



## International Undergraduate Summer School

### “Refugee children and families in Europe: social work and counselling”

25 June – 6 July in Brussels

## Lectures open to professionals

### Monday 25 June

13:30 – 15:00

#### **'It is not enough' - on social work, universal rights and fundamental needs**

For social work, human rights are pivotal and the universal declaration on human rights is a major frame of reference. However de iure and de facto human rights cannot be the only inspiration for social work. To do justice to people in general and refugees in particular, social workers are in need of a more substantial 'body of normative knowledge' concerning fundamental human needs. The question how to deal with the universal rights of (wo)men is not the same as the question how to do justice to the fundamental needs of (wo)men.



**Dr. Hans Van Crombrugge**, doctor in Pedagogical Sciences and senior lecturer at the department of Family Studies of Odisee, the University College of Brussels.

He is known as a critical opinion maker on social themes. He published articles on items such as parenthood, the role of the philosophy of life and religion on family relationships, mainly from a historical point of view.

### Tuesday 26 June

9:00 – 10:30

UNHCR

#### **Refugees in Europe, what's at stake?**

10:45 – 12:30

#### **No hope anywhere. In the name of European values: Defending refugees at all costs**

The lecture treats the European Union's migration and refugee policies and the related developments. It questions the actual approaches and calls the European leaders to finally realise that the constantly expressed European values also apply to Non-Europeans.

Under its “European Agenda for Migration”, the policies and enormous border regime efforts that were already made, have no purpose other than to keep away the „redundant people” (Zygmunt Bauman) in form of the so-called illegal migrants. There is no reason to believe that fewer people will try to reach Europe in the future. So all European migration and asylum policies that force people who are seeking protection to risk their lives, cannot be the solution. In order



**Dr. Sonja Grabowski**, doctor in Educational Sciences works for the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund.

Since 2014, she has been working as a scientific advisor of a member of the European Parliament, specialised in minorities in the EU, human rights, discrimination and European migration and refugee policies.

to fulfill its own self-image as a value-based community, the EU has to develop a fundamentally different approach, which should no longer follow the current paradigm of a “refugee crises”, but acknowledges a crisis of humanity. This offers no other answer than the one so well placed by Bauman: “Humanity is in crisis - and there is no exit from that crisis other than solidarity of humans”.

## Wednesday 27 June

**9:30-12:30**

### **Trauma and resilience of refugee victims of torture**

The dual trauma inherent in being both a victim of torture as well a refugee is related to a myriad of losses, human rights violations and other dimensions of suffering. Furthermore, a plethora of research has demonstrated the psychological impact of discrimination and racism experienced by migrants upon arrival to the host country. Such research highlights how trauma related to refugee experiences can have a profound impact on an individual’s sense of self, identity formation, and relationships with others. However, focusing too heavily on trauma risks pathologizing individuals, thereby ignoring wider socio-ecological contexts and denying aspects of resilience. This lecture will explore resilience as it is experienced by refugees in the context of a relational community. We present the results of 12 months of research among refugees in a centre for victims of torture in Athens. This research includes 125 in-depth, qualitative interviews with victims of torture, health professionals, cultural mediators/interpreters, and leaders from refugee communities. Case studies illustrate the substantial psychological impact of current material realities of refugee victims of torture as they adapt to their new environment and confront discrimination, and the variety of resources they draw upon to build resilience. Using a socio-ecological framework, the lecture will explore the strategies used by this population in order to discuss additional insights of an interpersonal and communal perspective for the growing field of research regarding resilience after traumatic experiences.



**Gail Womersley** is based at the University of Neuchâtel, where she is currently engaged in a research project working with refugee victims of torture in Athens, Greece. She has worked as a clinical psychologist and researcher in projects assisting refugee and internally displaced populations in Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Ukraine, Zimbabwe, South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She is particularly interested in cross-cultural manifestations of trauma and its implications for legal and social policy as well as clinical practice.

**13:30-15:30**

### **Refugees and the transition towards superdiversity & increasing transmigration. Challenges for social professionals.**

Refugees speed up the transition towards superdiversity in European cities, but in countries such as Belgium only in a very limited way. Even without refugees, Belgian & other European cities are in a transition towards superdiversity and are becoming majority-minority cities, such as Brussels. What are the challenges of such superdiversity contexts for social professionals? And why is divers-sensitivity one of the core competences for social professionals?



