

22 May 2017 (Monday)

15:30-17:00

**Oral Presentations,
Pre-organised Group,
Experiential
Workshops**

Oral Presentations

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V303

Title: Living Labs as Spaces for Knowledge Production, Education, and Practice Innovation (Abstract no. 2716)

Author: *Judith Metz*

Abstract: In Amsterdam, the Netherlands, five youth work providers, three education programmes and research started the living lab portfolio with the aim to strengthen the professionalisation of youth work practice. A living lab is a space where students, teachers, youth workers and researchers work together in education, knowledge production and practice development. Aim of the paper is to reflect on six years' experience of collaboration with students, teachers, youth workers, and researchers in education, knowledge production and practice innovation. Central question is: how to address the specific interests of education, practice and research and contribute to the professionalisation of youth work? Method: Single case study. The design of the living lab is based on literature of social work practice research. The evaluation is based on the annually verbal evaluation with all participants, annually student questionnaires and eight group interviews with management and youth workers/teachers (one each organisation). The group interviews were held in spring 2016. Results: The paper starts with the presentation of living lab as model for education, knowledge production and practice innovation. Then, six years of experience with the collaboration from the perspective of teachers, students, youth workers and researchers will be shared. The outcomes will make visible that the expectations concerning knowledge production and youth work education are met, while the contribution to practice development stays behind. Conclusions and implications: The single case study shows that the living lab is a possible way for collaboration with different stakeholders on the professionalisation of youth work. Strength of this approach is the use of the specific interests and roles of individual stakeholders. Because the collaboration is not part of the primary process of all participants, it takes much effort to keep the stakeholders to their agreements. Only the aims that are integral part of the lab are achieved.

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Room: V303

Title: Capturing Collaborative Practice-based Knowledge for Working with NEETs in Pursuing Leisure Career Interests (Abstract no. 2812)

Authors: *Victor Cheong-wing Wong, Toby Chi-yan Yip*

Abstract: Our paper aims to show the value of a genuine four-party collaboration of practitioners, researchers, interest domain experts, and service users (who are NEETs, aged 15 to 21 without employment, education, or training) to identify the issues and ideas where research can inform practice innovation. Facilitating demotivated youth to engage themselves into communities is practitioners' approach of promoting meaningful engagement. It is informed by the perspectives of interest (Renninger & Hidi, 2016) and serious leisure (Stebbins, 2007) and conceptualised by the expanded notion of work (Wong 2015). Yet, the crux of developing "serious leisure as careers" is participants' sense of progression in terms of tangible and intangible rewards. No matter serious leisure is a path of vocational tryout or as a way of enhancing the overall life satisfaction, the essence of "career" development lies in the continuity of meaningful activities associated with it. The intervention issue identified by practitioners and researchers is

the lack of an enabling environment in Hong Kong to nurture “leisure careers”. The impact of an unsupportive infrastructure sabotages service users’ efforts to make changes and makes them feel like failures. The practice research question is: How can a “serious leisure intervention” overcome an unsupportive environment for NEETs’ career development? Practitioners and researchers collaborate with interest domain specialists to map the issues that influence youth’s serious leisure engagement, and draw users’ intention to discuss the design of supportive systems and programmes. And we also emphasise dialogue with stakeholders about the concerned leisure community situations. This “collaborative inquiry approach” in practice innovation involves the identification of overlooked issues concerning leisure career identity formation and the generation of knowledge to influence service users’ team-based support in which an enabling environment could be formed gradually in the course of their leisure career pursuits.

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Room: V303

Title: A Case Sample of Practitioner-Researcher Collaboration: Enhancing Divorced Mothers’ Resilience and Positivity through the ‘Good Enough Me’ Programme (Abstract no. 2841)

Authors: *Alyssa Rose Fernandez, Colleen Chua, Kimberly Cheah, Wei-loong Lim, Katrina Bee-shan Goh*

Abstract: This presentation showcases a collaborative effort to integrate practice and research in a family service centre in Singapore. The “Good Enough Me” (GEM) programme, funded by Singapore Exchange (SGX), aims to strengthen the resilience and positivity of divorced mothers and their children so that they may cope better with life after divorce. This presentation will introduce the components of the GEM programme, as well as the relevant themes that surfaced from research interviews conducted with the mothers who attended the GEM programme, such as divorce being a challenging process, challenges faced in parenting after divorce, and the resources and coping strategies gained from the GEM programme. Finally, reflections on the practitioner-researcher collaboration are shared.

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Room: V311

Title: Extended Evidence-based Correction Model: Contextual Understanding and Application of Evidence-based Correction in Chinese Community Correction (Abstract no. 2770)

Author: *Wei-he Guo*

Abstract: Based on positive research, North American have developed evidence-based correction which found eight core factors of criminogenic need and suggested “RNR” principles of correction and assessment tool of LS/CMI as well as practical programme of Strategic Training Initiative of Community Supervision. Our case demonstrates that facing with the context of complexity and dynamic family and community relationship and substantive requirement of clients, when we apply evidence-based correction model in Chinese community correction, social work transcend positive paradigm and adopt critical hermeneutic paradigm to development more structural assessment and intervention methods. With this new perspective and tools, we extend the case from personal cognitive-behavioural treatment to family relation and life events intervention, and even to cultural sensitive and critical reflection. Eventually, using this extended case

method, we rehabilitate social relation and social life of clients more effectively than only just controlling recidivism risk.

