

Arts and social work (special issues) Feb/March 2018

Please send completed articles or queries to

Ephrat Huss ehuss@bgu.ac.il and to

Carolyn Noble, Editor in Chief by email carolyn.noble@acap.edu.au

Closing date e for submissions 15th January 2018

Introduction

The arts have much to contribute to social work: Arts and symbolic interactions are the spaces where the core values and integrated learned patterns of behavior, ideas, and products characteristic of an individual and of a society are defined and communicated to others (Huss 2012). Arts from a neuro-biological perspective, are a way to group together stimuli into a coherent gestalt that become the base of narratives, rituals, symbols, and other art forms within which systems can shift from homiostazis to change as new and embodied meaning is made and negotiated (Bledowski et al, 2009). Arts trigger new cognitive and emotional reactions within us that mobilize coping in a culturally embedded form (Durgin, 2002;Huss, 2012, 2015). Eisner (1997) argues that visual forms afford us an integration of different facets of social experience that would be hard to grasp through language and numbers alone and thus become a space to co-produce knowledge with service users. As Lippard states, “*Educated Westerners use language as control, while poorer, less educated people, especially those from rural backgrounds, control language through expressive formulations*” (Lippard 1990, p. 57). Thus in Frierian terms, then the arts become a way to empower and re-conceptualize the connection between personal identity and society-, which is a central concern of social work. At present, , there is interest in the use of arts as embedded

within social work theories and practice: the use of photo-voice, outsider art, community arts, arts based research, visual anthropology and sociology, and arts as empowerment are beginning to become accepted methods in social work research and practice. Special interest groups on the subjects are found in conferences, and a book edited by myself (Professor Ephrat Huss), and Professor Eltje Boss is currently being written on arts in social work, published by Routledge. My last paper published in the British journal of social work explores the use of arts to connect between micro and macro perspectives in social work. The aim of this social dialogue special issue is to further this within an international perspective: Arts are by definition a culturally contextualized language that serves religious, community, educational, and other potentially resilience building, empowering and therapeutic roles within different cultures. We hope that this special issue will move us towards what is happening in the international field that can inform social work theory, research and practice.

Articles or projects or practice examples are welcome.

1. all articles should be limited to 2,000 (with references)
2. authors photo must be included and work affiliation
3. other photos of project or topic are very welcome
4. have a look at editions online for how this edition will eventually look like

www.socialdialogue.online