

23 May 2017 (Tuesday)

11:00am-12:30pm

(Morning Session)

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

Oral Presentations (Morning Session)

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V303

Title: Collaborative Programme Evaluations in Practice Research: Methodological Ideals and Practice Concerns (Abstract no. 2927)

Authors: *Jacqueline Leng Au-Yong, Yu-wei Neo*

Abstract: Randomised control trials (RCTs) are often held as the “gold standard” in programme evaluation methodological designs. The randomisation in the assignment of research participants into experimental and control groups ensures that any population bias will be eliminated and decreases the odds that any differences observed in the experimental group could be due to extraneous factors, rather than programme effects. However, when it comes to practice research in social service settings, there are limitations to the use of RCTs. The practice setting in social services is often unpredictable and does not meet the requirement of RCT’s strictly controlled environment. Can programme evaluation in practice research meet the rigour and standards of RCTs? Or should social service researchers give up on RCTs? The experience of the research team at the Social Service Research Centre (SSR), National University of Singapore, shows that this tension between methodological rigour and practice concerns often result in unique and innovative programme evaluation designs. Through the case studies of research projects undertaken by the SSR since its inception in 2015, it is argued that a collaborative approach between the researchers and social service practitioners is a critical factor in finding a nexus between research rigour and social service objectives. Building trusting research partnerships allow both researchers and practitioners to voice their concerns openly, while focusing on solutions that meet research and social service standards. A collaborative approach deepens the understanding of practice research among researchers and practitioners. For practitioners, they are more mindful of how their programme operations have an impact on the evaluation design, while the researchers become more sensitised towards the needs of social service clients. In conclusion, the “gold standard” of programme evaluation for practice research lies not in any methodology, such as RCTs, but in developing strong researcher-practitioner relationships.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V303

Title: Collaboration in Practice Research: Reflections and Lessons from the Case of a Delinquency Prevention Programme

(Abstract no. 2849)

Authors: *Elizabeth Chia, Xin-yan Zhuang*

Abstract: Uggerhøj (2011) described practice research as an undertaking by both practitioners and researchers mutually committed and involved to learn about the practice through research. This paper describes the collaboration in a practice research in which a team of social workers and researchers worked together to describe, examine and refine a delinquency prevention programme over a period of two years. As the experiences of practice research collaboration are rarely documented, the team had almost no references on how to organise the roles and work in the project. As such, the project commenced with social workers and researchers being equally involved in the planning phase. The roles gradually evolved to fit the professional expertise of the team

members. For example, the social workers assessed the youths for delinquency risks, while the researchers collected self-completed questionnaires and made session observations. Although the researchers analysed the data and wrote the report, post mortem discussions with the social workers provided critical insights to the unexpected findings. Overall, the collaboration was reflected to be meaningful and fruitful. The team found that the development of the programme had been sharpened through their combined perspectives. The collaboration also contributed to the professional growth of team members as it required each to go beyond their professional comfort zone into each other's space, to see the project through. As with any new endeavour, challenges were experienced in the course of the collaboration despite the team's mutual commitment and common vision. The paper closes with reflections from the social workers and researchers on the unique contribution each bring to the journey of practice research, as well as learning points and suggested strategies for a successful practice research going forth.

Uggerhøj, L. (2011). What is Practice Research in Social Work – Definitions, Barriers and Possibilities. *Social Work & Society*, 9(1), 45–59.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V303

Title: Mind the Gaps: The Development of a Brief Mindfulness-based Parenting Programme Addressing Service Gap and Research Gap (Abstract no. 2951)

Authors: *Herman Hay-ming Lo, Stanley Chan, Heidi Szeto*

Abstract: This presentation will be a review of how a brief mindfulness-based programme for parents of special needs children was developed. It shows that evidence-based practice should be an integration of research evidence, with clinical expertise and client's needs and contexts. Parents of special needs children often reported parental stress and depression. This, in turn, leads to vicious cycles of negative outcomes for these children and the family's well-being. The first author who has been focused on studying mindfulness-based intervention was invited to join a NGO staff team to develop a new intervention for this special target group. The team noticed that there are research gaps and service gaps in this area of interest. Studies of mindfulness-based intervention reported improvements in stress of the parents of special needs children. However, many of them were intensive programme that required advanced clinical skills, leading to the limited accessibility. Many parents with caregiving burden are reluctant to participate in an intensive programme. Therefore, the project team decides to develop a low intensity, mindfulness-based programme for these parents. The content, format of this low intensity programme should be appealing for parents and relatively easy to implement so that the programme can be widely accessible. After the project team developed the first version of the protocol, they spent one year in conducting pilot studies, arranging regular project meetings, and making consultations with local and overseas clinical experts. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected after the pilot study to evaluate the feasibility of the programme. Finally, a randomised control trial was designed to examine the effectiveness of the programme. Results showed that parents had significant improvements in parental stress and depressive symptoms. Participant satisfaction scores and comments collected from focus group showed their overall satisfaction of programme content and arrangement.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Title: Conceptualising a Transnational Families Study: A Case Sample of Practitioner-informed Research (Abstract no. 2746)

Author: *Alyssa Rose Fernandez*

Abstract: This presentation showcases an example of how practitioners' expertise and experience inform the conceptualisation of a research study. The topic of interest is transnational families in Singapore, as there has been an increase in the number of transnational families seeking assistance from social service agencies. However, not much is known about the experiences and needs of this group of clients. Therefore, the researcher interviewed 19 social service practitioners who had experience working with transnational families, so as to better understand the issue in the local context from the practitioners' perspectives. The researcher was then able to conceptualise relevant research questions for a subsequent research study. This presentation thus offers a glimpse into the lives of transnational married couples and their children in Singapore, and discusses the experiences and challenges faced by these service-users, as observed by practitioners. The process of collaborating with practitioners in conceptualising a research study ensures that the research will yield findings that are highly relevant to the practice setting.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Title: The Development of Half-way Learning Social Workers in Mainland China: With One Organisation in Sichuan as An Example (Abstract no. 3102)

Author: *Li-shan Li*

Abstract: Essentially, a professional being engaged in social work practice is called a social worker. But there has been more ambivalence in the concept of social worker in mainland China within a context that the number of social worker is increasing speedily, consisting of those majoring in social work and half-way learning social workers. But the changes and challenges experienced by these practitioners without formal education or professional training remain unprecedented. Taking a local social work organisation as an example, this study attempts to provide an overview of the development of non-professional social workers and investigates the factors that affect their identification. Methods: The use of action research is a well-established approach in solving the practical problems in the course of work. Once being a superior of the team in that social work agency, the author could work together with frontline practitioners to collect data, jointly discuss, reflect on self, and finally solve some problems. Findings: The only local social work centre is mixed model, as it is launched by government, and paid by the block grant; the main income is the project capitals; professional teachers and students work as members to provide supervision or direct service with non-professional practitioners. Hence, there are a series of dilemmas they face, consisting of the general ones including high staff turnover, low employee satisfaction, weak sense of belonging and inefficient work, and the specific ones including the conflicts with administrative model, reluctance of being a social worker, the lack of a body of professional knowledge, a shortage of resources, little commitment to social work profession, and the uncertainties of identity. Conclusions: Further research should be undertaken to confirm social workers', especially half-way learning social workers', identity and a key policy priority should therefore be to plan for the long-term development.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V311

Title: Searching for the Meaning of Parenthood through Parent Education: A Practice Research on Chinese Rural-to-Urban Migrant Mothers of Left-behind Children in Shenzhen, China (Abstract no. 2882)

Authors: *Siu-ming To, Ching-man Lam, Qiao-bing Wu, Juan Chen, Hau-lin Tam*

Abstract: Through the collaboration with a social service agency in Shenzhen of mainland China, this practice research is a pioneering attempt to develop and evaluate a parent support group and education programme for Chinese rural-to-urban migrant mothers of left-behind children. Methods: Recruited by a social service agency, two parent support and education groups (one for mothers of preschool children and one for mothers of primary school children) were organised for 30 migrant mothers living in Shenzhen. They had at least one child living in the hometown. The objectives of the programme involved helping the mothers to construct the meaning of motherhood and equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to fostering child development and enhancing parent-child relationship. Two social workers of that agency were trained to become group facilitators. A pretest-posttest assessment survey, two post-intervention focus groups, and two individual interviews with the social workers were adopted for the evaluation methods. Findings: The quantitative results showed that the participants experienced significant positive changes in parental sense of competence and parental attitudes. The qualitative findings indicated that the programme helped the participants reaffirm a deep relational connection with their children and reconsider their parental goals. They could also foster parent-child relationships through mobile phone parenting and periodic visits. The social workers reported that the training process helped them explore how their own family of origin and life experiences affected the way they grew and perceived parenting. They also learned how to organise parent support groups. Conclusion: The knowledge produced in this practice research can assist social workers in China with designing a comprehensive parent support program with tailored contents and goals. The findings can also help to generate useful ideas regarding the formulation of social policies and services that are more responsive to the needs of migrant parents in China.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V313

Title: Theory of Change within Policy-initiated Evaluations: The Case of the Norwegian Low Income Family Intervention Study (Abstract no. 1622)

Authors: *Ira Elena Malmberg-Heimonen, Anne Grete Tøge*

Abstract: The aim of this study is to demonstrate the process of developing a theory of change for policy-initiated interventions. The case applied is the Norwegian low-income family intervention study, where experience- and evidence-based methods are implemented within social work practices. The aim is to make a close and efficient follow up of low- income families, increasing their self-sufficiency and social participation, thus preventing intergenerational poverty as a long-term effect. The intervention programme has been developed by the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration. It is evaluated by a cluster-randomised design involving 30 municipalities and 650 families nationwide in Norway. The programme consists of interventions at the family level and system level, thus increasing its complexity regarding the theory of change and its evaluation. The results demonstrate that the process of developing a theory of change needs to be different within policy-initiated interventions than researcher-initiated interventions. Given the complexity of social work practices, policy-makers interest in developing and implementing evidence-based interventions, and the importance of a deductive process for developing a theory of change, it is important that these issues are identified and systematically dealt with early in the process.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V313

Title: (What) Can We Learn from Practice Theory? (Abstract no. 2848)

Author: *Judith Metz*

Abstract: One of the main issues for social work practice research is to find an approach that provides the opportunity to understand social work practices from within. Positivist approaches often produce knowledge that has good research quality, but also has limited validity for social work practice. Practice theory, a relatively new perspective in understanding social realities, might provide some starting points. In my contribution, I will present how I used practice theory in research on detached youth work in Amsterdam and discuss its values and limitations. Method: Practice theory is used to identify the actors and interactions who together constitute the practice of detached youth work. This results in a conceptual model of detached youth work. Then different research methods were used to reconstruct the specific perspectives and experiences of each actor: document analyses for understanding the institutional organisation, in depth interviews (18) for understanding professional youth workers and questionnaires for understanding youngsters (119). Finally, the different perspectives were integrated according to the conceptual model and validated in five mixed focus groups with youth workers, lecturers, students and researchers. Results: The results of this research are the identification of five methodic steps and five methodic principles of detached youth work as well as an indication of the impact of detached youth work on the personal and social development and the participation of young people. Conclusion and implications: Practice theory hands a structure that can be used for the understanding of the specific dynamics of social work practice as well as for the knowledge production about social work practice. Question that remains is: How does the integration of local knowledge from different practices in specific social contexts into a more in depth and robust understanding of detached youth work relate to the criteria of academic research?

