

Fabian Kessl, Susanne Maurer

University of Marburg

maurer@staff.uni-marburg.de

WHICH KIND OF REFLECTION?

OR: WHAT IS NEEDED TO DO CRITICAL SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Which kind of research do we need if research should not only turn out as 'affirmative action' related to hegemonic demands on social work? Can research create (or function as) a 'space of potentiality', even (as) a 'space for social imagination'?

In our paper we argue for a research perspective related to what we call a „Critical Social Work“. This notion is bringing together 'critique of social work' and 'social work practices in a critical perspective' in a specific way, without neglecting their basic differences. Critical Social Work will not at least be defined as an agency 'working on the borders' of existing circumstances. Our considerations will therefore link the question of 'how to reflect as a researcher' to the attempt of conceptualizing such a 'border-sensitive-approach'. Altogether we suggest a perspective which can offer methodological anchor points using Foucauldian, feminist and arguments from a Theory of social practices.