**Abstract**

Since 1970, there have been significant changes to individuals’ life course regarding partnership and parenthood. The life course of individuals no longer follows a predictable, traditional pattern, but is characterised by variation and complexity. Due to these changes, often institutionalised through legislation, contemporary families developed into adaptive and flexible entities. Contemporary families are adaptive because they can come into being but can also break down faster than they used to, after which the persons concerned continue their relationship trajectory in different family constellations. Families are also flexible, because of the children born in the different phases of such an adaptive relationship trajectory. Due to the presence of children, the composition of families continuously changes within one relationship episode. One of the challenges of these adaptive and flexible families concerns the parents’ role and the way it is fulfilled. Today’s children in 2020 may meet a broad range of adults who temporarily or permanently take up the position of step parent in the family through the repartnering dynamics of their biological parents. In this paper, we focus on multiparenting and we highlight this challenge from the knowledge built up by studying family structures in general and specific transitions in particular.

**Presenters**

Silindokuhle Tembe; Mbongeni Shabalala

**Title of Paper**

Men’s experiences of Intimate Partner Violence by Women in Jozini Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

**Abstract**

The aim of this study is to explore men’s experiences of Intimate Partner Violence by Women. The literature review was guided by three (3) research objectives which are namely exploring men’s experiences of Intimate Partner Violence; identifying the types of Intimate Partner Violence experienced by men and developing strategies to reduce Intimate Partner Violence experienced by men. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a global phenomenon that affects both men and women. This paper provides a qualitative systematic review of literature on men’s experiences of IPV and their causes, the types of IPV experienced by men, and strategies in which IPV against men may be lessened. This study found that men struggle to disclose their experiences of abuse or to seek help. This is largely contributed to the patriarchal views and societal norms of femininity that consider men as strong and in control while women are depicted as weak and submissive. The most prevalent forms of IPV against men range from physical, emotional, financial, and sexual abuse. These are seen...
Moving sexual reproductive health communication from unidirectional conversations to dialogue: A case of parent-teenager communication in Daveyton township.

Abstract

As children develop, behavioral changes occur which may affect their relationship with their parents. The common narrative is that parents do not discuss sexual and reproductive issues with their children. The paper aims to describe teenage boys’ and girl’s experiences of their communication and interaction with their parents on sexual and reproductive health issues. This was a mixed-method approach, case study design with teenagers 13 to 19 years, boys and girls. Three data sets were compiled then analyzed in an integrated way: a survey of opinion 233, six focus group discussions, and 15 in-depth narrative interviews. The findings indicated that there is an interaction between teenagers and their parents about sexual issues with less focus on the social-sexual relationships. There are various forms of engagement that largely have been ignored and are also not acknowledged as communication by teenagers. Teenagers need information and support to help them make decisions about their relationships. The study challenged the notion that parents do not discuss sex with their children. A challenge is that teenagers lack interest in the messages from their parents thus leading to the inability to put knowledge into practice. Service delivery should focus on teenagers and their parents.

Presenters

Sufran Smith; Carien Zeeman

Title of Paper

Social markers of high conflict divorce cases involving children

Abstract

According to Malcore et al. (2010:50) it is common for couples to experience negative outcomes and feelings during the divorce process. However, when there are children involved, it becomes essential to identify the divorce processes which could develop into high-conflict divorces. This study attempted to identify social markers which could contribute to the development of high-conflict divorces, in order to allow social workers to serve the court with appropriate and justifiable advice to address and treat the high levels of conflict in advance. This was done through conducting semi-structured interviews with social workers working with clients involved in divorces where there are high levels of conflict. The semi-structured interviews were based on the literature’s hypothesis of possible contributions to high-conflict divorces. The gathered information was analysed on the basis of existing literature, resulting in findings which could assist forensic social workers to better predict the possibility of prolonged, chronic conflict and in turn provide the court with advice regarding the children and the risks associated with their care.

Presenters

Busisiwe Nkala-Dlamini

Title of Paper

Domestic violence analysis during pandemic

Abstract

Domestic violence is a public health problem. Domestic violence shelters were established to accommodate women experiencing or subjected to violence. Purposive sampling was applied, and the aim was to explore and describe the counter-narratives of women living in domestic violence shelters by utilising semi-structured interviews. Methodology and Findings: A qualitative research approach and a descriptive design was applied in the research study. The population group for the study was adult women 18 years and older, living in domestic violence shelters. Recommendations and Outcome: The findings of the research identified the need for social workers in the domestic violence shelters to be trained on how to support women in their work with women. Alongside recommendations funding should be made available for women to receive holistic and comprehensive therapeutic services based on their needs. The women in the domestic violence shelters to be included in the decision-making processes. The results showed that the women produced counter-narratives based on their needs. The women in the domestic violence shelters to be included in the decision-making processes. The results showed that the women produced counter-narratives based on their needs.
which resisted the dominant cultural narratives of domestic violence. The findings revealed that the women identified their goals and took responsibility for their own lives. Furthermore, the outcome women learned new skills and rediscovered forgotten skills that would assist them in becoming financially independent.

Presenters: Sethenjwa Bonny Nduli
Title of Paper: Exploring the experiences of transitioning back into the community after incarceration from the perspective of Elderly parolees and correctional service providers in eThekwini Metropolitan.

Abstract: Background: Elderly parolees experience several difficulties, including maintaining their livelihoods, as they are well past the age of work and often lack family members to assist them after their release from incarceration. Often, post-incarceration social work programmes do not prioritise the needs of elderly parolees during service delivery, further straining the financial stress of elderly parolees released from custody. Aim: To gain an in-depth understanding of elderly parolee’s experience of transitioning from prison to the community. Method: The study used qualitative methods to explore the perceptions and experiences of elderly parolees and correctional service providers in the Department of Correctional Services. The sample comprised fifteen (n=15) elderly parolees, three (n=3) correctional social workers responsible for rendering social work programmes to parolees and two (n=2) correctional officials selected through purposive sampling. Results: Using the semi-structured interview method, the researcher was able to gather data that revealed that the maturation of elderly parolees was linked to deterrence and desistance from criminal activities, making the elderly parolees less likely to recommit crimes after their release. The research also revealed that elderly parolees experienced multiple losses upon their release from prison. This was highlighted as one of the negative factors that affected elderly parolees’ adjustment after their release from incarceration. Often, post-incarceration social work programmes do not prioritise the needs of elderly parolees during service delivery, further straining the financial stress of elderly parolees released from custody.

Evidently, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on various aspects of human life. Consequently, multiple and new social realities have emerged. This paper, through a qualitative methodology explores the impact of Covid-19 on family relationships. The health risks, social limitations (isolation, loneliness) and financial disruptions (job losses) as a result of Covid-19 pandemic have severely affected the family relationships. The findings show that domestic and partner violence has been on increase and thereby threatening the bonding and cohesion within the family structure. Further, the findings indicate that the family cultural space that enhanced and enriched family relationships and social capital suffer immense disruptions. Therefore, the social welfare departments should assess their readiness and capacity to handle emergent in tandem with the pre-existing social challenges.
within families. This is of paramount importance due to the expected health, economic and social spinoffs presented by Covid-19 pandemic. Programmes aimed at restoring family social fabric should be rolled out focusing on healing, reconciliation and creating alternative ways of strengthening family cohesion.

**Session** | **6a: Promoting mental health, well-being and sustainable communities**
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**Session Chair** | Prof John Rautenbach (University of Zululand)
**Date & Time** | Wednesday 1 September 2021, Session 1, 13:00 – 15:00
**Presenters** | Siyanda Mathanjana; Dr Delarise Muqueeny
**Title of Paper** | Teachers’ experiences of school-based violence at high school in Hammarsdale, KwaZulu-Natal.
**Abstract** | This study aimed to investigate teachers’ experiences of school-based violence (SBV) at high schools in Hammarsdale. Globally, violence in schools is one of the most challenging issues facing educators and learners, and school communities at large. In South Africa, SBV is robbing children of their constitutional right to be educated in a safe, nurturing environment conducive to teaching, learning, growth and development. It has catastrophic consequences on learners, teachers, and academic progress. Learners and teachers suffer
from several psychological and physical effects due to their exposure to SBV regularly. Learners’ academic progress is diminishing with many learners having to repeat grades. Violence in schools can be traced back to the 1990’s and still occurring. In addition, most studies explore and investigate learners' and parents’ perspectives with few studies assuming a teachers’ lens. These reasons inform this abstract for the presentation of a literature review that will investigate high school teachers’ experiences of SBV. The researcher will review and present international, national, and regional (KwaZulu-Natal) literature. The focus will also be paid to guidelines surrounding this phenomenon and the types and causes of SBV from a teacher’s perspective will also be included as well as recommendations to prevent it.

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<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Renjith R. Pillai</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Mental health literacy of the school teachers in an urban city of India</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>School teachers can facilitate identification and understanding of mental and behavioural issues among children provided teachers have adequate basic mental health literacy (MHL). The aim of the study was to measure the knowledge level of high school teachers on common mental health issues among children and adolescents in Chandigarh, India. This online cross-sectional descriptive study funded by Department of Science &amp; Technology and Renewable Energy, Chandigarh was conducted using google forms and 321 teachers responded to the questionnaire developed by the researcher. Permission from local Education Department and ethical clearance from PGIMER, Chandigarh was taken. The overall level of mental health literacy among the school teachers was found to be inadequate. The general awareness and attitude of school teachers on mental health problems of children and adolescents was found to be fairly good. The level of mental health literacy was more in female teachers. Capacity building training programs for school teachers in identifying, intervening and making referrals is needed. Liaison between the School and local mental health settings is recommended. Ensuring the availability of well-trained mental health professionals at the school level would be beneficial.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Natalie Mansvelt; Rinie Schenck; Zoleka Soji</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>The role of social work in promoting nutritional well-being in higher education</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Since the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic necessitated online learning, higher education institutions have been striving to remove the technological barriers in the environment of students that hinder academic well-being. However a recent national survey revealed that other barriers to well-being have been neglected. One of these is student hunger. Although not a new phenomenon, the issue is exacerbated by the stark inequalities that has been unmasked by covid-19 and with the effects of the increase in unemployment levels as well as the rise in food prices. This limits the capabilities of families to provide financial support to students and decreases the capabilities of students to provide for their nutritional needs. These struggles have a detrimental impact on the mental health of students. Are the current responses of higher education institutions sufficient or is there a distinctive role for social work to play? In this presentation, an overview will be provided of a PAR study with students as co-researchers that was conducted at one South African higher education institution. The findings reveal valuable insights into the ways in which social workers can contribute their unique knowledge and skills to a response to student hunger that is people-centred, collaborative, humanizing, comprehensive.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Ronald Addinall</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>The Development of a Best Practice Model for Supporting the Social Transition of Transgender and Gender Diverse Learners in School: An Autoethnographic Review</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>This paper will present an autoethnographic systematic study, analysis and narrative description of the researcher’s 10 year (2009 to 2019) professional involvement as a clinical social worker in the support of Transgender and Gender Diverse learners and their parents/care givers/guardians as well as school management teams and educators in the Western Cape of South Africa; to address the negotiation, planning and implementation of the social transition process recommended by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care 7th Edition. The analysis is based on 20 cases where the researcher advocated on behalf of a specific learner as a client to socially transition at a school and 12 cases of schools directly approaching the researcher and requesting the researcher to offer psychoeducation and training to assist schools to be prepared for a request for social transition at their school. The particular challenges schools experienced were identified, the unique successes in development of the processes were recorded and a best practice model for schools was developed. The implementation of the model throughout schools and the critical need for a National Department of Education Policy on Transgender and Gender Diverse Learners in Schools is recommendations from the study.</td>
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<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Thabisa Matsea; Thabisa Matsea</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>“Clearing the hovering cloud”: social work intervention on mental health consequences of COVID-19</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The world is currently in turmoil due to COVID-19 which WHO declared a pandemic. This forced many countries including South Africa to impose a lockdown that restricted movement with the aim of reducing the spread of the pandemic. The lockdown caught many people off guard resulting in the eruption of mental health challenges for some people. It also exacerbated the already existing mental health strain on many people, heightening levels of fear and state of anxiety with people feeling powerless and losing control of their lives. Many people struggle to cope and have reached a state of helplessness as they felt that their freedom has been taken away. Social work intervention is critical to deal not only with the current challenges but eliminate the aftermath mental health consequences of the pandemic. The focus of social work practice is to maintain and improve social functioning, therefore, it is imperative that social workers promote mental health and wellbeing. Strengthening resilience and coping mechanisms is crucial in South Africa. Currently, there is a dearth of literature on social work intervention on the mental health impact of COVID-19 This review describes mental health aspects of COVID-19 and highlights social work intervention at micro, mezzo, and macro levels.</td>
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<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Caiphus Ramushu</th>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Case study on experiences of father absence and emotional resilience of african men in the military</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Globally, the number of father absence is continuously increasing. This is due to various changes in modern families such as; divorce, parental separation, labour migration and out of wedlock childbearing. This study identified father absence as a vulnerability that affected participants emotionally; however the extent of the effects</td>
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differ according to circumstances of father absence. Father absence due to death was associated with lower negative emotional effect while other forms of father absence reported deeper negative emotional effects. The relationship between father absence and emotional resilience in the workplace was identified; Father absence was found to be acting as a general vulnerability that can interfere with the emotional resilience. This study is qualitative in nature and it followed a case study design. Participants in this study were 10 men who were aged 20-30 years, and currently working in the military. Purposive sampling was used to select participants for this study. The researcher used a case study design because he aimed to collect deep-rooted data on experiences of father absence. Data was collected using semistructured interviews which were guided by an interview schedule. Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data. The findings of this study aimed to help Social Work Directorate.

**Presenters**
- Lebogang Jocobeth Mphothi

**Title of Paper**
- Rendering services within the employee assistance programme (EAP) in the Gauteng department of health: views and experiences of social workers

**Abstract**
- The Employee Assistance Programme is regarded as a tool that could assist employees in organisations with both their personal and work-related problems. This has become evident as more employers are offering these services to their employees. The goal of this study was to gain an in-depth understanding of social workers’ views and experiences in rendering EAP services in the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH). The study used a qualitative research approach by focusing on the explorative, descriptive, and contextual designs. Constructivist theory and the person-environment fit model formed the framework of this study. Purposeful sampling (a criterion-based sample) was used to select social workers rendering EAP services in the GDoH. Eleven social workers who met the criteria participated in the study and their ages ranged between 33 and 50 years. Data was collected by means of semi-structured interviews. The Tesch’s eight steps of data analysis was used, and data verification was conducted based on the Guba model. The findings in this study indicate that EAP is an important programme. However, it is not prioritised by the GDoH. Consequently, EAP practitioners experience challenges that negatively affect the provision of quality EAP services.

**Presenters**
- Shinto Joseph

**Title of Paper**
- Effectiveness of life skill training on the self-efficacy and well-being of youth: An intervention study on marginalized youth in Kerala, India

**Abstract**
- India is one of the youngest countries in the world and this is an exciting opportunity, as well as a difficult challenge to take on. The challenge is to ensure human development while also making the best possible use of the available resources. Because of this, it is possible to make effective use of available human resources in order to achieve rapid socioeconomic development while also improving the overall quality of life. It is possible that life skill education can assist in the resolution of many of the major issues that young people face, and that it can assist to a greater extent than other methods. Method: This intervention study used a quasi-experimental approach to assess the impact of social group work in increasing marginalized youth well-being and self-efficacy. We administered pre-and post-tests to the intervention group (n=32) to assess their progress. Results: There was a statistically significant improvement in well-being for capacity building of youth (n=32) from 1.77±0.83to 3.56±0.80 (p < 0.0005and in in self-efficacy of youth from 2.73 ± 0.55 to 3.44 ± 0.34 (p < 0.0005). As a result, it was established that the social group work intervention considerably improved participants’ psychological well-being and self-efficacy. Conclusions: This study includes data on youth enrolled in RCSD for DDU-GKY’s skill training programmes and establishes a framework for social group work aimed at increasing well-being and self-efficacy. Having proposed a conceptual framework for life skill training programmes, this study seeks to look into all facets of its functioning, as well as interventions at the group, family, and community levels, in order to improve the well-being and self-efficacy of marginalised youth, and thereby their empowerment. Keywords: Social group work, empowerment, marginalized youth, well-being, self-efficacy

**Presenters**
- Nyameka Mbonambi

**Title of Paper**
- The Effectiveness of Mental Health Treatment Facilities at the university of Witwatersrand

**Abstract**
- "You can keep the career development unit as one and have a department to deal with mental health specifically": Perspectives from Tertiary Students from a University in Johannesburg. Mental health problems among students in tertiary institution are rife, and are driven, in part, by the immense pressure on academic, changes that student’s face, besides adjusting to university life. Some universities offer resources to help students deal with the stresses encountered in today’s ‘swim or sunk’ environment. The HerMind Woman’s Seminar/Study is concerned with understanding the perceptions of Black female students on the responsiveness of Counselling and Career Development Unit at The University of the Witwatersrand in addressing their mental health needs. Experienced Centered Narrative framework was used to understand how the student perceived these services. The
of mental disorders. The study argues for the importance for policy makers to foster collaboration between social workers and religious healers.

**Title of Paper:** Understanding Child and Adolescent Mental Health Disorders in Ghana: Perspectives of Social Workers and Alternative Care Providers  

**Abstract:** Mental health care in Ghana, especially child and adolescent mental health care, has received little attention regardless of the burden placed on families of children and adolescents with mental disorders in the country. This is mainly due to the lack of human resources and inadequate and inaccessible mental health care facilities which force families to seek help with other mental health care providers. The purpose of this study is to explore, understand and describe the role of social workers and alternative health care providers in the treatment and management of child and adolescent mental health disorders in Ghana. The study employed a qualitative research design and semi-structured interviews with 17 participants comprised of professional social workers, pastors, imams and traditional healers. The interviews were analysed using thematic analysis and findings suggest that social workers and alternative mental health care providers play overlapping but also specific, and different, roles in the diagnosis, treatment and referral in the treatment and management of child and adolescent mental disorders. The study argues for the importance for policy makers to foster collaboration between social workers and religious healers. Key words: Mental disorders, social worker, pastor/clergy, Imam, traditional healers, Ghana

**Presenters:** Snigdhaa

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**Session 6c: Promoting mental health, well-being and sustainable communities**

**Session Chair:** Ms Mirriam Siluma (Durban University of Technology)  

**Date & Time:** Wednesday 1 September 2021, Session 1, 13:00 – 15:00

**Title of Paper:** A Study of Impact of Arts Based Interventions on The Recovery of Individuals Living with Severe Mental Illnesses In a Village of Haryana.  

**Abstract:** The present study was undertaken to understand the Impact of Arts Based Interventions on the recovery of Individuals living with severe mental illness residing in a semi urban village of Haryana Basai. A total of 32 sessions were conducted in open community setting with 7 participants over a span of 39 hours. Individual and group sessions were conducted using seminar/study provided a platform for story telling from individuals who have experienced and dealt with mental illness. Semi-structured interviews were also collected with ten students using an interview schedule to allow female students to share mental health stories and to give meaning to their lived experiences. The results demonstrate intersections such as socio-economic background, culture, gender, geographic location, and race impact Black female students’ mental health and their interpretation of mental health treatment experiences.
Various arts-based tools like rhythm, drama, play, visual art forms, story circles, expressive narratives, and mediation. Recovery Assessment Scale (RAS) and arts-based assessment tools such as Life journey, Trust walk, Group artwork were used to assess change and achievement of recovery goals for individuals. Observations and audio-visual recordings were also done in between the sessions to understand the gradual impact of interventions on the participants. The results from RAS scale revealed a positive change in all domains of the scale. The results from the arts-based assessment in line with the results of the RAS scale revealed a greater sense of awareness of self. Further it also revealed an increased sense of belongingness with the family and other members of the community. From the results it can be concluded that Arts Based interventions promotes the Recovery of the participants.