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Room: V313

Title: Research on Status about Evidence-based Practice Conceptions and Methods Applied to Social Work in China (Abstract no. 2883)

Authors: *Shu Zhang, Ting-ting Zhang, Zheng-gang Bai*

Abstract: This paper tries to understand the statues of evidence-based research in social work field. **Methods:** Literature search: search CNKI, Wanfang, all retrieved in October, 2015. Include all literatures in social science study on evidence based practice. **Results:** Extract information from total 29 literatures. Most studies centralise in coastal regions like Guangzhou, Anhui, south China (11/29), the type of included studies are mostly reviews (16/29), primary studies (9/29). Seen from the time line, number of published studies began to increase from 2009. And from then on, the amount keeps growing gradually. There are 24 articles during years 2011-2015. From the aspect of study themes, nowadays in social work field, researches mainly study the problems among teenagers and elders, social welfare is the major aspect of researches. Evidence-based conceptions make directions for development of evidence-based practice in social work. As more and more practitioners and administrative staffs are paying attentions on EBP, researchers are committed to introducing EBP in social work in China. **Conclusion:** The concept of evidence-based practice in domestic rises late, academic recognition is not popular and related researches are few. The circumstances of practitioners not using best evidence to guide decision making and practice often is getting more and more attention, there is an urgent need of the concept of evidence-based in social work to be strengthened. Evidence-based social work field research in China has been developed from the initial starting phase transition to vigorous development. The unbalanced regional distribution, regional differences in the development of our country, not enough secondary research literature, low research quality, evidence-based concept penetration incomplete, unclear evidence-based social work method, description of evidence-based practice in the development of social sciences. The spread of the concept of evidence-based are still unclear, facing obstacles when developing methodology. So, in China, evidence-based social science still has much room to improve.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V314

Title: How Much Must PBR Be Practice-based? The Shift of Practice Need and External Disturbance (Abstract no. 2963)

Author: *Tatsuru Akimoto*

Abstract: Defining Practice-based Research (PBR) as a research which is initiated on the practice need expressed by practitioners, and carried and analysed by practitioners, and whose result is returned to the practice field, the core concept would be practitioners' participation. Then, how much must PBR be practice-based? How much must PBR respect or be obedient to the will and request of practitioners? Particularly in an action research-typed macro-level PBR, various external disturbances continuously come in and practitioner's need and interest themselves often shift and change in the whole course of the research, how to handle those disturbances? Various adjustments, reorganisations and compromises are required on the research side. How to maintain the "scientificness" even in a segment of the whole research design? How to sustain the research itself keeping practitioners' interest? As far as where can the research insist itself on being a research? The presenter shares and discusses his experiences and lessons harvested from the "Macro Level PBR—Curriculum Design for Buddhist Social Work in Sri Lanka" whose preliminary report was made in the 3rd International Conference on Practice Research in 2015. The research consisted of two segments: (1) a Buddhist "social work" activity census of all Buddhist temples in several sub-districts in the central part of Sri Lanka, and (2) the design of a curriculum based on the census data. Examples of external disturbances are a pressure to skip some part of research for the immediate implementation of the curriculum, the result of a President election and following political turmoil, changes of host institutions of the programme, etc. Generalisation of our experiences and lessons for the macro level PBR, which may be the most adaptive to "support/assistance projects" for the "developing" countries, is the aim to achieve in future.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V314

Title: Professional and Practice Outcomes Associated with a Scholarship to Assist Social Work Qualification Completion: An Exploratory Study in New Zealand (Abstract no. 2795)

Authors: *Polly Yeung, Awhina English, Hannah Mooney, Kieran O'Donoghue*

Abstract: Since 2005, the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Study Award of New Zealand (NZ) has provided funding to support unqualified social workers, whose work focuses on vulnerable children and their families, to complete social work qualifications recognised by the NZ Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) in order to attain state registration as social workers. The overall aim of this award is to achieve positive outcomes for children, young people and their family by increasing the qualification level, and so the skills and competence of the social service workforce. This research explores the extent to which the award recipients have developed their social work practice as a result of the study award. **Methods:** A cross-sectional postal survey was sent to a total of 449 recipients who had attained a recognised social work qualification prior to and including 2014. The survey included motivation to become a social worker, contribution from the NGO study award, self-perceived rating against SWRB core competency standards, reflective ability and job satisfaction. A descriptive analysis of the results was undertaken on the returned surveys from 107 award recipients. **Results:** Recipients found

the award provided them the opportunity to study and work (implementation of theory into practice while studying), more understanding of SWRB competencies, higher level of reflective ability and greater confidence in themselves as practitioners, such as working with NZ Indigenous people and other ethnic minority groups. Conclusions: Results from this study indicate that the award has established a key platform for the commitment of the recipients to the social work profession and helps further developing their professional identity as a social worker to instil their professional competencies in their fields of social work practice.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V314

Title: Social Work Practice Research in Hong Kong: A Critical Review and Moving Forward (Abstract no. 3124)

Author: *Simon Tak-mau Chan*

Abstract: Social work education in Hong Kong started in the mid-1950s and has made further advancements in the 60 years that have followed. Social work advocates have emphasised on the need to integrate research and practice, but in Hong Kong, social work practice research is still a relatively emerging area and the profile of practice research remains elusive. This study therefore provides an overview of practice research in Hong Kong, with a review on all of the practice research articles written in Chinese and English, and published in local and international journals. A content analysis of local and international journal manuscripts published on or before 2016 produced about 1000 articles on social work practice analysis found through Chinese or English search engines and in local social work journals. The key questions asked are “who published what?” and “what is the concerned methodology?” The preliminary findings show that publications on practice research flourished in the mid-90s, and most of them are written by academics. The first publication is found in the mid-70s. Single and joint authorship within three authors are the majority in the aspect of authorship. Other than social work practice, mental health and education related practice have been two emerging areas since 2001. In terms of the methodologies, the use of quantitative methods of research has outnumbered qualitative methods by about three-folds from 1980 to 2015. Correlation and case studies are the most common approach of quantitative and qualitative methods respectively. The article concludes that there is room for improvement in the quality of practice research publications in Hong Kong, and that advancements will be further recommended. Practice research could be enhanced to the point of establishing a distinctive professional knowledge base for social work in Hong Kong in considering its unique geographical, cultural, socioeconomic, and political contexts.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V315

Title: The Role of Mentors in Promoting Success and Satisfaction for Undergraduate Social Work Students (Abstract no. 2844)

Authors: *Kevin Jones, Emma Martinez*

Abstract: There is evidence that mentors in the lives of college students can help increase academic performance and retention (Campbell & Campbell, 1997). However, it is unclear how the presence of mentors influences students' perceptions of satisfaction with their academic programmes and their readiness for life after college. The question of readiness is particularly important for social work students, who must develop a wide range of professional skills in addition to completing the core academic curriculum. To address these questions, the current study tested the presence of mentors in students' lives (within and outside of the social work programme) as predictors of student perceptions of competence and readiness for social work practice and satisfaction with their social work programmes. **Methods:** Using a purposive sampling method, a 112-item online survey was administered to students enrolled in undergraduate social work programmes across the United States (n=593). Bivariate correlations were conducted with the two mentoring variables and six major outcome variables. Multiple regression analyses then tested the mentoring variables as predictors of competence, readiness, and programme satisfaction. **Findings:** The two mentoring variables were positively and significantly correlated with five of the six outcome variables, with the exception of "preparedness for graduate study". Regression analyses indicated that the presence of a mentor within the social work programme significantly predicted feelings of competence in social work practice ($t=3.70$, $p<.001$), preparedness for a social work career ($t=2.45$, $p<.05$), as well as satisfaction in the social work programme ($t=4.12$, $p<.001$) and in the practicum placement ($t=3.84$, $p<.001$), while the presence of a mentor outside of the programme was not a significant predictor of any outcomes. **Conclusions:** The findings suggest that mentors play an important role in the educational lives of undergraduate social work students. This information can guide social work programme planning and implementation.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V315

Title: Social Workers' Attitude towards Professional Practice during the Early Professional Development Stage in Taiwan (Abstract no. 2739)

Authors: *Kate Yeong-tsy Wang, I-long Liu, Hsiang-ting Chiu*

Abstract: The purposes of this study is to examine social workers' attitude to their professional practice during the first two years as social work professionals. This study is the part of the research project of Taiwan Association of Social Workers. **Methods:** The online survey was conducted during April, 2016 in Taiwan. The number of valid cases was 584. There were five dimensions of attitude to professional practice including: (1) personal commitment to social work, (2) role clarity and role conflict, (3) self-efficacy, (4) stress, (5) job satisfaction. The framework of the questionnaire was based on the British study of Early Professional Development Pilot Program. In addition, at least two focus groups will be conducted by the end of 2016. The participants will be university educators and employers. **Findings:** Near 30% of respondents planned to leave social work. The issues of role conflicts and internal/external coordination were their main concerns in terms of professional roles. Respondents felt less confident in tasks such as planning, evaluation and advocacy. Job stress was an important issue which needs to be

addressed. Respect from society and promotion opportunities were two major sources affecting their job satisfaction. Finally, demographic factors including age, gender, education levels, years of work experience, and assistances from supervisors also affected respondents' attitudes. Conclusions: The findings can provide useful information for the related stakeholders such as social workers, university professional educators, and employers.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V315

Title: Retention of Practice Research Knowledge and Self-efficacy of MSW Alumni:
A Longitudinal Study (Abstract no. 1707)
Author: *Jodi Constantine Brown*

Abstract: Few longitudinal studies exist regarding knowledge retention in Master of Social Work (MSW) students, but if students do not retain knowledge they will not have that information to use as practitioners in the field. Previous studies examined knowledge retention finding no significant difference after three months but a statistically significant difference after one year, suggesting that knowledge retention changes over time. The current study explored the research self-efficacy of, and use of research by, MSWs in their first year of employment following their graduation from a CSWE accredited MSW programme in May 2014. Methods: The current study used a longitudinal mixed methods explanatory sequential design. Participants included a convenience sample (N=30) of MSW alumni enrolled in a beginning research methods class spring 2013. All participants completed standardised measures of practice evaluation knowledge (PEKS scale) and research self-efficacy (RSES scale) at four time points over two years. In-depth interviews were conducted with participants in September 2015 via Skype to further explore the use of research in an agency setting. Findings: One-way repeated measures ANOVA indicate that participants' practice evaluation knowledge improved between time 1 (M=2.18; SD=.59), time 2 (M=3.63; SD=.49), and time 3 (M=3.74; SD=.53), but decreased slightly at time 4 (M=3.63; SD=.55). There was a significant effect for time, Wilks' Lambda = .15, $F(3,27) = 49.90$, $p < .00$, multivariate partial eta squared = .85, indicating the majority of knowledge was learned in the first research class and maintained over time. Results from in-depth interviews suggest that MSWs working in organisations with greater resources use research more often in their daily routine. Conclusions: Improving organisational support of research use may increase clinicians' research use and self-efficacy in practice, ultimately resulting in better quality standards of intervention and improved client outcomes.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V316

Title: Teaching Practical Research: From Student Learning to Organisational Learning (Abstract no. 2910)

Authors: *Betina Jacobsen, Randi Riis Michelsen*

Abstract: The objective of this paper is to investigate how to enhance transfer of knowledge from students to their organisations. The setting is a master education in vulnerable children and young people at Aalborg University, Denmark. It is a part-time education and the students are comprised of social workers, teachers, pedagogues, doctors and health visitors across the country. A special focus is on the students' work with changes in their own organisations, by performing interventions in their own practice. The interventions are based on principles of practice research, and our role as teachers is to supervise the students. This type of student research gives comprehensive student ownership and change in practice. However, there are persistent challenges in transferring knowledge from the students to their organisations. Methods: The following methods are used: Observation studies are carried out, focusing on the factors in the students' practice that enhances and hampers transfer from the students learning to organisational learning. The observation studies are supplemented with interviews with the students and their superiors, providing their own reflections on enhancing and hampering factors. On this basis, and in collaboration with the students and their superiors, we create video clips/tutorials and E-communication for others to use in the future, communicating the benefits of the students' implementation work for the entire organisation. Findings and conclusions: The project provides guidelines to students and organisations to use when implementing a practice research project. We argue that a closer collaboration and greater synergy/co-creation between the education, students and organisations expands learning from student learning to organisational learning and increases the odds of success when implementing practice research, also after the students' participation in the education has ended. Although collected in Denmark, the mechanisms of extended learning are likely to apply in other practice research projects across the world.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V316

Title: A Participatory Action Research on Essential Practice Behaviours for Effective Clinical Supervision in a Community-based Organisation (Abstract no. 2944)

Authors: *Roger Choon-kee Ong, Puay-wun Choy, Andy Kee-soon Lam, Vani Saminathan, Treena Aun-hoon Tan*

Abstract: Clinical supervision is essential for good social work practice. With the implementation of the national Code of Social Work Practice (CSWP) in Family Service Centres (FSCs) in Singapore, the requirements for clinical supervision to ensure good professional competency in delivering high standards of services for desired client outcomes has increased. In response to the greater expectations on practice and clinical supervision, this research seeks to identify key practice behaviours for effective supervision and contributes to a collaborative effort in developing a clinical supervision framework to meet an increased service expectation for a community-based organisation in Singapore. Method: This is a qualitative participatory action research with academics, supervisors and social work practitioners within and outside the organisation, in Singapore and internationally. It obtains data from practitioner interviews, agency visits, and focus group discussions through reflexive reflections and thematic analyses

related to supervisory practice awareness and effectiveness, professional development and service efficacy at the individual, professional and organisational levels. Findings: The initial findings highlighted key competencies and practice behaviours for effective clinical supervision and the symbiotic relationships among practitioners, supervisors and organisation in responding to increasing service demands. This ongoing research also reveals the systemic multiplying effects of training, practice and supervision on service provision. Conclusion: Capability development for supervisors is undertaken from an integrated position and demands a collaborative commitment from individuals, organisation, community and larger social work sector. The findings will inform an individualised professional developmental plan and mastery of professional competencies which can be evaluated through reflective and experiential approaches. This research is ongoing and the next phase seeks to transform qualitative practice behaviours into measurable practice behaviours. This will enhance an organisation's capability to assess effectiveness of clinical supervision and ensure good standards of social work practice.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V316

