

23rd International Project Week **12th – 16th July 2021**

Lecturer: Hellmuth Weich

University/Company: The Social Work Company

Country: United Kingdom

Narrative ways of working for social work, youth work and community work.

Content:

Narrative ways of working in social work and community work are widely acknowledged as a strengths-based and client-centred approach to collaborative work with people that seeks to re-author the problem-saturated stories that can come to dominate our lives.

Narrative workers use communication skills to work with clients to make meaning of life's events and experiences through a re-storying process that places those we work with in control of the way her/his story is told and shared. Together, the client and the practitioner explore not just the problem, but the whole life story in imaginative and fun ways. By making the person (client) the author of their life story, they develop agency or authorship. Jointly we identify the client's preferred stories, with a focus on developing the client's authorship in the future. This way of working was developed by social workers but is now used by various professionals throughout the world, incorporating ideas from different cultures and

Methods:

Students will be taught the various techniques in short lectures, and will then practice some of the ideas with each other. Various case studies will also be considered. We will also be using group work and class discussions.

Competences and skills to be acquired:

Linking theory to practice: By the end of the week, students should be able to understand the theoretical ideas & link this to various practice settings, both for social work and other professions such as psychology.

Good communication skills: Students will spend time practising the basic skills involved. An important part of this is talking to people in a respectful, non-blaming and non-pathologizing manner.

Having value-based conversations with people: narrative ways of working is unique in their understanding of the values and commitments that people have. Students will learn to listen to these and build on them.

We will also look at working with children and how to deal with serious problems in playful ways.

We will look at how we can use groups to support each other.

Specific narrative techniques that will be taught are externalisation of problems, scaffolding, re-authoring, re-membering and using groups (outsider witnesses)

Applying culturally appropriate ideas to conversations

Prerequisites:

The only prerequisite is an interest in working with people in a respectful and non-blaming manner and being open to enjoyable conversations.

Language of instruction:

English

Recommended for:

Social Sciences