**Presenters**
Fikile Duma; Nomandla Ndlovu; Peter Dimo

**Title of Paper**
Investigating factors that influence work burnout among social work practitioners.

**Abstract**
Burnout or occupation stress is a global health concern and challenge among social work practitioners. Social work is a vital profession that is regarded as a precarious as may social workers exhibit symptoms of deteriorating physical health, and express job dissatisfaction. The study’s mission was to determine the contributory factors associated with and that influence burnout among social workers. In the quest to determine factors that influence burnout, an explorative qualitative approach from an interpretivist perspective was used. Additionally, the theory of resilience and an ecological perspective were employed as the theoretical frameworks. A total of eighty social workers were recruited through purposive sampling. Unstructured interviews constituted the data collection instruments that were analyzed using thematic content analysis. The study findings indicate that high caseloads, inadequate resources, volatile work environments, low salaries and job dissatisfaction constituted the primary factors contributing to social work practitioners’ burnout or occupational stress. The study recommends that Employee Wellness Program (EWP) services be marketed and made more accessible to employees. Moreover, employers should create and facilitate employee centered and friendly workplaces where employees feel comfortable and confident to raise their grievances and concerns.

**Presenters**
Peter Dimo

**Title of Paper**
Factors that influence organ donation consent rates

**Abstract**
South Africa has a considerable demand for human body organs for transplant and this demand outstrips the critically insignificant supply of available organs. Nevertheless, the transplantation of body organs remains a definitive therapy for patients suffering from a wide range of end-stage diseases. Multitudes of patients die before they could receive life-saving organs. The predilection of end-stage patients is exacerbated by the family members of the deceased who refuse to give consent for the harvest of body organs. The intention of this paper is to explore factors that impede black South Africans from granting consent for the retrieval of organs from their deceased family members. In its quest to achieve its mission, the paper adopted a qualitative approach and an explorative research design. Fifty participants were selected through purposive sampling and the snowball method. Unstructured interviews were used to collect data that was analyzed through a thematic content analysis. The family system theory and the theory of planned behaviour (TPB) were used as theoretical frameworks for this study. The study established that a lack of communication, poor understanding of brain-death, a lack of knowledge, and various socio-cultural factors hinder black South Africans from granting consent to harvest organs from their family members.

**Presenters**
Kelebogile Fancy Lentswe; Elizabeth Smit

**Title of Paper**
School dropout among teenage girls in Greater Taung Municipality: A social work perspective

**Abstract**
School dropout among teenage girls in Greater Taung Municipality is prevalent in the society at large but the rate of school drop-out among teenage girls in the Greater Taung Municipality necessitated this study. The ecosystem theory, empowerment approach and integrated approach were used as theoretical frameworks for the purpose of understanding school dropout among teenage girls. On the other hand, empowerment approach and integrated approach were used to create interventions to address school dropout. The qualitative approach was used which was unstructured and flexible for the study. The study took the qualitative approach, where explorative, descriptive and contextual design were employed. Purposive sampling was utilized to select participants and thirty teenage girls who are still in school were selected for focus groups, nine teenage girls who have dropped out of school, three life orientation teachers and three social workers formed part of in-depth interviews. Life orientation teachers and social workers were interviewed as key informants. Content analysis was used to assess data from different angels. Findings indicated that school dropout among teenage girls is the result of lack of school social workers to assist in addressing psychosocial problems contributing to school dropout.

**Presenters**
Aasim Ur Rehman Ganie; Dr. Kavita V Jangam; Dr. A. Thirumoothy

**Title of Paper**
Psychosocial Factors Affecting the Socio-Occupational Functioning of Children Suffering from Severe Mental Illness: An Exploratory Study

**Abstract**
Introduction: Children and adolescents suffering from severe mental illness cause impairment, affects their growth and development and cripple their socio-occupational functioning. The health and functioning of children are highly dependent on the various socio-environmental factors in which the children live (including home, peers and school etc.). This study aimed to examine comprehensively the social determinants of functioning among children suffering from severe mental disorders. Methods: The study used exploratory method by performing Content analysis of case files of children (n=69) with SMIs aged between 8-18 years availing treatment from tertiary Mental health hospital and Key-informant interviews (n=15) with primary caregivers and mental health professionals having experience in child mental health. The content from the files and interviews were documented in the form of a coding sheet. The data arising from the set of cases were generated and card sorting was performed by three independent researchers to match the content and themes drawn. Colour coding was performed to ensure that biases and assumptions did not influence the analytical process. Results: The data drawn from content and thematic analysis of interviews indicated that social factors such as home environment, parenting, adverse childhood events, negative family events, school and community factors, service availability and illness and internalizing issues.

**Session**
9a: Social work and health issues: Substance abuse, HIV & AIDS and COVID-19

**Session Chair**
Prof Wim Roestenburg (North West University)

**Date & Time**
Wednesday 1 September 2021, Session 1, 13:00 – 15:00

**Presenters**
Zonke Maqdaleni Sibiya; Mbazima Mathembe
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title of Paper</th>
<th>The perceptions and views of social workers on the utilization of the employee health and wellness services within the Gauteng Department of Social Development</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The literature conveys that social work is a very stressful profession. Whilst social workers provide psychosocial support to others, it should not be forgotten that they too need to be supported whenever necessary. Failure to recognize this imperative may lead to more burn-out amongst social work practitioners. This study was aimed at gaining an in-depth understanding of the perceptions and utilization of social workers regarding Employee Health and Wellness Programme within the Gauteng Department of Social Development. This programme is designed to assist workers to deal with their professional and personal stressful situations. The qualitative data was collected through semi-structured interviews. Tesch’s framework for data analysis was used to analyze data, and data was verified through Guba’s model. The findings indicate that social workers are aware that their job is stressful and that they need the require psychosocial support to cope. However, the findings show that many social workers do not have adequate information regarding the psychosocial programme within the Department of Social Development. Consequently, social workers do not utilize the available services and the main cause is of underutilization was found to be their negative perceptions and attitudes towards the programme.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Regan Berry; Dr Rica Viljoen; Thabo Mofomme</td>
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<th>Title of Paper</th>
<th>The impact of COVID-19 on the residents of Alexandra Township</th>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The COVID-19 pandemic has caused upheaval and had a brutal effect on the community of Alexandra and this social constructivist qualitative study was undertaken to explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to create a container for participants to share their preoccupations and experiences related to this pandemic. A listening post data collection method was used. Several interesting themes emerged highlighting both positive and negative impacts on the community. The experience of COVID-19 with its associated denial, heightened fear and anxieties, increasing experience of shame and blame manifested in feelings of rage, anger and guilt on the individual, family, community, societal and political levels. The pandemic resulted in greater unemployment in Alexandra leading to a disturbing increase in the poverty and numerous social ills further destabilized this community. The impact on Ubuntu and on schools was discussed, and risky behaviours in the community were highlighted. As this study forms part of a larger constructivist grounded theory study the quality constructs of credibility, originality, resonance and usefulness were adhered to. This study provides great meta-insights into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on township residents and highlights what critical supports Social Workers can put in place to support township communities.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Jabulani Kheswa; Paulo Jesus; Mvuyisi Notole</td>
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<th>Title of Paper</th>
<th>Investigation of the sexual behaviour among adolescents during COVID-19 lockdown in Portugal and South Africa.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>This paper reports on how the COVID-19 influenced the sexual behaviour of adolescents in Portugal and South Africa. Evidence shows that an unprecedented number of adolescents exchanged sex for money for economic survival, which, in turn, exposed them to sexually transmitted infections such as gonorrhoea and unwanted parenthood. To achieve the objectives of the study, researchers analyzed the government gazettes, dissertations and newspaper reports. Researchers employed a desktop review owing to its convenience since it does not need ethical clearance as compared to experimental research. Drawing from Emerson’s social exchange theory and Freire’s critical theory, findings affirm that vulnerable adolescents in both countries, especially the homeless, could not afford to access condoms to prevent themselves from acquiring STIs. Lack of social justice propelled them to engage in transactional sex with adults and multiple sexual partners. From public health perspective, this paper argues that the government contributed to adolescents’ vulnerabilities because the COVID-19 lockdown regulations instilled fears instead of strategies to mitigate the spread of the pandemic. Adherence to the policies protecting the human rights of adolescents to health care should be encouraged to enable the adolescents to make informed choices as majority reported lack of effective access and avoidance coping.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Sibusiso Mkwananzi; Loretta Ntomo; Kennedy Machira</td>
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<tr>
<th>Title of Paper</th>
<th>Chasing the Youth Dividend in Nigeria, Malawi and South Africa: What is the role of poverty in determining the health status of young women?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Africa’s new source of hope lies in the harnessing of the Demographic Dividend- a window of economic opportunity that occurs as fertility levels decrease. It has been shown that the health status of young people should be optimal for the realisation of the demographic dividend. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the stark health inequalities that still exist in societies, particularly in developing countries to this day. This study examined the association between poverty and the health status of young women(15-25) in Nigeria, Malawi and South Africa using Demographic and Health surveys of the 2015 round. Interest variables were household and community-levels of poverty, while the outcomes were pregnancy, HIV, obesity and a self-assessment of health. Results showed that in all three countries household-and community-levels of poverty were independently and positively associated with pregnancy, HIV as well as health self-assessment, while negatively associated with obesity. The study shows empirical evidence of the construction of negative health outcomes in poor households and communities in Nigeria, Malawi and South Africa. Therefore, if the demographic dividend is to be a reality in the near future, it is imperative to ensure that poverty-alleviation occurs urgently.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Delarise Mulqueeny</td>
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<th>Title of Paper</th>
<th>A HIV+ Social Worker’s positionality on social workers’ practicing patient-centred care with HIV-seropositive patient: Reality or rhetoric</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>For almost four decades , social workers globally have been involved in HIV and AIDS with South African social workers being no exception. Their norms, values, roles and principles suitably position them to address the myriad of concerns and challenges confronting people living with HIV (PLHIV). These include managing their HIV-seropositive status, lives, health and wellbeing. This qualitative study was a reflexive enquiry of an HIV-seropositive social worker’s reflections on her positionality within a mixed-method study on patients’ experiences of social workers whilst accessing antiretroviral treatment (ART) at public hospitals in eThekwini Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal. The researcher assumed dual positionality as she was an insider due to her being a HIV-seropositive patient and social worker and an outsider as she was the researcher. Participatory action research, reflexive bracketing and a reflexive diary were the research and data collection tools used. The HIV self-disclosure resulted in the researcher being readily accepted by participants and hospital staff as participants felt comfortable to disclose sensitive issues while staff allowed her access to the facility. The researcher’s positionality and self-disclosure could encourage other HIV-seropositive researchers to disclose in endeavors to destigmatize the disease, openly engage with the community under research and close any gaps on positionality.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Samukelisiwe Ndaba</td>
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© ASASWEI 2021 Conference Local Organising Committee  https://asasweiconference.org.za; email: secretary@asasweiconference.org.za
### Abstract
Understanding the provision and implementation of psychosocial support services for children receiving HIV care in EThekwini Municipality Clinic, KwaZulu-Natal. Abstract: Commitment to improving HIV treatment facilities and access to antiretroviral medication has greatly improved the survival of people living with HIV. Consequently, HIV is no longer a lethal disease but a chronic condition requiring lifelong treatment and support. Aim: To explore the provision and implementation of psychosocial support services for children receiving HIV care from Pinetown Municipal Clinic. Setting: EThekwini Municipal clinic in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. Methods: A qualitative research approach informed by interpretive paradigm was used to explore and understand the perception of healthcare workers and caregivers. The study employed purposive and snowball sampling strategies to select 15 participants - seven healthcare workers and eight caregivers who live and cater for children living with HIV. These selected participants were interviewed using face-to-face in-depth interview techniques. Results: The findings of the study established that EThekwini Municipal Clinic renders psychosocial interventions for children living with HIV through Individual Counselling and Support Groups. The psychosocial support groups deal with issues around HIV care, which includes HIV testing, counseling, and treatment programs, with the aim of both capacitating children with knowledge about HIV and equally addressing the psychosocial needs of children. The study further revealed that the facility under question also employs communication tools such as “Papa Noah” which assists and facilitates communication of healthcare workers and children in a child-friendly manner and aged-appropriate style. Conclusion: The study concluded that psychosocial support services to children in HIV care at EThekwini Municipal Clinic have the potential to improve the children's quality of life and reduce mortality. The study also learned that healthcare workers are playing a major role in the provision and implementation of healthcare services; however, they are subjected to poor working conditions with long working hours, which often has a negative impact on both their drive and productivity. Keywords: Psychosocial, Children living with HIV, Healthcare workers, Caregiver, South Africa.

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### Conference Day 1: Wednesday 1 September 2021 Session 2: 15:15 – 17:15

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>9b: Social work and health issues: Substance abuse, HIV &amp; AIDS and COVID-19</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session Chair</td>
<td>Prof Tanusha Raniga (University of Johannesburg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date &amp; Time</td>
<td>Wednesday 1 September 2021, Session 2, 15:15 – 17:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Nicola Johnson; Francine Masson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Exploring experiences of substance-dependent employees in rehabilitation and their reintegration to the workplace: Case study of an alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.</td>
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#### Abstract
Substance abuse and dependence is a prominent and demanding social problem present in the workplace. Numerous efforts have been made to reduce substance abuse and dependency through prevention and treatment programmes. However, in the South African workplace context, very little is known about the experiences related to the rehabilitation and work reintegration of employees with a substance dependency problem. Consequently, this research study embarked on a qualitative, exploratory case study, to identify employee’s experiences of rehabilitation and reintegration to their workplace. Eighteen participants were purposely selected for this study and face-to-face, semi-structured interviews were conducted on two occasions, initially when participants were attending a treatment programme and then later once they had returned to work. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis. The emerging thread of themes highlighted the daunting experiences of substance dependent employees in the workplace and the challenges that they experience in returning to work. The findings can be used to create awareness and contribute to knowledge for occupational social workers, human resource practitioners and employers in managing substance dependence-related problems that arise in the workplace.

**Presenters**
Dr Yellie Dhlamini; Dr. Delarise Mulqueeny

**Title of Paper**
HIV/AIDS service delivery barriers and challenges confronting faith-based organisations’ implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP 2012-2016) in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.

#### Abstract
The goal was to investigate HIV/AIDS service delivery barriers and challenges confronting FBO’s implementation of the NSP 2012-2016 in Ekurhuleni. This was achieved by using the qualitative methodological approach using collective case study design. Purposive sampling consisted of 18 HIV/AIDS project coordinators, coordinated into three focus group discussions. Additionally, three one-on-one individual interviews were conducted with FBOs’ chairpersons; one from each of the three regions of Ekurhuleni. Data analysis was guided by Creswell analytical spiral steps. Findings revealed that organisations’ HIV/AIDS service delivery focused on disease management and neglected grassroots and fundamental integrative prevention services. Study found a poor NSP understanding, unequal partnerships and poor communications and leadership among stakeholders and Government. Research showed poor administrative coordination, monitoring and evaluation, including provision of support through capacity building and financial resources by government to service delivery. The study recommends NSP implementation based on the social development and social work approach, facilitate integrative HIV/AIDS service delivery amongst government departments, FBOs and other stakeholders on a broad range of interrelated development issues caused by the pandemics. Further research should be conducted to establish how the NSP 2017-2021 has incorporated these recommendations.

**Presenters**
Siyabonga Manqele; Peter Dimo

**Title of Paper**
Investigating factors that contribute to substance abuse relapse in King Cetshwayo district, KwaZulu-Natal.

#### Abstract
Substance abuse is a global health pathology and a concern in developing and developed countries. Many countries have adopted different treatment methods, nevertheless, substance relapse is still the most noted outcome after treatment for drug use disorders. The purpose of this ongoing study is to investigate factors that are driving substance abuse relapse. The aim of this study will be achieved through the adoption of a qualitative approach and explorative research design. Purposive sampling will be used to select twenty research participants. This study has adopted ecological perspective as its theoretical framework. Data will be collected through semi-structured interviews. Thematic content analysis
will be used to collect data. Literature review on substance abuse indicate that within the weeks to months after starting treatment for addiction, more than 2/3 of people in recovery relapse. This study is still in its developmental stage. However, its findings will make a contribution in the social work body of knowledge, policies and social work practice.

Abstract
HIV/AIDS remains a concerning global pandemic and continues to threaten the wellbeing of many people. Many individuals and families living with and afflicted by this ailment remain adversely affected in various aspects of their lives. All of this happens even after there have been programs and initiatives driven by the government and nongovernmental organizations to educate and informate people about HIV/AIDS. Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment has been made accessible to everyone living with HIV/AIDS, from all demographic backgrounds, however there is still an attachment of stigma associated with the public ingestion of ARVs. This study explored the perceptions of students regarding the uptake of HIV/AIDS related treatment in public spaces. The study followed a qualitative approach, with a population of 10 social sciences students (level 2 – 4) invited through stratified random sampling strategy. Data was collected through one-on-one interviews which were semi-structured. The study findings showed that the level of stigma and discrimination was declining among university students, even though PLWHA sometimes would stigmatize against themselves and end up deserting their medication. It was recommended that more structures need to be developed to support PLWHA, making them feel comfortable taking their medications in public spaces, without being discriminated against.

Abstract
Developing Social Response during the COVID-19 pandemic. A pilot study in a former mining town in Belgium

Inge Pasteels

Title of Paper
Child protection realities exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic

Abstract
During the last decade, researchers have generally been congruent in their conclusions and recommendations about the challenges and improvements needed in the child protection system in South Africa. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges as the already inadequate resources have had to be stretched even further. Child protection agencies during the Country’s lockdown restrictions must, furthermore, often function at lower capacities to comply to COVID-19 regulations. The aim of this study was to analyse how the current child protection realities as outlined by research can be contextualised during the current COVID-19 pandemic. A systematic review of research articles revealed the current realities of child protection services in the Country. The findings indicated the challenges experienced by families before the pandemic centred around financial stress and unemployment. Realities and literature on COVID-19 stressors indicate financial stress, unemployment, and uncertainties as main areas of concern in families. Child welfare organisational constraints pre-COVID-19 centred around lack of funding and resources especially the lack of cars, office space and technology. These organisational constraints raise serious concerns for the response to Covid 19 needs in families, that needs further investigation. Recommendations are focused on a response related to policy, practice, and research.

Session 10a: Social work practice during pandemics: Working with children, youth, persons with disabilities, the homeless and the elderly
Session Chair Ms Civil Legodu: National Department of Social Development
Date & Time Wednesday 1 September 2021, Session 2, 15:15 – 17:15

Abstract
This study investigates the influence of social support, affiliation to AA, involvement and perceived stress on attaining and maintaining sobriety. A convenience sample of individuals suffering from alcohol use disorders from Romania who attend AA meetings (n=107) completed an online questionnaire in October 2020 in order to analyze the intricate bi-directional relationship between COVID-19 and sobriety and to identify risk factors associated with relapse. Results indicated that online AA meetings are perceived as less useful than the physical ones and that social distancing is a major risk factor for relapse. For 77% of the alcoholics attaining and maintaining sobriety since the COVID-19 pandemic started is more difficult. Although only 23% of the participants had relapsed, 40% out of those who maintained sobriety, experienced craving. Alcoholics who attended more AA meetings the past 12 months before the COVID-19 pandemic, reported 10 times more chances to maintain sobriety. The findings suggest that those working in the area of substance abuse should pay more attention to the influence of social support in attaining and maintaining sobriety and find innovative ways to improve online support groups, as these appear to play an important role in becoming and maintaining sobriety.

Abstract
In many towns, the regular structures of municipal consultation and associated communication streams abruptly fell away in mid-March 2020 due to the measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Simultaneously, the pandemic itself gave rise to an avalanche of questions and notifications, on the one hand, and...
solution-oriented proposals on the other. Individual workers and organisations spontaneously searched for various on-line options to handle this extraordinary situation and the questions being put to them. As a result, communication was rapidly established, but the flows of communication were independent and without interaction. Simultaneously, the experience of this extraordinary situation of a society in semi-lockdown, and the associated challenges, led to numerous citizen initiatives. In response to all needs raised by the lockdown, a crisis approach was developed. This crisis response was rolled out in the form of a non-hierarchical, three-pronged structure, with Social Response as the major objective. To assist all the residents— in particular the most vulnerable ones —, and to provide help and emergency support where it was needed, it was necessary to link up the welfare organisations with each other and with the local authority. This paper gives insight into this innovative community social work project.