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Room: V311

Title: The doing of it: Understanding Practice Research as an Arena of Knowledge Production (Abstract no. 2902)

Author: *Sidsel Natland*

Abstract: The paper will discuss practice research in the context of knowledge production, drawing from experiences from an innovative research and development project carried out within the social services in Norway 2006-2011. The project required participation and collaboration on equal terms between academics, social work practitioners and users. The project's goals were the promotion of structures and arenas for equal collaboration between the stakeholders, strengthening of practice-based research, and strengthening the foundation of knowledge underpinning social work practice. The objective is to use experiences from this project to discuss epistemological issues significant for the recognition of practice research as robust knowledge production. As practice research, the project is contextualised within the theoretical base of Flyvbjerg's (2001) science of the concrete and Nowotny et al's (2001) modus 2 knowledge production. Findings: The research had a strong processual character, including negotiations on the concept of practice research. Partnership and collaborative research emerged as suited concepts to capture the knowledge production required from the funders. Further, the research process led to increased awareness of how power relations and positions were crucial in succeeding or not, particularly by the emergence of conflicts. Conclusion: The findings illustrate how collaboration between academics, practitioners and users involves the challenge of epistemic cultures. This is important as it sheds light on how incidents may affect knowledge production in practice research. This represents a contribution to epistemological discussions as the findings underpin the importance of understanding how knowledge from practice research is produced, and how it may be valued. This requires acknowledgement of practice research being interpreted as more than "a method"; we need analysis of practice research as a particular arena for knowledge production. This requires ethnographic/micro-level analysis, asking "how is practice research being practiced?".

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Room V311

Title: Social Support Networks Building for Empty Nest Elderly in China Urban Community: A Case Study of Pilot Programme in KC Community (Abstract no. 2919)

Author: *Yang-yong Zhang*

Abstract: Dramatic growth of ageing is grabbing increasing emphasis of both academic research interests and community-based practical initiatives on empty nest elderly. Base on the context of “Governmental Purchase of Social Work Services” since 2013 in Xiamen, one three-year-contract pilot programme was initiated to provide community-based social work services that aim to build social support networks for around 300 empty nest elderly in KC urban community. WX Services Center in Xiamen, a local non-profitable organisation, conducts this programme. This article is a case study of this social work pilot programme located in KC community; social support network theory is applied to this practice research. This article finds that professional social work interventions on empty nest elderly, individual, family, peer, community levels, can apparently motivate positivity and capacity of building their own personal social support networks, which include better understanding themselves, handling family relationships and supports from next generations, recognising and using social resources appropriately, participating local senior groups or peers, initiating community events and contributions, and etc. Social work professionals in this pilot programme play several vital effective roles of case manager, broker, educator, facilitator, organiser, service-provider, and negotiator. WX Services Center, KC Community Residential Committee (CRC), local urban community grass-roots, and other relevant stakeholders for empty nest elderly services, are efficiently engaged under the integration of resources by social workers in this pilot programme, in which they act well inter-institutionally but serve their own expected missions respectively.

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Room: V313

Title: The Interplay of Patriarchal Ideology, Gender and Family in Domestic Violence (Abstract no. 2843)

Author: *Jenny Tonsing*

Abstract: This study explores the experiences of domestic violence among South Asian women in Hong Kong using a patriarchal framework. Patriarchy is a historical and social system that justifies male dominance over women through enforcing and reinforcing the inequality of power between males and females, and social arrangement that privileges males. Methods: Data were obtained from fourteen South Asian women who have migrated to Hong Kong through one-on-one in-depth interview. Ethical approval was obtained from the University’s Ethnic Committee Board prior to data collection. Participants were recruited through snowball sampling method. After potential participants were identified, they were assured of confidentiality and anonymity of their responses and the voluntary nature of their participation. Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Data were analysed based on the procedures of Strauss and Corbin’s grounded theory where data were first analysed with open and axial coding. Based on this process, four themes were derived from the data: patriarchal beliefs, patriarchy and the family, gender role expectation in the institution of marriage, and ways of coping. Findings: The most important findings of this study was how patriarchal norms are linked to domestic violence and how this has a direct effect on the position and role of females in the home, and produces inequality in marriage. The findings also shed light on how the problems of domestic violence against women is anchored in social and

cultural conditions, rather than individual attributes. Implications for practice are also highlighted. Conclusions: This study draws upon the reflections and views of South Asian women living in Hong Kong who have been or are being abused by their husbands. Their narratives highlight the difficulties they faced in challenging and dealing with a patriarchal ideology which is deeply embedded in their cultures. Implications for social work practice are highlighted.

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Room: V313

Title: Practice Research with Leaders of Self-help Groups: Empowering People through Knowledge Production (Abstract no. 2875)

Author: *Tomofumi Oka*

Abstract: The New York Statement of 2014 on the Evolving Definition of Practice Research recognises “the important role of service users in the conduct and/or leadership of practice research,” and implies that service users are always distinct from service providers. In reality, however, some service users can act as service providers, for example when they lead self-help groups consisting of their peers. In many countries such leaders voluntarily offer help to their fellow sufferers around the clock without charge. This paper describes my experience of working with self-help groups for Japanese family survivors of suicide from the perspective of knowledge production. In 2008, a number of Japanese self-help group leaders became very unsatisfied with what so-called experts were claiming as scientifically proven Western therapies because they did not agree with their own experience. Since the Japanese government’s policy on support for family survivors is based on papers and books written by such experts, the self-help group leaders decided they needed to counter this spread of what they considered misinformation by producing alternative materials and publications themselves. They contacted me in 2008 and we have worked in collaboration since then. My practice research with the group leaders differed from ordinary academic research in four key ways. First, the primary research audience was family survivors themselves; while the commonly adopted theories or concepts tended to pathologise the lingering grief of family survivors, the self-help groups aimed to empower them by normalising their grief. Second, the research results were disseminated in the form of poetic expressions or slogans such as “Grief is love”, and literary essays. Third, dissemination of the results was achieved using blogs and the social media accounts (e.g., Facebook and Twitter) of family survivors. Finally, the results were examined by family survivors’ intuition and experience.