**Dr. Dirk Geldof**, doctor in Political and Social Sciences, is lecturer and researcher at the Higher Institute for Family Studies (Odisee University College), lecturer in the Social Work Program at the Karel de Grote University College in Antwerp and lecturer Sociology at the Faculty of

Design Sciences of the University of Antwerp. He recently published ‘Superdiversity in the heart of Europe. How migration changes our society’ (Acco, 2016) and is co-author of ‘Transmigration. Social work in times of superdiversity’ (Acco, 2016).

## Thursday 28 June

9:00 – 9:45

### Findings of research on counselling in reception initiatives



Dr. **Mieke Groeninck**, doctor in Social and Cultural Anthropology, is a researcher at the Higher Institute for Family Studies (Odisee University College Brussels). Besides, she is a lecturer Anthropology at the Catholic University of Leuven.

She did research on the Islamic religious knowledge transmission for adults in Brussels' mosques and institutes from a Moroccan background. Her current research is about practices that support family resilience of asylum-seeking and refugee families in Belgium.

10:00-12:30

### Counselling and social work with children and families in reception initiatives



Dr. **Patrick Meurs**, doctor in Psychology and master in Familial and Sexual Sciences, is principal of the Sigmund Freud Institute in Frankfurt am Mein and Professor Psychoanalysis at the University of Kassel (Germany).

He does research to the development of children and parenthood after migration, emphasizing on refugee families and children. Furthermore, he is the author of the culture-sensitive prevention program 'First Steps' for families with little children in Belgium and Germany.

## Friday 29 June

9:30-12:00

### Mental health and family's dynamics after emergencies and war

This presentation includes 2 parts, first part will include international mental health and psychosocial support guidelines to work in midst of emergencies; second part will reflect about the family processes and interactions since the war, how they organize each other to continue their lives after the war, how do rules, roles and rituals were reorganized, what facilitates and what hinders their dynamics. To understand the co-existing ideas of moving forward or holding on in the missing persons (tensions and balance). And how do families link to communities to find strengths to continue but also to deliver strengths to others.



**Miryam Rivera Holguín** is a doctoral researcher in the Faculty of Psychology at KU Leuven since 2016. She was appointed as a lecturer at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru in 2009, where she is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Psychology. She was the Director of the Master Program in Community Psychology (2013-2016) and currently is the Coordinator of the Research Group in Community Psychology.

Previously, Miryam spent more than 10 years in practice in the fields of humanitarian emergencies, disasters, human rights and mental health, focusing in public policies and vulnerable populations in Peru, Colombia, El Salvador, Greece and Sweden. She has worked as a Mental Health Advisor for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Peru (2001-2003), and as Community Mental Health and Health Promotion Advisor at Ministry of Health for the European Union Project (2003-2007).

She acted as a psychological expert for the Interamerican Court of Human Rights in San Jose de Costa Rica (2014-

2015). Her particular area of focus centers on survivors of violence, disasters and mental health policies.

**13:30-15:30**

### **About Psychoanalysis and Social Work**

#### **In moments of „not understanding“, sometimes magic can be performed**

The relationship between psychoanalysis and social professions has initially already been described by Sigmund Freud. Still today, core concepts in psychoanalysis, as well as its cultural-theoretical considerations and ways of thinking offer opportunities to enrich the practice and content of social work. In my lecture, I aim to present and discuss important aspects of today's psychoanalytic theory that can influence and enrich social work. In this perspective, my lecture offers new approaches for the understanding the `other` within the context of social work. In this recent psychoanalytical approach, the professional attitude of intentional `not understanding` is important. I will discuss what this approach enables in the professional relationship with „the other“.

**Hauke Witzel, M.A.**

Course of academic studies of Social Work at the *University of Applied Science Darmstadt*. Participant in the post-graduate training of psychoanalytic psychotherapy for children and adolescents at the Anna-Freud-Institute, Frankfurt am Main. Staff member of the Sigmund-Freud-Institute, Frankfurt am Main. Research topics: Psychoanalytic paedagogics, Critical social work, Psychoanalytic social work and Freudomarxism.

## **Monday 2 July**

**9:30-10:00**

### **Unaccompanied minors in Europe**



**Katja Fournier** is master in Political Sciences and co-ordinator of the Minors in Exile Platform. She published some international articles on the situation and rights of unaccompanied minors.

