

Internationalization vs .indigenization in the social work curricula. How to handle this challenge?

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Introduction

- Social work since the beginning has had an international perspective
- 1928- First international conference in Paris with the constitution of the international association IASSW- ICSW- IFSW





Important Figures of IASSW

There are many important personalities who devoted their work to the IASSW.

- **Alice Salomon, founder of social work education in Germany and the first president of the IASSW.**



Alice Salomon anlässlich ihres siebenzigsten Geburtstags in New York (Photo von Trude Fleischmann, Quelle: Hans Muthesius 1958)



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The latest Presidents of IASSW



**Abye Tasse
(Ethiopia)
2004-2008**

**Angelina Yuen
(Hong Kong)
2008-2012**

**Vimla Nadkarni
(India)
2012-2016**

**Annamaria
Campanini
(Italy)
2016-2024**

Vision of IASSW

Excellence in social work education, research and scholarship across the globe, in pursuit of a more just and equitable world.



EGLANTYNE JEBB (1876-1928)

“Two characteristics of social work—the broad economic and intellectual background which it demands, and the deep moral root from which it springs, make its international application almost indispensable”



ALICE SALOMON-1872/1948

“ Social injustice is a consequence of an unjust economic system that operate at international level and for this reason requires a global commitment.”



Alice Salomon anlässlich ihres siebenzigsten Geburtstags
in New York (Photo von Trude Fleischmann, Quelle: Hans Muthesius 1958)



The past: Jane Addams

1860-1935 USA

Jane Addams believed social work would embrace a “growing world consciousness” (1930)



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The past

- International collaboration has been fundamental for the growth of social work as a profession in different countries:
- Extensive international contacts between the profession's founders in the United Kingdom, the United States and other industrializing countries in the late nineteenth century

The past

Formative exchanges of the early decades of the XX th. Century allowed to increase the number of social work schools

Strong international activity period after the Second World



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Katherine Kendall (1910-2010)



Katherine Kendall (USA)

joined IASSW in the 1950s and was IASSW Secretary and then Honorary President (1978-2010) .

Kendall worked in the UN from 1947 to 1950 as Social Affairs Officer and has developed an international social work training for developing countries. She continued to serve as an official non-governmental representative at the UN for the IASSW.

The present

- **Social work is expanding in different new countries: eg. former communist nations, in China, in Vietnam but is also continuing to grow in the so called developing countries**

INTERNATIONAL DEFINITION OF SOCIAL WORK

(IASSW-IFSW Melbourne ,2014)

‘Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work.

INTERNATIONAL DEFINITION OF SOCIAL WORK

(IASSW-IFSW Melbourne ,2014)

Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.



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ROLE AND COMPETENCIES

The social work definition invite us to reflect

- Which role have social workers to play in our globalised society?
- Which competences are needed to play this role?
- How can we prepare social workers for this?



The Need for International Social Work in a Globalize World

- 1. Interdependence of nations**
- 2. Common social problems**
- 3. Chain-effect of actions**
- 4. Advanced technologies**



The Need for International Social Work in a Globalized World

A global awareness that enhances the ability of social workers to transcend their preoccupation with the local and ***contextualize the problems within a broad global setting*** (eg. demographic changes, migration, managerialism....)

- Awareness of being part of an international community and sharing information, experiences, strategies between different countries



Tensions confronting International Social Work

(M. Gray & J. Fook 2004)

- 1. Globalization vs. Localization**
- 2. Westernization vs. Indigenization**
- 3. Multiculturalism vs. Universalization**
- 4. Universal vs. Local Standards**



INTERNATIONALISATION VS INDIGENEIZATION?

(L. Healy,2018)

- **Internationalization and indigenization are not opposites;**
- **The processes can be fully compatible and complementary.**
- **Much of social work is locally determined and shaped by tradition, history and context.**
- **Globalization, too, is experienced differently and the impact of globalization is an additional aspect of the indigenous response of social workers to their environment**



Possible Models

- **Infuse international content into existing courses, especially required courses**
- **Set objectives for the international component that specify how international content will contribute to the course as a whole and relate to domestic concerns**
- **Integrate international issues into the student's role as citizen and professional**
- **Design a separate course on international social work—optimally required for all students**



OUTCOMES

- **Knowledge of the major global human rights laws and their applicability to social work practice**
- **Ability to analyze a global social policy and beginning skill in international advocacy**
- **Awareness of the impact of policies of one's own country on conditions and policies in other countries**



OUTCOMES

- **Understanding of globalization as a set of processes that affect domestic as well as international social work practice and social problems**
- **Understanding migration from perspectives of sending and receiving countries (and countries that are both)**
- **Sensitivity to value dilemmas, especially dilemmas of universal application and cultural relativism, in internationally related work**



OUTCOMES

- **Knowledge of major sources of global data on human rights and social development and how to access them**
- **Familiarity with the history, scope and functions of social work around the world**
- **Knowledge of the ways the profession is organized for international action through its professional organizations**



OUTCOMES

- **Knowledge of human diversity, cultural sensitivity and beginning skill in inter-cultural communication**
- **Ability to analyze models of practice and social service innovations from other countries for their adaptability and fit in one's own context**



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