Title: The Construction of Empowering Approaches within a Workfare Paradigm
(Abstract no. 2857)

Author: *Maja Lundemark Andersen*

Abstract: The construction of empowering approaches within a workfare paradigm. Is it possible to construct empowering approaches as a process where the citizens have influence over social efforts and thereby take ownership on his way to jobs or training? What kind of partnerships and /or conflicts might be embedded in these constructions? Which kind of professional training and cooperation are helpful in these processes? How can professionals learn to communicate and work with empowerment in cooperation with the citizens and at the same time administrate cut backs and different forms of control? According to Caswell (2014), the mind-set currently central in social work is one where sanctions are the only way to teach citizens outside the workforce how to find and keep a job. Structural explanations for unemployment as well as initiatives not focusing on learning are unthinkable. Therefore, it is important to know – and to choose – how these lines of thoughts and strategies are attached to the concept of empowerment in advanced welfare states and how practice research might be informed by empowerment. To create an empowering partnership between citizens and professionals there is a need to find ways to overcome different kinds of complexities and dilemmas in social work within the forms of practice research. And it is urgent to deal with the production of power in professional/citizen relationships and to discuss, negotiate and choose the most important problems to be addressed in a practice research process. In other words, making power relations visible and negotiable through education and training. I will discuss the interpretations of empowerment, the professional strategies of empowering interventions and the development of partnerships and collaborations in the “Jobcenter”. One of the core themes is a discussion about professional learning in a daily social work praxis dominated by cross pressures.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V321

Title: A Study to Review Infection Control Policy and Care Practices to Enhance the Quality of Residential Care (Abstract no. 2906)

Authors: *Rainbow Lai-ping Lee, Enid Kwong, Audrey Leung, Justina Liu, Rick Kwan, Patrick Kor, Alice Tang, Annie Chung, Claudia Lai*

Abstract: Infection control is a global concern in long-term residential care. It is important to explore how policies and the quality of care practices in this aspect can be improved. The quality of care provided will eventually enhance the quality of life for older people. The objectives of this study are to review existing infection control policies and care practices, as well as to propose recommendations for the standardisation of existing policies for two residential care facilities of the Yuen Yuen Institute (YYI), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Hong Kong. **Methods:** We adopted a mixed-method design, which included (i) non-participant field observations, (ii) a questionnaire on the knowledge of staff in the residential care facilities, (iii) focus group interviews, and (iv) document review. Data triangulation was performed to integrate and interpret data generated from different sources. **Findings:** Staff in the residential care facilities scored high in the knowledge test in the areas of hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene. From the field observations, such knowledge was not always practised. The staff were well versed in describing infection control measures but they lacked information about an infection control committee and the roles and responsibilities of an infection control officer. The document review showed that the staff provided high quality care in wound management and in the detection of signs and symptoms of common endemic infections. The main areas for attention included long-term indwelling urinary catheter care, nasogastric feeding practices, respiratory care, and care of equipment used in oxygen therapy. **Conclusions:** The quality of care will be enhanced if the Homes adopt the recommendations given by the research team. This paper presents the recommendations of practices based on evidence generated by the triangulation of data from multiple data sources.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V321

Title: Research on Political Participation by Persons with Disabilities in Social Work Practice: An Example of the Eden Social Welfare Foundation (Abstract no. 2682)

Authors: *Ying Lien, Deng-wei Lin, Ci-siou Chin*

Abstract: Persons with disabilities face many limitations including in political participation. In 2014, the Taiwan government announced the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Enforcement Act, which has affected service-related benefits. Moreover, how social work practice reflects the content and spirit of the CRPD has become an important issue. The Eden Social Welfare Foundation held a mock voting activity for persons with disabilities and found that they suffered from inequalities and inadequacies in infrastructure, which need to be translated into policy initiatives, in order to continue to promote human rights and civic participation. The methodology used in this study included literature review and in-depth interviews with social workers and persons with physical and mental disabilities who participated in the Eden Social Welfare Foundation activity. The aim of this study was to understand how the mock voting process can be planned and designed to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. From the results, political participation is influenced by several factors including inborn or acquired physical disabilities, type of disability and convenience of facilities. Finally,

suggestions are provided on how to implement the CRPD in the areas of environment, education, political participation limitations and social work practice.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V321

Title: A Pilot Programme for the Implementation of Patient Self-determination Act (Policy) Initiated by Medical Social Worker in Taiwan (Abstract no. 2930)

Author: *Yi-ling Yeh*

Abstract: By the end of 2015, Taiwan has become the first Asian country which has the Patient Self-determination Act (PSDA) legislation. The legislation stipulates that a person needs first to receive consultation of Advance Care Planning (ACP) provided by healthcare facilities, and obtain the notarised signatures of two witnesses with full capacity for civil conduct and the medical professionals on the consultation team recorded in the Advance Directives (AD). And then, such decision can be recorded on a person's National Health Insurance card and officially validating their AD. Patient can use AD to express their wish to accept or refuse certain kind of medical treatments when diagnosed with the specific clinical condition. Although the PSDA has been passed, it will only come into effect three years later. Several sub-laws, including the Enforcement Rules of PSDA, ACP and AD still need to be stipulated. The aim of this study is to demonstrate how practice research can be used in this policy making and implementation process. After a nine months' pilot programme, we used both quantitative and qualitative method to investigate the proper strategy to support and fulfil this policy. Important elements are found in our study, including community promotions (13 times/1,441 people participate), and staff training programme (12 times/906 medical staff including physicians, nurses and social workers), family meetings for ACP (339 times), and eventually 302 Advance directives were signed by the participants. We find social workers play significant roles in educating ACP knowledge, facilitating ACP discussions, and coordinating the medical team during the programme. Cultural sensitive programme, documents and procedures has been developed to opening ACP discussion and therefore leads to the fulfilment of AD. The readiness of ACP among the population is also important for advocacy in the future.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V322

Title: Cocaine was My Mistress: Using Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy to Treat Substance Addictions, Results from a Replicative Case Study (Abstract no. 2814)

Author: *Kara Lynn Fletcher*

Abstract: Globally, substance addiction has become a public health crisis with billions of dollars in annual social costs and deleterious impacts on family relationships. Researchers are increasingly investigating the potential for couple therapy as a treatment model within this context. This presentation will provide results from a replicated case study that tested a theoretical extension of Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy (EFT) designed to treat couples where one partner is living with a substance addiction. Four couples received EFT for a period ranging from 18-26 weeks. Therapy transcripts were analysed against the normative EFT model and reviewed for emergent themes. Results from this study indicate a need to rework how relapse and recovery are conceptualised in addiction treatment. Couples require space to process relapses, and define recovery objectives together. Outcomes also highlight the need for social workers treating couples in the context of addiction to broaden definitions of treatment success to include and support client definitions of progress. This study indicates the important place of innovative couple therapy in addiction treatment. Recommendations for future adaptations to the EFT extension will be offered.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V322

Title: Setting Up Employability Assessment Tool (EAT) for Youth in Hong Kong (Abstract no. 2939)

Authors: *Ka-shi Kwong, Tony Wai-yip Lo*

Abstract: After the reconstruction of the Social Services Department in 2001, employment services have been developed in cluster base to meet the needs of the people and our motto: "Heart to God, Hand to Man". From 2010, cluster started a series of studies to consolidate service impact on youth employment. A comprehensive assessment tool was then designed to measure the changes of the unemployed youth, and to review our service effectiveness as well. **Methods:** From 2010 to 2013, in working with the Chinese University of Hong Kong, EAT was set up in a 2 years' mentorship project for youth aged from 15 to 29. This study was conducted based on a pre-and-post experimental and control group design. After the revision of the findings, EAT was introduced to all service users since 2014. Service users complete EAT in the beginning and at the end in receiving our services. In 2016, a community survey has been conducted, stratified random sampling was used to collect the employability of senior secondary school students (F.4 to F.6) in Hong Kong. **Findings:** Altogether 90 unemployed youth was assessed from 2010 to 2013, the EAT has been verified successfully. Twelve domains of the youth employability and different critical factors have been located. Since 2014, over 700 services users has completed the EAT. In 2016, around 2,400 students completed the community survey. Based on the results from the unemployed youth and the students from senior forms, strengths and weakness of them were found. Associations with their personal background were also found. **Conclusions:** EAT is helpful in measure the youth employability in different developmental stages, it helps our services to meet individual needs and provide them specific services. Overall services strategies were also planned based on those vulnerable findings.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V322

Title: Programme Evaluation: Working with Adolescents who Play Video Games Excessively (Abstract no. 3119)

Authors: *Timothy Sim, Anita Low-Lim*

Abstract: As the internet and video games become a pervasive part of our lives, parents and professionals are concerned with its impact on the development of children and adolescents. TOUCH Cyber Wellness, a youth service of TOUCH Community Services, developed an intervention programme to work with adolescents who play video games excessively. Using the Family Systems Approach and Strengths Based Perspective, the programme works towards behavioural modification. To evaluate the programme effectiveness, we conduct an in-depth study of this multi-dimensional approach consisting of individual, group and family counselling, self-awareness sessions, structured outdoor activities, group video-gaming sessions and parent consultation sessions. Method: In-depth interviews with 10 adolescents and 11 parents, who underwent the programme, were conducted between April and December 2011. Findings: Three particularly helpful strategies the study found including: (1) Effective Use of Technology (Youth Engagement); (2) Strengthen Family Relationship (Parents & Adolescents); and (3) Diversify Interest (Multi-dimensional Approach). Conclusion: Practitioners need to move beyond the counselling room to use different strategies to reach out to the adolescents where they are found – at their homes, in schools, cyber cafes or online platforms. Most adolescents will use computers at home or in school. Effective treatment for each cannot have abstinence as the goal. Intervention should be focused on helping adolescents to moderate inappropriate online behaviour and promoting a balanced lifestyle rather than to eliminate it. There is a need to diversify the interest of adolescents by becoming engaged in outdoor activities and playing different type of games. It is important to work with the parents; to include the involvement and commitment of both parents and youths to strengthen family relationships and communication, to help parents overcome parenting challenges by bridging the digital divide.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V1213

Title: Implementation Challenges in an RCT for Stroke Patients and Caregivers (Abstract no. 3136)

Authors: *Paul Freddolino, Mathew Reeves, Sarah Swierenga, Anne Hughes, Amanda Woodward, Michele Fritz, Constantinos Coursaris*

Abstract: For many stroke patients and caregivers, complex transitions home from hospital include hospital readmissions, slow recovery, poor quality of life, unmet informational needs, and high caregiver burden. This presentation reports challenges fielding an ongoing randomised controlled trial (RCT) – the Michigan Stroke Transition Trial (MISTT) – of two patient-centred intervention models. Social workers play a vital role by providing advocacy and counselling, and coordinating services. Home visits provide valuable information about complex social and medical needs of patients in their lived environment. One intervention aims to improve transitions through a patient and caregiver-centred social work case management programme designed to reduce patient and caregiver needs, improve quality of life, and decrease caregiver burden. In addition, for the second intervention we have assessed stroke patient information needs to develop a curated, patient-centred website that provides access to communication,

information, and support resources offered in addition to the case management programme to randomly-assigned patients. Many RCTs encounter implementation challenges and MISTT has been no exception. The most salient challenges have come in two areas: Recruitment issues have included lower census of stroke patients than expected in the providing hospitals; and some differences in perspective on the nature of research and the purpose of this particular project by staff on whom the project depends to initiate recruitment. Developing the technology tool – essentially a web portal – has been more complex than anticipated. While content was based on what survivors and caregivers in our pilot phase indicated would be important, a usability/accessibility review indicated the need for major revisions. Even after improvements, there has been less interest in using the web site than expected based on pilot interviews. The presentation will report on how the team became aware of these challenges, steps developed to address them, and results to date of changes made.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V1213