**Presenters**
Sneha Chandrapal; Ankur Saxena

**Title of Paper**
Children’s vulnerability during Covid-19

**Abstract**
Children are not the face of this pandemic. But they risk being among its biggest victims. All children, of all ages, and in all countries, are being affected, in particular by the socio-economic impacts and, in some cases, by mitigation measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good. Worldwide, children have been profoundly affected by the social and economic upheavals caused by COVID-19. The pandemic unleashed a perfect storm into the lives of most marginalised children. This pandemic is a universal crisis and, for some children, the impact will be lifelong. Moreover, the harmful effects of this pandemic will not be distributed equally. They are expected to be most damaging for children in the poorest countries, and in the poorest neighbourhoods, and for those in already disadvantaged or vulnerable situations. This paper is based on the secondary data. Literatures in the field of children and their vulnerability, impact of Covid 19 on children's mental and physical health are reviewed to find out the children's vulnerability during this pandemic.

**Presenters**
Sunirose I. P

**Title of Paper**
Social Work Practice with institutionalized elderly during Covid 19: a model of social group work

**Abstract**
The pandemic and its protocol have changed the life of elderly overnight all over world. Initially the older were the targets of Covid-19 and many elderly very easily succumbs to it. The globe witnessed this heartbreaking truth of death face to face in the daily life. Fear has besieged not only the senior citizen but the humanity. Live with 'lock down and social/physical distancing' was a new normal for the people of all the nations. This new normal created a vacuum and double vulnerability to older adults in India specially the institutionalised. They were in terror and panic and confined to bed alone. All their source of social interactions came to an end all of a sudden. The last and only resort of religious rituals also were not allowed by the government. The relationship and interaction patterns had a shift from interpersonal to intra personal and many could not accommodate it. This led them to experience emotionally very low and depressed. In order to rehabilitate and reconstruct their lives we introduced this ‘disaster model of group work’ with the elderly in the institution. This intervention led the elderly to overcome the depression, restore them back to a life of happiness.

**Presenters**
Naomi Maloba

**Title of Paper**
Pandemics and working with older persons in South Africa

**Abstract**
The World Health Organisation (WHO, 2020) declared a global pandemic on 11 March 2020. The first cases of COVID-19 in South Africa came with South Africans who had returned from Italy in March 2020. Following the surge of COVID-19 cases, the government declared a state of emergency on 15 March 2020 in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) and implemented a nation-wide lockdown (Level 5) on 26 March 2020 with responsive Regulations. The Department of Social Development issued out directives on measures to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in residential facilities which prohibited the release, visitation, new admissions, family interaction programmes for Older Persons due to their vulnerability by virtue of their comorbidities that are age related. While attention has been on containing and mitigating the pandemic, in order to save lives country wide, specific attention was on supporting facilities with the management of infections and compliance with the regulations. Public Private Partnerships were forged to support facilities to curb the spread and deaths of older persons. This literature review will draw on the impact of COVID-10 on Older Persons, government initiatives and progress made in protecting Older Persons from the pandemic.

**Presenters**
Yeukai, L Muruzi; Priscilla Gutura

**Title of Paper**
Experiences of violence among women with physical disabilities: Implications for social work practice

**Abstract**
The goal of this study was to explore and describe the experiences of violence among women with physical disabilities in Tshwane Metro, Pretoria. The study used a qualitative approach and virtually interviewed twelve women. The empirical findings of the study indicated that the participants experienced various forms of violence such as sexual, financial, physical, emotional, structural violence as well as neglect and deprivation. There were two risk factors that increased the possibility of the participants experiencing violence. These included, assumptions allied to women with physical disabilities and not disclosing the violence experienced. Nevertheless, the participants had ways of protecting themselves from violence, which included self-acceptance, disclosing violence and getting support from significant others. Further, the participants relied on support from informal networks as well as professional assistance. The study concluded that women with physical disabilities are not an exception to violence as they are faced with multiple forms of violence, gender specific violence and disability related violence unique to them.
### Abstract

The neoliberal transformations in recent decades have had an impact on the Social Work profession along with its processes of professionalization and deprofessionalization in the Ibero-American region. This work is the result of research that is still being developed. It analyzes work, education and political organization challenges of social workers in the current context of the coronavirus pandemic, in times of capital crisis, with changes in work spaces and social policies. The methodology uses bibliographic sources on the capital crisis, its impact on social policies and social security systems and on the pandemic in the countries involved. The research has been carried out using information available on websites: blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, etc., from professional social work associations, academic institutions or other types of organizations or professional groups in general. Preliminary results indicate that the pandemic, in the countries investigated so far, has impacted the entire professional category: either in the academic field, with an effect on students, or with professionals in their interventions, as well as the professional organizations facing new demands that require quick and qualified responses. Keywords: Ibero-American Social Work; Vocational training; Professional exercise; Capital Crisis; COVID-19.

### Experiences of social workers and persons with disabilities during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic

This presentation is based on a doctoral study on the experiences of adults with an acquired physical disability on social work in South Africa. The study used a qualitative approach with two cohort groups. The first cohort group were 19 adults with an acquired physical and the second cohort were five social workers with experience in service delivery to persons with disabilities and their families (PWDs). Purposive sampling and later on, due to restrictions during lockdown, snowball sampling of participants across the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, were used. Findings during this study included challenges such as social isolation, digital divide, difficulty in accessing resources and PWDs during lockdown and the importance of support services to PWDs and their families. Services delivered to PWDs and their families were aligned with policies such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the White Paper on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities, however general awareness of the availability of these services were limited. Recommendations include those from service users and providers within the study and general recommendations to address consideration of persons with disabilities during disaster management strategies such as a pandemic.

### Life of children in Child Care Institutions During Covid 19

The children in Child Care Institutions (CCI) is one among the various affected sections and succumbed to vulnerabilities due to Covid 19. In Tamil Nadu, approximately 48, 000 children are residing in CCIs. The supreme court of India has issued guidelines to Government of India and Ministry of Women and Child Development and ordered all CCIs to send the children back to their families to prevent the spread of infection. This effort of reintegration of children to their families for a short stay, much against the expectation, continued for more than ten months. An unfortunate result of this exercise was that the children who did not have any family were forced to stay back at the CCIs. These children can be considered as one of the most vulnerable children without any family support and love. In order to study the impact they suffered due to Covid 19 and their concerns on institutionalisation, reintegration and foster care were studied.

### Social work services available to older adults during COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria: Implications for the professionalization of social work

The emergence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected the wellbeing and life satisfaction of all individuals across the globe including Nigeria. However, studies have shown that older adults were the worst hit by the virus. Several studies have discussed the issues of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria but none of these studies attempted to discuss the available social work services to the older adults despite the fast increase of the nation’s older adults. The present study will fill this vital gap. In-depth interviews were used to collect data from 12 social workers in three different agencies. The generated data were analysed in themes and the results show a lack of social work services to older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. In some agencies, social workers were restricted from coming to works as a measure to curtail the spread of the virus. To achieve the 2030 global agenda and African Union commitment, the Nigerian government should with a sense of
urgency legalize the practice of social work in Nigeria. Also, policies that address the welfare and protection of Nigerian older adults should be formulated to cushion the effects of pandemics and other associated problems of ageing.

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<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Dr. Pilla Sailaja</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Impact of Covid-19 on Older People in India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The Covid-19 Pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV – 2) has triggered a global crisis. Originated in Wuhan and has spread rapidly across the globe expanded its routes to India. The first case of COVID – 19 in India was reported on 30 January 2020. COVID – 19 pandemics is causing untold fear and suffering for older people across the world. The virus spreads rapidly to developing countries. India likely has overwhelming health and social protection systems, the mortality rate for older persons could climb even higher. Older people are more vulnerable to coronavirus because there are both physical and social reasons. Older people don’t have as strong an immune system so they are more vulnerable to infectious disease. India, the world’s second-most populous country, has experienced a dramatic demographic transition in the past 50 years, entailing almost a tripling of the population over the age of 60 years. The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is having a particularly increased impact on older people as the case fatality increases with age. Besides this, isolation, inadequate basic support and an overstretched health care system are adversely affecting the older people population. In this context, the present paper critically analyses the impact of COVID–19.</td>
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<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Tafadzwa J Mukasi</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>A Process Evaluation for Diversion Programme for Young Offenders During a Pandemic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>A process evaluation of diversion programmes rendered to children in conflict with the law and at risk of committing crimes was conducted to assess the extent to which therapeutic activities enhance behaviour modification outside Criminal Justice System. This was to determine programme mechanisms for implementation, evaluation and promoting replication to provide programme progression, accountability and accomplishment. The study attempted to fill this gap through re-examining the concept of the process evaluation of diversion programmes from a new perspective during the Covid-19 pandemic. It uncovered whether intervention aspects, including conceptualisation, design, and implementation, are adequate to address challenges faced by clients. It assessed and validated whether the programme is conveyed as projected to targeted beneficiaries. The evaluation enlightened the design that determined the relevance of the intervention given the needs of beneficiaries, expectations and feasibility of available resources. The study used document analysis, semi-structured interviews and observation. Empirical results revealed that although the diversion programme faces challenges such as adequate resources and limited implementation time, it has a comprehensive programme design and plan for implementation of activities. Moreover, it is enhancing behaviour modification of young offenders. The programme needs to have sufficient resources for implementation to achieve goals.</td>
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<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Loandrie Potgieter</th>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Disability-Inclusive Development</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Persons with disabilities, globally estimated to be one in seven, experience multi-dimensional poverty characterised by limited inclusion and participation in society. The COVID-19 pandemic, furthermore, has disproportionately affected persons with disabilities and intensified the inequality they experience, for example across the globe persons with disabilities have reported incidents where they have been refused treatment for COVID-19 based on their disability. The plight of persons with disabilities highlights the need for disability-inclusive development, also called disability mainstreaming. Indeed, the achievement of any developmental aspirations requires the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The importance of disability-inclusive development is reflected in various instruments such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities globally, and in South Africa the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Yet, several challenges to implementing disability-inclusive development have been identified, such as limited awareness of what disability-inclusive development is, the belief that persons with disabilities are a separate focus area, the assumption that the cost of including disability is too high and the belief that ensuring disability inclusion is the sole responsibility of governments. This presentation will discuss key issues pertaining to disability-inclusive development, concluding with concrete recommendations.</td>
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<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Timson Mahlangu</th>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Social workers as &quot;miracle makers&quot;: challenges and experiences of social workers working with homeless people</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Social workers are at the forefront of endeavours to address homeless people’s needs, as direct service providers and as advocates. Notably, interventions to address homelessness are an emerging area for the social work practice (Zufferey, 2011:241). Hence, social workers encounter varying challenges when rendering services to homeless people. According to Kim and Stoner (2008:6) social workers have a demanding task as often the service homeless people demand exceed what they offer. Whereas demands on social workers increases, they are often exposed to an increased risk of developing work-related stress and burnout (Tesi, Aiello &amp; Giannetti, 2019:123). A qualitative study was undertaken with eight participants who purposively selected and identified through snowball sampling. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and analysed thematically. Principles of credibility, transferability, dependability and conformability were sensibly adhered to in the research process. The findings indicate that social workers consistently sense ill-equipped to respond to a breath of homeless people needs, often</td>
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frazed by expectations to be “miracle makers” attending to concerns beyond their capacities, resources and expertise. Such frustration has undesirable intervention outcomes, which may result in burnout. Keywords: Social worker; “miracle makers”; homelessness; homeless people

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<th>Session</th>
<th>1a. Building social work partnerships and interdisciplinary collaborations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session Chair</td>
<td>Ms Aisha Abrahams (University of Free State)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date &amp; Time</td>
<td>Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 3, 11:15 -12:15</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Zibonete Zimba; Linda Harms-Smith; Nevashnee Perumal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of paper</td>
<td>Social Work Action Network (SWAN) as critical and radical social work process and practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>SWAN-SA was formed early in the COVID-19 pandemic. It ushered in a new collective of SW educators, practitioners, and students united by a critical and radical perspective in SW. They are committed to advocacy, activism and campaigning for social and structural change; and to strengthen social work practice to the benefit of all. This critical perspective analyses socio-economic structures of power and inequality at every level, from individual through to broader society. This paper presents the unfolding development of this network, the underpinnings of its positions in relation to SW, and its advocacy and campaigning activities of its first eighteen months. It argues that in addition to the private struggles that people face, SW must position itself as confronting the structural and public causes of many individual problems. The ongoing effects of SA’s history of Colonisation and Apartheid together with current structural socio-economic arrangements have a severe impact on society, producing extreme structural inequality and poverty, ongoing racism and oppressive power relationships, manifested in class, race, gender and other oppressions. The paper argues that SA social work must embrace a critical and radical trajectory and position itself as having capacity for bringing about real social change.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Barbara Staniforth; Natasha Long; Margo Trappenburg</td>
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<td>Title of paper</td>
<td>A research team built during Covid 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Social workers know that sometimes good things come from crisis. This presentation tells the story of an international and interdisciplinary research team looking at public perceptions of social work, which was formed through Covid 19. The 2020 IFSW conference in Calgary was cancelled, and through the subsequent online conference, the first two members of the team from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand could connect with the idea of collaborating on research on public perceptions. Two other team members from Australia and the Netherlands soon came on board and the group has met monthly through 2020 and 2021. All meetings have been held on Zoom and while the international research goals are progressing, it is the story of the support and development of relationships that we wish to tell. This has become an important group for each of us as we support one another through our experiences of being social work educators and researchers during the time of Covid. In this presentation, each of the team members describe what has worked for them and how the group has become important to them in maintaining momentum at a time when so many other demands are placed on them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Ved Pal Singh Deswal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of paper</td>
<td>An analysis of social order of constitution as a pillar of social work activities: glimpses from India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Objective of the paper: v To understand what is the concept of social work? v Why this concept is there in European countries and very less in my country? v What is the role of the Government as a welfare state? v What are the areas where the activities of social work can be carried out? v What are various provisions of Indian Constitution relating to social work? Findings: In the conclusion of the study, as a teacher of Law, I can say that providing free education is a great social work; which can be helpful in removing illiteracy from the society. The advocates can serve with legal advocacy in settlement of trifling offences. Being a torch bearer of the society, the advocate can be a great social engineer. Due to development of science and technology the Government of India has started digitalization in various services; whereas there is no facility in rural area. The people have no smart phones and internet access. Therefore the teacher and students belonging to that area can help them in availing these online services. In the same way the Medical doctor can also help the needy patients after duty hours also. Today in the era of globalization and digitalization where there are no boundaries of states; we need to carry out such type of activities not only in our country but wherever it is required such as in case of disasters and pandemic situation like covid-19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Busicwise Madikizela; Annaline Keet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of paper</td>
<td>Engaging the female voice in understanding gender and sexuality interaction: The school and social work as medium for empowerment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Assumptions often get made that young women translate knowledge obtained from Life Orientation into skill sets and behaviours that would help them assert themselves and control their bodies. The purpose of the study is to understand why, despite school subjects and programs by organizations to empower young women, their voice remains marginalized in intimate spaces, evidenced through high levels of HIV infection and teenage pregnancies. Fifteen young women ages 18 to 24 in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro were interviewed. This qualitative study used a critical ethnographic research design. It aimed to uncover and understand the deeper meanings of the phenomena experienced by young women from their point of view. Using a Humanizing Pedagogy and a Performative construction of Identity as offered by Judith Butler as a theoretical framework, a qualitative analysis of the results drew four themes. These confirm that; patriarchy continues to influence partners expectations of relationships, ‘performing’ gender in partner relationships is influenced by a patriarchal society, the school can enable empowerment discourses, and social workers can be educational partners in gender empowerment. Practical recommendations are provided for further study, policy change, practice, training, co-curricular programmes in school, and recommendations for a multi-disciplinary team in schools.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Session 1b. Building social work partnerships and interdisciplinary collaborations

**Session Chair** Dr Varoshini Nadesan (ASASWEI/University of Johannesburg)

**Date & Time** Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 3, 11:15 -12:15

**Presenters** Retha Bloem; Kristien Bauwens; Ivette Leten

**Title of Paper** The quest for a global perspective How a cross country - interdisciplinary approach will pave the way to a multi-dimensional intercultural understanding of social service delivery. A Global North-South research collaboration

**Abstract** This is an invitation to universities to take part in the Global Footprint initiative – aiming to enable participation in an already established Global North-South research collaboration. The current pandemic has taught us a very important lesson as stated in the words of Paddy Ashdown "Everything is connected to everything. We are now interlocked as nations, as individuals, in a way which has never been before." Interdisciplinary research with a solution focused aim require a clear sense of the global context.

This research unlocks the global social problem context by introducing reciprocal collaboration between international Higher-Education Institutions. Our research question directing our inquiry: have social problems been reduced significantly in scope and severity in recent decades, and if not, what additional types of intervention seem to be required and how can a global perspective unlock new solutions? In this paper we will share with you what we have learned so far from international collaboration between Global North and South and pave the way for stronger more comprehensive interdisciplinary partnerships and research in the future. This paper is an introductory paper followed up by 2 papers focusing on context relating to the above. Research areas open for collaboration.

**Keywords** Community, Management, Extension, Partnerships

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**Presenters** Masateru Higashida

**Title of Paper** Exploring culturally relevant practices in international developmental social work: Japanese social workers' experiences in other Asian countries

**Abstract** This study examines how culturally appropriate collaborative practices were perceived by international social workers in other Asian countries while considering the potential criticism of engaging in de facto colonisation. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with Japanese social workers (n = 5) who had worked for two years in another Asian country (Malaysia, Sri Lanka or Mongolia). Thematic analysis was applied to their narratives. We found three main themes ('understanding based on local life and activities', 'practice with local stakeholders' and 'attitudes and perspectives at the grassroots practice') with fourteen sub-themes relating to issues around culturally appropriate practices and perspectives. Although the background and context of the interviewee's activities differed, they stressed the importance of deepening their socio-cultural understanding by, for example, learning local languages and appropriate communication methods through living in each country and interacting with local people in a variety of situations. They also described the process of exploring and finding the necessary measures and implementation methods through dialogue with local people, taking a reflective view on their practice. Although there are limitations, such as the small sample size, these findings suggest the necessity of identifying collaborative practice by domestic and international social workers in various fields in other regions.

**Keywords** Community, Engagement, Extension, Partnerships

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**Presenters** Kefilwe Johanna Ditlhake

**Title of Paper** Complexities and barriers of multidisciplinary community development in South Africa

**Abstract** Multidisciplinary team working has been the model for working in community development for many years emanating from the history of community development in South Africa. Despite the support for collaborative partnerships and interprofessional team working for social service professions as recognised by the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997), Integrated Development Plan (IDP), and the community as the key role player at the community level. Collaborative partnership efforts remain a challenge in community development intervention. This paper reports on a more extensive explanatory qualitative study that focused on the complexities of the professionalization of community development in South Africa. The study reports on the findings of complexities and barriers to effective multidisciplinary team working in community development. Multiple case study designs, interviews, and documentary analysis research methods informed this study. A constructivist grounded theory method of data analysis, including constant comparative analysis and coding, is employed. The results revealed many barriers to effective multidisciplinary team development working, community participation, and collaborative partnership functioning in community development. Recommendations are made for more inclusive collaborative partnership arrangements to address compelling multidisciplinary community development practice challenges.

**Keywords** Community, Development, Collaboration, Partnerships

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**Presenters** Stan Lobo

**Title of Paper** The emerging need for integrating content on Spirituality in Social Work curriculum with specific reference to Indian Social work education.

