

H 504 Project
4 hrs per week/8 credits

Doing Global Justice - International Dimensions of Social Work

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Following their learning experiences in the practical semester, students undertake a project designed to show them how theory is related to practice in a specific area of professional activity. The tasks involved in translating the themes of the project from theory to practice give the students the opportunity to plan, carry out and reflect upon a professionally relevant piece of work, either individually or in a group.

Aims /Content:

Social work can be located in an international context – not only since the human rights orientation propagated by Staub-Bernasconi. Globalization and transnationalization processes have given rise to new social questions and problems. These social problems form the central points of reference for international and transnational social work, for instance, in the areas of migration and integration, intercultural/transcultural relationships, cross-border social movements, poverty and wealth in our global society.

International/transnational dimensions of social work

Civil society groups and players in social work from the global north and south work together to tackle social problems with the realization that the scale, causes and consequences of more or less all social problems have an international/transnational dimension. Questions dealt with in the study project could therefore be:

- How does social work change in the context of globalization and transnationalization?
- Which transnational players have appeared on the scene to accomplish “global justice”?
- What features do international social work concepts in the global south have?
- Which concepts from the global south (“capability approach”) cross-fertilize social work in the global north?
- How can self-determination and self-organization be achieved in accordance with the empowerment approach?
- How could international/transnational social work as a future field of work for students at Esslingen University be newly contoured?

Relevance of an international/transnational competence profile

- in national fields of work in social work
- in globally active NGO’s and charitable organizations
- in the area of “global education” as an educational concept, also in a variety of social work fields

Introduction and working methods in the study project

Introduction to the areas

- Developmental policy, theories of development, globalization, global change
- Political dimensions (democratization, participation, human rights and development) and social dimensions (gender and development, education, migration and escape)
- International dimensions of social work as well as transnationality and social work
- “Global learning”
- Introduction to project management and to empirical social research

In subprojects selected by the students themselves, students can determine their own focus of interest and carry out concrete, practice-oriented research work and/or projects in collaboration with partners from social work practice.

The project already works in cooperation with several important stakeholders in the region, such as in the area of migration and developmental policy with the Forum for Cultures (*Forum der Kulturen Stuttgart e.V.*), the Forum for International Development and Planning (*Forum für internationale Entwicklung und Planung*) in Esslingen/Berlin (specialist promotor for universities) and One World (*Eine Welt*)/Baden-Wuerttemberg), with the Information Centre for Developmental Education (*EPIZ - Entwicklungspädagogisches Informationszentrum*) in Reutlingen, Umbrella Organisation for Developmental Policy Action Groups (*DEAB - Dachverband Entwicklungspolitischer Aktionsgruppen*) in Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart as well as with the Ministry of State for Baden-Wuerttemberg in connection with its developmental policy guideline processes.

Examination:

The examination in the 5th semester consists of a piece of work which is typical for the module. The examination in the 6th semester consists of an extended essay. The examination requirement is to write a project report in the form of an extended essay. The examination in the 5th semester will be held during the semester. The extended essay in the 6th semester is to be written during the semester or by the end of the examination period.

Total workload in the semester: 400hrs

Contact time: 4 + 4 hours per week = 120 hrs, independent study: 220hrs, examination time (including time for revision): 60hrs