Title: Patient Support Group in Asian Renal Setting (Abstract no. 2863)
Authors: Hien-fhong Chee, Rena Goh, Shu-jing Lim

Abstract: Patients during early phase of long-term haemodialysis (HD) often face challenges in psychosocial well-being, financial stressors and family roles, especially if they lack mental and physical preparation for dialysis. The time-consuming nature of dialysis, coupled with strict restriction on fluid intake and diet, causes disruption to daily living. This disruption may cause more stress, anxiety and a sense of loss if the patient lacks knowledge on self-care, social and financial support to cope (Monaro, Stewart & Gullick, 2014). National Kidney Foundation Singapore started Patient Care Groups (PCG) to better help our new ESRD (End Stage Renal Disease) patients. We have observed that new patients in PCG have lesser anxiety and adjust faster towards long-term HD. While research shows that group work is useful for patients with chronic illness (Glaser & Glassman, 2014), no study was done to show how group work during PCG helps our renal patients in the rehabilitation process. This practice-based study aims to investigate the effectiveness of PCG on helping new patients to cope with the stress and anxiety during early phase of long-term HD. Method: This study looks at anxiety levels between new patients (less than 1 month after admission) who attended PCG sessions (experimental group) and patients who did not (control group). 20 new patients are randomly assigned to one of the two groups. We measure their anxiety levels through surveys (Illness Perception Questionnaire) and interviews (Content Analysis) upon admission and three months after. Data collected is compared between experimental and control group. Findings: This study is ongoing. We expect to see documented improvements in patients' wellbeing in the aspects of anxiety and adjusting toward long-term HD. Conclusion: Patients in the early phase of dialysis may have high anxiety levels that can be alleviated with structured peer support programmes.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V1213

Title: Cultural Sensitive and Family-centred Advance Care Planning in Taiwan

(Abstract no. 2948)

Author: *Lih-chu Tien*

Abstract: In Chinese culture, the family plays a significant role in the process of medical decision-making. Most of the time, family members are reluctant to tell the truth to the terminally ill patients, not mentions to encourage them participate to the process of decision making. In order to maintain the harmonious relationship with patients' families, physicians tend to weigh family members' view more than patients' autonomy, especially for the decisions of end of life. After Patient Self-determination Act is enacted in 2016, patients have the right to get informed about the diagnosis, prognosis and choices of treatment. But, according to the law, if patients want to make their own Advance Directives, they must invite their close relatives to Advance Care Planning meeting to get consensus with family. The aim of the paper is to explore the characteristics of family-centred advance care planning and the direction for the further development. This practice research used both quantitative and qualitative method to investigate family characteristics and dynamics among the participants and their family members (such as spouse, children and siblings). Among 339 cases, "spouse" is mostly assigned as the health care agent by participants, followed by their child. It shows that the consensus of couples is the key point to complete Advance Directives. We find that the responsibility of surrogate decision has switched from the oldest son to the spouse. Characteristics of family dynamic should be taken into account, as culture change of gender and generation is significant according to our practice experience. Through the depth-interviews (8 cases), we also found that the withdrawal of artificial nutrition and hydration is most difficult issue to achieve consensus between the participant and family members, apart from other preferences of life-sustaining treatments. It may be related to the meaning of dietary that are deeply rooted in Chinese culture.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V1215

Title: The Evidence-base of the Healthy Start Home Visit Programme (Abstract no. 3126)

Authors: *Cynthia Leung, Kitty Yin-kwan Heung, Sandra Tsang*

Abstract: The "Healthy Start Home Visit Programme" (HSHVP), co-organised by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the University of Hong Kong, is an early prevention and intervention strategy to promote the holistic development of young children from disadvantaged families (new arrival/single-parent family/low income family) through parent involvement in education, multidisciplinary collaboration and home-school collaboration. It aims to equip parent home visitors to provide training to disadvantaged parents through home visits. Funded by the Quality Education Fund (QEF), the efficacy of the HSHVP was evaluated using randomised control trial design from 2010 to 2013. Research results indicated that the programme was effective in promoting preschool children's holistic development in behavioural, learning, and physical domains. With the promising results of the efficacy study, the programme was funded by QEF again under the Quality Education Fund Thematic Network on Parent Education to extend the programme to Tuen Mun, Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long. The home visit model could tailor services for families according to their daily routines and needs. Further, this systematic and intensive curriculum could equip parents with knowledge and skills to teach other service recipient parents. Home-school

collaboration also strengthened the communication between parents and teachers to support children's development. In order to cater for needs of parents in various districts, QEF continues to support us to adapt the curriculum of this evidence-based home visit programme into a school-based parent training programme, which will be offered to disadvantaged families with pre-primary children in New Territories in 2016/2017. This school-based programme will be evaluated using randomised control trial design. In line with the emphasis on practice research, research is built in to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme with different formats of delivery in a practice setting.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V1215

Title: From Practice to Research: Understanding the Factors Associated with Contact between Children, Caregivers, and their Incarcerated Parents in Singapore
(Abstract no. 2945)

Authors: *Xin-wei Fang, Denise Liu, Bynes Wei-jie Liao*

Abstract: Prison inmates who have more contact with their families experience better mental health and a higher likelihood of family reunification post-incarceration. Despite these benefits, many incarcerated offenders do not maintain regular contact with their families. The Singapore Children's Society provides services to enable children to maintain contact with their incarcerated parents and to build healthy family relationships. For example, Project Relate, a parenting cum visit coaching programme, aims to enable incarcerated fathers to maintain or improve their relationships with their children and other family members. From the feedback gathered during Project Relate, practitioners realised that multiple factors were affecting the participants' ability to successfully maintain or to improve relationship with their family members. As little is known about the factors affecting contact between incarcerated parents and their children in Singapore, practitioners decided to use a collaborative, practice-based approach to investigate (1) the factors that encourage children and their caregivers to maintain contact with inmates, (2) the barriers children and their caregivers face in maintaining contact with inmates, (3) impact of prior and current relationship on contact with inmates. Method: Face-to-face semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 20 caregivers and 10 children. The interviews will be transcribed and coded, and thematic analysis will be used to identify main themes. Approach: This presentation will highlight findings from this qualitative study, as well as the process of conducting collaborative practice-based research involving practitioners, researchers, and undergraduate volunteers. The process of transforming practice questions into research questions and the challenges faced negotiating the balance between practice and research will be discussed.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V1215

Title: The Role of a Programme-specific Social Worker in a Trans-disciplinary Early Intervention, Child-centric Pilot Programme for Families of Low Socio-Economic Status (SES) (Abstract no. 2730)

Authors: *Valerie Goh, Brenda Hui-wen Then, Candice Chiew, Winston Ong, Frieda Chan, Winnie Goh*

Abstract: The risk for developmental delay(s) and later learning difficulties is estimated to be 20% higher for children from low SES. Most early intervention services are designed to meet the needs when early signs of delays are detected. However developmental delays due to environmental factors are most preventable if there are appropriate policies and services targeted at these populations. Strong collaborative networks among service providers are crucial in supporting these children and their families to access systems. KIDS 0-3 is a new initiative led by KK Women's and Children's Hospital, in partnership with AMKFSC Community Services, that aims to address these gaps. It seeks to provide early intervention through integrated health and social service support to vulnerable pregnant mothers and their families. As a new programme, the role and practice of the KIDS social worker has been consistently reviewed and evolved. Moving from typical frontline to unconventional "behind-the-scenes", the current role of the KIDS social worker is characterised by provision of strong support to the programme's Key Workers; nurses and community health visitors, who work directly with the caregivers and their children in the community. This reflective presentation shares the learning journey of KIDS 0-3 social workers in a trans-disciplinary, collaborative model of service from programme conception to implementation. It discusses the use of the Key Worker framework to foster strong intra-case collaborations within a multi-disciplinary team and sustaining healthy inter-case collaborations with government and community agencies and partners over a 3-year period. Future evolution of the KIDS social workers' role will also be discussed.

Pre-organised Group (Morning Session)

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V304

Title: How does Research-based Knowledge Facilitate to Improve the Quality of Services Produced by Public Human Service Organisations? (Abstract no. 2956)

Authors: *Mirja Satka, Nanne Isokuortti, Kaisa Pasanen, Aino Kääriäinen, Heidi Muurinen, Petra Malin, Maija Jäppinen, Michael Austin*

Abstract: Presently all Human Service Organisations face the challenge how to cultivate the quality of their services while acknowledging reliable, research-based knowledge reflecting both the users' and the experts' know-how and experience. On the basis of three different, adventurous viewpoints produced by three groups of researchers, this session provides a vivid discussion on the methodological issues of data-driven approaches in organisational learning and improvement. The first presentation by Isokuortti and Pasanen introduces the benefits of Social Reporting as a novel tool for clinical data-mining for policy practice at the Department of Social Services and Health Care at Helsinki. Second, Satka, Kääriäinen, Muurinen and Malin present the concept of Learning Lab, a "satellite organisation" based on welfare-mix, and on collaborative, triological learning at an urban, multicultural suburb of Espoo. Playing, gaming and various arts e.g., are used as the resources for action with people. In fact, LL aims to grow toward an up-dated idea of the Settlement based on various experiments in which both the role of the University staff and students, and other participants is remarkable in research and knowledge production. The third presentation is epistemological; it questions what kind of logic of discovery and reasoning we need, when we wish to enhance the quality of human services or design social innovations. Based on her own experience as practitioner researcher, Muurinen explores the possibilities of abductive reasoning in social work practice research. Every oral presentation (15 min.) is followed by a commentary (5 min.) by Prof. Austin. The session ends on general debate on the theme of the group's title.

Experiential Workshops (Morning Session)

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V302

Title: The Potential of Restorative Justice in an Institutional Setting (Abstract no. 2787)

Authors: *Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim, Gabriel Low*

Abstract: From the early 1970s, restorative justice has been introduced as an alternate framework within the criminal justice system in countries such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan (Crawford & Newburn, 2003). Restorative justice is often defined as a process whereby parties with a stake in a specific offence collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of the offence and its implications for the future (Marshall, 1999). Restorative justice is also evident in Singapore. In 2011, Mr Masagos, the then chairman for the National Committee on Youth Guidance and Rehabilitation [1] highlighted the concept as one that balances deterrence with rehabilitation, and is effective in reintegrating youth-at-risk back into society. The field is maturing and is

apparent in the school, court and prison system. It was also noted in commercial organisations (Abdul Rahim, 2014). To test the viability of the concept in an institutional setting, a study was carried out in 2015. The study reviewed the behaviour management strategies of a hostel that worked with high risk offenders placed on probation. The data suggest that some of the behaviour management strategies were aligned with the values of restorative justice. The outcome of the preliminary study led to exploration of restorative justice, its principles and practices in strengthening the behaviour management framework for high risk offenders based in a hostel setting. The four key values of restorative justice – respect, reintegration, responsibility and restoration (Abdul Rahim, 2014) were translated into behaviour indicators with inputs from the probationers and staff. This experiential learning segment seek to provide an overview of the study, the incorporation of the values of restorative justice in strengthening relationship and share the preliminary outcome on the potential of restorative justice in an institutional setting.