**Abstract** Over the last 20 years, social work as a profession across the globe has been accumulating clinical and research evidence to suggest that the aspects of spirituality play an important role in effectiveness of social work practice. Based on the worldwide emergence of the subject, this paper presents views and perspective on integration of spirituality into social work education curriculum in Indian situation, based on an exploratory study conducted in India. The study focuses on a sample of 411 social work professionals from 14 Social Work...
Session 2a: Climate change as a threat to human health: the role of social work

Session Chair: Dr Roshananthi Subrayen (University of KwaZulu-Natal-Disability Unit)

Date & Time: Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 3, 11:15 - 12:15

Presenters: Rufus Singh

Title of Paper: Climate Change and its effects on Older Adults

Abstract:

In the current century, the world is facing two devastating global crises simultaneously, namely, the Covid-19 pandemic and the global climate change crisis. It is essential that people, individually and collectively, adjust their behaviour and thereby mitigate and overcome these two crises. Seldom has mindfulness, agility, caring, good citizenship and responsible corporate citizenship been more central to our ability as humans to survive emergencies and eventually to thrive. Occupational social workers are strategically positioned to influence human behaviour through enhancing individual and collective awareness of the pressing need for changed approaches, as well as for responsible individual and corporate citizenship. Scientists and experts are warning of the seriousness of the threats facing the world and that there are still limited windows of opportunity to turn both of these crises around. Occupational social workers have a meaningful role in addressing and mitigating the crises facing us. By virtue of their ability to influence human behaviour, occupational social workers could assist individuals and organisations to mount and prevent some of the most erosive and devastating impacts of both crises. In tandem with other professions, occupational social work is presented with a significant opportunity to effect significant change for the better.

Presenters: Francine Masson; Jenny Dry

Title of Paper: "Occupational Social Work: Effecting Change for Good in the Midst of Two Global Crises"

Abstract:

The proposed study will largely rely on literature review to seek to examine the major factors that have contributed to the climate change crisis especially in the context of Southern Africa and beyond as well as to seek practical areas of work for social workers and allied professionals at both macro and micro levels in helping to radically address this problem in the Sub Region and beyond. This is from a view of social work as a rising profession in offering hope to current and future generations as well as the environment and from a view that doing nothing is not one of the options on this question of climate change. Positive action is therefore a must if we are to offer any hope for the future as well as avoid the coming catastrophe if we adopt a "do nothing or little approach". This is hence the motivation of this impending paper submission and presentation.

Session 2b: Climate change as a threat to human health: the role of social work

Session Chair: Dr Rajeev SP (Rajagiri College of Social Sciences - India)

Date & Time: Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 3, 11:15 - 12:15

Presenters: Tracy Omorogiuwa; Owie Uptonahusi

Title of Paper: Fulani Herdsmen-Farmer Crisis: Implications for Social Work Practice in Nigeria

Abstract:

The study explored the impact of climate change as the harbinger of the Fulani herdsman/farmers crisis in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. The study is aimed to interrogate the causative factors of farmer/herdsman crisis in the area. It utilises qualitative approach and exploratory design. A sample of 8 participants is purposively selected from the population, which consist of the farmers, herdsmen, traditional rulers in the communities and the security agents such as the Police in the study area. Data were...
collected with a focus group discussion. To ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of the data, voice of participants and member checking were used as methods of verification. The thematic analysis with six phases was utilized. The findings of the research showed that the herdersmen are settlers in Ovia north east and unleashed murderous acts on the host communities. Further revealed is the pate of killings of the Fulani/herdsmen who settled in the area and members of the host communities. Additional is the destruction of crops, kidnapping and raping of young girls and women. These papers therefore recommend the need for social work professionals provision of remediation and prevention services.

Presenters
Molly Shayamano; Poppy Masenga

Title of Paper
Implications of climate change-induced disasters and the role of social workers: A review of literature

Abstract
Climate change is continuously affecting the environment and the inhabitants. It fuels disasters such as droughts, heatwaves, floods, and/or cyclones resulting in damage to the environment. Livelihoods are affected, emotional or mental health issues and in extreme cases, loss of lives. The occurrence of climate change-related disasters is rising worldwide, accounting for more than half of all disaster events. In 1980-1999, 3656 climate change-related disasters were recorded globally and 6681 between 2000-2019, an increase of 82.7%. This paper seeks to discuss the negative implications of these disasters on human health and well-being, and to describe the critical role social workers could play in responding to environmental issues which increasingly affect the well-being of people. Social workers are fundamentally mandated to advocate for justice and should be involved alongside with other humanitarian actors such as scientists, psychologists, nurses and doctors to mitigate the impact. A literature review method was adopted with the use of boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT to search for articles, books and grey literature on climate change, disasters and social work practice. Literature indicates that climate change is a threat to humanity causing multiple consequences that require effective disaster response strategies and social work intervention to assist the affected.

Presenters
Agnimel Christian Agro

Title of Paper
The life of coffee and cocoa farmers in the Ivory Coast

Abstract
Ivory Coast is cocoa, cocoa is Ivory Coast. This remark, which regularly comes up in the mouths of professionals in the cocoa sector, clearly shows to what extent this cultivation remains a major element in the development of the country. Despite the growing importance of other export crops (pineapple, rubber, palm oil), cocoa remains the main source of foreign exchange earnings for Côte d'Ivoire, which is still by far the largest producer. worldwide of this raw material with no less than 39.4% of the tonnage of beans. Better still, the harvest, with 1.2 million tons, reached a historic level last year, increasing by 27% compared to the previous year. With an exit tax for exports amounting to 1.75 francs per kilo, such exceptional harvests result, for the state budget, in a windfall of more than 1.75 billion francs. This record campaign can be explained by ideal climatic conditions. But also by a voluntary approach and by increasing the areas planted. An abundant harvest of around 1 million tons is expected again this year. At the same time, the Ivorian authorities have revived the cultivation of coffee, often associated with that of cocoa. Harsh competition from ambitious new producers, such as Vietnam, Côte d'Ivoire has fallen from third to tenth world coffee harvest, with 1.2 million tons, reached a historic level last year, increasing by 27% compared to the previous year. With an exit tax for exports amounting to 1.75 francs per kilo, such exceptional harvests result, for the state budget, in a windfall of more than 1.75 billion francs. This record campaign can be explained by ideal climatic conditions. But also by a voluntary approach and by increasing the areas planted. An abundant harvest of around 1 million tons is expected again this year. At the same time, the Ivorian authorities have revived the cultivation of coffee, often associated with that of cocoa. Harsh competition from ambitious new producers, such as Vietnam, Côte d'Ivoire has fallen from third to tenth world coffee production in ten years. It has every interest in it: "Historically, coffee has always been more profitable than cocoa, and it has the advantage of settling the population in the countryside, because it is a crop that requires a lot of labor, unlike cocoa," notes a trader. The planter, who is paid 3.25 francs per kilo of cocoa, can hope to earn 5 with coffee. Ivorian production, which fell to 126,000 tons in 1994, rose to 189,000 tons in 1995. A jump of 50% which, according to the authorities, results from the policy of rejuvenation of the orchard that they have implemented. The 92% increase in the purchase price per kilo from the producer.

Presenters
Terence Qubekani Ndlovu

Title of Paper
Scoping The Social Work Profession Nexus In The Context Of Climate Change And Water Insecurity.

Abstract
The paper seeks to explore the existing epistemic ambivalence on the relationship between the social work profession and the natural world, and how this has played a continuous part in violating the principle of social and ecological justice. In addressing the challenges of environmental destruction, the profession has opened up opportunities for the reviewing of existing foundational knowledge and interdisciplinary collaborations. Importantly, the person-in environment construct can longer function outside the scope of the built and natural environment. The inclusion of environmental and community sustainability as one of the four priority areas in the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development, indicates the importance of this largely ignored facet within the profession. Social work has predominantly been seen as an academic and practice-based profession focused on promoting development, social change and cohesion through the empowerment of the people. Although based on numerous and echoing interactions between the people and their communities, the social work profession has continually ignored environmental threats like climate change and water insecurities and their disproportionate effects on communities. The symbiotic embeddedness of society to the environment needs to be understood within a universally accepted framework that addresses the existing disparities that burden our communities.

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In South Africa, the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) into the promotion of environmental sustainability in social work is, at best, sketchy. This despite the South African government adopting a broad and holistic policy framework for implementing work related to climate change. Therefore, this conceptual paper interrogates indigenous knowledge systems of the Swati ethnic group with regard to dealing with the impacts of climate change, such as declining water supply, drought due to a shortage of rain, and food insecurity. The paper also locates potential social workers’ response to climate change using local indigenous knowledge through community participation, social architecture empowerment and non-material resources. The paper uses Indigenous Knowledge Systems as a framework in which to ground social work practice.

Locating social workers’ response on climate change using local indigenous knowledge systems

Presenters
Irtifa Mukhter; Dr. Richa Chowdhary

Title of Paper
Role of Social workers in Promoting Solid and Liquid waste management in Rural communities

Abstract
Solid waste management (SWM) includes all activities that seek to minimize health, environment and aesthetic impacts of solid waste. In many cities, solid waste management contains human and animal excrete as well as lethal chemical pollutants. Solid and liquid waste has become one of the prevalent problems and its management is one of the most important issues now days for our environment. Developing countries face major problem i.e., solid waste management in urban and solid and liquid waste management in rural areas. solid waste management is still struggling and inadequate. According to the experts, inadequate sanitation and waste management have direct impact on the environment. Untreated sewage flowing directly into water bodies affect the ecosystem, contaminate soil and air, exposing millions of people to disease. Collection, segregation and safe disposal of household garbage, decentralized systems like household composting and biogas plants shall be permitted. Social work is a vibrant profession; longitude and latitude of the profession are largely widened. Direct roles of social worker begin with the practicing primary methods of social work. Primary methods are the participatory method with the individual, group and community. Secondary methods are both participatory and non-participatory to be used for the benefit of society.

Role of Social workers in Promoting Solid and Liquid waste management in Rural communities

Presenters
Timson Mahlangu

Title of Paper
Homelessness and mental health: a reflection on the housing and mental health care of the homeless people with poor mental health

Abstract
Homelessness often places homeless people at substantial risk of elevated poor mental health outcomes that often goes undiagnosed or treated due to the lack of access to community mental health care services to the homeless people. Regrettably, in times of continues increasing unemployment and family disintegration homelessness and mental ill-health issues affecting homeless people are prone to increase (Webb, 2015:173). The Human Science Research Council (2010) estimated that there are about 100 000 to 200 000 of homeless people in South Africa. On the other hand, Lund (2018) contend that the proportion of people with mental ill-health who do not get treatment ranges from 75% in South Africa. However, there is no specific figures of those homeless people with mental ill-health who gets treatment as focus is often concentrated on the housed populations. In addition, treating mental-ill health will require that homeless people be housed. For this reason, this paper argues that access to housing and mental health care service of homeless people with (or displaying) poor mental health need to be prioritised. The author’s argument is based on three aspects of reflection: (a) reflection-on-action (authors’ experience in the field of homelessness and mental health), (b) reflection-in-action (author's current involvement and observations), and (c) reflection-for-action (author’s recommendations for social work practice).

Homelessness and mental health: a reflection on the housing and mental health care of the homeless people with poor mental health

Presenters
Timson Mahlangu

Title of Paper

Abstract
“Welfare-to-survive!” Exploring the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people with disabilities in Nigeria By Uche Nwatu, Casimir Obinna Odo; Christy Obi-Keguna


Presenters
Uche Louisa Nwatu; Casimir Obinna Odo; Christy Obi-Keguna

Title of Paper

Abstract
“Welfare-to-survive!” Exploring the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people with disabilities in Nigeria By Uche Nwatu, Casimir Odo, Christy Obi-Keguna and Inyomoma Obasi-Igwe The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted on the socio-economic and mental wellbeing of the global society, and created new barriers for the vulnerable; especially people with disabilities. This chapter through an integrative literature review explores the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on disabled people. It adopts the social model of disability to understand how they people are coping with the debilitating impact of this pandemic and how the Nigerian society contribute to the present predicament of this population. This chapter further deployed a qualitative approach involving 18 in-depth interviews of people with different forms of physical impairments to corroborate earlier findings. Following an analysis of the interviews conducted, three key themes were developed. Firstly, an exploration of how the society constitute barriers towards fulfilling important aspects of their lives; secondly, efforts of the government and other non-government agencies towards ensuring their optimal functioning and survival amidst COVID-19 outbreak were reviewed. Finally, the
socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the mental health of people with disabilities was examined. The chapter concludes by drawing attention to how the prioritisation of social welfare policies will be effective for improved quality of life of disabled people in Nigeria. Keywords: Welfare, socio-economic, COVID-19, pandemic, people with disabilities, mental health, Nigeria

Presenters
Henry Ajibo; Christy Obi-Kejuna; Nma-Njoku Chukwu

Title of Paper
The plight of persons living with disabilities during covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria: implication for social work practice

Abstract
COVID-19 pandemic which originated from Wuhan province of China in November, 2019 brought about havoc, devastation and destruction of lives. Social workers played central role in helping communities, families and individuals in dealing with the numerous challenges faced as a result of COVID-19. The basic trust of this paper is to investigate the plight and challenges of people living with disabilities during COVID-19 pandemic and the role of social workers role towards people living with disabilities during COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria. The study adopted systematic review of literature. The result of the study shows that person’s living with disabilities were more vulnerable to hazard and destabilization caused by COVID-19. The study also reveals that social workers conducted awareness on COVID-19 preventive measures among people living with disabilities. Social workers also made sure that COVID-19 palliatives got to people living with disabilities. The study recommended that policy framework should be developed to better the care of people living with disabilities during crises such as pandemic.

Presenters
Rituparna Dey; Sudhir Maske

Title of Paper
Social Work Practice During the Pandemic: A Study of Social Work Practitioner Working in Diverse Setting

Abstract
The paper tends to understand the issues and challenges faced by the social work practitioners working during the pandemic while working in diverse settings. Objective: • To prepare a profile of social work practitioners working in diverse settings during the pandemic. • To understand the roles and services provided by these practitioners. • To identify the various issues and challenges faced by the social work practitioners during their work/interventions in pandemic • To suggest the practice framework to cope up with the challenges during such crisis situations. Covid 19 accounted its first instance in India on January 30, 2020. The Indian Government then on took a prudent stride of declaring the lockdown which halted everything in the nation. The social work practitioners also had to face the brunt of it in carrying out their duties towards the society. This study is going to explore the issues and challenges working in diverse settings. The social work researcher is going to take in-depth interviews of social work practitioners which includes both male and female. This research will be qualitative in nature and it will also have narratives to support the statements made. Keyword- Covid19, lockdown, pandemic, social work practitioner

Presenters
Sumudu Wijesooriya;

Title of Paper
Unseeing the Most Visible Need: Perception of Elderly towards the Professional Interventions in Managing COVID-19 Pandemic in the Sri Lankan Context

Abstract
Covid-19 is spreading in the Sri Lankan context unprecedentedly fast. Elderly were identified as a group at risk of this pandemic since the first wave. Thus, psycho-social experiences of elderly are significant in understanding the efficiency of COVID-19 management. Therefore, study attempts identifying the perception of elderly towards professional Interventions in Managing COVID-19 at community level in the Sri Lankan context. The study was exploratory in nature. 20 elderly above 60 years were selected deploying purposive sampling method. Data was collected through in-depth interviews and analyzed through narrative analysis method. As data reveals, elderly are experiencing an extreme psycho-social fear of pandemic. The insensitive media use on stigmatizing infected individuals has widened anxiety and frustration of elders. Specially, constant control of communities by armed officials has deep-offended elderly. Medical recommendations such as quarantine, social-distancing have become alien to the community life elders used to. It’s recommended to consider the sensitive domains of community life in media use, avoiding further marginalizing elders. It’s prominent using professional knowledge blended with indigenous knowledge when mobilizing communities in such pandemics. It is vital concentrating the community need of a social model in interventions involving social workers who are well-versed in addressing the community dynamics.

Presenters
Nicco Diago; Marianne Strydom

Title of Paper
The experiences of headers of child-headed households: south africa’s overlooked social problem

Abstract
Child headed households are acknowledged as a family form in South African policy documents. Social workers are under an obligation to render support services to these households as stipulated in the Children’s Act. Research about the experiences and needs of the headers of these households are lacking in the South African child and family welfare context. Consequently, an investigation with the aim to gain an understanding of the plight of the headers of child headed households were executed during the Covid-19 pandemic. A qualitative approach, together with explorative and descriptive designs were utilised to obtain information from headers in the Greater Sekhukhune district, Limpopo province. Crucial findings of the study reflected that the headers of child-headed households find themselves in a state of helplessness with multiple adult responsibilities and facing challenges, such as extreme poverty, without any social support services. These findings are in contrast with the strong emphasis in South African policy and legislation on the rights of children to care and protection, as well as the best interest of the child principle. Recommendations were made on how to improve the social work response to these vulnerable households to promote and protect their rights.

Presenters
Prince Chiagozie; Patricia Agbabodekeizu; Uzoma Okoye

Title of Paper
More invisible and vulnerable: The impact of COVID-19 on older persons in displacement in Durumi IDP camp Abuja, Nigeria
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>10d: Social work practice during pandemics: Working with children, youth, persons with disabilities, the homeless and the elderly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session Chair</td>
<td>Prof. Lulu Shokane (University of Zululand)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date &amp; Time</td>
<td>Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 4, 12:45 – 14:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Edhwelhito Luriz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Vicarious Traumatization Experiences of Social Workers in Delivering Social Welfare COVID-19 Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Social Workers are playing a big role in the delivery of social welfare assistance. This study aimed to determine the vicarious trauma experiences of social workers during the delivery of Covid-19 assistance to the communities in a province in the Philippines. A qualitative phenomenological approach was used in this study. Ten (10) social workers were interviewed using criteria and chosen using the purposive sampling technique. The findings of the study showed that social workers experienced verbal, emotional, and physical trauma while doing their job that questions them if they are still effective in their chosen profession. Their experience hunts them even in their sleep, tireless nights, and hurting persona. This study recommends a psychosocial support program, peer counseling, single-session psychoeducational trauma to assist them in understanding and recognizing vicarious trauma in their work experiences. A continued study is recommended for the social workers in the field so that vicarious traumatization may be responded to through various strategies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Charity Uzuegbu</td>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Impact of covid-19 on children in nigeria:implications for social work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Nigeria witnessed the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects. The Nigerian government imposed certain measures to control the impacts in the country. Covid-19 affected different groups of the population. This paper examined the impact of Covid-19 on children in Nigeria and the implications for social work. The objectives of the study are to examine the impacts of Covid-19 on children in Nigerian and measures that can be taken to improve their condition. The study adopted the cross-sectional and longitudinal survey designs; data was collected using secondary sources. The findings showed that Covid-19 (i) severely affected parents, (ii) adversely affected the different areas of the children's life-education, nutrition, health and social, (iii) the condition of children in Nigeria is worse as more children are thrown into child labour. It was recommended that social workers should advocate for special covid-19 children programme in the country.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Thenjiwe Mlotshwa; Maud Mthembu</td>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>The use and value of a Child Assessment Tool (CAT) in social work assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Assessment in social work is integral in formulating guided and effective interventions. In child assessment, the child’s ability to voice out his/her opinion and experience is imperative. This requires the creation of child-friendly spaces and the use of tools of communication and methods that children can relate to. Literature has documented the benefits of child-friendly counselling spaces but methods and tools of communication created for children remains scarce. Hence, this paper presents findings obtained from a qualitative-dominant mixed method study that sought to explore the benefits of using the Child Assessment Tool (CAT) in child counselling. Student social workers engaging with children during counselling were sampled using convenience and purposive sampling. The findings indicate that CAT is child friendly and enables the child to share their life stories which provides the professional with pertinent information needed for assessment. Given the positive findings of CAT, it signifies that there is a need to make use of CAT and other child-friendly tools of communication which have the potential to strengthen social worker's identification of potential harm and stress in children’s lives. Furthermore, training and early exposure to the use of child-friendly tools can enhance aspiraling social workers’ competencies.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Melanie Willems; Zibonele Zimba</td>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Logistical challenges of undergraduate students with visual impairments at a selected university</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Persons with disabilities are increasingly furthering their studies in the post-school sector. Over decades debates and studies focused on challenges and experiences of students with disabilities. However, few studies have focused specifically on logistical challenges of students with visual impairments at higher education institutions. The empirical study aimed at gaining insight into the logistical, teaching and learning challenges experienced by undergraduate students with visual impairments at using a selected university as a case study. To achieve the aim of the study, qualitative research methodology. Semi-structured one-on-one interviews were conducted with 15 undergraduate students using purposive sampling. The data were analysed using thematic analysis. The findings showed that undergraduate...</td>
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students with visual impairments experience logistical, teaching and learning challenges in multiple levels. At micro level, signage visibility and PowerPoint fonts are a challenge. At mezzo level, some support services are challenging. At macro level, accessible transportation challenges were highlighted. The study concludes that students with visual impairment continue to face institutional challenges in all levels. It is recommended that the use of different social media platforms is maximised to raise awareness aimed at the various levels.