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Room: V313

Title: Empowering the Marginalised through Innovative Engagement
(Abstract no. 2497)

Authors: *Marsha Zibalese-Crawford, Heidi Paredes, Melanie Atrash, Iman Suleiman*

Abstract: The rationale for the study was based on recovering Bedouin local agricultural tradition and combining this valuable heritage with state-of-the-arts technology; and building on innovative approaches that are moving Bedouin women to the forefront of community development. Our assumption was that local, women-led small-scale gardens would improve the health and economic situation of families in the Negev while contributing to community building and self-sustainability. The study outcomes challenges, and lessons learned from the targeted population will be presented. Method: To test the assumption, three different garden plots were established; 60 direct beneficiaries were involved including women, children and men. The gardening method for each plot – permaculture, aquaculture and hydroponic methods – was decided in partnership with the women and their communities based on the availability of natural resources, and intended scale and purpose. We applied qualitative data collection and analyses. Findings: Key lessons learned include: (a) Health – access to fresh, ecologically cultivated, inexpensive produce on a daily basis; opportunity for physical activities; relief from stress; and an opportunity to connect with nature; (b) Economics – lowered expenses for families relative to transport and water; (c) Community Building – strengthened relations between families, the land and the environment, thus building social capital for the community; and (d) Empowerment and Self-Sustainability – increased food security, self-sustainability, and resilience through reconnecting the women and their families to their cultural heritage, and reviving traditional rural ways of providing daily food. Conclusion: To maximise benefits, indigenous families must be served using a culturally sensitive approach to economic development, the environment, and research. Service providers and researchers may benefit from promoting and developing programmes and projects that play a role in enhancing the physical and emotional well-being necessary to build healthy and socially sustainable families and communities.

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Room: V314

Title: Towards Social Rehabilitation by Using Collaborative Research and an Idea of Playfulness and Games (Abstract no. 3135)

Authors: *Laura Yliruka, Tytti Hytti, Saija Turunen, Pekko Kähkönen, Heidi Muurinen*

Abstract: This presentation explores an ongoing practice research project ProSos in The Heikki Waris Institute and Socca (The Centre of Expertise in Metropolitan area). The aim of the ProSos project is to develop new approaches, methods and products for social rehabilitation by using the ideas of “playfulness” and games. This presentation explores a practice research process that utilises ideas from service design (Miettinen & Koivisto 2009), experimenting (Muurinen 2015) and collaborative research (Palsanen & Kääriäinen 2016) with service users and professionals. The project started in October 2016 with service users’ interviews for recognising the needs and perspectives of young adults in vulnerable life situations. The interviewed young adults considered games and playing as a multidimensional phenomenon. While society views playing as a problem, the young adults, however, presented many positive aspects of it. This surprising perspective leads to reasoning for a working hypothesis and eventually for creating a service prototype to

experiment with in practice. In deducing and designing the service experiments, the young adults are recognised as experts by experience. They will participate in designing and producing the experiments. The method of collaborative research enables continuous knowledge production for research and enhances the service design throughout the project. The purpose of the presentation is to present and discuss the research setting. We will describe and reflect the first results of 1-3 experiments carried out during spring 2017. Since the project uses collaborative research, our team includes also an expert-by-experience working in the project.

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Room: V314

Title: A New Way Out: Practice Research in Post-disaster Situations (Abstract no. 3970)

Authors: *Ke Cui, Timothy Sim*

Abstract: The challenges of time, population, and ethical values are common to disaster researchers especially given the unpredictability of disasters and unique disaster experience of each survivor. This study presents a practice research using the insights of Brinkerhoff's Success Case Method (SCM) of a psychosocial capacity building project in a post-disaster rural village of China. It might be taken as an alternative to quasi-experimental or randomised experimental designs when they are considered unethical or unfeasible, or when evaluators can hardly access to equivalent and even non-equivalent comparisons. SCM was originally developed to evaluate interventions, training initiatives and new work methods on business goals in for-profit sectors. More recently, SCM has been modified and validated as an alternative approach for use in non-profit context of human/social service programmes. It is initially a two-part process in general, of which the first part entails surveys to locate participants who have apparently been success (or non-success) in learning and using the knowledge or skills after attending a training course. Part two involves interviewing a sample of success cases (and sometimes non-success cases as well) and documenting their stories. In an adaptive manner, SCM in this study was conducted through consecutive focus groups, surveys and individual interviews. Using this approach, we were not only able to identify and quantify the impact of our service on participants, but also manage to elaborate how they benefited from the service with powerful and persuasive details about real-life experiences. The research design is cost-effective and comparatively easy to operate. Thus it may be an alternative approach by social work practitioners in China, a developing country where social work is emerging for service.

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Room: V314

Title: Self-conducted and Skype-mediated Exposure Therapy of a Woman with a Severe Balloon Phobia: A Single-Case Design (Abstract no. 3067)

Authors: *Bruce Thyer, Katie Elmhurst*

Abstract: This presentation describes how the second author (the client) was able to use self-conducted and Skype-mediated exposure therapy to reduce a life-long severe fear of balloons and its associated avoidance behaviour. Guided by the first author, she was able to ascertain the previously unknown precipitating event for her fear, and undertake a series of self-conducted exercises involving the gradual escalation of exposure experiences to the sight and sound of popping balloons, beginning with watching YouTube videos of popping balloons with no, then low, and then full volume. This was followed by a live Skype-mediated 90-minute session with the behaviour analyst who popped balloons of increasing size, beginning with no-volume, then low and then high volume. The client then undertook the popping of balloons she inflated herself, of increasing size. Ear plugs were initially worn, then faded. Treatment was evaluated using a standardised behavioural approach test conducted prior to and after treatment (about two months apart) and a series of B-single case designs depicting the client's subjective anxiety and heart rate responses measured over the course of consecutively popped balloons. The second author's fear and avoidance behaviour were eliminated after some three months of this self-conducted treatment. Graphs will be presented illustrating changes in the author's fear, avoidance, and heart rate, before during and after treatment. This study in self-experimentation will be linked to prior behavioural literature on the etiology and treatment of phobias to balloons and loud noises in general. This paper represents a form of practice-self-evaluation and illustrates how clients can be successfully guided to overcome their own severe phobias with minimal professional assistance. Because the client was intimately involved in the design and conduct of this study from the beginning, it also represents a form of participatory action research.