[1] A committee that addresses problems and issues related to juvenile delinquency in Singapore.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 11:00 – 12:30

Room: V312

Title: Mindfulness Improves the Well-being and Relationships Between Youths and their Parents (Abstract no. 2733)

Author: *Angie Chew*

Abstract: Mindfulness courses comprising of 1.5 hour sessions ranging from 6-8 weeks where students and parents attend in separate classrooms, have shown improvements in their ability to be calmer, stop & breathe before responding. This results in improving the quality of their interactions and enhancing their relationships. The participants of the course fill in pre and post questionnaires, this enables us to track the behavioural changes resulting from the mindfulness course. There is also evidence in improvement of quality of sleep. The statistical analysis reports will be shared during the presentation that will also include an experiential taste of mindfulness for the attendees.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday)

16:00-17:30

(Afternoon Session)

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

Oral Presentations (Afternoon Session)

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V302

Title: The Meaning of Conflicts in Participatory Research (Abstract no. 2903)

Author: *Sidsel Natland*

Abstract: Partnership projects grounded in participatory research designs between academics, service providers and users are increasingly promoted as means to improve both research and services. However, research reviews find the need for analysis of projects that were not successful, as well as studies that capture participants' own sense-making of the processual development of such projects. The objective of the paper is to contribute in filling this knowledge gap by qualitatively examining a participatory research and development project where conflicts within the project group became hindrances for succeeding with its goals. The group performed promising, but at the same time facing conflicts to such an extent that the group terminated. In the paper, practitioners and users' experiences of participating in the project are highlighted. Methods: The study is a single case study. Data consists of interviews with participants in the group and records, covering all meetings through the 3-year-project period. Data were approached by interpretative phenomenological analysis, committed to examination of how participants make sense of their experiences. Findings: The participants' reports are dominated by experiences of frustration, tensions and conflicts. Conflicts related to the leadership of the group influenced management and concrete outcomes. The emergence and negotiations of conflicts occurred within the context of an empowering process that the users went through, running parallel with the development of the project. Conclusions: The study underscores the importance of acknowledging conflicts in participatory research, including how conflicts and users' empowering processes are complex interwoven, and further, the need to critically examine issues on leadership in participatory research. The study supports the importance of ethnographic studies in order to understand how participatory research projects might deliver as this enables enhanced understanding of micro-practices, power dynamics, and how this might influence knowledge production in participatory research.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V302

Title: Reclaiming Our Knowledges: A Collective Narrative Approach Eliciting Skills and Knowledges of Widows Bereaved by Suicide (Abstract no. 2983)

Author: *Marnie Sather*

Abstract: This paper explores the complex experiences of women who have lost a male partner to suicide, using an innovative narrative practice research methodology. The relationship between lived experience and research will be explored. Widows bereaved by suicide lived experience will be situated in a social, political, ethical, and historical framework, as well as discussion on the preferred ways of practice and the research methodology that will be followed. Widows bereaved by suicide are rapidly catapulted into not only making sense of the death of their loved one but also dealing with the multiple social prescriptions about what can and cannot be discussed. This presents those bereaved by suicide with special problems unique to the method of death. This paper will discuss a collective narrative practice approach to therapy that has been specifically developed to counter the effects of marginalisation and stigma attached to

certain forms of life experience. The founders of narrative therapy were both social workers, committed to challenging operations of power and privilege in mental health services and psychiatry. Four modes of narrative practice are reviewed – re-membling practices, multi-storied tellings, collective narrative practices and reclaiming histories – and how they assist widows who are bereaved by suicide is described. The aim of the paper will be to highlight how narrative practice addresses the need of widows to have their voices heard and to create a community of concern where they would be able to question, address and deconstruct societal practices that silence their voices, and to create the opportunity to re-author their alternative preferred widowhood stories.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V303

Title: Issues and Challenges of Practice Research: Reflecting upon Ten Examples in Hong Kong (Abstract no. 3945)

Authors: *Suet-lin Hung, Kin-fung Kwok*

Abstract: In the context of Hong Kong, the demands to measure outcome of social work services has been increasing from 2000s along the implementation of the funding mode of lump sum grant and service performance monitoring system by the Social Welfare Department. An evaluation of effectiveness has also become an essential part of a programme/service proposal when NGOs are soliciting other public or private funding. Academics are more often than two decades ago invited by NGOs to conduct various types of research studies related to their practice. Under such context, the authors have conducted more than ten locally based practice research studies in the past decade which were commissioned by NGOs. Using ten studies as cases for analysis, differences are revealed according to objectives of research, roles of researchers and participation of service users. It is revealed that the objectives of practice research studies included developing knowledge of the community/specific groups of service users, evaluating effectiveness of services/programmes, and building social work practice models, or various combinations of these. The roles of researchers were diverse which include researcher-as-practitioner, practitioner-as-researcher, researcher as experts, or a mix. The participation of service users or potential service users are of particular concern in an era of neo-liberalisation which delineates their roles mainly as consumers while at the same time being subjected to definitions by professionals. Corresponding to research objectives, roles of researchers and the research design, the extent and forms of participation service users varied. The politics of practice research under the context of neo-liberalisation will be discussed with references to the authors' experiences in conducting these studies. Issues and challenges including those related to ethics, use of research data, attitudes of managers/social workers and participation of stakeholders will also be examined.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V303

Title: Exploring the Potential for Practice-based Research in China from a Social Work Perspective (Abstract no. 2851)

Author: *Bin Xu*

Abstract: The Chinese government has called for education 1.45 million social worker by the year 2020. At the same time, the government is redefining the role of social services. These challenges provide a context for exploring social work practice research. This presentation is divided into two parts: namely, the role of practice-based research (PBR) in China related to social work practice and the role of practice-based teaching in social work. The goal is to begin to rethink the relationship between the delivery of social services and relevant curriculum needed to meet the ambitious expectations of the Chinese government. The first part focuses on describing the features, strengths, and limitations of social work practice in China since 1990s as well as the evolution of social work research related to practice. In addition, special attention is given to describing the differences between “practice-based research” (PBR) and “participatory action research” (PAR) which is more common in China. The second part focuses on the relevance and impact of practice-based research in China on the teaching of social work research in order to identify three ways to integrate practice-based research principles and practices into both social work practice and social work education. The presentation concludes with implications for the future relationship between social work practice and practice research by identifying the culturally-relevant concepts and principles needed to integrate practice-based research into both social work practice and social work education in China.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V303

Title: The Psychological Outcomes of Positive Religious Coping and Perceived Social Support in Latino World Trade Centre (WTC) First Responders: A Study Combining Clinical Data-mining and Secondary Data Analysis (Abstract no. 2922)

Author: *Dianne Ciro*

Abstract: Thousands endured distressing experiences during the 9/11 WTC recovery efforts. While effects of 9/11 continue to be studied, few studies have looked at how first responders are coping and how coping influences their wellbeing. This study compares differences in coping between Hispanic, Non-Hispanic White, and Non-Hispanic Blacks, as well as examined the association between Hispanics’ coping and their wellbeing. Furthermore, the association between Hispanics’ coping, their PTSD symptoms and wellbeing are examined by language preference and US nativity. Methods: Data from 4,148 WTC responders who attended monitoring visits at the Mount Sinai WTC Health programme and participated in a web-based survey were used in a study combining clinical data-mining and secondary data analysis for comparative data-analytic purposes (Epstein, 2010). Specifically, multiple regression analyses were used to compare differences in coping between Hispanics, Non-Hispanic Whites, and Non-Hispanic Blacks, while controlling for demographic variables and trauma exposure. These data were also used to examine the relationship between Hispanics’ coping, their PTSD symptoms, and wellbeing. Further, a moderation effect was tested to examine the relationship between active coping, PTSD, and wellbeing among Hispanics by language preference and US nativity. Results: Key findings suggest similarities in coping between Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Blacks, differences in coping among Hispanics, prevalence

of post-traumatic growth among Hispanics, and the moderating effect of language preference on Hispanics' experiences of positive emotion and quality of life. Conclusion: This study's results are consistent with other studies that show Hispanic ethnicity is associated with higher PTSD. However, the study findings also show that positive religious coping and perceived social support are associated with Hispanics experiencing post-traumatic growth and positive affect. Further, language preference among Hispanics moderates the relationship between active coping and positive affect, and quality of life. These findings are of importance for prevention and treatment efforts in this population.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V311

Title: Decision on Donating Bodies after Death: Views of General Public in Hong Kong (Abstract no. 2886)

Author: *Wallace Chi-ho Chan*

Abstract: The programme, "Silent Teacher" was developed by the Faculty of Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong to encourage people to donate their bodies after death. This study aimed to explore the views of general public on body donation. Factors that may promote and inhibit the willingness to donate the bodies were examined. Differences in the views on life and death between those who considered donating their bodies and those who did not were explored. Methods: A survey was conducted in a local elderly expo. Visitors were interviewed for completing a questionnaire. Data was input to the computer program, SPSS for analysis. Descriptive statistics, Chi-square analysis, and t-test were conducted. Findings: A total of 254 persons participated in this study (Mean age= 54.9; Female= 63%). Majority of them claimed they would consider donating their bodies (77.5%). Major factors that may enhance their willingness to do so include trustworthiness of handling agency, and contribution to medical education and practice. Participants showed more diversified views on factors that inhibit their willingness to donate the body (e.g. difficulty of registration for body donation, and objection of family members and peers). Participants who considered donating their bodies were more willing to take initiatives in discussing death-related topics, experienced better quality of life, and lower level of death anxiety. Conclusion: Findings suggest that emphasising the trustworthiness of handling agency and the contributions of body donation on medical education and practice are crucial for attracting general public's participation. Alternatively, factors that inhibit the donation of bodies after death are more diversified and need further examination. Participants who considered donating their bodies seem to be more open to face death, and be more positive in facing life and death. Life and death education may help promote body donation after death among the general public.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V311

Title: Quality of Long-term Care for Older People in Residential Setting in New Zealand: Perceptions of Quality of Life and Care Satisfaction from Care Recipients and their Family Members (Abstract no. 2796)

Authors: *Polly Yeung, Vivien Rodgers, Michael Dale, Kieran O'Donoghue*

Abstract: Older people, living in long-term care homes, are exposed to diverse circumstances, which may be associated with loss of independence, social networks and life satisfaction. To help residents maintain their quality of life (QoL), it is important to understand stakeholder groups' perceptions of care quality to drive quality improvement. The aim of this research is to explore long-term care recipients' QoL and family satisfaction with care provided. Methods: Descriptive and correlational analyses were used with secondary data collected from residents (N = 39) from two long-term care facilities with a resident-directed care approach who completed a survey of QoL and overall satisfaction measures, and their family members (N = 31) who completed a survey on care satisfaction provided by the facilities. Results: Care residents reported being generally satisfied with their quality of life, satisfaction with their current living place and satisfaction with life as a whole. They considered dignity and relationships to be the most important elements to their QoL. Family members also reported being fairly satisfied with services provided by the care homes, particularly within the context of staff-family relationships through constructive communication and welcoming environment. Conclusions: Care recipients' and their family members' perceptions can provide useful information for residential aged care providers to further improve their service quality. A number of practical considerations for social and health care staff to improve care residents' QoL and staff-family relationships are presented.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V311

Title: Growing Old in the Face of Poverty and Climate Disasters: A Case Study Exploring Disaster Resilience in the Philippines (Abstract no. 2855)

Author: *Crystal Kwan*

Abstract: Seniors are disproportionately impacted by climate disasters. For instance, when Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines in 2013, seniors accounted for 8% of the total population but 40% of disaster-related deaths. However, there is a paucity of literature exploring the complexity of seniors' resilience to disasters. The objective of this study is to understand the vulnerabilities and protective processes that influence seniors' ability to be resilient, with a focus on underserved and widowed seniors within a disaster-affected community in the Philippines. Methods: A participatory qualitative case study research design was used, with data collected through interviews, focus groups, participant observation, and Photovoice methods. Participants were trained to use cameras and to use photography and videography to express their perspectives, and were also engaged in conducting peer interviews and the co-creation of a video illustrating the study findings. Findings: Protective processes that contributed to seniors' disaster resilience included (1) regular and secure employment and/or livelihoods, (2) activities to stay healthy and active, (3) independence and self-determination, and (4) close relationships with family, peers, and the local government unit. Sources of vulnerability included (1) having multiple roles and responsibilities (e.g., being the breadwinner, primary caregiver of grandchildren, and taking care of most domestic

household chores), (2) housing vulnerabilities, and (3) lack of land tenure security and ownership. Conclusion: The video was presented at a local community event celebrating national seniors' week, attended by local government officials, seniors, and a representative from a senior-specific NGO. The study findings have contributed to raising awareness of the challenges seniors face in a disaster-affected community and to starting a conversation on how community leaders and members can contribute to strengthening seniors' resilience to disasters.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V313

Title: Embedding, Serving and Integrating: Rural Social Work Practice Model in China: A Case Study of Pilot Programme in DC Village (Abstract no. 2918)

Author: *Yang-yong Zhang*

Abstract: “Embeddedness” of professional social work development is a consensus in both academia and practical fields in the Chinese context, but more evidence and further empirical study needs to be explored in the rural community context. This present case study is based on a rural social work pilot programme in DC Village in Fujian Province, aims to explore the “embedding” rural social work practice model in China. Findings indicate that “embedding”, “serving”, and “integrating” compose the embedding rural social work practice model in China. “Embedding” development path represents the vital character of rural social work practice model, which consists of three types of patterns: top-down endogenous embedding, service-based embedding, and idea and method-oriented embedding. “Serving” contributes the core element of embedding practice in microsystem, and plays the role of medium through which leads to in-depth embedding of ideas and methods into the rural social work practice model. “Integrating” is more than the functional process, it apparently presents value orientation during the whole practice process. Challenges and dilemmas of the embedding social work practice model in the Chinese rural community context are also discussed.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V313

Title: Urbanisation in China: A Policy-driven Quasi-experimental Survey Design (Abstract no. 3004)