Presenters: Nalini Lama; Pradipta Kadambari
Title of Paper: Data Collection Amid the Pandemic: Innovating ways to New Normal in Social Work Research
Abstract: The coronavirus disease and its measures to control and prevent its spread have changed the daily activities of each individual, limiting the outdoor activities and being confined indoors while generating new needs. However, this did not limit the practice and service delivery of social workers. Rather Social Work, a practice based profession, came out with new strategies for its practice. This paper aims to discuss social work research methods with a special focus on data collection conducted during pandemic. The transition of data collection from face-to-face interview sitting in a common place to face-to-face interview over an online platform using zoom from various locations of the world (India, Nepal and U.K.) had its own challenges and opportunities. This data collection method was found to be effective and provides an alternative not only to the new normal but also to the novel approach of inclusiveness in data collection. The proposed paper endeavors to highlight the remarkable lessons learned by the social work researcher and academician in data collection in the midst of pandemic. Using this lesson, the research presents a new technique of data collection to contribute to the knowledge base of social work research. Keywords: data collection, pandemic, online platform

Session: 12:45 – 14:45
Session Chair: Dr Peter Dimo (University of Zululand)
Date & Time: Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 4, 12:45 – 14:45
Presenters: Pacita Dechavez Fortin
Title of Paper: Remote Delivery of Psychosocial Interventions during the Covid19 Pandemic: Narratives of Social Workers in Metro Manila, Philippines
Abstract: In times of crises such as natural or human-induced disasters, complex emergencies and humanitarian situations, individuals could suffer from severe psychosocial, emotional and economic stresses that could adversely affect their ability to manage their daily lives. The Covid19 pandemic and the community quarantine have caused heightened fear, extreme anxiety, worry, social isolation, and economic insecurity. Studies have also shown that gender-based violence, child abuse, online...
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Willem Roestenburg</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>An analysis of technology acceptance amongst social workers under COVID-19 lockdown conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>In March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic brought South Africa to a level 1 lockdown. For many, this period was filled with expectations of disaster, a disaster that now continues to cause havoc as repeated waves of the disease continue to kill thousands, indeed millions across the world. In some respects, COVID changed the world of work in that in most sectors extensive use was made of electronic technology to continue functioning amidst the influence of the pandemic. This paper reports research on the technology acceptance amongst social workers during a challenging and uncertain time in world history. The primary question to be addressed in this paper is whether social workers are ready to change their practices and work habits from live, office-bound practices, non-technology methods to practices that rely more extensively on electronic technologies such as IT technologies. Utilizing a theoretical perspective called the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Utilization of Technology (UTAUT) the presenter not only reports on the overall trends in perceptions but reflects on how technology can be and should be incorporated in the social work of the future. Technology is not only a useful tool for better administration, but contributes dramatically towards more cost-effective practice.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Herath Mudiyanselage Darshika Subodini Herath</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Impact of COVID – 19 Pandemic on Online Education of Primary Level School Children Belong to Low Income Families in Sri Lankan Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The COVID – 19 pandemic has abruptly transformed school education worldwide as well as in Sri Lanka due to school closures in preventing the spreading of the pandemic. The government with the guidance of Ministry of Education has commenced online education for primary as well as secondary level school children during the pandemic. This paper discusses the challenges faced by primary level school children belong to low income families in Sri Lanka in the context of the world pandemic globally known as COVID-19. Primary level school children specifically belong to low income families encounter distinctive challenges in adjusting to a new mode of online teaching and learning culture. The qualitative research study reveals that there are immense challenges faced by primary level school children belong to low income families while engaging in online teaching and learning activities, due to foremost reasons like non accessibility of devices and economic hardships. Activity based education and opposite attention is triumphant for enhancing enthusiasm of learning capacity for primary level children. The paper is alarming the necessity of improving and providing the required devices in enhancing the learning enthusiasm, minimizing the marginalization within peer groups and the bridging the learning gaps of online education</td>
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<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Mariëtte Joubert; Alice Ncube; Christo Heunis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Social work mental health and psychosocial support to vulnerable groups during COVID-19 in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>COVID-19 is challenging for social workers rendering services to vulnerable groups with limited resources. This study sought to establish whether social workers in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality were able to render adequate resilience-focused interventions to vulnerable groups to optimise their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing during the pandemic. A total of 100 social workers across different sectors participated in an anonymous online survey. One would expect that social workers’ mental health and psychosocial support services to vulnerable groups would increase during a state of disaster marked by increased unemployment, poverty, domestic violence, and mental health stressors. However, data clearly show that they had not rendered services to the disabled (n=67); elderly (n=70); homeless (n=72); sex workers (n=90); PLHIV (n=69); LGBT (n=79); and children (n=36) during 27 March to 30 September, 2020. A possible explanation for this is that social workers are not adequately trained to render services during disasters. Indeed, most participants indicated a need for training in social work practice. The government with the guidance of Ministry of Education has commenced online education  for primary as well as secondary level school children during the pandemic. For many, this period was filled with expectations of disaster, a disaster that now continues to cause havoc as repeated waves of the disease continue to kill thousands, indeed millions across the world. In some respects, COVID changed the world of work in that in most sectors extensive use was made of electronic technology to continue functioning amidst the influence of the pandemic. This paper reports research on the technology acceptance amongst social workers during a challenging and uncertain time in world history. The primary question to be addressed in this paper is whether social workers are ready to change their practices and work habits from live, office-bound practices, non-technology methods to practices that rely more extensively on electronic technologies such as IT technologies. Utilizing a theoretical perspective called the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Utilization of Technology (UTAUT) the presenter not only reports on the overall trends in perceptions but reflects on how technology can be and should be incorporated in the social work of the future. Technology is not only a useful tool for better administration, but contributes dramatically towards more cost-effective practice.</td>
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<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Maud Mthembu; Professor Michael Boecker; Professor Tanusha Raniga</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Critical reflections about developing a childrens’ COVID-19 storybook with social workers using a participatory approach</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| Abstract | The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented changes globally, and social work, as a practice profession, has a role to play to mitigate its psycho-social and economic impact. More than 51 000 COVID-19 related deaths have occurred in South Africa; therefore, the parental loss is now a reality for many children. Like adults, children also experience uncertainty, fear, anxiety, depression and sleep disturbances due to COVID-19. Families struggle to initiate sensitive conversations about children’s emotions, loss, and fear with children. Using participatory action research, an approach rooted in social justice and inclusivity,
researchers, social work practitioners, and graphic designers partnered to conceptualize a COVID-19 storybook to help professionals and families initiate COVID-19 related conversations with children. This paper presents a critical reflection about the participatory process of engaging with stakeholders such as social workers, community members, and children, culminating in the publication of a COVID-19 storybook as an accelerated response to COVID-19. The central premise of the paper is on understanding the child-in context, navigating the complexities of a micro-macro divide in practice and giving the child a voice. Valuing and accessing local knowledge is critical for social workers to help children cope with COVID-19 related loss and anxiety.

Presenters
Mengqi Chen

Title of Paper
Identifying and supporting young carers in Sweden: School social worker’s perspectives

Abstract
This study explores how the young carer is perceived, identified, and intervened in schools from the perspective of school social workers in the context of the Swedish child welfare and education system. Using an exploratory qualitative research approach, semi-structured interviews were conducted in Gothenburg, Sweden. The results present the process of identifying young carers in the school, the variety of caring responsibilities and performance of young carers identified by school social workers. The findings also show the perceptions of school social workers, including the views of how school social workers construct child’s caring role, the factors contribute to presence of young carers as well as the view of how young carers should be intervened. School social worker’s interventions for young carers are conducted in the school, family and between family and social services. There are some obstacles challenging the role of school social workers in identifying and supporting young carers. The last chapter discuss the findings critically to highlight the strength and limitations of identifying young carers by school social workers, how “young carer” is constructed in a specific context, as well as important roles of school social workers play in the intervention for young carers.

Presenters
Stephan Geyer

Title of Paper
“Hey, it is rough out here”: A resilience lens on the biopsychosocial circumstances of homeless older persons in the City of Tshwane, South Africa

Abstract
A considerable number of the homeless population is older persons. The COVID-19 pandemic increased an awareness among municipal councils and social welfare service providers concerning the plight of homeless (older) persons. The biopsychosocial circumstances of homeless older persons (HOPs), specifically considered from a resilience lens, are inadequately described within the South African context. Hence, it was the aim of the study to explore and describe the biopsychosocial circumstances of HOPs in the City of Tshwane from a resilience lens. A qualitative research approach, operationalised through a collective case study, was implemented with 34 older persons across different research sites in the City of Tshwane. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and analysed through a process of deductive thematic analysis. Six themes are reported, namely (1) the choice of areas where homeless older persons reside, (2) the causes of homelessness, (3) the adversities they face (4) coping strategies employed by homeless older persons, (5) the services and professionals homeless older persons utilised, and (6) the voices of participants concerning their recommendations for the City of Tshwane. Considered from a resilience lens, and embedded in a social development approach, recommendations for an integrated social services delivery framework are offered.

Session
11a: Social work supervision and field instruction during the lockdown

Session Chair
Ms Civil Legodu: National Department of Social Development

Date & Time
Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 4, 12:45 – 14:45

Presenters
Janson Varghese

Title of Paper
Social work supervision and field training during the lockdown

Abstract
Field Practicum is fundamental to Social Work Education where trainees are placed in agencies or organizations to undertake real Social Work Practice with the guidance and supervision of professionally trained field workers and that helps the Social Work Trainees to sharpen their skills which will make them more effective and efficient in dealing with the clients to solve their varied problems. The Pandemic and the new normal has demanded changes in the present paradigm of Social Work Field Education and has affected the classroom teaching to field practice. As Field Practicum is the signature pedagogy of the Social Work Education, the best possible alternatives were utilized by the trainees to acquire the experience of the same. The Online engagements with different individuals, groups, communities, organizations and the neighborhood enabled the trainees to demonstrate the knowledge of working with Individuals. The sensible application of technology in the field education was very significant and helped the trainees to connect with the supervisors, different organizations and target groups at distant places from the home itself. The restrictions due to Covid-19 posed a serious challenge to field education and its supervision and the Social Work Trainees managed the different challenges and understood the varied extent

Presenters
Nozipho Hokonya; Veonna Goliath

Title of Paper
Reconfiguring social work field practice under lockdown

Abstract
The 2020 academic year (2020AY) will be remembered in the annals of history as the year that transformed the teaching and learning arena as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. COVID-19 has brought with it numerous challenges and the training of social work students has not been spared these challenges. Nationally, the catchphrase “No Student Left Behind” was used to capture educators’ commitment to ensuring that students in both Basic and Tertiary education were not left...
Abstract

This paper presents the preliminary findings of an ongoing national study focussing on pre- and post-Covid 19 supervision of probation officers (POs) in SA. The supervision policy framework (2012) defines supervision as a professional activity and academic discipline which aims to promote competent, effective and improvement of quality of social work services. Therefore, supervision is an important mechanism to maintain good standards and best practice in probation services. Supervision is a fundamental and critical part of reflective practice as it offers a platform to discuss, reflect and evaluate issues that occur in practice. The objectives of the study form which this paper draws were two-fold. Firstly, to determine POs’ supervision needs; and secondly, to explore the training needs of POs’ supervisors so as to contribute towards evidence-based body of knowledge in the field of probation practice in SA. The research design was mixed methodology & involved two sample sets. The first set included all POs under the employ of DSD form whom the quantitative data was collected through an online survey. The second sample set consisted of supervisors of POs from which the qualitative data was drawn through purposive non-probability sampling and individual Zoom interviews were conducted for data collection.

Presenters

Thulane Gxubane; Janine Mellish

Title of Paper

Revisiting supervision of professional probation practice from the perspectives of probation officers & their supervisors in SA.
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<th>Session</th>
<th>11b: Social work supervision and field instruction during the lockdown</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session Chair</td>
<td>Ms Lorna Wridgway (University of Johannesburg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date &amp; Time</td>
<td>Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 4, 12:45 – 14:45</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Dr. Jose Antony</td>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Reimagined practicum: an experience of social work educational fraternity in Kerala.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Field Practicum is the lifeblood of Social work as a profession and professional discipline of empowerment at individual, group and community levels through the one to one, one to group and one to context engagements. The traditional process of the field practicum throughout the graduate and post graduate level educational system was to engage a social work trainees in the community, social development and welfare agencies and concentrated spectrums of services to the needy people through direct involvement with the people in all these sectors in their real life experiences and living conditions. The direct relationship made by the professional trainee was the key method of learning. But the Covid 19 pandemic has altogether challenged and toppled the conventional practices. The government imposed restrictions, social media augmented fear, repeated lockdowns, social distancing, rampant spread of infections and deaths made all trainees and educational departments restrain from the regular conventional field work engagements. Hence the social work educational organisations and the association of Schools of Social Work in Kerala (ASSK) took up a continuous brainstorming process and deliberative discourses to reimagine the field work engagements of the students and took the challenge as an opportunity to redefine the field engagements.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Samjhana Bhetwal(oli); Kipa maskey; Adity Joshi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Diversity in fieldwork practicum: a case study of kadambari memorial college</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>S. Bhetwal (oli) 1, A. Joshi 1 K. Maskey 1 Kadambari Memorial College, School of Social Work, Buddhanagar, Kathmandu, Nepal Fieldwork experience is an integral component of Social Work education where students begin to connect and integrate theory with practice. Kadambari Memorial College provides four years of Bachelor’s degree in Social work with intensive field work. From the first till the fourth semester, the students are placed for fieldwork according to their area of interest. And from the fifth till the seventh semester the students are exposed to international placement. The students have the right to choose if they want to be placed within Nepal or outside. Along with this, the college organizes a Social Camp which includes Neighborhood camp, Rural Camp and Urban Camp. In hosting such extensive exploration thorough fieldwork, the students experience diversity in learning, practicing and sharing local and global field. This study explores in depth the opportunities and challenges of diverse field work practicum through a qualitative study. From the year, 2020 due to ongoing pandemic Kadambari Memorial College adapted virtual placement and supervision. Through online training, webinar and online supervision the students acquired enabling environment with openness of their difficulties in field practicum.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Prisicala Khosa; Lambert Engelbrecht</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Reimaging social work supervision during Covid-19 pandemic: Voices of social workers in a child protection organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The Covid-19 pandemic affected everyone’s life in some form or shape, and had an impact on the social work sector, including child protection organisations. Child protection organisations have a critical role in safeguarding the wellbeing of children, especially during a pandemic wherein there has been an increased number of reported child abuse and domestic violence cases. Thus, supervision of social workers is much needed during these difficult times. Hence, it was vital to explore social workers’ experiences of supervision during the lockdown through a qualitative research study. Semi-structured telephone interviews were conducted with 20 social workers and 8 supervisors within a designated child protection organisation. Data was analysed through thematic content analysis. Based on this study’s findings, the pandemic had both negative and positive effects on supervision. The findings are indicative of how the disruption in one system of the ecology of supervision can influence supervision practices within a child protection organisation. The study calls for reimagining the mode of supervision within organisations to align with the new normal during a crisis such as a pandemic. Inter alia, the accessibility and frequent use of information and communication technology (ICT) in the supervision of social workers should be considered by organisations.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Mmaphuti Mamaleka</td>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Enablers and barriers to effective WIL implementation for social work students. “The power of tripartite alliance”</td>
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| Abstract | Enablers and barriers to effective WIL implementation for social work students. “The power of tripartite alliance” Abstract The paper aims to assess the enablers and barriers for effective implementation of WIL and the power of collaborative tripartite alliance. For student, social workers to learn and fully immerse in social work profession; academic and practical training is key. Therefore, collaborative structures responsible, that is, university, field work agency and the student (tripartite alliance) are duly responsible. Effective WIL improves student’s learning, prepares them for professional conduct and readiness for real work. Under-preparedness, unskilled and inexperienced students have an adverse impact on the professional practice. This could as well put social work profession at disrepute due to
### Abstract

When the pandemic limited the opportunities for in-person field practicum, it opened avenues for virtual international field practicum. This presentation shares the experiences of four social work diploma students from Canada who did virtual field practicum with different agencies in India, as well as virtual experiential learning of another culture by BSW students in Canada with students from India. The international exposure gave opportunity to learn about social work in a different country and different setting. Students used social media platforms to connect with their counterparts in India. Along with social work learning, the interactions helped in developing cultural competency of the students. However, there were challenges in the process like difference in time and barriers in language. Virtual international practicum required regular supervision by the faculty. Nevertheless, the online learning provides a new format for field practicum as well as international collaborations.

### Title of Paper
International virtual practicum and experiencial leaning during pandemic

### Presenters
Baiju Vareed

### Session Chair
Ms Lorna Wridgway (University of Johannesburg)

### Date & Time
Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 4, 12:45 – 14:45

### Abstract
Field practicum is the signature pedagogy of the social work profession (Ketner, Cooper-Bolinsky and VanCleave, 2017; CSWE, 2015; Boitel and Fromme, 2014), yet field programs struggle to find adequate field placements, in quantity and quality (Maynard, Mertz, and Fortune, 2015). Developing high quality field education programs that highlight human rights and social justice advocacy as core programming is essential. This presentation utilizes competencies from the International Association of Schools of Social Work and International Federation of Social Workers to incorporate human rights and social justice practice field supervisors training and orientation. The training content is strategically designed to help students meet adeptness in engagement, assessment, intervention, termination, and evaluation, reinforced by application of human rights and social justice practice in field. This enables Field Supervisors to ensure social work students are mastering human rights competencies and the social work profession is meeting its core mission and values of upholding and defending human rights of clients and communities by advancing social justice. By focusing on the important role of the field supervisor in emphasizing human rights and social justice, this presentation offers an exemplar of cultivating a human rights and social justice practice climate in field education supervision and settings.

### Title of Paper
Centering Human Rights Practice in Social Work Supervision and Field Instruction

### Presenters
Felicia Tuggle; Sevaughn Banks

### Session
12a: Teaching under emergency remote learning in the fourth industrial revolution

### Abstract
If educational delivery that is designed for contact learning needs to be rapidly transformed to an online format, even the most skilled and experienced educator will have difficulty to create a custom-made course of high quality, fitting for the virtual classroom. Hodges, Moore, Lockee, Trust and Bond (2020) point out that the lives of everyone involved in the unexpected migration to online learning during the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, was and is disrupted. Emergency remote teaching (ERT) requires the use of virtual learning platforms, which is in itself seen as multi-faceted, technologically advanced and at the center of the fourth industrial revolution. The latter may therefore be viewed as a miracle solution for ERT, but it has exposed the deep divides in our society, as it revealed students’ lack of devices, access to data, unreliability of internet connections. Technological, pedagogical and social challenges surfaced persistently (Ferri, Griffoni & Guzzo, 2020). This paper aims to explore the implications that ERT has for social work education from a social justice and right to education perspective. It will draw on the presenter’s personal experience and in-depth literature study.

