

Call for Papers

6th TiSSA Plenum &
PreConference 2008

August 18-24 in Riga, Latvia

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TiSSA Mission

The international 'Social Work & Society' Academy (TiSSA) provides a forum for involving professionals and academics in innovative discussion on theory and practice at the cutting edge of the social professions. Its overall aim is to identify how the needs of a wide range of societies experiencing transition can be met through the generation of new knowledge, concepts and models. The organizers of TiSSA assume, that socio-economical developments indicate categorically that social work has to deal with its relation to the respective societies in a critical way, in order to build out a clear professional profile for the future, for a renewal of perspectives and to improve its agency. Any site of economic, political and social transition poses a challenge to social professions to reflect on new approaches to social work. In doing so, *The international 'Social Work & Society' Academy* focuses on

- promoting a comparative approach to the analysis of social work and society
- enhancing the development of knowledge, skills and experience
- shaping organizational changes and new governance processes
- analyzing quality criteria and reflecting on best practice
- encouraging the international dissemination and exchange of information on significant developments.

This reflection shall take place in the new setting of *The international 'Social Work & Society' Academy* in two ways: TiSSA Plenum & inter-university PhD-Network.

TiSSA Plenum

The TiSSA Plenum is the annual meeting of academics and professionals from all over the world. Based on the constitutive aims and perspectives, each Plenum deals with one central issue for contemporary social work on a global scale. Plenary sessions, panel debates and working groups excite serious but lively discussions. Field visits and the social program allow forging closer links to the colleagues. The Plenum is borne by the inquisitiveness and engagement of the participants, which realize each program by their papers and statements and vitalize the idea of a cross-national network of social professions.

Inter-university PhD-Network

The PhD-Network of *The international 'Social Work & Society' Academy* aspires to establish a broad international cooperation of PhD-students in the social professions. Within the structure of TiSSA an active participation in current professional debates is promoted and supported. Emergent scholars get the opportunity to present their dissertation projects in a broad international context and to enlist contacts relevant for their research topic. Thus a new generation of professionals could acquire and exercise those skills, which are necessary to cope with contemporary challenges of societies in transition and their impact on social services.

**6th TiSSA Plenum & PreConference 2008 in Riga, Latvia:
Politics - Power - Practice: Advancing Social Work Agendas in Times of Uncertainty**

August 21 to 24, 2008
August 18 to 20, 2008

TiSSA Plenum
PreConference of the TiSSA PhD-Network

Call for Papers, TiSSA 2008

Uncertainty is rapidly becoming the hallmark of impending social changes and a key challenge for individuals, for society and for social services in particular. Uncertainty results from both the process of individualisation with all the destabilizing implications for socialisation and from the rapid, fundamental changes in social policy. Life is becoming more uncertain and unpredictable for individual actors and for society as a whole. Some characterize this as post-welfarism, others see it simply as the inevitable consequence of modernity which replaces the principle of basic social solidarity in the face of structural crises and transformations with that of individual responsibility and risk management. At the same time these new disjointed policy fragments show no clear sense of direction and are instead contingent on specific situations, calling less on individual and collective efforts of planning and reassurance than on flexibility. Precariousness is the dominant characteristic of this progressive process of destabilization and insecurity. This process reaches also the intersection of politics and power. Few goals seem impossible and what is possible seems uncertain. Global changes directly affect local developments. The concept of 'glocalisation' has relevance also in an individual context. Social services have to balance their interventions between the promises of individual freedom and the negative challenges of those times of uncertainty. Traditional methods of social control take on a 'modern' appearance posing as ideologies of prevention and link themselves often to a kind of morality which directly opposes the reflexive professionalism of a progressive type of social work.

This conference is aimed at bringing together experiences from different countries of Europe and beyond relating to various dimensions of uncertainty and power and examine them critically with a view to establishing an agenda for social work which is capable of facing these challenges critically and of conceptualizing a progressive perspective for invigorating 'the social'. It is proposed that this will mean developing an emancipatory agency perspective which addresses above all the potential of innovative structural solutions.

Abstract submission & registration

Abstracts

Submissions can either represent reflected practical experiences, empirical research or theoretical concerns. The international scientific committee will validate all incoming abstracts. Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes. Points for subsequent discussions are welcome.

All colleagues are cordially invited to send an abstract (1-2 pages) as word- or pdf-file to the TiSSA co-ordinator: melanie.abeling@uni-bielefeld.de.

For all colleagues intending to give a paper either for the TiSSA Plenum or for the PreConference of PhD-Network the **deadline for the announcement of the abstract is July, 1 2008**.

Registration

Participation fee is:

	Regular	Reduced
Academics and professionals (Plenum)	150,- €	75,- €
PhD-students (PreConference & Plenum)	120,- €	60,- €

For further information and the easy-online registration please see www.TiSSA.net.

We're looking forward to meeting you in Riga!