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Room: V315

Title: A Critical Reflection on Teaching Social Work and Social Administration in Mainland China (Abstract no. 2854)

Author: *Charles Leung*

Abstract: A mission of the bachelor programme in Social Work and Social Administration (SWSA) at UIC emphasises "the need of indigenous education while maintaining a global perspective". With reference to the achievements of alumni and the recognition from professional bodies and academia, the SWSA programme has been successfully accomplishing its pedagogical mission for a decade. However, little information of the achievement was systematically collected and analysed. Therefore, this presentation is going to report a reflection on teaching the SWSA programme based on the interim findings of a practice research. The findings are based on a critical review of the documentation of the SWSA programme in the past decade. A research plan of refining the findings will also be introduced. Therefore, the presentation is expected to provide insights for the audience willing to advance their practice of social work education in mainland China or any other region sharing similar context.

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Room: V315

Title: A Self-study Action Research on Promoting Reflective Learning among Chinese Supervisor-trainees (Abstract no. 2899)

Author: *Priscilla Yuet-kiu Chung*

Abstract: This study starts with supervisor-researcher's reflection on her own supervising experience with supervisor-trainees in a social work supervisor training programme held in Guangzhou China. An action practice research is adopted to allow the practitioner fully participate as a researcher-supervisor searching ways for improving her own existing practice. This study is about reflection in learning. Three questions of what reflection is, how supervisor-trainees undertake reflection and how to promote reflection are answered. In this study, three types of reflecting experience with different promoting strategies given were unfolded. They are (1) self-reflecting experience of writing reflective log, (2) guided-reflecting experience with the provision of supervisor in individual supervision and live supervision the "guide", the reflective learning guide as the "paper guide" and the pre-reflection class as the "map" and (3) co-reflecting experience with peer in group supervision. Regardless of the positive functions on self-change and on practicing and living, supervisor-trainees also shared their worries during the reflecting process. Such worries are found closely related to the negative connotation on thinking and its relationship with mental problem. Regarding the use of reflective log writing and face-to-face supervision used in promoting reflection, an "Online to Offline" model of supervision was pictured highlighting the interaction between the two. Besides, researcher as supervisor who knows the field "from the inside" also found she is in a better position in defining the problem interpreting the result and even collecting data. The relationship between researcher and researched helps facilitating a more in-depth sharing from supervisor-trainee and enrich the information collected. But of course, the quality of relationship and personal image of researcher-supervisor to the researched are critical. Researcher-supervisor's on-going reflection and self-awareness are still needed for it may potentially bias information collected in some way.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V315

Title: Overcoming the Hurdles in Conducting a Practice Research: Tales from a Guide an an Explorer in a Journey of Narrative Inquiry (Abstract no. 3117)

Authors: *Carl Yuk-tin Cheng, Rosetta Mei-kwan Wong*

Abstract: To give a narrative account of how the hurdles in pursuing a practice research of the stories of adolescents with psychosis and school bullying experiences were overcome. Methods: The process for a researcher to become a narrative inquirer involves moves in both thinking and action towards narrative inquiry that touch on the evaluative framework and existential concern of the researcher. This paper explores and identifies the hurdles involved in conducting a practice research of the stories of adolescents with psychosis and school bullying experiences. Tales of how a guide and an explorer have gone through the process in pursuing a doctoral research degree that adopted narrative inquiry as its methodology will be narrated, contrasted and analysed. Findings: At least four hurdles are identified: 1) how to adopt a proper presentation of self in the research interviewing process; 2) how to conduct serious research procedures vs natural storytelling; 3) the struggles between adopting scientific data analysis by using rational data categorisation vs artistic meaning making by empathetic attuning; and 4) the concerns of the need of generalisation of experiences vs the recognition of the need to embrace the

uniqueness of stories. Tales of how these hurdles are overcome will be told from two different perspectives: the guide and the explorer. Besides, how the evaluative framework and existential concern of the researcher are involved in the process will also be highlighted. Conclusions: In narrating accounts of how researchers conduct practice research and overcome the hurdles in the process, the evaluative framework and existential concern of the researcher involved are identified. This exploration may reveal the taking up of a practice research may not be a purely technical matter.

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Room: V316

Title: Separate and Together: Social Work Education for Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Women at Zefat Academic College (Abstract no. 2874)

Authors: *Michal Shamai, Yael Geron, Carmel Maoz-Dotan*

Abstract: The presentation will describe the evaluation of a bachelor's degree programme in social work tailored especially for ultra-Orthodox Jewish women in a secular multicultural context at Zefat Academic College in Israel. The religious and cultural norms of the ultra-Orthodox group had to be considered (e.g., studying in a separate classroom located outside the college building) without violating social work ethics and goals (e.g., helping people from different religions and ethnicities). It was also necessary to take into account the demographic background of the group. Method: Quantitative and qualitative evaluation was performed throughout the entire three-year course. Data were gathered from students and the faculty at the end of each semester. Quantitative data from the faculty were gathered through close-ended questionnaires, and qualitative data were gathered from four faculty members in semi-structured interviews. Students' quantitative data were gathered through close- and open-ended questionnaires. Students' qualitative data were gathered in three focus groups during their final year. Findings: The quantitative and qualitative findings indicated that the programme had been successful. Twenty (out of 21) women graduated on time. Nine months after graduating, 18 out of the 20 were working as social workers. The average grades in this special programme were higher than in the regular group (without statistical significance) in all three years. The faculty indicated that the group's high motivation and curiosity compensated for the deficit in academic background. Conclusion: Considering the success of the programme along with the need to increase the number of ultra-Orthodox social workers to instill trust of the welfare services among the ultra-Orthodox community, continued availability of these programmes is important. Notably, special attention needs to be given to this population's special characteristics without violating social work ethics and education.