### Title of Paper
Emergency remote learning – saving grace or perpetuating injustice?

### Presenters
Corlie Giliomee

### Title of Paper
Challenges and successes in emergency remote teaching: Reflections from social work lecturers in a South African rural based university

### Abstract
The onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world has forced the higher education sector to rethink and shift from traditional teaching practices to emergency remote teaching. Unprecedented lockdowns that came with movement restrictions, and the COVID-19 regulations have mandated lecturers and students to explore various virtual platforms for teaching and learning. The disruptions to teaching and learning, forced the disadvantaged to bear the brunt, let alone emotional vulnerabilities induced by havoc brought by the pandemic. It also illuminated the unequal access to education through variable access to resources, including, electricity and technology, and mobile data amongst others. This accentuated prevailing inequalities in the South African higher education system, and the effects of spatial dispensation are evident in the challenges and successes of emergency remote teaching offered by universities. Nevertheless, resilience and creativity
prevailed among teachers and students to adapt, finding ways to meaningfully interact and engage in content. This adaptation collaborates with the philosophical underpinning of the social constructivism theory, which emphasises the utilisation of collaborative learning methods, peer collaborations and encourages students to have ownership of their learning process irrespective of the mode of delivery. In this paper we reflect on experiences from the delivery of social work lectures, facilitation of assessments and examinations, as well as postgraduate student supervision in a rural based university in KwaZulu-Natal. In doing so, we use literature to contextualise the challenges and successes in emergency remote teaching and learning in the fourth industrial revolution.

**Presenters**
Dr. Sangeetha

**Title of Paper**
Raising children in the digital world

**Abstract**
"The internet mirrors, magnifies and makes more visible, the good, the bad and the ugly of everyday life." -Danah Boyd, 2014 The COVID-19 pandemic has suddenly and abruptly forced everyone into a digital world. Tremendous arguments are spreading over the positive and negative implications of the digital world on children's lives. Now, the discussion is about whether to support digital technology or not. The current article is a compilation of few notable works explaining various implications on children and the existing gender gap in accessing digital technology. This study also aims to uncover the multiple factors influencing parents' attitude towards using digital technology by their children. (Keeley & Little, 2017) highlight in their report that men use more internet than women. A survey by PISA (Program for International Student Assessment, 2015) stated that 91% of 15-year-olds had access to a smartphone, 74% to a portable laptop, 60% to a desktop computer and 53% had access to a tablet with an Internet connection. Many studies have pointed out that it has been beneficial; simultaneously, studies report that digital technology is inimical to children. Thus, the article would reflect on the implications of the over-exposure of children to the digital world.

**Presenters**
Busisiwe Nkala-Dlamini

**Title of Paper**
From access to success: Implementing approaches to improve wellbeing of first year students at Wits during COVID-19 Lockdown

**Abstract**
The aim of this paper is to demonstrate how we used the ethics of care approach in identifying first year social work students' basic needs insecurity at the University of the Witwatersrand and how we used the collaborative approach to successfully assist students with urgent needs. We used a personal information form which was initially developed in the department to identify underlying illness and document students' next of kin, and we expanded the form to focus on the following issues; residence during term, home address, financial assistance, access to a device (laptop) and data. We further followed up on students who did not submit the forms and those who missed orientation and did not attend classes during the first block of academic year. Telephone contacts conducted during office hours and in the evening to establish their needs. Attending to students' needs on case by case basis drawing together a multidisciplinary team provided a fast resolution of issues and feedback was rapidly available. We conclude that attending to basic needs of the students at the beginning of the academic year supports their success and adjustment. As a caring profession we cannot distance ourselves from providing care, therefore our efforts demonstrate that

**Presenters**
Mbongeni Sithole

**Title of Paper**
What Paulo Freire would say about online education? Hypothetical view on online learning environments of student social workers

**Abstract**
This paper starts by acknowledging how the COVID-19 pandemic has created dire chasms among different populations based on socioeconomic standing. It also notes how institutions of higher learning transitioned to online teaching and learning, as a result of this global challenge. Subsequently, there has been a predominant hypothetical view that online education is likely to be the future. In response to this hypothetical view, a hypothetical question posed on what Paulo Freire would say about online learning in the current circumstances. In the current context, online education is viewed as having philosophical and methodological limitations, as a transfer of information from one form to another. As Paulo Freire would say, dialogical relations are essential in promoting liberating pedagogy. In this regard, the linear determination and narration of the learning agenda by the teacher, as opposed to dialogical pedagogy, places a student as a passive entity. The paper concludes that, unless online education is designed differently in its entire philosophical and methodological basis, it is likely to perpetuate the inequality. The paper recommends that preparing social work students within the online learning context, can be enriched through practices that embrace power dynamics, interactivity, relevant resources and critical thinking competencies, in particular.

**Presenters**
Menny Malka; Limor Gadot; Maayan Fine

**Title of Paper**
Real-time Lived-Experiences of Social Work Educators Following the Outbreak of the Coronavirus Crisis: Photovoice-based Research

**Abstract**
Methodology The study based on a joint photovoice inquiry by 9 social work educators (SWE), set out to examine their real-time lived experiences in the context of a shared traumatic reality (STR), in the face of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. The study was based on a series of group sessions conducted across one semester (March-mid-June 2020). Outcomes The findings of the study point to four main narratives, embodying the participants' lived experiences: 1) The coronavirus crisis as an intermediate state 2) Loss and Grief 3) Self -Sacrifice 4) Hope, development, and growth Recommendations 1) SWEs experience processes which parallel those experienced by students during STR-provoking events, and thus should provide additional pedagogical support sources as well as ongoing emotional support. 2) We suggest the formation of dialogue groups, to give SWEs a safe and non-judgmental space in which to process their experiences, thus giving them the ability to fight burnout together by nurturing shared resilience and growth. 3) It is important, therefore, to adopt a group methodology that encourages reflexivity, self-research, and the extraction of the knowledge that emerges from the experience.
### Effects of Climatic Changes on Children's Health: The Role of Social Work in Zimbabwe

**Dickson Machimbidza; Chipo Chitereka**

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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Nokuthula Nene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Our Significant others is a Place called Home</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Social Work day to day services are very complicated and at times rewarding whilst daunting. The researcher looked at the work within a Home Facility. The NGO's, NPO's, CBO's and FBO's undertake a high responsibility to cater for the Elderly, Children and Disabled people. And the Social Worker being involved holistically in collaborate with other interdisciplinary in assuring the safety, care and well being of these people according to their categories. The researcher saw a need to continue run educating programs on family unity, forgiveness, peace and love to our families of our beneficiaries, communities and society because Social Workers we can provide help but cannot be the heartbeat of those held dearly in clients heartbeat. The pandemic has negatively affected our world but at least it has taught us the importance of our loved ones and living together in harmony. This a the researcher's point of view based on personal experiences and those of the clients served in Home facilities.</td>
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### Reflecting on the practical placements of social work students during the Covid-19 pandemic at Hugenote Kollege

**Jessica Johannisen; Sandra Bredell**

| Session Chair | Dr Delarise Mulqueeny (University of Zululand), Co-chair: Mrs Rene Morcom (SASSWA) |
| Date & Time | September 2021, Session 4 |
| Presenters | Jessica Johannisen; Sandra Bredell |
| Title of Paper | Reflecting on the practical placements of social work students during the Covid-19 pandemic at Hugenote Kollege |
| Abstract | Hugenote Kollege is a private higher education institution in the Western Cape, South Africa. In 2019 the college started to offer a Bachelor Degree in Social Work (BSW). 2020 brought along many challenges for teaching and learning in tertiary education with the Covid-19 pandemic and various restrictions including a three-week national lockdown and great restrictions on teaching activities for the remainder of the year. With minimal time and resources, Hugenote Kollege had to plan for and implement online teaching and learning. Whilst the government provided financial support to universities and their students, private institutions were forced to develop innovative strategies for both the institution itself and its students in order to implement and continue with online teaching and learning. The practical part of the Bachelor of Social Work training is vital in terms of teaching students how to integrate their knowledge, understanding and skills into practice. The Covid-19 pandemic hindered the practical experience of students as they were not able to go on site-visits to various organizations or conduct their group work and casework modules in practice. In this paper the practical placements of the first and second-year social work students will be discussed and evaluated to highlight the different categories of beneficiaries. The focus of the paper is the stressors specific to the direct contact with the beneficiary and his suffering and the non-specific stressors, characteristic of the negative effects of stress. The intention of my paper: is to highlight the self-efficacy recognized as a universal mechanism of the perception of working conditions, stress, and job satisfaction in among social workers. Recommendations: Encourages social workers to become more resistant to stress, integration of training activities, finding ways to reduce work pressure will benefit employees, employers, and service users; Key issues that a conference can address: depression, anxiety, well-being, health. |

### Assessing the negative impact of stress on social worker performance

**Ana-Maria Mustâea**

| Presenters | Ana-Maria Mustâea |
| Title of Paper | Assessing the negative impact of stress on social worker performance |
| Abstract | I'm doing a literature review on my topic for now! The purpose and objectives of my work: The goal is to manage stress to have a fulfilled life! And as possible objectives: Assessing the stress level of the life events of social workers. Assessing the negative impact of stress following the interaction of the social worker with the different categories of beneficiaries. The focus of the paper is the stressors specific to the direct contact with the beneficiary and his suffering and the non-specific stressors, characteristic of the negative effects of stress. The intention of my paper: is to highlight the self-efficacy recognized as a universal mechanism that affects the motivation, performance, and happiness of the agent. Key issues: risks associated with fieldwork (agressive beneficiaries, with behavioral disorders, with various communicable/infectious diseases), the cause of emotional and mental stress associated with social assistance; Challenges: Concerns about the perception of working conditions, stress, and job satisfaction in among social workers. Recommendations: Encourages social workers to become more resistant to stress, integration of training activities, finding ways to reduce work pressure will benefit employees, employers, and service users; Key issues that a conference can address: depression, anxiety, well-being, health. |

### Social work and health issues

**Ziziphoo Mazongolo**

| Presenters | Ziziphoo Mazongolo |
| Title of Paper | Social work and health issues |
| Abstract | • Social Work And Health Issues: Substance Abuse, HIV & AIDS, and Covid-19 • Background • Social work is an integral component of the health care system. Social workers are present in settings across the health care continuum. Substance Abuse and HIV & AIDS have been co-existing for many years in history, of note substance abuse has always played a significant role in infection and disease progression. The risk of infection has always been significantly higher in people who suffer from substance abuse. The newly found Covid-19 disease is well-known for the mass destruction it has caused worldwide and the fast rate at which it spreads. This virus has posed life threatening risks on people who are living with HIV & AIDS and those who are suffering from substance abuse • Focus of the Study • The study aimed at identifying three key health issues. It Intends on investigating how these health issues affect individuals and the relationship between these issues and highlight the role and responsibilities of social workers in dealing with these health issues in communities. • Key Issues On Research Study • The study hopes to expand on research about HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse and Covid-19. The study hopes to find the link between social work and the three key health issues |

### Effects of Climatic Changes on Children's Health: The Role of Social Work in Zimbabwe

**Dickson Machimbidza; Chipo Chitereka**

<p>| Presenters | Dickson Machimbidza; Chipo Chitereka |
| Title of Paper | Effects of Climatic Changes on Children's Health: The Role of Social Work in Zimbabwe |</p>
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<th>Dickson Machimbidza</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Suicidal Tendencies Among Youths in Intimate Partner Relationships in Zimbabwe: Causes and Effects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The study was aimed at exploring the causes and effects of suicidal tendencies among Zimbabwean youths who are in intimate partner relationships. The study considered a qualitative approach and an explorative design in understanding the topic. Data were collected using interviews and focus group discussions. Thematic content analysis was used in analyzing the data. A sample of 26 participants took part in the study, categorically 21 youths and 5 social workers. Selection was based on purposive and snowballing sampling techniques. It was established that blackmailing, cheating and gender-based violence causes suicidal tendencies among youths in intimate relationships. On the effects, it was found that suicidal tendencies lead to death, drug abuse as well as mental illnesses among youths. Based on the findings, the study recommends that youths seek psychosocial support from professionals to overcome challenges resulting in suicidal thoughts. It is of utmost importance that social workers and other professionals expand their influence through advocacy and awareness campaigns to assist youths against suicidal tendencies.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Ivette Leten; Lieve Cuypers; Elke Van de Moortel</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>The Internationalist/Global Footprint Initiative - The quest for a global perspective - How a cross country - interdisciplinary approach will pave the way to a multi-dimensional intercultural understanding of social service delivery in South Africa and Belgium - A Global North-South research collaboration - North West University, South Africa/PXL University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Belgium - Towards international competencies in knowledge transfer, research and exchange in Higher Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Every year the Global Footprint Initiative facilitates a wonderful period of exchange between the Global North and the Global South. During this period students from PXL University of Applied Sciences and Arts, department of Social Work (Belgium) work within the safety of well-designed and carefully negotiated international partnerships with various organizations. Most of the internships take place in South African communities, with specific focus on children, intellectually challenged persons, and elderly people. Besides the internship students from the Global North also take part in a research project with a project manager from the Global South, to complete and enhance the quality of their bachelor thesis. This research is part of the Global Footprint research focus. Notwithstanding this wonderful collaboration with regard to internships and bachelor theses we are facing some challenges. Co-internship of a Global South trainee with a Global North trainee would be an added value within this international cooperation. In order to reach a balanced cooperation between the Global South and the Global North it is important to design the research questions and topic in co-creation. Student mobility from the Global South to the Global North will lead towards a more equal partnership.</td>
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<td>Dr Rajendra Baikady (University of Johannesburg)</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Mbazima Mathebane</td>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Unravelling the failure of social work to engage the ‘social’ as exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The outbreak of covid-19 in South Africa during early 2020 did not only unleash a health crisis, but a total tsunami that disrupted every aspect of human life. Social work practice and education were not spared. The aftermath of the pandemic saw various services declared essential whilst others including social work were brought to a complete halt prompting some in the profession to call for the profession to be declares essential. The question that boggles the mind is why do social work find itself in that precarious position? Why are social workers perpetually fighting for recognition? The author through this paper presents a critical analysis of disciplinary decadence that characterises the social work profession. The conceptual paper is based on a review of academic text as well as anecdotal reports of social incidences and professional engagements throughout the period of the pandemic. The analysis of text and other complimentary data was done thematically. The obsession of the profession with itself, a perpetual struggle for recognition and the need to improve the status of the profession in society whilst accorded primacy and advanced as vital, were found to be the root cause of the proven failure of the profession</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Rashmi Jain</td>
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Investigating Inclusionary and Exclusionary Structures in Universities  

Chaitali Das; Anastasia Paschalidou  

Friday 3 September 2021, Session 5, 15:00 – 16:00  

Presenters  

Leandi Erasmus; Retha Bloem  

Title of Paper  

A learning strategy in developmental social work training to promote social justice in the lives of youth in South African communities.  

Abstract  

KEYWORDS: Social Justice; Youth; Developmental Social Work; Indigenisation; inequality. Social justice and restructuring unequal societies are part of the scope of practice for social workers. Challenging social injustice is intertwined in social work practice in South Africa. Social workers need a set of developmental social work skills grounded in the indigenous knowledge of a base, informed by a South African specific practice environment to be successful. The research endeavored to improve developmental social work education by creating a learning strategy to improve developmental social work training. Doing a scoping review and using multi-phased mixed method research with a population of young social workers and South African youth the researcher investigated the nature of existing training programs, values attitudes, and behaviors of newly qualified social workers toward the pursuit of social justice and the nature of social justice challenges to South African youth. Eight broad conclusions were reached, and a developmental social work learning strategy was written based on this and will be presented.

© ASASWEI 2021 Conference Local Organising Committee https://asasweiconference.org.za; email: secretary@asasweiconference.org.za
### Presenters
Thembelihle Makhanya

### Title of Paper
Approaches of decolonial social work education in South Africa

### Abstract
This article unpacks approaches of decolonial South African social work education. This exploration is inspired by social work graduates' voices on (de) colonial education and by the 2015/2016 #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall South African students' movement, which called for a need to explore students' views about (de)coloniality in Higher Education. Guided by social constructionism paradigm, the study collected data from focus group and semi-structured individual interviews with 22 African social work graduates. Framed within anti-coloniality and Afrocentricity, the study findings suggest for a decolonial transformative teaching and learning, critical knowledge and contextual relevant practice to be based on learner centered teaching philosophies, epistemological access, multilingual class engagement and restructuring of the social work degree. This is the call for African social work education to be rooted on the African cultures and norms. Keywords: Decoloniality, Social Work, Education, African.

### Presenters
Vincent Mabvurira; Ngenisiwe Ntombela

### Title of Paper
Izaga: Can African proverbs inform social works?

### Abstract
For more than three decades now, social work scholars have been lamenting for the indigenisation of the profession in Africa. Despite this call, social work education continues to be hinged on teaching content developed outside Africa for use in non-allied settings. The indigenisation, localisation or decolonisation process whichever is the case require the development of models and theories that speak to African contexts. In this current paper, we argue that African proverbs can form a prominent jigsaw part in the knowledge base for indigenous social work. Proverbs tend to be well known and ubiquitous metaphors, which are orally passed from one generation to the next. These proverbs are found in almost all African cultures and languages which makes it easy for social workers to apply them in their localities. During training, social workers should be taught to identify proverbs in local cultures and apply them in their professional practice. Such proverbs may guide the conduct and professional behaviour of social workers, their interaction with clients as well as influence techniques and approaches used in problem solving. There are innumerable proverbs found in the breadth and width of Africa, a few will be selected to demonstrate their pertinence in social work practice.

### Presenters
Lobelio D. Mogorosi

### Title of Paper
Reflecting on Transforming Social Work Education From its Colonial Past

### Abstract
Social Work developed in response to social problems within the context of the 1880’s Industrial Revolution mostly in Western Europe. From that global North origins, it expanded worldwide. This presentation focuses on examining and challenging assumptions of global North ideas about what should be constituent aspects of, as well as role of the discipline and profession in society, often cloaked as if universally applicable. Mogorosi and Thabede (2018), submitted that the logical culmination of decolonisation journey is indigenisation and adoption of a culture-sensitive approach to any endeavour that required the removal of colonial accoutrement. This presentation, therefore, argues that for its relevance to society, countries need to structure both their Social Work education and practice to deal with specific conditions. To its credit, the Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI) is currently promoting decolonisation and indigenisation efforts, through encouraging research and curricula transformation. The hope is that such efforts will be evident in professional practice. The presentation concludes with recommendations towards helping to ensure that Social Work curricula strive towards being contextualised and culturally appropriate.

### Session 7a: Promoting Ubuntu: Cultural, economic, gender and racial inequalities

### Session Chair
Nondumiso Hadebe (University of Zululand)

### Date & Time
Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 5, 15:00 – 16:00

### Presenters
Mbongeni Shabalala

### Title of Paper
Applying the ecological model to the management of abuse and murdering of people living with albinism

### Abstract
In present-day society, the need to minimize and do away with the abuse and murdering of people who are living with albinism is widely recognized. However, there is a debate in progress on how to curb the abuse and murder of people who are living with albinism. The purpose of this paper is to examine the possibility of using ecology theory in the management and controlling the abuse and murdering of people who are living with albinism. The paper clarifies that the theory offers a framework through which community social work examines individuals' relationships within communities and the wider society (Bronfenbrenner, 1917). The theory is also commonly referred to as the ecological/systems framework. The study found that ecological theory promotes that people in a community should relate and treat one another fairly. The study revealed that ecology theory is not biased but places the truth where it is supposed to be. In that light, it was able to throw a light regarding treating people with albinism in that people are equal regardless of disability and color. Finally, the ecological theory looks at the way people are dealing with each other within a community either positive or negative, and is able

### Presenters
Thobekani Ntini

### Title of Paper
‘It takes a village to raise a child’: Community leaders’ perceptions of their role in Early Childhood Care and Education for peace building in Gulu, Northern Uganda.

