

Special issue on Work Inclusion in JCSW - invitation to publish

Call for abstract to special issue JCSW: [Journal of Comparative Social Work \(uis.no\)](http://www.journalofcomparativesocialwork.com)

The Journal of Comparative Social Work invites papers for a special issue on the following topic: **Work Inclusion**

Public employment services for people who struggle to get a foothold in the labour market is increasingly associated with an emphasis on work inclusion through ‘place then train’ interventions. Work inclusion interventions constitute the ‘positive side of the coin’ of employment services. Although public employment services have not traditionally been delivered by social workers, it can be argued that the relevance of the social work profession is strong when it comes to providing work inclusion services because central parts of employment policies and services are directed at people in vulnerable life situations: Challenges for people outside working life are typically related to impaired health or functionality, low formal qualifications, low language qualifications or substance abuse.

‘The other side of the coin’ of work inclusion interventions and employment services is related to conditionality, such as mandatory participation in specific programs/activities for benefit recipients. In the international research literature, some argue that social work is incompatible to this element of employment services (van Berkel & van der Aa, 2012). However, within the frames of public services, social work has an inherent tension of providing both help and control.

Moreover, research has noted ‘a threat effect’ of employment policies. Unemployed individuals who are affected may be worse off than policy makers intend them to be, in the sense that they accept ‘bad’ jobs to escape the imminent threat of program participation. Such detrimental side effects have not yet been fully investigated (Filges & Hansen 2017).

In addition, employment services for people in disadvantaged positions are provided by various suppliers: commercial, non-profit or in-house (public) providers. Suppliers may be competitive tendered or external (in internal) state-owned providers. Is it the case that ideology/value bases shift when there are varying performers involved? Can state-formulated policies be implemented when the organizational conditions are so variable?

We invite articles that can broaden our insights related to policy or practices of work inclusion and social work.

Special Issue Editors:

Dorte Caswell, Professor, Aalborg university, Denmark

Sara Hultqvist, Senior Lecturer, Linnaeus University, Sweden

Heidi Moen Gjersøe, Associate Professor, VID and OsloMet, Norway

Siv Oltedal, Professor, University of Stavanger, Norway

We invite articles that address topics related to social work’s role in the provision of employment services for people in disadvantaged life situations, including issues such as (but not limited to):

- Creating relations with employers
- Social workers as ‘brokers’
- Relation between user and professional in the work inclusion process
- Work inclusion within the perspective of the welfare state/national policies
- Discretion processes
- User participation

Contributions to the special issue should address one or more of the areas indicated above. The focus may be local, national or international. Qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods studies are welcome.

Submission details and deadlines:

Authors should submit an abstract of 300 words in English to the editor: Siv Oltedal, and selected abstracts will be invited to submit full articles for double-blind peer review. Articles should meet the standard of original scholarly research and commentary. They will be anonymized and reviewed through a double blind process of peer review. Articles should have a maximum length of 8,000 words. Read more about the journal and instructions for authors.

Deadlines:

Please email abstract submissions to corresponding editor: Siv Oltedal email: siv.oltedal@uis.no by 1st of January 2023 (Feedback within 1st of February 2023)

Online submission of full paper: 1nd of May 2023