parts of the population are especially vulnerable to digital challenges?
- How are social work education, theory, and practice affected by the challenges stemming from the current digital and technical developments and discourses in society?
- From a philosophical and sociological point of view, what makes the digital age a challenge for modern societies? More specifically, how does it shape social work discourses regarding digital inequality, human rights, and ethical standards?

Aim and statement for cooperation

The aim of the Summer School 2019 is to continue a collaborative and joint process of exchange on discussion on international level. All participants are invited to work out a presentation related to the key issues of the summer school for presentation and discussion. Beside presentations, posters and discussion we would also invite and to stimulate you to work on innovative and creative ways for presentations which focus on the key questions, including film, art, literature, music etc. The proposal should focus on selected local, regional, national and international aspects of "social work and digitalization" according to the key questions of the short description. International students (undergraduates, postgraduates, doctoral) and groups of students are invited to participate in the Summer School 2019 as well as established researcher. You find a list of those researchers already participating under: <http://web.fhnw.ch/plattformen/hsa-summer-school>. The number of participants in the summer school is limited to 90.

Please qualify your proposal according to the following categories:

- workshop proposal
- paper presentation
- poster presentation
- others: _____

The organizing committee will review the proposals and define key themes to work on during the summer school. For the participating students as early as possible we will open an online forum for those submitted a proposal to exchange, discuss and prepare international perspectives to the key themes of the conference.

How to Apply

If you are interested in contributing to the summer school please send a short description (500 words and 2 key questions) to both of the organizers. Please include the names of all contributors, the title and the subject/topic of your planned activity.

Please also email a CV which includes: Full name; Contact details (address and email); Qualifications; fields of work and interest.

Deadline for proposals	December 15, 2018
Comments on the proposals	February 1, 2019

Distribution of the Call for Proposals

Please support us in distributing the CFP to colleagues and students.

For further information please contact the organizers:

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