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Room: V316

Title: Preparing for the Worst: An Interactive Training Programme to Prepare On-call Social Workers (Abstract no. 2877)

Authors: *Angela Elizabeth Richards, Laurelle Stalker*

Abstract: The social work department at Royal Children's hospital (RCH) in Melbourne provides a social work on-call service to cover critical social work interventions to patients and their families outside core business hours. Social workers participate in this roster in addition to their regular work hours. Many social workers report on-call work creates a high level of anxiety for them due to the anticipated critical and complex nature of the work. The current practice for training social workers to participate in on-call social work is that they attend two half-day training sessions prior to being placed on the on-call roster. No further training is provided. The aim of this project is to improve social workers' preparedness and confidence to attend a social work on-call recall by implementing an interactive simulation and online computer learning based programme to practice real life scenarios in a safe learning environment. **Methodology:** A needs-analysis survey will be completed to ensure the training includes learning needs identified by social workers. The training will involve attending an on-call simulated scenario in the purpose built simulation precinct at RCH. Actors and medical staff will participate in the scenarios with the social workers. Debriefing and reflection on learning will be undertaken post simulation. Social workers will also be asked to complete an interactive online learning package containing a short quiz to test knowledge gained. **Outcomes:** Pre and post self-report surveys will be undertaken to determine whether the on-call training programme has improved on-call social workers preparedness and confidence to undertake the role. Results of this project will be used to inform future on-call social work training and consideration given for inclusion of the programme in the annual core competencies for social workers at RCH.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V316

Title: An Assignment-based Curriculum to Teach Practice Research in Counselling through Systematic Review and Proposal Writings: A Case Study (Abstract no. 2876)

Author: *Paul Wong*

Abstract: Sound research plays a foundational role in the practice of counselling and in the scholarship and pedagogy of counselor educators. Though knowledge of research methods and appraising research qualities are crucial to counsellor training, many counselling trainees and students are generally afraid or even repulsive in learning research practices. This presentation describes a practice research curriculum at the post-graduate level that aims to help students in tracing research foundations in clinical practice, examining critical issues associated with evidence-based practice, accessing and evaluating new information related to practice and ultimately evaluating critically of their practices. Through carrying out a mini systematic review of 6 academic articles from intervention studies and drafting a mini-research proposal as on-going assignments, the students are expected to equip with hand-on experiences in planning, designing, implementing research and presenting its findings. This course is designed to enable students to prepare for three roles: (1) critical consumers of research; (2) competent evaluators of their own practice; and (3) active participants in social science research. The major aims of the course are to enable students to develop a scientific

perspective, to acquire an understanding of different research methodologies that can be used to evaluate practice, to incorporate that perspective and understanding into a broader conceptual base for counselling practice, and to equip them in applying the gained knowledge to everyday practice. The sequence of this course is organised in a way to mimic the sequence of the basic intervention research process from planning, implementing, evaluating, to findings dissemination. Although this is a semester course, the learning from this course will continue throughout their practicum which last for nine months. Based on students' positive responses since 2010, implementing this process in a research methodology course is recommended.

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Room: V321

Title: The Need and Importance for Community-based Welfare Organisations to Provide Trauma Informed Care Service in Singapore (Abstract no. 2909)

Authors: *See-yim Low, Annie Siew-geok Chia*

Abstract: This study seeks to understand the need and importance for Montfort Care, a community-based welfare organisation, to provide trauma informed care services in Singapore, with the aim to advocate and influence other welfare organisations to do likewise. Methods: All counsellors and seniors were initially briefed before administering the trauma screening tools, PTSD Checklist for DSM - PCL for adults aged from 18 onward. The feedback gathered include worries of re-traumatisation, inadequacy to attend to clients, and insufficient resources for follow-up in trauma intervention. An in-house sharing was next conducted to raise awareness to staff who will psycho-educate clients and use the tools, followed by roll-out. Lastly, screening results were collated. Helpful resources were sent to respective workers while supervisors were kept informed to provide further support. Findings: The four criteria for PCL are: intrusion symptoms; persistent avoidance of stimuli associated with trauma; negative alterations in cognitions and mood that are associated with traumatic event; and alterations in arousal and reactivity that are associated with traumatic event. PCL results reflect 57.1% of adult clients show all four PTSD symptoms, in which 35.7% met provisional diagnosis for full PTSD. PCL results reflect only 3.6% showed no PTSD symptoms. Conclusion: Montfort Care is concerned that an alarming percentage have PTSD symptoms, which is probably similar if there is data collected from other welfare organisations. If helping professionals in the community are vigilant in picking up trauma symptoms, they can provide prompt cum adequate interventions and help prevent development of complex mental health issues. In order to have greater support for those who are suffering and coping with trauma, I propose community-based welfare organisations to consider adopting and adequately providing trauma informed care services.

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Room: V321

Title: Psychological Distress among Sisters of Young Females with Eating Disorders: The Role of Negative Sibling Relationships and Sense of Coherence (Abstract no. 2648)

Authors: *Yael Latzer, Ruth Katz*

Abstract: The etiology of EDs is multi-factorial and includes psychological-familial factors. Considerable attention has been paid to the family's role, particularly the parent-child interaction, in the etiology of EDs. There is limited research on sibling relationships in families with ED child. The importance of the sibling subsystem in general, and in EDs in particular, has also gained increasing recognition over the years. Sibling relationships are among the longest-standing relationships in a person's life and are considered to be one of the most significant, second only to the parent-child relationship. These relationships have an impact on personality and coping abilities in crisis situations, such as illness. Research regarding the influence of a child's illness or disability on other family members has shown that healthy siblings who are living in the shadow of the illness experience various difficulties that can have emotional, structural, familial, and social ramifications. The aim of the study was to examine the association between sibling relationships, sense of coherence (SOC), psychological distress, and depression among healthy sisters of females with or without EDs. **Method:** Participants were 60 females, (13-31), 30 who had a sister with an ED (study group) and 30 without (controls). Participants completed self-report questionnaires: depression, psychological distress, sibling relationships, and SOC. Results showed that the study group had significantly higher levels of depression and negative sibling relationships than the control. A significant negative correlation was found between sense of coherence and depression. The study model shows that belonging to one of the groups, sense of coherence, and sibling relationships were significant predictors of the healthy sisters' depression level. **Discussion:** It is suggested that when sister has an ED, negative sibling relationships can influence the psychological condition of her healthy sister.

