

Call for Papers

7th TiSSA Plenum &
PreConference 2009

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Vilnius, Lithuania

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Join *The international Social Work & Society Academy*
in Vilnius (Lithuania), the European Capital of Culture 2009!

New culture of welfare: the clash between managerial ideology, public image and professional identity

Welfare regimes are facing a fundamental transformation on a global scale.

The shift of paradigms, procedures and perspectives becomes obvious in analysing the dominant social political terms like audit-system, efficiency and effectiveness, self-responsibility and activating. Moreover, the contradictory constructions of citizens on the one hand as powerful, flexible and responsible members in their communities and on the other hand as unpredictable, detached and threatening individuals mark a strain in current welfare formations.

Social professions are challenged to positioning themselves within this **new culture of welfare**.

The **managerial ideology** squeezes social professions to become more standardized, (specialized) and fragmented in order to implement evidence-based, countable and calculable practice in social services.

The **public image** of social professions increasingly focuses on prevention and control. Social services are perceived as institutions of policing rather than institutions of civil society, characterized by the pressure of `demand and support`.

Along with these utilization, attribution and perception social professions are confronted with a degradation of their interpretative authority in the struggle of the definition of social problems.

The **professional identity** is continuously developed in the triangle of education, organisation and individual practice. In its progressive way, it comprises critical theory and practice as well as ethical and political contexts, includes a strong mode of reflexivity and the orientation on social justice and empowerment. But within the new culture of welfare, the professional identity is a contested claim. To keep the disposal of the definition and interpretation of professional identity is the central challenge of current social professions, emancipatory social practice and social work policy.

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 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.

7th TiSSA Plenum & PreConference 2009 in Vilnius, Lithuania:

New culture of welfare:

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August 26 to 28, 2009

TiSSA Plenum

August 23 to 25, 2009

PreConference of the TiSSA PhD-Network

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 max. 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 coordinator: 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, 2009.**

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 Vilnius, European Capital of Culture 2009!

