

# ABSTRACTS

## A B S T R A C T S

## Bernard Stritih

### Voluntary work as the site of the formation of generative themes

*Psychologist Bernard Stritih, Ph. D., is a senior lecturer of social work at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.*

In the first part of the contribution, the author presents the practical and theoretical approaches developed by Pablo Freire. His project of spreading literacy with the help of social workers has triggered a series of activities whose common denominators are self-activity and the development of generative themes. Both are important for the achievement of deep changes in interpersonal relations and social communication, which in this way encompasses the lowest classes as well. If voluntary work is taken as the activity that makes possible new forms and dimensions of social debate, then the question of whether the state should mainly support the development of institutions, or should it also care for the development and the quality of voluntary work, is made redundant. Voluntary work is a constructive response to the numerous problems of the insurmountable complexity of a society and can contribute to the deepening of trust in one's own developmental capabilities.

## Srečo Dragoš

### How

*Sociologist Srečo Dragoš, M. A., is an assistant lecturer of sociology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.*

The author argues that social work as a technique (methods of help, skills) is necessary but insufficient, but as a mere technique it is dangerous. It is dangerous when we do not question the presumptions that are the basis of the technical mode of thinking which originates in the unproven difference between appearance and essence, the misleading and the true, the regular and the incidental, the important and the unimportant, the exact and the speculative. This mode of thinking originates in metaphysics and is reductive. For this reason, phenomenology explicitly challenges it. The author refers to Tine Hribar's book *Phenomenology I* and particularly points out the fatal change (narrowing down) of the criteria of what is true and what is false, and simultaneously exposes the range of Husserl's approach and Heidegger's critique that rehabilitates the ordinary living world. The article is concluded by rethinking the significance of phenomenology in social work at present.

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Milko Poštrak

### The dimensions of creativity

*Sociologist Milko Poštrak, M. A., is a junior researcher at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.*

The author presents a few recent writings on creativity. He briefly touches upon the historical context of the discussions on the origin and the process of creativity on the one hand and the views on recognition, valuation and measuring on the other. Also, the questions are raised about the position of an individual in the creative process (his/her intelligence, talent) and in relation to the cultural context or the social framework. The most productive - most of the quoted authors agree upon this - are the discussions that take into consideration, or apply, the interdisciplinary approach. For research on creativity cannot be reduced merely to studying mental processes (dealt with mainly by psychology) or to the environment and the social context (sociology), nor is it merely a matter of knowledge (philosophy of science, epistemology). The anthropological and the historical context are also to be taken into account.

Metoda Mikuljan

### Preparing people to old age from the point of view of social work

*Metoda Mikuljan is a social worker at the Spa Intellectual Service in Rogaška Slatina.*

Old age and ageing are objectively given, concern all humanity, every society and every individual - they cannot be avoided, but according to the scientists and experts, they may be modified (transformed) both qualitatively and quantitatively. The numerous tasks presenting themselves to the individual and the society, concerning the processes of »ageing« in the developed countries (in Slovenia as well), are becoming more and more important, acute and necessary. The purpose and the goal of social work in this field should be to prepare the people to old age, as this, too, is what a meaningful and rich living depends upon. There are many instances - some are described in the paper - proving that it is often not the case.

Luj Šprohar

### The normality of the blind

*Social worker and sociologist Luj Šprohar has been a successful musician, puppeteer and writer; at present, he is devoted to the criticism of the situation of the blind.*

The paper discusses the distinctions between two realities, the seeing one and the blind one. The survey ranges from the description of the notion of blindness to the analysis of the symbol of the white cane to some of the author's personal experiences that crystallize the idea that the blind reality is but little different from the seeing one. The author himself has the experiences of both and analyses the differences. The conclusion is that a blind person is fundamentally the same as a seeing one, but because of the specific situations he or she has to fulfil certain wishes in a specific way. The aim of the analysis is a better knowledge of the blind reality and thus a better communication between different communities.

Kdaj se lahko oprete na nas?

VSAK DAN ob 14.00 do 18.00

ČETRTEK, ko delamo ob 10.00 do 12.00

Darja Zaviršek

Ženske in duševno zdravje