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## **INDIVIDUALISM AND COLLECTIVISM IN SOCIAL WORK**

Increasingly Social Work Institutions and practitioners are obliged to show evidence that their interventions effectively contribute to individual and societal improvement. Against this background two issues have to be discussed academically and practically:

- which interests and objectives (from whom) count as relevant and significant in current Social Work practice and research and
- who or what is the point of Social work intervention.

With reference to central discourses affecting Social Work, e.g. Human Capital and the Investment State, Social Capital and its communitarian roots, Happiness and Well-being, as well as Human Development in its Capabilities version, individualistic and collectivistic perspectives are pointed out, both in their ethical and methodological dimensions. The crucial point of debate will be the question of appropriateness of Social Work approaches and objectives for a modern Social Work profession.