### Abstract
The home and community environment bear seeds for initial knowledge, values and practices that children acquire. Analogically, the home is the first teacher of children, and the community is their first school. The home and community lay the basis for prosocial or antisocial behaviours in later life. Though communities are influential in the success of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), initiatives to promote peace building have not habitually concentrated on the role of community leaders in imparting peacebuilding competencies in young children. Evidence from field of early childhood development demonstrates that lasting and intergenerational change can occur through interventions and practices in early life. This paper is based on a qualitative study conducted in Gulu District, a post-conflict region located in the north of Uganda in 2018/19. Guided by the ecology of peace framework and the African philosophy of Ubuntu, the paper discusses the key roles and peace building efforts of community leaders through ECCE. Via purpose and convenience sampling techniques, thirteen Black African participants contributed the base line information necessary for the study. As a secondary data source, a document review of the Ugandan National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (NIECDP) and its Action Plan (2016) was conducted.
The study was undertaken to document the university life experiences of former indigenous Ayta students in a university in the Philippines. The study utilized a qualitative research design using phenomenology as an approach. Twelve 12 participants were selected using the purposive sampling technique. Interviewing was used as a tool to gather data and after doing an in-depth analysis five themes emerged: Personality Readiness, Social Strategies, Economic Struggles, Ways of Survival, and Academic Preparation. Findings showed that the participants have mixed feelings and emotions, and think about how they can adapt to their new environment inside the university. They become self-motivated, have self-realization, and self-progress towards education. They looked for ways for them to accomplish the required task of the course. This study recommends that the academe may continuously find means to bridge the gap of learning for indigenous Ayta students by designing a program to guarantee their holistic development and welfare.

Mirriam Siluma
Title of Paper The University Life Experiences of Indigenous Ayta Students
Abstract The study was undertaken to document the university life experiences of former indigenous Ayta students in a university in the Philippines. The study utilized a qualitative research design using phenomenology as an approach. Twelve 12 participants were selected using the purposive sampling technique. Interviewing was used as a tool to gather data and after doing an in-depth analysis five themes emerged: Personality Readiness, Social Strategies, Economic Struggles, Ways of Survival, and Academic Preparation. Findings showed that the participants have mixed feelings and emotions, and think about how they can adapt to their new environment inside the university. They become self-motivated, have self-realization, and self-progress towards education. They looked for ways for them to accomplish the required task of the course. This study recommends that the academe may continuously find means to bridge the gap of learning for indigenous Ayta students by designing a program to guarantee their holistic development and welfare.

Presenters Mary Grace Sandico

Session 7b: Promoting Ubuntu: Cultural, economic, gender and racial inequalities
Session Chair Ms. Julia Zingu: SAC SSP
Date & Time Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 5, 15:00 – 16:00

Title of Paper The University Life Experiences of Indigenous Ayta Students
Abstract The study was undertaken to document the university life experiences of former indigenous Ayta students in a university in the Philippines. The study utilized a qualitative research design using phenomenology as an approach. Twelve 12 participants were selected using the purposive sampling technique. Interviewing was used as a tool to gather data and after doing an in-depth analysis five themes emerged: Personality Readiness, Social Strategies, Economic Struggles, Ways of Survival, and Academic Preparation. Findings showed that the participants have mixed feelings and emotions, and think about how they can adapt to their new environment inside the university. They become self-motivated, have self-realization, and self-progress towards education. They looked for ways for them to accomplish the required task of the course. This study recommends that the academe may continuously find means to bridge the gap of learning for indigenous Ayta students by designing a program to guarantee their holistic development and welfare.

Presenters Mary Grace Sandico

Title of Paper The University Life Experiences of Indigenous Ayta Students
Abstract The study was undertaken to document the university life experiences of former indigenous Ayta students in a university in the Philippines. The study utilized a qualitative research design using phenomenology as an approach. Twelve 12 participants were selected using the purposive sampling technique. Interviewing was used as a tool to gather data and after doing an in-depth analysis five themes emerged: Personality Readiness, Social Strategies, Economic Struggles, Ways of Survival, and Academic Preparation. Findings showed that the participants have mixed feelings and emotions, and think about how they can adapt to their new environment inside the university. They become self-motivated, have self-realization, and self-progress towards education. They looked for ways for them to accomplish the required task of the course. This study recommends that the academe may continuously find means to bridge the gap of learning for indigenous Ayta students by designing a program to guarantee their holistic development and welfare.

Presenters Mary Grace Sandico

Title of Paper The construction of the Professional Identity of Child and Youth Care Workers in South Africa
Abstract The definition of professional identity is highly contested, and where it exists, it focuses on the internalised traits such as beliefs, attitudes, values, motives and experiences. These characteristics are constructed through an ongoing process of shaping both psychological and behavioural elements of an individual. In South Africa, these characteristics are firmly rooted in Eurocentric, colonial roots. This paper employs the theoretical underpinnings of Afrocentric models to generate an explanation of the process of constructing a new professional identity that is relevant to the South African social and cultural context. This paper also focuses on a related discipline, namely Child & Youth Care, a discipline often overshadowed by social work.

Presenters Khanya Ndlouv

Title of Paper Exploring the culture of silence on intrafamilial child sexual abuse in Zimbabwe
Abstract Child sexual abuse (CSA) is one of the most widespread forms of abuse. However, despite its pervasiveness there is very limited research on the phenomena. Countless children in Africa live against a back-drop of sexual abuse within their communities, however, countless more experience intrafamilial sexual abuse-which is sexual abuse perpetrated by a child's family members. Against this background, this paper explores intrafamilial sexual abuse in Zimbabwe. More particularly, it discusses the culture of silence surrounding the phenomena and some of the reasons. This is a literature review which builds on the body of literature concerning intrafamilial child sexual abuse in SSA and in Zimbabwe. However, the author note the paucity of Zimbabwe-specific scholarly work that addresses this phenomena. The paper will therefore contribute to knowledge in this area. The objectives of this literature review are to raise awareness on the existence of intrafamilial child sexual abuse in Zimbabwe, to explore the nature and magnitude of intrafamilial child sexual abuse in the country, to understand the culture of silence with regards to the issue and to inform program and policy interventions.

Presenters Zurna Abdulla

Title of Paper Shifting and sharing power: rethinking the role of parents in the south african restorative child justice system
Abstract The current Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 as amended based on the principles of restorative justice, promotes a collaborative and participative approach to justice that is sensitive to power imbalances. Although the Act promotes a restorative justice approach, the current child justice system is characterised by structural settings and processes that disempower and exclude parents of children in conflict with the law during the child justice process. The qualitative study on which this chapter is based employed participatory action research
and intervention design. Participants were 19 parents and 14 child justice officials who collaborated in a working group over an 18-month period to co-construct a practice model for supporting parents of children in conflict with the law. The Eurocentric and retributive underpinnings of the criminal justice system have spilled over into the child justice system, making it difficult to shift current power imbalances to the envisioned restorative justice approach, which facilitates shared power, collective decision making and the inclusion of parents. The restorative justice approach offers opportunities for the child justice system to shift and share power with parents, especially during the pre-trial phase of the child justice process to balance power and facilitate parents’ inclusion as equal partners.

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**Abstract**

The recent public health crisis due to the eruption of worldwide pandemic has aggravated the situation of sanitation in the slums. The research was conducted to study the sanitation practices of people living in the slums of Delhi, India, and its impact on public health. This paper is a small work from the larger doctoral work of the researcher. This paper focuses on highlighting the sanitation practices, use of community toilets by the slum population and the issues faced while accessing the toilets especially during the outbreak COVID 19 pandemic. The researcher has used mixed methodology with descriptive research design. The universe of the study were the residents of select slums of different municipalities of Delhi, India. Purposive sampling was used to draw samples from the universe. This paper uses rational choice theory as a theoretical framework to study the sanitation practices of the respondents. Through the analysis of this study, the limitations of nationwide sanitation policy in India that talks about eradication of open defecation by providing toilet access to every individual have been brought up. The researcher attempts to make recommendations at different levels i.e., individual, community and at the level of policy making.

| Presenters | PD Ncanana; MM Shabalala |
| Title of Paper | Experiences of unemployed University of Zululand’s social work graduates in KwaZulu-Natal |

**Abstract**

This study investigates the experiences of unemployed University of Zululand’s social work graduates in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. This study was informed by three main objectives. These are to identify the causes of unemployment among social work graduates; exploring how unemployed social work graduates cope with being unemployed; and recommending measures that can be taken to alleviate the unemployment of social work graduates. Research among unemployed graduates generally shows that the problem of unemployed graduates is common and universal. Based on that, it is necessary to evaluate the causes of unemployment among graduates in socials. One of the findings from the literature showed that graduates cannot all be employed at once because of the high enrolment of students in tertiary institutions. Thus, the labor market is unable to cope with the growing number of graduates. The paper showed that the challenges can be overcome if the government can get involved and send graduates to volunteer in different industries while getting paid for the services they render.

| Presenters | Mpumelelo Ncube |
| Title of Paper | A Social Development Perspective to Healthy Human Relationships in South Africa |

**Abstract**

A Social Development Perspective to Healthy Human Relationships in South Africa In this paper, I discuss how developmental social work practice and social welfare perspectives could facilitate the promotion of healthy human relationships in post-apartheid South Africa. At the centre of this discussion, I reflect on a raft of past and current socio-political issues and events in the country. These include some items in the agenda of the national democratic revolution to the recent insurrection that led to the destruction of property and the death of a significant number of people. I argue that the puzzle to establishing and sustaining healthy human relationships would only be complete if the structural causes for warped human relationships have been addressed. These would comprise the class struggle (closing the gap of inequality), significant reduction of the unemployment rate, meaningfully addressing the land question, active citizenry, and racism. I further contend that social workers should be cognisant of these structural impediments in their quest to establishing sustainable healthy human relationships ensconced in a state of social development. Although I make use of a critical literature review, there is a paucity of studies on the nexus between social development and human relationships.

| Presenters | Shaista Shamim |
| Title of Paper | Challenges for girl’s education amid pandemic: a new paradigm of gender divide. |

**Abstract**

Challenges for girl’s education amid Pandemic: A new paradigm of gender divide. The pandemic covid-19 has created major challenges to girl’s education in India. The imposition of lockdown has forced the students to go for online learning due to closure of schools and learning institutions. This online learning has amplified gender and digital divide in access to education. There was already a significant gap in education between girls and boys, this pandemic has made the situation more challenging and disproportional. The pandemic has worsened the situation for girl’s education as they spend more time in household chores, getting lesser time for study & lead them to out of school. This paper will highlight issues concerned with girl’s education amid pandemic in India. The study will be thematic analysis based on review of secondary data available. The findings depict that pandemic has increased the magnitude of gender divide in access to education and devalued their status in society. The drop out rates & low retention rate has been increased as UNESCO estimated that 11 millions girls will never return to school. It outlines that societal norms and cultural practices has exacerbated the girl’s education. Keywords: gender divide, digital divide, Pandemic.
Abstract
Late American President, J.F. Kenedy (1960s) saying that "[t]here is nothing more certain and unchanging than uncertainty and change" has become the mantra and universal norm in the 21st century in the daily lives in communities, and also became an inevitable force of policy dilemmas that face social work theory and practice. Accelerated by the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) mixed into global agendas of climate justice, sustainable development, human rights (Schwb, 2015; Lombard & Viviers, 2020) and most recently practical implications of the COVID-19 global pandemic, social work practice as we know it is required to adapt and change. Against this background, this paper explores the relevance, value, role and challenges of ethics in social work practice, education and policy in a constantly changing world. It critiques the application of the SACSSP ethical code set by the Professional Board for Social Work as well as the IFSW's Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles (IFSW, 2018), while weighing the "uncertainty" principle (Einstein, 2015) against established ethical practice in social work. The paper proposes, in conclusion, a construct for ethical practice that can guide social work practice, training and policy in a continuing changing world.

Presenters
Andries Viviers

Title of Paper
Ethical practice in a changing world: Rethinking the construct of social work ethics in practice, education and policy

Date & Time
Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 6, 16:00 – 17:30

Conference Day 2: Thursday 2 September 2021 Session 6: 16:00 – 17:30
with service delivery protests, particularly within public services. However, for social workers, there continues to be about what is actually happening on the ground about service delivery particularly in resource-deprived communities, with a legacy of neglect. Beginning with vignettes from the field highlighting the paradox in professional identity, ethics, and professional service delivery under neoliberalism, this presentation shares the literature review on social work service delivery in South Africa emphasizing the effect of neoliberalism on service delivery - including corporatization/commercialization of human needs, the emphasis on profits first, fee for service, outsourcing.

**Session**
8b: Social development and policy in responding to pandemics, poverty and inequality

**Session Chair**
TBC

**Date & Time**
Thursday 2 September 2021, Session 6, 16:00 – 17:30

**Presenters**
Mziwandile Sobantu

**Title of Paper**
Housing on older persons’ perceptions of safety, privacy and psychosocial wellbeing in Alexander, North of Johannesburg

**Abstract**
In their old age, senior citizens require adequate housing and neighbourhoods that promote their physical and psychosocial wellbeing. Using a social exclusion lens, this article analyses the impact of housing on older adults’ perceptions of safety, security and psychosocial wellbeing. Data was collected using semi-structured interviews from 8 older persons desiring in Alexander, North of Johannesburg in South Africa. The findings showed that older persons’ perceptions of safety and security are determined by the quality of their housing, who they live with and the persistent crime in the neighbourhood. Participants who shared their housing with their grandchildren felt safer while on the one hand, they had a lower sense of privacy notably those who occupied informal dwellings. Surprisingly one participant who lived alone but in formal housing with more security features showed a more positive sense of security, safety and privacy. Residing in poor overcrowded housing with many family members was found to be associated with poor psychological wellbeing for older persons. The article concludes that housing for older persons in South Africa needs to be prioritised and purposefully integrated with deliberate plans for social security to cater for the unique needs of the elderly.

**Presenters**
Dakalo Mukhathi

**Title of Paper**
The significance of Social Work Research and Policy during Covid 19 Pandemic as a response to Poverty and Inequality

**Abstract**
ABSTRACT TITLE OF THE STUDY The significance of Social Work Research and Policy during Covid 19 Pandemic as a response to Poverty and Inequality. The focus of this paper is to emphasise the significant role that social science researches and policy developers with a social work background can make to strengthen intervention to social ills such as poverty and inequality during Covid-19 pandemic and beyond in terms of intervention strategies and implementation. The intention of this paper is to highlight the role of research and policy in social work practice to enhance the quality of response to the high levels of poverty and inequality during Covid-19 and beyond. Key issues: • Poverty and inequality trends during the pandemic • Using scientific methods to identify best practice intervention strategies • Using research findings to inform policy development process • Conducting policy researches to determine the effectiveness of the intervention strategies Challenges There is not enough literature as Covid 19 is a new phenomenon Recommendations Improved collaborations between medical researchers and social science researchers as the pandemic has implications for medical field. Suggestions for the conference • Have a social work representation at the Presidential Covid 19 command council. • Debriefing of social workers

**Presenters**
Nkosiyazi Dube

**Title of Paper**
Contributions of informal social security to the needs of their members. A qualitative study on stokvels

**Abstract**
Stokvels have been in existence for many years and remain an important source of social protection for poor black South Africans. Prior to the democratic dispensation, for many black South Africans, stokvels were a means to save and access credit and, ultimately, served as a mechanism for alleviating poverty. In Post-Apartheid South Africa, social grants have emerged as a mechanism for alleviating poverty. However, not everyone is eligible for the social grants. It is not feasible to achieve a more inclusive social security system; thus, many of the country’s poor people will remain excluded. Unfortunately, informal social security has not been considered an important policy area, even though many people depend on it for their protection. Given the importance of informal social security in South Africa, there is a need to investigate the contributions of stokvels in meeting human needs, and how these can be strengthened for them to provide adequate social protection. The study was qualitative, located within an interpretive paradigm, to explore and describe the phenomenon. A multiple-case design was adopted for the study. Findings revealed that stokvels addressed income insecurity, provided for children’s educational needs and enhanced access to a broader social capital base of their members.

**Presenters**
Nazrana parker; Isabel Morawek

**Title of Paper**
A systematic literature review protocol exploring the impact of COVID-19 on women in Africa.

**Abstract**
Our paper focuses on the effects of national disasters on women in Africa as a vulnerable group. Firstly, we chose to examine the experiences of women affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Secondly, how women have been impacted by the pandemic. A systematic literature review will allow for a qualitative research design to explore the impact of Covid-19 on women in Africa. The intention is to portray how Covid -19 is exacerbating already marginalized groups. The aim was to contribute to a more in-depth understanding of women's experiences of the pandemic to provide information for practitioners and policymakers. One challenge we faced in our research is the scarcity of qualitative studies on national disasters and specifically on women and Covid-19. Initially, our focus was on South Africa but the sample was too small, resulting in a broadening of the research to Africa. The research and the pandemic are still ongoing, but themes that have emerged from our literature review include a general reinforcement of marginalisation in terms of health, social and economic impacts. Major issues for women are stigmatization and gender-based violence. The data analysis will be finished at the end of August and the results can be presented at the conference.
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<th>8c: Social development and policy in responding to pandemics, poverty and inequality</th>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Busisiwe Nkosi; Velile Dhlamini</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>The psychological impact of Covid-19 on communities in informal settlements in the Southern region of the City of Ekurhuleni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Social workers are confronted with endemic social challenges particularly of people from marginalised communities. This sparked curiosity on the researchers to understand how those in informal settlements as marginalised communities were affected by the Corona virus as it ravaged lives globally. A qualitative study was conducted, using a collective case study design. Purpose sampling method assisted to get the required sample which composed of two focus groups. A semi-structured interview guide was used for data collection. Creswell steps of analysis were followed to analyse data. The core themes that came out were that the living conditions in informal settlements are severely disadvantaging the lives of children. People with special needs are normally neglected, however, the pandemic worsened their conditions. The conclusion is that informal settlements seem to incubate and sustain poverty and thus perpetuating generational poverty. Presently, government intervention focuses more on developing the infrastructure in informal settlements. The study recommends that development should be holistic including human capacititation in all age groups for sustainable livelihoods and improvement of the quality of life.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Charmill Zamuee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>The perils of policy in a time of Covid-19 pandemic: Namibia’s historical policy on old age and its implications for caregiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The study explored the care needs of frail older persons from the perspectives of formal and informal caregivers in Namibia using an interpretive qualitative methodology. Data collection was through semi-structured interviews and focus groups with formal and informal caregivers. The data analysis was computer assisted using Atlas-ti and relied on qualitative content analysis as a coding frame. Overall, the study had three major findings. Firstly, the study found that Namibia’s historic events have largely influenced the current situation of unmet needs of frail older persons. Secondly, Namibia’s older persons’ policy environment is inadequate in addressing the needs of frail older persons, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thirdly it was also found that effective protection and care of frail older persons is only possible through stakeholder engagement and collaboration. As a result, the study recommendations suggests that government undertake a process of evidence-based policy reforms to ensure that the needs of frail older persons are addressed. Also that a new proposed model be implemented for need assessment of frail older persons, especially in this era of Covid-19 pandemic. Another recommendation was that all stakeholders be mobilised for the overall improvement in the protection and care of frail older persons.</td>
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<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Papama Kupiso</td>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Household deprivation and multidimensional poverty aftermath on children six to 13 years in rural Queenstown, Eastern Cape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Purpose: This study aimed to evaluate household deprivation levels using the acute multidimensional poverty index (AMDI) to determine its relationship to the food intake and nutritional status of children aged six to 13 years. Methods: A quantitative, descriptive research design was applied to evaluate the nutritional status and food intake of the children in rural Queenstown, Eastern Cape. The participants comprised of a purposive sampling technique. A total of 200 children were included in the study. Results: The prevalence of food insecurity of the households was 83.6% accordingly, the per capita income of the households of R12 07.94 - R18 030.00 per annum, compared to South Africa’s GDP per capita of $6.100 (R107 970) income, indicating that the households lived below the poverty line. These households achieved a mean acute multi-dimensional poverty index (AMDI) score of 24.72 out of the 30.0% cut-off point, indicating that 82.4% of the households were poor. Recommendations Household deprivation tends to be reflected upon children’s nutritional status and food intake with evidence of hidden hunger prevalent in a child’s diet. The need to formulate nutrition intervention programs that provide information for our communities on methods to sustain themselves such as subsistence farming.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters</td>
<td>Aliku Abdulateef Abiodun; Oghenechoja Dennis Veta</td>
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<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Predicament of covid-19 pandemic and economic downturn on the social well-being of older adults in Nigeria: implications for social work practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the global economic and has well, deepened inequalities, poverty and joblessness among young and old persons across all nations. It is on this basis that this study is outlined to specifically ascertain the circumstances of Covid-19 and economic downturn on the social well-being of older adults in Nigeria and the implications for social work practices. The study adopted a phenomenological and exploratory research design in its inquiry. Twenty-four respondents constituted the sample size while a Focus Group Discussion Guide and an In-Depth Interview Guide were the instruments used for data collection. Result of the study reveals that Covid-19 pandemic have had an overwhelming impact on the socioeconomic well-being of older adults in Nigerian. It shows the negligence of government authorities in the care of the elderly. It finally enunciates the role of social workers in the case study. The study recommends Nigerian government, NGOs, and well meaning individuals in the society to have sympathy and showcase empathy in providing adequately to the less aged persons during and after the pandemic. And more so, policies and programs that will enhance the role of social work practices should be upheld by the Nigeria government, through standardization of the profession. KEYWORDS: Covid-19, predicament, economic downturn, older adults, social work practices.</td>
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<td>Session</td>
<td>5d: Intimate relationships, marriage, families &amp; transitions</td>
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<td>Session Chair</td>
<td>Ms Priscalia Khosa (Stellenbosch University)</td>
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<td>Friday 3 September 2021, Session 7, 11:15 – 12:15</td>
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**Presenters**
Keoagile Abel Mmoloko; Elizabeth Smit

