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Pessimism in Social Work and the triumph of Managerialism

In most European countries principles of new Managerialism have been established in Social Work. The implications of Managerialism are significant with respect to the very nature of Social Work. I argue that new Managerialism consists of a number of techniques as well as a set of doctrines aiming at enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and productivity of public problem solving. In terms of its promises Managerialism seems to have failed. However I argue that Managerialism was “successful” in crowding out the project of professionalism. I will point how the principles of professionalism in Social Work were displaced and I suggest that an important cultural background of the triumph of the inappropriate ideology of Managerialism was (and is) a widespread pessimism about the welfarist principles of professional Social Work.