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Room: V321

Title: The Psychological Barriers to Help-seeking for Addiction Problem: Views of Male Service Users and Social Workers (Abstract no. 3058)

Authors: *Simon Tak-mau Chan, Toby Chi-yan Yip*

Abstract: The call for collaborating with researchers to document male service user opinions about reducing help-seeking barriers is a long-standing concern in the social work field or counselling. In Hong Kong where gender-sensitive practice is still relatively new in our service design; yet, practitioners have noticed that men are more likely than women to face their addiction problem alone. We therefore asked a research question which is closely connected to practice: How to address the unfavourable attitudes toward accessing relevant social services for those men suffering from an addiction, if we have more "local knowledge" of the barriers and motivators contributing to user engagement? A practice research project was carried out by a NGO (Tung Wah Group of Hospital, TWGHs) and academics (HKBU) to explore the pertinent issues of willingness to seek counselling related to Chinese masculinity and the social discourse of gender roles. This paper documents the views and major themes we learned in two sets of focus group. The first set consists of 28 service users (22 men, and 6 women as counterpart) invited from several service centres. The other set is a group of 16 experienced frontline workers

(13 men, and 3 women as counterpart) of TWGHs. Both focus groups shared their views and experiences on ways to engage male addicts in the social service sector. The research findings have helped us to refine professional action and produce bottom-up knowledge from the real-world experience of service users and workers. Barriers to treatment entry include gender-linked negative labeling effects related to the behavioural norms of Chinese males, and lacking of trust to share feelings. Motivators consist of gender-related intrinsic motivation, and social support from family members and friends. Suggested themes about service improvement have addressed the gender-sensitive practice issues through recommendations in physical setting, programme design and publicity.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V1213

Title: Bottom-up Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction Practices in Rural China (Abstract no. 3144)

Authors: *Jocelyn Lau, Lena Dominelli*

Abstract: In China, inadequate knowledge of seismic hazard and a rapidly developing society render enhancing resilience to earthquakes particularly challenging. It is particularly so in rural area, featuring with limited capacities of manpower and financial resources available for disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives. Since the occurrence of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, the Chinese government has reinforced the institutionalisation of a top-down community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) system to ensure the capacity of communities to be enhanced effectively. Using mixed methods (surveys, individual and focus-group interviews), this presentation highlights on the range of CBDRR practices at the local level in China, and the opportunities and challenges of various stakeholders, including grass-root NGOs, villagers, and vulnerable groups in doing disaster risk reduction in the context of rural area. The findings provided a solid foundation to design a local-specific and evidence-informed CBDRR programme to enhance disaster resilience of rural communities to earthquakes as well as other natural disasters. This presentation underscores the importance of providing specific and targeted CBDRR education and activities to different groups and stakeholders within communities. Additional research is called for in order to study the effects of bottom-up CBDRR practices in rural China for a more effective complementation of the government-led disaster risk reduction initiatives.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V1213

Title: Working Alliance in Case Management: An Essential Element of Intervention (Abstract no. 3088)

Authors: *Tyrone Chi-wai Cheng, Celia Lo, Bethany Womack*

Abstract: This study was an examination of clients' outcomes in community-based case management, specifically those outcomes' relationships to clients' characteristics and to working alliance between case manager and client. Methods: Study data were collected using a survey of 100 adults (18 years old or older) who received help from 4 community-based social service agencies in 2 cities in Alabama in the US. Clients at 2 of the agencies were seeking help primarily for chronic medical problems (e.g., asthma, diabetes); clients from the remaining 2 agencies were seeking help for problems with parenting, mental health, substance use, financial hardship, transportation, housing, and employment. Each survey questionnaire was completed during a face-to-face service session at home or at the agency. A separate survey was also completed by the voluntarily participating clients' case managers. The study obtained informed-consent from all participants, and the research project was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the university. The present study employed SPSS linear regression procedures for data analysis. Preliminary analysis suggested the absence of multicollinearity problems. The outcome variable, client's improvement, was measured by a 7-point item which indicated how much improvement had occurred in a problem a client reported having. Working alliance was the total score from the standardised Working Alliance Inventory. Findings: Results showed that client-case manager working alliance (reported by clients) promoted improvement of client's problem although improvement was hindered by problem severity. Clients' outcomes were not significantly associated with their mental health or substance use, or with how frequently they made contact with personnel, or with social support they enjoyed, or with their gender, ethnicity, or age. Conclusions: Based on this study, working alliance is an effective, even essential, intervention alleviating clients' problems, even severe ones.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V1213

Title: The Bedside's Candle in the Wind: Compassion Fatigue among Medical Social Workers (Abstract no. 2892)

Authors: *Wing-hei Lau, Terry Tse-fong Leung*

Abstract: Helping patients and their families get through their crisis-triggered ordeal, medical social workers are often confronted by scenes of illness, death and dying, as well as losses and sufferings, which can induce secondary trauma and compassion fatigue in them. This study aims to explore the work experience of medical social workers through qualitative inquiry, to assess their proneness to compassion fatigue. Methods: Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with medical social workers in Hong Kong, who were selected by purposive sampling. The empirical data was analysed by thematic and relational analysis. Findings: The study found that medical social workers in hospital setting encountered many work environment challenges. Tension arose from interaction with the service users and service bureaucracy in the course of helping. The medical social workers also had experiences of empathy overload, and handled them by psychological self-regulation. Conclusions: Medical social workers were confronted by a work environment that exposed them to high risk of compassion fatigue. Forestalling compassion fatigue in them is important for ensuring the quality of social work services to patients and their families. The study, though small

in scale, draws management attention to the unheard voices of the medical social workers, in order to support their helping mission at the bedside amidst risk of compassion fatigue.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V1215

