

Call for Papers

Special issue on “Collaborative Work and Social Innovation”

Journal of Comparative Social Work, University of Stavanger, Norway.

You are invited to submit an abstract to *Journal of Comparative Social Work* on the following topic: “**Collaborative Work and Social Innovation in health and welfare services**”. This is a call for scholarly papers that focus upon practical, organizational and theoretical contributions to the evidence on collaboration and social innovation.

Special issue Editors: Prof. Elisabeth Willumsen, University of Stavanger, Dr. Chris Green, University of Essex and Prof. Atle Ødegård, Molde University College.

The future welfare state is facing complex challenges. Various forms of collaborative practices and social innovations have been proposed to address these challenges, though empirical evidence and critical discussion of these approaches remain limited. Welfare systems in general are often fragmented due to the increased differentiation of roles, tasks and responsibilities, as well as organizational designs that may constrain innovation. Social innovation includes “*new ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs (more effectively than alternatives) and create new social relationships or collaborations* (European Commission, 2013). Different types of social innovation may serve as a means to improve collaboration and enhance effective service delivery. One such innovation is interprofessional education (IPE) which has been shown to improve collaboration in practice. There is a need for further research that explores socially innovative approaches, such as IPE and collaborative practice, demonstrating the processes by which health and welfare teams can work together to meaningfully support service users across professional and organizational boundaries. This special issue of the *Journal of Comparative Social Work* aims to identify contemporary and future approaches to social innovation in health and welfare services. It will contain papers that inform practitioners, managers and researchers about social innovations that have been implemented effectively or proposed as solutions to inadequacies in collaborative service delivery. You are invited to submit an abstract for this issue that addresses the practices of “Collaborative Work and Social Innovation”. Whilst studies that report on empirical research using comparative

methodologies are preferred; conceptual work and commentary essays that advance the evidence base will also be considered for publication.

Paper could address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Meaningful interprofessional education to enhance collaboration
- Mechanisms to enhance collaboration
- Context-specific social innovations
- The impact of fragmentation, specialization, decentralization and professionalisation
- Inter-organizational and inter-agency working
- Aligning service design to social need
- Overcoming inadequacies in service design
- Methodological approaches to meaningful service evaluation

Submission details and deadlines

Articles should meet the standards of original scholarly research and commentary. They will be anonymized and reviewed through a double blind peer review process by two members of our advisory board. For more information about the journal <http://www.jcsw.no/>

- Abstracts submitted by email to guest editors by **30 September 2015**
- Feedback to authors by **2nd November 2015**
- Full article submitted by **31st March 2016**

Abstracts may be submitted to elisabeth.willumsen@uis.no, cmgreeb@essex.ac.uk and Atle.Odegard@hiMolde.no