

Trying to learn after the Great Recession: Spanish Social Work Education and Privatization

Prof. Dr. Andrés Arias Astray

FACES OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN EUROPE
Faculty of Applied Social Sciences
University of Technology, Art, Sciences, Cologne
8th November 2017

Working metaphor: Spanish social work education as a building

- The slow and difficult construction of social work as a university discipline (*1932-2007*)
- The fast demolition of the social work educational building (*1979-present*)

- the history of Spanish social work education is indistinguishable from the history of social work as a profession and the history of Spanish social protection
- We could go back a long way in time, but to be brief, we will start at the moment when the first Spanish school of social work is founded.

The Construction

- **Late nineteen-1930. foundational period**
 - Before 1927. figures who reflect on how to better serve the poor.
 - 1927. First School of Social Service by Dr. Roviralta and Mrs. Antonia Farreras.
- **1930-1950. Authoritarian beneficence period.**
- **1950-1970, Expansion and developmentism period.**
 - 1958. Social work becomes vocational training
 - 1968. First Congress of Social Assistants. Social Work is adopted as a term. University status for social work studies is requested

The construction

- **1970 -1980 Technical period**
- **1980-2000 First golden period**
 - Creation of the Autonomous Communities Public Social services systems
 - 1981 University status
- **2000-2007 Second golden period**
 - Dependency Law
 - Bologna Process. Masters and PhD degrees.

The demolition

- **1979 – present. The privatization and liberalization period.**
 - The management of public services has been privatized,
 - Social workers are precarious employees
 - Major cuts in all public services.
 - Higher education is not a good personal investment.
 - In some autonomous communities, university tuition fees have grown exponentially in recent years.
 - Growing inequality in access to basic services in education between regions
 - Specific attacks to the Schools of social work.

The demolition

- Maybe demolition can't be avoided.
- Perhaps the aluminosis process is too intense.
- But paradoxically, at the heart of these processes is where many of our students are learning more and more significantly.

Unwanted and unexpected Learning opportunities

– La Marea Naranja / The orange tide

- a protest campaign against the cuts in social services.
- https://www.cgtrabajosocial.es/marea_naranja

– Trabajo Social se Queda / Social work stays

- A campaign of resistance to save the Faculty of Social Work at Complutense.



No a la eliminación de la Facultad
de

Trabajo Social

Andradas aún estás a tiempo.

aariasas@ucm.es
many thanks!