

Heinz Sünker

Center for International Studies in Social Policy and Social Services
Bergische Universität Wuppertal

suenker@uni-wuppertal.de

**1968 AND THE SOCIAL WORK/PEDAGOGIC MOVEMENT IN GERMANY:
DEMOCRATISATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Against the background of the catastrophic history of Germany in the 20th century – and especially the catastrophes German Fascism produced with mass murder and war in the world – 1968 meant a real break in German history and the history of political culture.

The authoritarianism which used to be the salient sign of the German hegemonic political culture was still existent in the post-fascist first 20 years of the Federal Republic. 1968 with its different social movements interested in a real democratization of institutions and everyday life challenged this position and its consequences.

Based on a critical idea/concept of Bildung (emancipator and liberating education) the social work/pedagogic movement dealt with both the problem of social structures responsible for class divide and disadvantages in the lives of many people and the concrete conditions of those living in destituteness and/or in authoritarian institutions.

The paper deals with questions of social analysis, political and professional cultures, concepts of 'Bildung', overcoming alienated conditions in professional action and consequences consciousness raising of professionals and clients in the field of social work/pedagogy.

The empirical case study shows that a democratic social development depends on educated citizens and professionals.