Title: Construction of Vulnerability among Frontline Workers: Between “the usual suspects” and the Political Emphasis on Prevention and Early Detection (Abstract no. 2889)

Authors: *Iben Norup, Birgitte Theilmann, Betina Jacobsen*

Abstract: The objective of this paper is to discuss the construction of the term of vulnerability at different levels in a public organisation in order to investigate the connection between the different conceptualisations of the term vulnerable children and young people and their impact on the political aim of reducing the social inequality and early detection of vulnerable children and young people. A survey study including 4500 employees professionally engaged in vulnerable children and young people combined with qualitative interviews constitutes the empirical framework of the research project. Findings shows that the practitioners’ construction of vulnerability seems to lean up against classical risk factors like socio economic background, which leads to identification of a certain and already well known group of children and young people rather than identifying vulnerable children and young people in a broader target group perspective which is the aim for a new policy focusing heavily on prevention and early detection of vulnerability. Based on results of the large survey and further qualitative interviews, the paper discusses to what extent the existing construction of vulnerability hinders the wanted practice change toward a stronger focus on prevention and early detection. Even though the reduction of the numbers of vulnerable children and young people have been a highly prioritised policy area in Denmark as well as in many European countries, little change can be observed when looking the share of children and young people facing vulnerabilities. We argue that one important explanation for this is that the construction of vulnerability leads to a practice where a substantial share of the de facto vulnerable children and young people are not recognised as vulnerable because they do not fit the classical view on vulnerability found in the municipality and therefore are not given the preventive or early help they much need.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V1215

Title: Linkages Between Child Welfare and Mental Health: Promising Practices and Challenges (Abstract no. 2937)

Authors: *Sarah Taylor, Sarah Carnochan, Colleen Henry, Alex Stanczyk, Claire Battis, Michael Austin*

Abstract: Child maltreatment is widespread; the World Health Organization estimates that up to 36% of children in some countries experience severe physical abuse. Children who experience maltreatment are at greater risk for long-term mental, behavioural, and physical health problems, as indicated by a growing international body of research on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). In California, US, a 2011 class action lawsuit, known as Katie A., sought to mitigate the adverse impact of child maltreatment on long-term health by mandating improved linkages between child welfare and mental health. The current study explores this collaboration in a California county since the implementation of Katie A. For this study, 21 purposively selected case records

were reviewed, consisting of over 1000 documents. The sample included family maintenance, family reunification, and permanent placement cases of racially and ethnically diverse youth, as well as recent immigrants, with a range of mild to serious mental health conditions. The data was extracted using a qualitative data mining technique developed by Henry and colleagues (2014). A codebook informed by the research interests of community partners, child welfare administrators and practitioners, was applied. Members of the research team developed analytical memos that summarised each case and their critical reflections on promising and challenging practices. Findings suggest that child welfare workers make consistent efforts to link youth with mental health services. However, there are often delays prior to initiation of services due to waiting time to establish medical necessity, parental distrust of the mental health system, transportation issues, or variable participation in or complete refusal of services by youth. These barriers in accessing treatment contribute to school suspensions and expulsions, placement instability, and/or encounters with the juvenile justice system. Implications for child welfare practice and policy, informed by a discussion of these findings with community partners, will be discussed.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V1215

Title: Effectiveness of the Current Groupwork Model Under the Yellow Brick Road Programme in Supporting the Children of Incarcerated Parents (Abstract no. 2988)

Authors: *Nithya Levi Vasanthan, Shen-yong Lim*

Abstract: The Yellow Brick Road (YBR) pilot project aims at addressing the impact of incarceration on children and youths between the ages of 7 to 17. This programme started in 2014 as a joint collaboration between AMKFSC Community Services Ltd. and Yellow Ribbon Fund. The groupwork programme's objective under YBR aims to help participants develop emotions management skills to cope with the sudden incarceration of their parent. Based on literature reviews and observation of the clientele group, issues such as school difficulties, antisocial behaviours, anxiety and depression have been observed among the children and youths of incarcerated parents. To better cater to the different cognitive abilities of the clientele group, this psycho-education groupwork is conducted for 2 runs with 3 sessions each, targeting 15 children and youths in each run. Session 1 explores the grief and loss that the participants experienced during the initial incarceration period; Session 2 discusses the ways participants coped with their parent's incarceration as well as introduced additional ways of emotions management. Session 3 is a closure session for the participants to share their learnings with their caregivers through letter writing activity. They will also build on existing communications skills through experiential activities. After the participants have completed the groupwork sessions, their caregivers will attend a similar psycho-education groupwork programme that aims to enhance their parenting capabilities. This practice research utilises descriptive pre-tests and post-tests from the participants and their families to evaluate the effectiveness of the groupwork programme. Practitioners also conduct peer observations during the groupwork sessions and discuss about activities that were more helpful as well as changes observed in the participants through debrief sessions. Thus, this practice research hopes to study the effectiveness of the current groupwork programme model and develop it into a viable and appropriate structure to support families with incarcerated parents.