Author: *Juan Chen*

Abstract: The speed and scale of China's urbanisation is unprecedented in human history. Local governments have been criticised for seeking financial gains through land sales, thus creating “urbanisation of place” rather than “urbanisation of people”. Research is urgently needed to ascertain the impact of local government policies on the “in-situ” urbanisation process, which affects the general well-being of formerly rural residents, as well as their integration into the various facets of urban life. Methods: We are developing a policy-driven quasi-experimental household survey that takes advantage of the implementation of the National New Urbanisation Comprehensive Pilot Programme. The survey targets residents of newly urbanised areas in 30 township-level administrative units (zhens and jiedaos) under county-level cities and urban districts. Half are drawn from the “treatment” group (i.e., zhens and jiedaos listed in the National New Urbanisation Comprehensive Pilot Programme). The control group consists of 15 cases that are chosen using the Coarsened Exact Matching (CEM) technique. For each selected township-level unit, we further develop a geographical information system (GIS) that aggregates information at the arc-minute level and create spatial sample frames of

physical areas undergoing “in-situ” urbanisation (i.e., newly urbanised areas that were classified as rural before 2000 and were incorporated into urban districts under prefectural-level or centrally administered municipalities or urban centres of county-level cities after 2000). Implications: This project offers a comprehensive and nuanced examination of the changes in the living environments and lifestyles of in-situ urbanised rural residents, the extent to which they are entitled to urban welfare benefits and integrate into urban life, and the effects of local government policies and the urbanisation process on their well-being. With the policy-driven quasi-experimental survey design, the study yields rich materials for analysing Chinese urbanisation and also makes a valuable contribution to the debates on hukou and related policy reforms.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V313

Title: Challenging Poverty in Hong Kong: Create Alternative of Social Economy
(Abstract no. 3149)

Authors: *Fung-yi Chan, Sung-ming Chow, Chi-yuen Leung*

Abstract: The presentation is based on a new research report on “Community Economy and Space Use in Hong Kong” (2016). In the midst of the economic globalisation and the local strive for sustainable future, the civil society members including the academics, social workers, community organisers, grassroots residents, women workers and farm workers cooperate to provide an alternative model of new economies in the capitalists-driven society. In the first phase of place-based collaborative power, the focus of intervention is put on human assets mobilisation, social capital building and experimental forms of micro economic activities. In the second phase of territorial network building, the university practice researchers actively connect with those diverse projects of social economy, including a variety of cooperatives, social enterprise and incubator, fair trade organisation, organic farm, mutual association, and volunteer groups of university and high school students. In the third phase of advocacy, the alliance has drafted the position paper of reclaiming the social and taking back the economy steering towards justice and empowerment. The practices include lobbying the politicians’ support, educating their mindsets to re-envision a people-based economy, collecting stories to demonstrate the ethics of citizens in economic action, setting forum for candidates of Legislative and District Councillors at the policy and community levels. The research reports (2016) have been distributed to the Council members presenting data to illustrate the desirability and practicability of the new model of social economy in Hong Kong. Visionary research framework, space use strategies and prototype demonstration all contribute to progressive politics and new order of economic reconstruction.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V314

Title: Systematic Review: Help the Practice Research Go Forward a Step
(Abstract no. 2867)

Authors: *Zheng-gang Bai, Shu Zhang*

Abstract: This paper presents a form of academic research which incorporates an element of practice in the methodology or research output. However, how about the quality of research production or how to apply it in improving human wellbeing are issues should be considered. Fortunately, more and more decision makers realised high quality decision making should base on current available best evidence. But, how to produce best evidence based on research produced from practice is current hot research question. Evidence synthesis is the interpretation of individual studies within the context of global knowledge for a given topic. These syntheses provide a rigorous and transparent knowledge base for translating research in decisions. Among which, Systematic Review is acknowledged as the best evidence synthesis methods by various disciples, including medicine, public health, social work, education, especially the systematic review from Campbell Collaboration or Cochrane Collaboration. The educators, researchers and policy makers in social work should master and apply the professional evidence producing methods – Systematic Review, with the purpose of supplying current best evidence for decision making. To let more researchers, decision makers, and practitioners know and apply this research method in their research and work, this paper will illustrate three main components: (1) Explain the necessary of Systematic Review for Practice-based Research. (2) How to write a systematic review through following steps: research question formulation, searching and screening literature, quality assessment, data analysis and discussion writing. (3) How to apply Systematic Review help Practice-based Research go a further step in decision making.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V314

Title: Developing Social Services through Practice Research: Scrutinising Intersections between Research and Development in the City of Helsinki (Abstract no. 2966)

Authors: *Frida Westerback, Pia Eriksson*

Abstract: Academic research is traditionally perceived to be a slow process and lacking clear implications for practice. Development of services in municipalities on the other hand is today often a fast-tempered process in changing policy environments. The different pre-settings of these are discussed based on two ongoing cases of development and research of children and youth services in the City of Helsinki. Development of public services for emerging adults on the fringes of society aim at prevention, low-threshold and seamless multi-professional co-operation through one-stop youth services. The first case is based on a practice research frame with focus on service user experience and multi-professional work in the Ohjaamo guidance centre. Methods of collecting data consists of ethnographic field work through observations, qualitative interviews with youth and personnel. The second case is a small-scale pilot of multi-professional evaluation of families' needs for social and health services as part of a major re-organising of municipal services for families with children. The work of a multi-professional team was developed and evaluated for seven weeks. Data was collected through observations and on the worker's own experiences. These two processes are compared in order to explore the cutting point between research and development. Can a dividing line between these be drawn? Questions are raised in relation to the different

nature of academic research and development processes. Which elements can practice research offer in order to bring these closer together? Are these to be found in the person or institution (academic or municipal) in charge of the process, in data collection and analysis, methods or reporting of findings? We propose practice research as a means of combining these two through a research process embedded in the practice.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V314

Title: Balancing Methodological Rigor and the Needs of Research Participants: A Debate on Alternative Approaches to Sensitive Research (Abstract no. 3071)

Authors: *Simon Tak-mau Chan, Eli Teram, Ian Shaw*

Abstract: Despite growing consideration of the needs of research participants in studies related to sensitive issues, discussions of alternative ways to design sensitive research are scarce. Structured as an exchange between two researchers who used different approaches in their studies with childhood sexual abuse survivors, we seek to advance understanding of methodological and ethical issues in designing sensitive research. The first perspective, which is termed protective, promotes the gradual progression of participants from a treatment phase into a research phase, with the ongoing presence of a researcher and a social worker in both phases. In the second perspective, which is termed minimalist, we argue for clear boundaries between research and treatment processes, limiting the responsibility of researchers to ensuring that professional support is available to participants who experience emotional difficulties. We debate two potential alternatives to address the dilemmas posed by these two equally legitimate purposes. In particular, we consider whether it is in the interests of researchers and participants to bring together the two purposes within the inquiry process. Two features of the article help to focus the discussion. First, both approaches offer options within the context of research on sensitive topics with survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Second, the protagonists are given an opportunity to describe and explain their positions, and then criticise each other's stance. The exchange is brought together through an introductory grounding and context, and concluding remarks subsequent to the two accounts. It is important to note that although the two positions are articulated based on research with survivors of childhood sexual abuse, the discussed issues are relevant for a broad range of sensitive topics, for example, counselling and research in the fields of suicide risk, domestic violence, and abortion. Following rebuttals, lessons are drawn for ethical balancing between methodological rigour and the needs of participants.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V315

Title: Improving Detection and Treatment of Persons with Mental Disorders in Community Settings: Development, Validation and Evaluation of Community Informant Detection Tool in Nepal (Abstract no. 3039)

Authors: *Nagendra Luitel, Mark Jordans, Brandon Kohrt, Prasansa Subba, Crick Lund, Ivan Komproe*

Abstract: Globally, under-utilisation of mental health services is a major barrier to reducing the burden of disease attributable to mental, neurological, and substance-use (MNS) disorders. Accurate detection of persons in need of mental healthcare is crucial to reduce the treatment gap between psychiatric burden and service use in low- and middle-income (LAMI) countries. The objectives of this study was to develop, validate and evaluate the accuracy and effectiveness of a community-based proactive case-finding strategy (Community Informant Detection Tool, CIDT), to initiate pathways for mental health treatment in primary care settings. **Methods:** CIDT was developed following several steps including prioritisation of symptoms, assessing applicability and feasibility. Validation was conducted with 195 adults by using Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI). Effectiveness was evaluated with 509 community residents who were identified as potentially having MNS problems through the CIDT procedure three weeks after detection. **Findings:** The CIDT has a positive predictive value of 0.64 (0.68 for adults only) and a negative predictive value of 0.93 (0.91 for adults only). Of the total CIDT referrals, 67% accessed health care facility as a result of the CIDT procedure. Among the group that accessed health care, 77.0% were diagnosed and started treatment for a mental illness by primary health care workers. **Conclusions:** The CIDT has promising detection properties for psychiatric caseness. Use of community case detection also holds potential to increase MNS care utilisation in settings with limited treatment engagement.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V315

Title: Physical Health and Wellbeing of Caregivers of Young People with First Episode Psychosis: Implications for Social Work Practice (Abstract no. 2713)

Authors: *Abner Weng-cheong Poon, Jackie Curtis, Julie Lappin, Philip Ward*

Abstract: Studies reported caregivers of people with severe mental illness experienced negative caregiving impacts such as poor psychological health, social isolation and diminished quality of life. However, few studies had focused on physical health needs of carers of young people with first episode psychosis (FEP). This study aimed to identify relevant social work practice to support the physical health status and wellbeing of carers of young people with FEP. Forty-two carers were recruited from a community-based youth mental health services in Bondi, Sydney. Standardised, validated questionnaires were administered to assess caregivers' health and wellbeing. Body Mass Index, waist circumference, blood pressure and diabetes risk measurements were also taken to assess carers' physical health. Patient-related data (diagnosis, duration of illness and functioning levels) of the young people were obtained from their medical records. Descriptive and correlational analyses were conducted to identify levels of carers' health and wellbeing, and relationships between their physical health and other variables. A considerable percentage of carers experienced social isolation (52.4%) and psychological distress (23.8%). Two-fifths (39.0%) of carers had high risk for diabetes. A high percentage (78.6%) of carers were overweight. Close to a quarter (21.4%) had high

blood pressure. Carers' physical health measurements (BMI and diabetes risk) were mainly related to their age and gender. Carers' perception of their own physical health levels was related to age, duration of illness and functioning levels of young people with FEP, and carers' perception of their own psychological health, social connectedness and caregiving consequences. Findings show the importance for social workers to assess carers' health and wellbeing and source for relevant interventions to support carers of young people with FEP. It is crucial to provide psychosocial rehabilitation programmes to improve the functioning levels of young people with FEP and develop a physical and psychological health intervention for their carers.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V315

Title: Mother Infant Feeding Interaction (MI-FI): Report on Improved Feeding Interaction at 12 Month with Versus without Very Early Parent Training (Abstract no. 2646)

Authors: *Yael Latzer, Inbal Balog, Oded Pshetatzki, Ron Shaoul, Iris Elad, Geila Rozen*

Abstract: Childhood obesity, poor eating habits, and eating problems are increasing. Parents are often at a loss about how to tackle these problems. This study examined whether behavioural and nutritional training for first-time mothers can improve feeding interaction at age 12 months. Methods: 128 mother-infant dyads recruited: 86 in the intervention group and 42 controls. Intervention group received Mother Infant Feeding Interaction (MI-FI) training: four weekly workshops for mothers when infants were 4-6 months, followed by continued internet-based support until infants reached 12 months. Control group received municipal standard mother-infant support. Blinded coders evaluated videotaped home mealtime interactions at age 12 months using Chatoor Feeding Scale (CFS). Results: Significant inter-group differences emerged in mealtime interactions for four of the five CFS dimensions: dyadic conflict (MI-FI=4.69 vs. control=8.38), talk and distraction (3.75 vs. 4.90), struggle for control (2.30 vs. 4.88), and maternal non-contingency (1.61 vs. 2.75). Findings indicated significantly more positive mother-infant mealtime interactions and maternal responses to infant cues in the MI-FI group than in controls. Conclusion: Early maternal training may relate to more positive mother-infant feeding interactions. This may contribute to preserved internal hunger and satiety, improved eating habits, and prevention of future eating disorders and obesity.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V316

Title: Emergency Department Presentations of People who are Homeless (Abstract no. 2564)