**10:00-12:00**

### **Psychosocial wellbeing of unaccompanied refugee minors**

The specific living situations of unaccompanied refugee children and adolescents, as young people living without their parents in a 'strange' country, often evoke large and long-lasting psychosocial challenges. As the same time, they often demonstrate a strong resilience in these highly challenging situations. In the lecture, we first discuss the different factors impacting unaccompanied young refugees' emotional wellbeing and the related existing body of knowledge. Secondly, we deepen possible approaches towards this heterogeneous group, hereby advocating for an in-depth relational approach whereby also carers' own wellbeing is addressed.



**Dr. Ilse Derluyn** obtained her PhD in Educational Sciences at Ghent University (Belgium). She is associate professor at the Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogics, where she teaches courses in migration and refugee studies. Her main research topics are related to the psychosocial welfare of unaccompanied minors,

migrant and refugee children, children affected by war, victims of human trafficking and child soldiers. Furthermore, she is involved in the support of refugees and social workers who work with refugees and migrants, in policy-oriented research as well as in policy influencing.

Prof. Derluyn published more than 100 articles and books. She is holder of an ERC Starting Grant and coordinates a large H2020-EU-project. Ilse is head of the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR) and is co-director of the Centre for Children in Vulnerable Situations (CCVS).



## Wednesday 4 July

**9:30-12:30**

### **Integration of refugee children and families in society**

'Integration' of refugees is a prominent topic throughout Europe. During this presentation we will discuss what integration actually means, how integration discourses can lead to exclusion instead of inclusion and what factors stimulate and obstruct refugees to build their lives in a new country.



**Safoura Ghaemina** is lecturer Sociology at Saxion University College of Applied Sciences. She has master's degrees in Sociology and an educational master's degree in social studies. She is working on a PhD about the life trajectories of unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands.

This research has been made possible by the doctoral grant for teachers of the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). In addition, as 'ex-client' of Nidos, the guardianship institution for unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands, she is setting up a network by and for unaccompanied minors who have arrived to the Netherlands.

## Thursday 5 July

**9:00-9:45**

### **"Me, myself and Belgium": narrative projects with refugees**

The Red Star Line Museum tells the story of millions of Europeans who were brave or desperate enough to leave their own lives and go to America. Together with the organisation "Joba Vluchtelingenwerk" they developed a project with young refugees. They collected their own stories on leaving their own country and coming home in another one.

**Nadia Babazia** of the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp and **Rocio Forero** of Joba Vluchtelingenwerk



### **10:00-12:30: Workshop 1 Tree of Life**



**Claire Wiewauters** is master in Family Pedagogy and psychotherapist for children, young people and families.

She is lecturer, practice teacher and researcher at the department of Family Studies of Odisee. She has been working on the effect of divorce on children and on narrative methodology in the assistance of refugees such as the 'Tree of Life'.

### **10:00-12:30: Workshop 2 Storytelling and creative writing: gates to self-actualisation and empowerment.**

A workshop for those interested in working with art and in learning about creative writing.

We all know stories that touched us deeply. Stories we heard and loved being a child or inspired us when growing up. Stories we found in books, in films, or that were told by our parents, family or friends. *In this workshop we explore what*



**Dr. Joris Dewispelaere**, doctor in Psychology, psychotherapist for individuals, couples and families. He is a lecturer and researcher at the department of Family Studies –UC Odisee. His research is in couple relationships, spirituality and social innovation. He is also an amateur actor. In the Summer School, he coaches projectwork and offers an

experiential workshop on creative writing and storytelling.

*stories mean to us an how we can take some first steps in creative writing ourselves.* In working with refugees, both listening to the stories they love(d) or that catch(ed) them, offering new stories and supporting them to be creative in writing or playing own stories can help to find their personal next steps in life.

**10:00-12:30: Workshop 3**

**Family conflict resolution and mediation in a context of cultural and religious diversity.**



**Kim Lecoyer** is master in the Social and Intercultural psychology, Arabic languages and Islamic studies. She also obtained a post-master's degree course in world religions and interreligious dialogue.

She is currently finalizing her PhD in law. Her research is about conflict resolution in Belgian Muslim families with a migrant background.