Pre-organised Group

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V304

Title: Collaborative Mental Health Practice Research across Cultures on Three Issues (Abstract no. 3143)

Authors: *Lynette Joubert, Nicole Hill, Saju Madavan*

Abstract: A collaborative research programme was established between the Practice Research Programme in Health and Mental Health (PRP) in the Department of Social Work at The University of Melbourne and Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kerala, to collaborate on three separate mental health-related research projects. These projects were current in the PRP when the collaboration was formed, and the opportunity was welcomed by both stakeholders to share data sets across Australian and Indian communities by collaborating on these three projects: Study 1: Understanding the needs of the vulnerable and at-risk dependent children of clients/patients receiving mental health services Study 2: An exploratory study into the psychosocial context of aged clients receiving treatment at Aged Persons Mental Health Service: the development of guidelines for psychosocial intervention Study 3: Suicide prevention and the management of self-harm This collaboration commenced with a full-day workshop run by Joubert, Hill, and Madavan, with 16 social work Honours students at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences to train them in each of the three study methodologies (i.e. clinical data mining, online surveys, client interviews and focus groups). This was followed up with Skype and telephone mentoring by Joubert and Hill to increase research capacity in three separate research studies. This group presentation will feature four presentations: one overview presentation outlining the establishment of the collaboration and introducing each of the three studies, and then three presentations that report on the findings of each individual research study. The research has highlighted areas of shared social risk and opportunity as they contribute to outcomes for people with mental health issues in both Australian and Indian communities. This will not only contribute to the shared knowledge base of mental health but in addition promote a more effective mental health service inclusive of social and cultural determinants.

Experiential Workshops

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V302

Title: Brief Body-Mind-Spirit Group Therapy for TCM Stagnation Syndrome: A RCT with Self-report and Physiological Measures (Abstract no. 3076)

Authors: *Siu-man Ng, Qi Wang*

Abstract: Chinese medicine diagnosis stagnation syndrome is characterised by mind-body obstruction-like symptoms such as suppression of emotions and blockages in physical functioning. Its emphasis on mind-body connection makes it a non-stigmatising, socially legitimate entry point for engaging and working with adults in distress. Stagnation syndrome is fairly common, with a point-prevalence at 6.2% revealed in our previous epidemiological study. Our previous studies have also operationalised stagnation as a construct useful to all mental health practitioners, and developed and piloted a 6-session group therapy for stagnation syndrome grounded on a body-mind-spirit health intervention model. The current randomised controlled trial aims to further rigorously evaluate the efficacy of the finalised, manualised intervention. Totally 126 participants were recruited and randomly assigned to either treatment or control group. Outcomes are measured at pre, post and 2 months after intervention, and evaluated by clinical assessment, self-report scales and salivary cortisol level. Repeated measures ANOVA reveals significant superiority of treatment over control groups, with net effect size at around 0.8 to 1.0 in primary outcomes. The findings provide evidence supporting the efficacy of the body-mind-spirit group therapy, which actualises the holistic tradition of Chinese medicine in modern health practice.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V312

Title: Using Theatre Testing to Assess Intervention Usability among Its Target Population: An Example and Experiential Workshop (Abstract no. 2834)

Authors: *Amy Salazar, Kevin Haggerty, Kevin Jones*

Abstract: Having an intentional, participatory intervention development process is crucial for developing interventions that work well for the populations they are targeting. One way to achieve this is by testing an intervention's usability with members of the target population prior to finalising the design to ensure it is acceptable and appealing to potential users. One method of conducting usability testing is the theatre test. In this experiential workshop, theatre test methodology will be discussed, modeled, and explored more deeply through a group activity. As a guiding example, the use of theatre testing in the development of Fostering Higher Education (FHE), a postsecondary access and retention intervention for youth in foster care, will be described. Methods: Theatre testing involves having participants from an intervention's target population roleplay participation in the intervention (either in whole or in part) and then give feedback on its content, delivery, and utility, as well as recommendations for improving it. Feedback is collected in both survey and group discussion form, to garner rich and diverse feedback. In the FHE intervention development process, theatre testing was used with foster youth to test the usability of four FHE intervention components. Findings: On a scale from 1 (Not at All) to 7 (Very), FHE theatre test participants rated how interesting activities were as, on average, 6.0 (1.2), and how comfortable they were doing these activities as, on

average, 6.4 (0.9). Open-ended and discussion responses gave more specific highlights and recommendations for activity improvement. Experiential activity. The experiential activity will involve having attendees participate in the theatre test process and then brainstorm ways they might put this procedure to use in their own programmes. Conclusions: Theatre testing offers a means of collecting meaningful usability data from an intervention's target population to ensure the intervention meets its needs.

22 May 2017 (Monday), 15:30 – 17:00

Room: V322

Title: Advancing Competency-based Practice Research Training: An Innovative, Experiential Pedagogical Approach (Abstract no. 2847)

Author: *Kenny Kwong*

Abstract: Achieving practice research competency is an essential pillar of social work practice. However, learning research has not been a favoured subject in social work education. The research content is not taught from a social work practice orientation. Research is often associated with dry lectures and incomprehensible statistics that may not reveal real life circumstances. Teaching research course is often antithetical to the pedagogical approach generally adopted in social work education, which engages students in examples and practical applications of real life situations. This interactive workshop will engage participants to learn a range of class and field activities including case studies, storytelling, field surveys and interviews, and critical reflection activities, as part of two-semester social work research courses, designed to increase graduate level social work students' competencies of practice research. Specifically, these activities include: (1) formulating a practice-based research topic – a case study; (2) using assessment templates for critical evaluation of published research; (3) single subject research – a tool for evaluation of clinical practice; (4) agency research capacity field assessment; (5) implementation of a practice-focused class study project; and (6) class activity on presentation and dissemination of research findings. Participants will learn the use of guided discussion, assignment instructions, and assessment rubrics as tools to evaluate the extent of students' attainment of practice research competencies. Several key elements characterise this pedagogical approach. It is a case-based learning and through examples and rich case descriptions, students learn about real-world research issues. It is discussion-centred and research ideas flows fluidly between professor and students. It is a collaborative learning process as students actively discuss about their practice cases they are studying and engage in constructive dialogues with each other. Finally, cases chosen for learning and research are context-specific as students see the connection of social work research to day-to-day practice contexts.