Authors: *Joanne Hilder, Chris Lloyd*

Abstract: This project aims to gain an understanding of the profile and expressed needs of people seen by the Homeless Emergency Department Liaison Officer (HEDLO) in the Emergency Department (ED) in comparison to general hospital presentations. Methods: This study was approved by the local hospital ethics committee. The project used a retrospective chart audit design to review the historical data recorded in the ED referral database and HEDLO files. A HEDLO clinician reviewed ED database and all files for people referred to the HEDLO worker at the Gold Coast University Hospital ED over a 16-month period (October 2013-January 2015). Findings: The results revealed that the majority of homeless people seen were male, in the early middle age group with more than half arriving at the ED by way of ambulance services. The most common reasons for presentation were medical, mental health and drug and alcohol related issues. Other

than triage category 5, triage presentations were similar between the homeless and the general populations. Conclusion: Homeless people presenting to the ED are more likely to arrive via the police or the ambulance. It was found that a large percentage of people seen in the ED were discharged back to the streets.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V316

Title: An Evaluation of Social Workers' Experience in Homeless Outreach
(Abstract no. 2931)

Authors: *Xian-jie Chan, See-yim Low*

Abstract: Marine Parade Family Service Centre began an outreach programme in 2011 to engage a homeless community in Singapore. Through the programme, 81 individuals or families progressed to become agency cases for further intervention. The purpose of this study was to examine practice factors that impact outreach processes. The following research questions were examined: (1) What were practitioner's personal practice strengths or challenges while doing outreach? (2) How does the agency context influence outreach? (3) How does the larger social service landscape impact outreach? **Methodology:** Through purposive sampling, a focus group was done with 7 practitioners who are currently or were previously involved in outreach. An anonymous open-ended questionnaire was also given to participants' post-discussion, to gather information that might be unsafe to share in the group setting. Three researchers analysed the data independently through open coding. The themes that emerged were then synthesised via consensus. **Findings:** A key personal strength was a commitment among practitioners to reach this underserved group despite their complex needs. However, a lack of understanding about the dynamics of homelessness and confusion about what professional position to adopt limited the effectiveness of outreach. The agency's client-centric policies were viewed as helpful to practitioners, but an undefined agency position and unsupportive personnel policies were hindrances. Within the larger environment, practitioners expressed difficulty in prioritising outreach when a major policy change in Family Service Centre practice introduced more administrative tasks. Finally, having inter-agency collaborations brought benefits to outreach, though some were unhelpful. **Conclusion:** Many layers influence social work practice, with each practitioner's self being embedded within an agency, which also exists in a larger social service landscape. While the study's discussion and recommendations are applicable to a specific context, the analysis can still inform agencies that engage in outreach to the homeless or other oppressed groups.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V316

Title: Identifying and Tackling Challenges in Working with Homeless Cases: Development, Implementation & Evaluation of Pilot Homeless Toolkit for Homeless Casework Management (Abstract no. 2904)

Author: *Lyon Koh*

Abstract: One specific social work area of concern that social workers in Singapore struggle with is the issue of homelessness. It can be challenging for social workers to work with homeless cases, given the complexity of the housing landscape in Singapore. This paper describes how practice research was being conducted in a community-based agency, in collaboration with other agencies. The objectives were to (1) explore current challenges that social workers face working with homeless cases and (2) test the effectiveness and usefulness of a pilot homeless toolkit in overcoming these identified challenges and enhancing homeless casework management practices. This toolkit was developed primarily from four domains of professional knowledge – theory, research, practice wisdom and legislations/policies, with the aim to strengthen workers' understanding on "homeless cases", competencies, level of confidence and sense of being supported in working with homeless cases. Key components of this toolkit include homeless resource guide for emergency and transitional housing, information guide on housing policies, crisis management and intervention, integrated case management components, values and ethical considerations and advocacy processes. Pre-post questionnaires were used to measure the usefulness and effectiveness of the homeless toolkit in overcoming identified challenges by workers (drawn out from pre-questionnaire) and enhancing homeless casework management practices through meeting the aims of the toolkit (increased understanding on "homeless cases", competences, confidence and sense of support). Social workers were given a period of 3-4 months to utilise the toolkit in working with homeless cases, regardless of new or ongoing cases. Qualitative feedback and insights throughout different phases of the implementation process were gathered. Findings can have greater implications on the social service sector, where quality of practice with homeless cases can be enhanced as a sector (meso-level). Macro-level implications include allowing of greater insight into homeless casework management practices in Singapore's cultural context and its considerations.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V321

Title: Photo-Voice with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Living in Foster Care in the United Kingdom (Abstract no. 2711)

Authors: *Justin Mark Rogers, Caroline Hickman, Sam Carr*

Abstract: This paper presents a participatory action research project, which engaged a group of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people in a photo-voice project. The research took place in the south west of England with young people who attended a peer support group, facilitated by a charitable fostering agency. The agency was experiencing difficulties in recruiting enough new foster carers who were willing to look after young people seeking asylum, there was also some reluctance from their existing carers to foster this group too. Practitioners in the agency felt that some of the carers held negative perceptions and stereotypes about refugee and asylum seekers, which prevented them from offering placements. The aim of this project was to help shift these perceptions through a photo-voice project. To achieve this, the young people took photographs to show aspects of the day-to-day lives that were important to them, in

order to de-mystify the labels of refugees and asylum seekers. The photographs were then used to provide the young people a voice and this had an impact in two key ways; firstly, the images were presented to a focus group of seven existing foster carers in order to better inform their understanding of this groups day to experiences in foster care; secondly, the photographs were developed into posters, which were shown at community events and exhibited in community spaces during refugee week, in order to generate wider interest in fostering unaccompanied asylum seeking children. This engagement with the agency and the young people is ongoing and plans are in place to collaborate on the design and delivery of social worker and carer training and to develop future research proposal.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V321

Title: Barriers to Implementing Evidence-based Social Work Practices with Refugee Women in the Egyptian Society (Abstract no. 3138)

Author: *Randa Mohamed Sayed Ahmed*

Abstract: Evidence-based practice in social work relies on the knowledge and established proof, the best evidence available, to determine what works. This, in turn, informs social workers how to proceed in planning and implementing interventions. And evidence-based social work practices for refugee women are available in some of American and European countries. In Egypt, no such guidelines have been developed yet at a national level although their need has repeatedly been emphasised. This study focuses on barriers to implementing evidence-based social work practices in the institutions which deal with refugee women in the Egyptian society. A survey questionnaire was given to practitioners (n=55), where the survey included all possible questions related to the problem under study. The obtained results were analysed following a descriptive analysis. The results revealed four types of barriers: barriers due to practitioner, refugee women, institutions and the nature of evidence. Besides, the study suggested some strategies to overcome the obtained barriers. In order to validate implementing evidence-based social work practices with refugee women, it is recommended to impose integration among the national social work schools inside Egypt as well as cooperation with other social work institutions abroad.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V321

Title: A Practice Model of Helping Chinese Male Victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Hong Kong: Threshold Model of Help-seeking Behaviour (Abstract no. 2924)

Author: *Wallace Wai-hung Tsang*

Abstract: This research is a pioneer study in Hong Kong exploring the help-seeking behaviour of Chinese male victims of intimate partner violence (IPV). This study adopts Grounded Theory Methodology (GTM) and provides a unique picture from the subjective experiences of eight male victims. This study ascertains that there are six key concepts to explain the help-seeking behaviour of male victims. The male victims' experiences are unique in regard to the forms of victimisation, impact and their help-seeking behaviour. Their subjective perception of the severity of the victimisation is greatly influenced by their perception of the male gender role. Masculinity is a crucial element affecting their perception of severity and uniqueness of victimisation, their perception of the impact, utilisation of internal resources to cope with the impact, their motivation to ask for help from external resources, and their intention to disclose victimisation during

the help-seeking process. This study discovers that there are two thresholds influencing their help-seeking behaviour, “threshold of help-seeking” and “threshold for victimization disclosure”. As such, a new model called the “Threshold Model of Help-Seeking Behaviour” (TM) is developed to describe and explain the help-seeking behaviour of Chinese male IPV victims. The applicability of this practice model can help professionals to be aware of the importance of addressing male victims’ subjective perception of victimisation, and to develop strategies to enhance victims’ awareness of victimisation. It also helps professionals to consider the important factors that promote male victims to seek help and disclose their victimisation, such as timely help, sincerity and respect and, professionalism.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V322

Title: Practice Research on Definition of Disability: Developing ICF from a Social Issue to Organisational and Policy Concern in Hong Kong (Abstract no. 2970)

Author: *Anchor Hung, Mike Cheung, Pamela Leung*

Abstract: This paper documents the experience on how the concept of International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) has been explored and applied in Hong Kong from a social issue to organisational and policy change involving service users, social workers, medical professionals, academics and policy makers. It helps to generate knowledge, disseminate and share knowledge, facilitate further pursuit of knowledge requisition and practice application in organisation, rehabilitation field and the policy making platform. In Hong Kong, there is no standard definition of “Disability”, resulting in many disputes among applicants of Disability Allowance in the Social Welfare Department for their eligibility. In 2012, this issue has raised the concern among persons with disability and professionals and followed by a joint effort on a survey on “Living conditions of persons with disabilities and persons with chronic illness cum their application of Disability Allowance” in 2013. It accelerated the development of measurement tool of WHO Disability Assessment Schedule V2 (WHODAS V2) in Traditional Complex Chinese with inputs from multiple professionals and service users, fostered documentation of difficulties encountered by service users in different domains. In the organisational context, domains of WHODAS V2 has also been adopted in the new Patient Management System since 2014 to capture service users need through social workers assessment and to evaluate change after intervention. Finally, the sharing of experience of disability has been disseminated through the publication of WHODAS V2 in an international journal in 2015. In the policy level, Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC) has been delegated to further follow up definition of disability in the Labour and Welfare Bureau in Hong Kong in 2016. As a conclusion, the practice research on the definition of disability has brought great impact on the development of ICF from a social issue to organisational and policy concern in Hong Kong.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V322

Title: Service Users' Work of Getting Work: Institutional Paradoxes and Multidimensional Webs of Ruling Relations in Labour Activation (Abstract no. 2954)

Author: *Helle Cathrine Hansen*

Abstract: Since the 1990s European welfare policy has changed from passive income support systems to active labour market integration of unemployed service users. There is substantial research on activation policy implementation exploring front-line workers' role as activation policy implementers. However, activation policy goals are in the end realised through the everyday work and efforts of the service users. This study explores labour activation implementation from the perspective of the service users, with the purpose of understanding how the institutional framing of the Norwegian Qualification Program (QP) affected the participants' activation trajectories, and how social workers mediated their difficulties. **Methods:** The study has a qualitative design, based on fieldwork in four Norwegian labour and welfare offices, including observations of conversations between service users and social workers, and interviews with service users. By combining a street-level perspective with an institutional ethnographic approach, the study connects the micro level of individual experience and action to the macro level of institutional frames and structures that the program is embedded in. **Findings:** The findings suggest that participants faced a set of institutional paradoxes that complicated their activation trajectories. The paradoxes resulted from a multidimensional web of ruling relations that the programme was embedded in, i.e. contradicting municipal and statutory regulations, local NAV-office policies, social workers' interpretations, and municipal economy. The findings point to inflexibility of programme practice and limited possibilities for social workers to mediate these difficulties. **Implications:** These findings have important implications for policy and practice, as the institutional framing of activation programmes may represent obstacles for policy outcomes, and lead to prolonged activation trajectories for the participants.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V1213

Title: Quality of Life in Adolescent and Young Adult Childhood Cancer Survivors in Singapore (Abstract no. 3002)

Authors: *Kareen Tonsing, Rosaleen Ow*

Abstract: Significant advancement in treatment modalities over the past few decades have significantly improved the survival rates of many types of childhood cancer, directing attention to the psychosocial consequences of successful treatment and subsequent survival. This study explores the quality of life and future expectations among adolescent and young adult childhood cancer survivors. **Methods:** Based on cross-sectional survey design, data were collected from 68 survivors of childhood cancer in Singapore (52.7% response rate). Participants were informed about the voluntary nature of participation and confidentiality of their responses. Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Approval was obtained from the Institutional Review Board. Data analyses includes descriptive statistics, bivariate correlations and regression analysis. **Results:** Participants ranged in age from 12 to 24 (mean age = 17.2), 62% of whom are male, and 45.6% have secondary level of education. Median age at time of diagnosis was 10 (range 1 to 18 years), and time since completion of therapy ranged from 3 months to 15 years. Bivariate correlations showed significant negative association between cancer-specific worries with overall Quality of Life (QoL) ($r = -.42, p < .01$), with

self-esteem ($r = -.40$, $p < .01$), and future expectation ($r = -.25$, $p < .05$), and positively with general health worry ($r = .31$, $p < .01$). Results of hierarchical regression analyses revealed that younger age at time of diagnosis ($\beta = -.030$, $p < .05$) and cancer-specific worry ($\beta = -.031$, $p < .05$) had significant negative impact on QoL after controlling for age and gender. Cancer-specific worry emerged as a significant predictor for QoL. Conclusions: Findings of this study revealed that fear of relapse and occurrence of a second cancer among those who were diagnosed at a younger age remain salient issues that impact on their QoL. Implications for service are discussed.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V1213