**Title of Paper**
Gender-based violence is social illness that experienced by different cultures and social groups across the globe. Literature shows that the majority of gender-based violence perpetrators are men. This study is aimed at developing social work programme addressing gender-based violence that focuses on men as perpetrators. Ecological and psychodynamic theories assisted in identifying factors that contribute to GBV and the behaviour modification and empowerment approach helped in conceptualising intervention for men as perpetrators of GBV. This study is intervention research; it is bringing contribution to Mezzo level of social work intervention through the development of educational group work programme. Utilizing a qualitative approach and phenomenological design, data is being collected from thirty-seven participants: Ten men using individual telephone interviews, ten social workers using individual telephone interviews to explore more on factors that contribute to GBV. Collected data will be used to develop the programme manual. Programme manual will be validated by five experts in social work field. Ten men will be divided into two groups; the first five men will be enrolled in the programme facilitated by the researcher through telephone conference call. The second group of five men will be enrolled on the programme facilitated by two social workers.

| Presenters | Kwanele Shishane; Bruna Nascimento |
| Title of Paper | An investigation of attitudes towards intimate partner violence in Brazil and South Africa: The role of socio-cultural factors |

**Abstract**
Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant public health problem of epidemic proportions that disproportionately affects women, particularly in developing countries such as Brazil and South Africa. Studies exploring factors contributing to the generation and maintenance of IPV against women in these countries have primarily focused on demographic and individual aspects and are conducted almost exclusively in urban areas. Based on the integrated ecological model and the African feminist philosophy, this study investigates the predictors of attitudes towards intimate partner violence against women in rural and urban areas of Brazil and South Africa. Including a sample of 800 participants, this study will use cross-sectional and experimental designs, incorporating qualitative and quantitative methodologies, in two phases. Phase 1 will use qualitative methods to explore the content and transmission of subjective norms relevant to gender roles and familial dynamics and the meaning-making narratives as explanations of IPV. Phase 2 will use a multilevel, correlational design to investigate the prevalence and correlates of attitudes towards IPV and IPV and the role of psychosocial and cultural factors in facilitating the victimization of women by their intimate partners. The findings of this study may be of interest to academics, stakeholders, policymakers, and communities in general.

| Presenters | Bigi Thomas |
| Title of Paper | Women and Work-Life balance during the Pandemic: Evidence from India |

**Abstract**
The emergence of Covid-19 pandemic, which affected women significantly across the world, brought in several work-life balance issues also in their lives. The convergence of family and work obligations within the domestic space posed numerous challenges to Indian women, especially married, due to their unique ascribed gender roles, prevalent in the patriarchal socio-cultural milieu they live in. Guided by a descriptive research methodology, this study aims to describe the impact of Covid-19 on Indian women’s work-life balance with social role theory and border theory. This study, conducted with 77 samples drawn purposively, illustrates how during Covid-19, the traditional gender roles have exacerbated the family duties of Indian women and aggravated their work-family as well as family-work conflicts. Integration of work and family domains also constrained their ability to make transitions between these domains, where boundaries got blurred, leading to increased WLB issues. Furthermore, the findings also highlighted the role of support systems from family and office in strengthening their WLB. The findings enhance our understanding of protective and proximate factors associated with WLB of Indian working women during the Covid-19 pandemic.

| Presenters | Portia Mohlala; Dr Lobelo D Mogorosi |
| Title of Paper | Evaluating Victim Empowerment Services of Survivors of Domestic Violence |

**Abstract**
There is a growing body of research on domestic violence, mostly focusing on its causal factors and societal reaction to this social pandemic. Little attention is put on understanding about how survivors deal with their situation at an emotional level to strengthen their resolve on their journey to become resilient. This presentation is based on a qualitative study focusing on identifying services provided to survivors of domestic violence, as well the process of victim empowerment. Data was collected from service providers (i.e., social workers, victim supporters, house mothers and police officers) at victim empowerment programs at Thuthuzela Care Centres within Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality. Thematic analysis was used to examine factors such as the nature and types of abuse, survivor-abuser relationships dynamics, and the helping seeking processes. The results show that the process of victim empowerment involves these professionals who undertake different responsibilities toward empowering survivors of domestic violence. That involvement of such professionals results in a holistic approach to the helping process. From such holistic approach, these professionals reported that survivors of domestic violence showed promising signs of resilience, resulting from them (i.e., survivors) coming more knowledgeable about their situation, as well being safe from their perpetrators.
Discussions and key informant interviews. Thematic data analysis was used to analyse data. The findings revealed that CWDs in Sekhukhune experienced numerous challenges.

The Experiences of International Doctoral Students during the COVID-19 Lockdown: Social Closeness in Physical Distancing Times can be an Effective Stress Antidote

Elzabe Aucamp

Psychosocial Challenges of Children with Disabilities- Towards an Integrated Disabilities Strategy: Focus on Sekhukhune District

Zintle Ntshongwana; Pius Tanga

Discrimination and prejudice towards CWDs are compounded by poverty, lack of essential services and support and, sometimes, a hostile and inaccessible environment. To examine the psychosocial challenges of CWDs for better access to basic services, a study was conducted in the Sekhukhune district of Limpopo province. Based on the identified, articulated and expressed challenges, this study seeks to recommend for improvement of the existing Integrated National Disability Strategy (INDS) for greater responsiveness to the needs of CWDs at both provincial and local levels. The interpretivist approach with a qualitative mode of enquiry, coupled with phenomenology and descriptive research designs guided the study. Purposive sampling was employed, and data was collected from 36 participants, using three triangulated methods: individual in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. Thematic data analysis was used to analyse data. The findings revealed that CWDs in Sekhukhune experienced numerous challenges which affected their social functioning, development and general well-being. Aggravating factors included stigma, labelling and discrimination; disability-specific discrimination and bullying; exclusive education; sexual exploitation; lack of governmental support and poor implementation of disability-specific policies.

Towards an Integrated Disabilities Strategy: Focus on Sekhukhune District

Elzabe Aucamp

Community mobilising strategies to eradicate family violence: The role of social workers

Zintle Ntshongwana; Pius Tanga

This paper aimed at providing insight on the role of social workers in community mobilization as a strategy in eradicating family violence. This qualitative study used a sample of ten participants which comprised of 10 social workers who were purposively selected and 10 community members who were selected through snowball sampling. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions, which yielded rich information on a series of mobilizing strategies used by social workers to eradicate family violence within communities. Findings showed various contributing factors to family violence, which include poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, and traditional gender norms. Findings also showed a number of interventions that social workers use in eradicating family violence through community mobilization, such as community outreach programmes, and organizing communities to challenge social norms that support the use of violence. Implications for social work research, policy and practice have been presented in this paper. This paper concludes that social workers are playing a crucial rule in preventing family violence.

The formalization of organizational processes through functional policies and procedures

Elzabe Aucamp

Providing insight into the experience of the writer in the impact of policies and procedures that exist on paper but not implemented or effectively managed. The chapter describes the formalization of organizational processes through functional policies and procedures, which brought substantial benefit to National Youth Development Outreach to sustain the reputation of a reputable service provider as a local nonprofit organization in South Africa. The chapter goes on to create a mutual understanding of functional policies and procedures as a process of development, implementation, and managing all documents providing guidance, structures, uniformity, efficiency, harmony, and ethical operations within a framework, with the goal of balancing an organization’s identity and delivering services on behalf of government within communities. The chapter concludes by offering civil society leaders three lessons learned through the author’s experience with the formalization of functional policies and procedures. First, staff behavior and attitude can change to become more motivated...
Majority claimed to have gained control over their situation and a positive outlook after talking to the volunteer social workers. They are thankful that other than there is somebody who can listen and will be there for them. This paper described the experiences of coping of selected Filipinos who were provided online psychological support by volunteer social workers of the United Registered Social Workers (URSW) in the Philippines at the height of the pandemic Covid 19. The study investigated on how the respondents managed their anxiety and stresses brought by the pandemic and how they were helped by URSW volunteers. Findings revealed that online psychological support helped Filipinos reduced their anxiety and felt better after being helped.
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<th>Title of Paper</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bulumac Adriana Lavinia; Sârbu Adrian Emanuel; Lazár Florin</td>
<td>Risk factors for binge drinking among adolescents in the Romanian context</td>
<td>The study specifically explores factors such as family structure and management, parental tolerance of drinking, peer attitudes on alcohol use, peer deviance and greater identification with friends that use alcohol, self-esteem and gender differences risk factors and their association with adolescents’ binge drinking. A representative sample of 15-16 years old students from Bucharest (n=2595) completed a paper-based questionnaire in November 2016. Two multivariate logistic regression analyses for girls and for boys were performed to identify risk factors associated with binge drinking. Among the similarities we find the age they have first got drunk as a significant common predictive factor for binge drinking. Boys binge drinking behavior depends on the age they have first tasted alcohol and the delinquent activity they have had the last 12 months, while among girls the most significant predictors for binge drinking are the number of friends who drink alcohol and the parents’ reactions on them getting drunk. The findings suggest that those working in the area of adolescent alcohol abuse should pay more attention to parental monitoring and parental rule setting, as these appear to play an important role in youths binge drinking behaviors, but also take into consideration gender differences to better tailor their interventions.</td>
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<td>Aphiwe Mpateni</td>
<td>The horrendous opportunities of contracting diseases during circumcision rite in Alice, South Africa in Eastern Cape</td>
<td>This article explores the horrendous opportunity of contracting diseases and health risks during traditional male circumcision. This study adopted qualitative approach and guided by explorative and descriptive in design. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were used as data collection methods with the use of interview guide and topics of discussion as tools to guide the interviews and focus group discussions. The study sampled 26 participants. The following factors were identified: Contraction of diseases during traditional male circumcision; Sharing of an assegai “umdlanga” by the traditional surgeon “ingcibi” leading to contracting of diseases; Hospitalization of initiates due to diseases; Contraction of diseases due to sharing of bandages by traditional nurses “amakhankatha”; Teachings that condone mal-adaptive sexual behavior leading to contraction of diseases. Health screening of boys should be strictly monitored before one is sent to the initiation school. Also, government and nongovernmental health institutions that deal with traditional male circumcision work hand in hand with cultural custodians to ensure safe environment in the rite. Government (department of traditional affairs) must provide guidelines on education that is given in the initiation school.</td>
<td>Rendering services to people with substance use disorders, perspectives of social workers in South Africa. Substance use disorders are a global challenge with detrimental effects on health, wealth and security of nations. Addiction remains under-identified as a primary practice area for clinical social workers. The aim of the study was to investigate the perceptions or views of social workers in relation to services relating to substance use and addiction management in Ehlanzeni District. The objective was to investigate associations between attitude and demographic factors, such as age, experience, professional status, additional training, and educational level and in relation to the substance use related services. The study adopted the qualitative approach in executing the study by employing the multiple case study design. The study made use of focus group discussions for both NGOs and the DSD after participants have been identified through the purposive sampling technique. The researcher used thematic analysis for data analysis. Findings of the study indicates that, indicated that there is no proper multidisciplinary coordination in the field of substance use in the district. Treatment facilities should continue to emphasize the importance of aftercare program and include it as part of the treatment instead of making it optional for people with substance use disorder, as its importance greatly influence the treatment programs.</td>
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<td>Mary Ebenezer</td>
<td>A Survey on the Health Seeking behaviour during COVID pandemic- Social work intervention in Slums</td>
<td>The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged in Wuhan, Hubei province, China in December 2019 and rapidly spread across the world followed by March 24th 2020 Lockdown in India. COVID-19 affected all dimensions of human life in a developing country like India. The health-seeking behaviour of residents in slums in the face of the deadly COVID-19 virus become very important to understand the determining factors and to help government to adequately allocate and manage existing health resources for the Second wave. This cross-sectional survey design was sought to investigate various health seeking behaviors exhibited by 500 residents of Slum at Padi, Chennai, India, during the COVID-19 Pandemic during May to September 2019 lockdown. The data was collected using an Interview Schedule along with Checklist was used to collect to study the selected sample. The Outcomes of the study were that the respondents in the slum community were manage existing health resources for the Second wave. This cross-sectional survey design was sought to investigate various health seeking behaviors exhibited by 500 residents of Slum at Padi, Chennai, India, during the COVID-19 Pandemic during May to September 2019 lockdown. The data was collected using an Interview Schedule along with Checklist was used to collect to study the selected sample. The Outcomes of the study were that the respondents in the slum community were</td>
<td>Why are youths prone to substance use? A study of undergraduate students at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State</td>
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© ASASWEI 2021 Conference Local Organising Committee https://asasweiconference.org.za; email: secretary@asasweiconference.org.za Page 41
### Experiences, Challenges and Coping Strategies of Indigenous People amidst Covid-19 Pandemic

**Abstract**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has caused death and destruction, particularly among the most vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples. This qualitative phenomenological study aimed to determine how the Indigenous people described their experiences, challenges, coping strategies amidst pandemic and what policy formulation may be proposed to have full government support access. A non-probability purposive sampling was used to gather the seven (7) female Indigenous participants that were interviewed using semi-structured questions. Based on the gathered data, six (6) themes emerged after doing an in-depth analysis: Resourcefulness; Health Adjustments; Enough Government Support; Loss of Accessibility; Economic Distress; and Optimistic. The study showed resourcefulness, adjustments in health, and enough government support were experienced by the participants. The majority of them faced the struggle of loss of accessibility in their biopsychosocial wellbeing of employees. Individuals are unique, they respond to stress and utilise coping approaches in a different manner such as the use of substance which is considered a dysfunctional coping strategy. Substance abuse is of a major concern at a workplace as it is considered as a short-term coping technique by some South African workforce. The effects of employee substance abuse can be far-reaching for any work organisation and employees themselves (namely, absenteeism, poor employee relations, risks of injuries and job-loss). Organisational initiatives, such as employee assistance programs (EAP) and related labour relations policy activities play effective roles to mitigate the challenge of employee substance problem. Organisational culture, policies, administration, collegial support are of significance in a workplace as it can either positively or negatively influence the personnel.

**Presenters**

Patricia Manganyi; Lobelo Mogorosi

**Title of Paper**

Work organisational stressors and substance abuse: the role of EAP

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### Community partnership between community medicine practitioners and social work during the COVID-19 epidemic: Working with families of children with hearing disabilities in Egyptian health centers

**Abstract**

The study aimed at educating mothers about the importance of the auditory survey of newborns and the early detection of hearing impairment in children, the preventive role of health centers and the importance of health awareness and achieving the goals of health centers for which they were established. The study targeted 9 health centers in Assiut Governorate and about 100 mothers who frequent these Health centers, and the study used the descriptive approach on mothers in Assiut Governorate and health centers in Assiut Governorate. The results are expected to be a significant improvement in the awareness of mothers of the importance of audiometric scanning in children, early detection of hearing impairment, and continuous awareness by health center workers. The continuous health education intervention succeeded in improving mothers' knowledge of the proper customs and traditions before, during pregnancy and after childbirth and changing their behavior for the better. Recommendations:- 1- Expanding the spread of health awareness among all segments of society. 2- The importance of early detection of hearing difficulties among children and continuous health education on mothers.

**Presenters**

Ester Elillia

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### Students' presentations

**Session**

13b: Students' presentations

**Session Chair**

Ms Sithuthukile Myeni (University of Zululand)

**Date & Time**

Friday 1 September 2021, Session 7, 11:15 – 12:15

**Presenters**

Danielle Pituc

**Title of Paper**

Experiences, Challenges and Coping Strategies of Indigenous People amidst Covid-19 Pandemic

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**Abstract**

Background: Substance abuse remains a global issue. This attitude may be associated with poor academic performance, risky sexual and psychological behavior, social unrest among other negative vices; with increasing adverse effect on male and female students alike. Methodology: Results were presented from a qualitative study using Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with 30 undergraduate students at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka campus, Enugu State. They were purposively selected to share experiences pertaining to substance abuse among students. An inductive coding approach was adopted, to develop themes from the transcripts by relating outstanding points of their response and analytical concepts to the objectives of the study. Findings: Substance use remains an acceptable norm among students. Though attributed to peer group influence, place of residence, family structure and income; gender and age are no longer predisposing factors. With independent living, students are vulnerable to substance abuse in overcoming social, economic and academic challenges. Participants were less reliant on the government welfare and assistance for students. Conclusion: Social workers, health care providers alongside civil/non-governmental groups should rise to their individual responsibilities on undergraduate enlightenment programs. Supervision and extracurricular activities becomes vital. Nigerian government should be committed and strategic with the welfare of undergraduate students.  

**Presenters**

Patricia Manganyi; Lobelo Mogorosi

**Title of Paper**

Work organisational stressors and substance abuse: the role of EAP
of hearing impairment for a child's learning to speak. 3- Partnership between civil society organizations and health centers in raising awareness and education. 4- Urgently go to the specialized center in case of discovery

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<th>Neeva Shrestha</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>A Comparative Study on Self-Esteem between Yoga and Non-Yoga Practitioners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>This paper focuses on comparative study of self-esteem between yoga and non-yoga practitioners. The study on this particular topic is very limited in the context of Nepal. Self-esteem is the way we perceive ourselves but it plays a vital role and affect not only our mental health but also helps in altering decision of our life. The methodology applied in this study is quantitative. The data was gathered by online survey i.e. via google form. Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale was used as a tool to collect the data. Purposive sampling design was applied in this research and the respondents’ verbal consent was taken before the survey. The findings indicate that the self-esteem of yoga practitioners are more than that of non-yoga practitioners. So, it signifies that yoga plays a vital role in building up self-esteem of a person. The findings also state that self-esteem of male is more than that of female in case of both yoga and non-yoga practitioners which develops an area for further research. Social workers may recommend practicing yoga in various setting from child care setting to old age homes to rehabilitation center in order to help individuals build self-esteem. Keywords: self-esteem, yoga, social work</td>
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<th>Paul Laurence Tolentino</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Paper</td>
<td>Students’ perceived academic stress in blended learning environment and its effect on their family social functioning</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The study aims on knowing the perceived academic stress of Don Honorio Ventura State University-CSSP students that are exposed on blended learning environment and its effect on their family social functioning, and their experiences. This sequential explanatory mixed-method utilized a modified 10-item version of Perceived Stress Scale, Family Role Performance Scale, and Semi-structured In-depth Interview and treated using Descriptive, Correlational, and Regression Analysis and Inductive Content Analysis. Based on the result, there is a moderate perceived academic stress among the students, and they fulfill some expectations in their family social functioning. Further, the two variables have a high significance and a weak negative relationship. The perceived academic stress significantly affects family social functioning. The causes of the perceived academic stress among the students are difficulty in academic workloads, unable to concentrate at home while engaging in school, and internet connectivity problems. Its effects on their family social functioning are the inability to do their tasks/chores at home, lessened and poor-quality communication among family members, and displacement of stress at home. A social work intervention based on task-centered model was proposed to alleviate the presented problems of the blended learning students. It is recommended that the students may attend webinars/seminars.</td>
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