Title: Integrative and Alternative Pathways to Recovery from Breast Cancer

(Abstract no. 2905)

Author: *Aviva Moira Mayers*

Abstract: This study explores integrative and alternative treatment options for women diagnosed with breast cancer. Approximately 22,000 women are diagnosed annually in Canada. These women often find themselves hurtling down a well-travelled traditional system facing choices about radical, debilitating treatment with little time to apprise themselves of the treatment benefits or pitfalls, or to educate themselves about less toxic alternative interventions. **Methods:** This is a qualitative study which includes in-depth interviews with 10 leading health care practitioners from across the Canadian spectrum. This method of inquiry elicits their perspectives on curative interventions. Additionally, interviews include 3 patients, who describe their path to recovery employing integrative and alternative interventions. **Results:** The professionals discuss traditional and alternative services for breast cancer patients, success rates, combining multiple medical interventions and advice to newly diagnosed women. Thermograms are benign, non-invasive diagnostic tools that pick up inflammatory disease in breast tissue, sometimes a precursor to cancer. Toxic substances in the mouth, and hormonal imbalances in ovaries, adrenals and thyroid must be attended to. Eating plant based diets, cutting out sugar is important. Supplements help the liver to flush out toxins, lowering estrogen, inducing cancer cell death and strengthening the immune system. Acupuncture can help with symptoms and in prevention. **Implications:** Given the uncertainties inherent in cancer diagnoses, multi-pronged approaches considering integrative and alternative interventions to manage it and prevent recurrence should be considered. This study will help fully inform women at all stages of the disease and treatment, about health-restoring interventions. With this empowering information women will have an increased sense of control over a truly frightening experience, and be better able to choose treatments that make sense to them. This heightened sense of control will help women generate hope, an important psychological ingredient in outcome.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V1213

Title: My Cancer Journey: Women's Experiences of Living with Gynaecological Cancer (Abstract no. 2878)

Authors: *Michelle Wen-jun Aw, Judith Fong-hsia Chew, Jasmine Chiew-yi Lim*

Abstract: Gynaecological cancers, which affect a woman's reproductive system, were among the top 10 most common cancers among Singapore women in 2010-2014. During this period, the age-standardised incidence rates for cervical, ovarian, and uterine cancers ranged between 7.1 and 14.6 per 100,000. Except for cervical cancer, incidence rates have been increasing. Research have shown that approximately 30-50% of gynaecological cancer survivors have unmet needs, particularly in the area of psychosocial support. However, these studies are limited as it primarily involved participants who were undergoing active treatment. Thus, information regarding women's needs beyond the end of treatment is limited. An exploratory multi-method qualitative approach was used to examine the experiences of women who completed active oncology treatment in KK Women's and Children's hospital. Multiple data sources were selected as it provides opportunities for data triangulation and facilitates a more comprehensive understanding of these women's experiences: this would have been difficult to obtain through a single data collection method. In the initial phase, document analyses of case records of women who had completed their medical treatment were conducted. The next phase of data collection, which is presently ongoing, involves semi-structured interviews with another group of women diagnosed with gynaecological cancers. Using a "Framework" analysis method, data will be analysed thematically in three primary stages: data management, descriptive and explanatory accounts. Initial reviews of 20 case records highlighted various psychosocial needs, including: (a) employment, (b) materials and financial resources, (c) psychological and emotional support, and (d) post-treatment care needs. Among those had a relapse, they required information and emotional support regarding their transition to palliative care. Findings from the interviews will be presented at the conference. The combined results from both study phases will facilitate the refinement and development of interventions that address psychosocial needs and challenges raised by women with gynaecological cancers.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V1215

Title: Pilot Study of "Smiley Activation Programme": Community / Home-based Depression Treatment for the Elderly (Abstract no. 2870)

Authors: *Stephanie Oi-kau Wong, Herman Hay-ming Lo*

Abstract: Elderly depression is an increasing threat in view of its association with premature death and disability; and the global ageing population. Hence, early identification and treatment of elderly depression is important. "Smiley Activation Programme" (SAP), as adapted from the Programme for Encouraging Active Rewarding Lives (PEARLS), is designed to offer outreach, home-based intervention to frail or home-restricted elders with depression or dysthymia in Hong Kong. Eight face-to-face intervention sessions over 19 weeks with 3 months follow up were conducted by social workers, complemented with volunteers' concern visits, para-medical support, using elements of problem solving treatment (PST), behavioural activation and pleasant activities scheduling. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of SAP in reducing depressive symptoms among elders in the community. Methods: Forty elderly participants (≥ 60 years old) living in the community were referred by professionals, or

self-referred. An individual face-to-face screening interview was conducted with clear inclusion and exclusion criteria. Those who meet the diagnostic criteria of minor depression, major depression, or dysthymia were included in SAP. The participants were assessed three times using PHQ-9 at baseline, post-intervention and 3-month follow up to monitor the change in depressive symptoms. Findings: The depression scores as measured by PHQ-9 reduced from 11.92 to 5.88 ($t=6.94$, $p<0.001$) and the effect size is 0.74. There are also significant improvements in self-perceived rate of pleasure activities, self-perceived rate of social activities and total rate of physical activities. Result of 3-month follow up is not ready at this point. Conclusion: Results indicated effectiveness of SAP in reducing depressive symptoms of community elderly dwellings. Limitation of the study is its limited generalisability due to non-probability sampling method and the small sample size.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V1215

Title: The Rehabilitation Community as Experienced by Rehabilitants: The Hiram Case (Abstract no. 2920)

Authors: *Noa Kfir, Dorit Segal-Engelchin*

Abstract: The present study seeks to expand the knowledge on rehabilitation processes in rehabilitative communities among members with mental health issues. It focuses on the Hiram community in Israel as a test case, exposing the rehabilitation experience in a rehabilitative community from the rehabilitants' perspective. It further examines how anthroposophy, as the spiritual-philosophical foundation for the establishment of Hiram, is manifested in its members' rehabilitation process. A qualitative phenomenological approach was selected for this study. The first phase was a pilot study based on open in-depth interviews conducted with three rehabilitants coping with various psychiatric disorders, who were in advanced stages of their rehabilitation process at Hiram. Findings were analysed using a six-phase thematic analysis. Four themes emerged from the initial interviews' analysis: Selecting the Community – the set of reasons that led to selecting a rehabilitative community; Rehabilitation Factors in the Community – a description of the unique blend of components comprising the process shed light on the importance of relationships established within the community, the various aspects of the treatment, and the significance of a framework and boundaries; Rehabilitation Process Achievements – the manner in which rehabilitants describe the products of the process they had undergone; and Difficulties – understanding the difficulties that accompany the rehabilitation process in the community. The pilot study findings reveal the complexity of undergoing rehabilitation in a rehabilitative community, and attest to the importance of listening to rehabilitants, and understanding the challenges they face. A learning that is based on the voices of rehabilitants as they undergo the process may help caregivers and policymakers design and form intervention and rehabilitation programmes that are better suited to the rehabilitants' needs, thereby enhancing the rehabilitation process. Implications for future research will be discussed.

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V1215

Title: Substance Use Disorder and Suicide Attempt among Persons who Report Compromised Health (Abstract no. 2881)

Author: *Jonathan Prince*

Abstract: Substance use disorder (SUD) can increase the risk of suicide attempt. However, the relationship between SUD and suicide attempt has yet to be explored among people who report compromised health, even though sick people are more likely to try to harm themselves. Among people who report fair or poor health on the National Survey of Drug Use and Health (2006-2014; N=502,467), we examined whether people with commonly occurring SUDs are more likely to attempt suicide than people without SUDs. **Methods:** Logistic regression was used to predict suicide attempt from presence versus absence of SUD. **Findings:** Among individuals reporting compromised health, those who had DSM-IV alcohol use disorders were 2.72 times (CI=1.81-4.09, $p<.001$) as likely as people without SUD to attempt suicide, and people with prescription painkiller use disorders were 2.25 times (CI=1.04-4.90, $p<.05$) as likely. Individuals with both alcohol and marijuana use disorders were 2.38 times (CI=1.25-4.54, $p<.01$) as likely as people without SUD to make an attempt, and people with both alcohol and cocaine use disorders were 3.15 times (CI=1.16-8.60, $p<.05$) as likely. Sick people with marijuana use disorders (only – without other SUDs) and people with cocaine use disorders (only) were no more likely than people without such disorders to attempt suicide. **Conclusions:** In order to help prevent suicide attempt, practitioners could potentially develop greater flexibility in detecting and treating the drug-specific disorders that are most highly associated with self-harm. For example, in order to prevent suicide attempt, maybe a greater amount of limited resources can be directed to unhealthy people who have both alcohol and cocaine use disorders, and maybe less resources can be directed to people who have marijuana use disorders. This type of targeting will be more compelling after new research provides further evidence for isolating high-risk SUD types and combinations.

Pre-organised Group (Afternoon Session)

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V304

Title: Doing what Counts and Measuring what Matters: A Practice Research Project to Improve Children's Services (Abstract no. 2894)

Authors: *David Westlake, Rebecca Jones, Vivi Antonopoulou, David Wilkins, Donald Forrester*

Abstract: The point of research is not only to understand the world but to change it. This pre-organised group presentation reports on a project that aims to improve practice directly using research, through collaborating with social workers in a London local authority. Drawing upon experiences of working alongside practitioners, we will critically appraise the project as a new model of practice research. At its core, the project provides ongoing feedback on the quality of social work practice and on the outcomes experienced by children and families. Services traditionally focus on procedural performance measures rather than good quality data on practice, or on outcomes that matter to children and families. We collect more meaningful data through observing and audio recording managers giving supervision to social workers, and direct practice meetings between workers and families. We also interview parents and children and ask workers to complete questionnaires to obtain multiple perspectives. This data is then used to provide feedback to individual social workers and teams. More than 200 audio-recorded observations of practice, over 100 hours of supervision, and 150 interviews with families have contributed to feedback. Findings suggest this may be an effective way of improving practice directly through research. More than 80 social workers have received skills-based developmental feedback individually, and team managers have received service-level feedback on practice and outcomes. We have also begun to explore how supervision influences practice and outcomes, in collaboration with managers. Individual presentations will explore: The methodology enabling us to get close to practice; Our findings on the quality of practice and outcomes; The role of supervision in shaping practice; and Future directions and broader implications. We will also consider the model's suitability as an approach to integrating research and practice, by exploring the role of meaningful research data in driving practice improvements.

Experiential Workshop (Afternoon Session)

23 May 2017 (Tuesday), 16:00 – 17:30

Room: V312

Title: Experiential Appreciation of how Parents Stress their Children and how Mindfulness can Address This (Abstract no. 2190)

Author: *Angie Chew*

Abstract: Youths experience considerable levels of stress, navigating academic and social stressors in their lives. Likewise, parental psychological well-being can impact their children's stress levels. Mindfulness is emerging as a preventive approach in managing stress among the youth and adults. This study evaluated the feasibility of a 9-week parallel .b mindfulness training programme (Mindfulness in Schools Project, 2014) for youth aged 11-17 and their respective parents on mental well-being outcomes. A single-group pre-post intervention design was adopted at Brahm Centre where 11 parent-youth dyads completed self-report questionnaires on mindfulness, perceived stress, depressive symptoms and well-being before and after the programme. Results revealed a significant reduction in perceived stress with a large effect size ($p=0.004$, $d=1.22$) from pre- to post intervention among the youths. Parents reported significant reduction in depressive symptoms ($p<0.001$, $d=2.29$) and greater well-being ($p=0.027$, $d=0.87$) with large effect size. Additionally, significant positive correlation was found between changes in perceived stress levels among the youth and depressive symptoms among their parents from pre- to post intervention ($p=0.038$). Findings from this pilot study provide initial evidence of the effects of parallel .b mindfulness training programme in reducing stress among the youths, lowering depressive symptoms and enhancing well-being among the parents.