

ABSTRACT

A B S T R A C T

ABSTRACTS

Joseph Canals

The place of anthropology in the theoretical background of social work

Anthropologist Joseph Canals, Ph. D., lectures anthropology at University School of Social Work in Barcelona

The article deals with the relationship between social anthropology and social work. The two disciplines share many problems, including the theoretical crisis of social sciences. According to the author, social sciences as well as other relevant disciplines must not be considered the theoretical basis of social work but a part of its theoretical background, together with the systematisation of social workers' practical experience. The importance of understanding the social actors' views is emphasised, as is the need to understand from the inside rather than in terms of externally defined categories. The question of »the other« is considered the main focus that can articulate the use of anthropological approach in social work. Understanding from the inside and dealing with »the other« are deeply rooted in the anthropological tradition. These aims are consistent with the aim to empower client groups which is one of the main pillars of social work.

Darja Zaviršek

»If you see ghosts, tell the people!«

Some models of thought in the anthropology of health

Sociologist Darja Zaviršek, Ph. D., is an assistant lecturer for anthropology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

The article deals with the basic models of the anthropology of health, important for understanding mental health. The methodological framework consists of heterology, cultural relativism, the concepts of body and the sexes and intercultural research. The author points to the concepts of madness that are not sustained by intercultural comparisons, and to the analogy between a shaman-mediator and the mediating role of a nurse in the Western societies. The medical model of mental health does not take pain into account. According to risk analysis, the threat of unrecognised pain in a person within a psychiatric institution which rests on the disease model will increase the danger of self-injury. The latter may be visible or invisible in the sense of ego-mortification. The last part of the article is concerned with the experiences of the people who hear voices, and with various practices of dealing with voices in the world. With this innovation, the illness model moves away from the disease model and approaches the personal definitions of mental suffering.

Bernard Stritih

Voluntary work in the period of transition

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

The beginnings of the many voluntary activities in Slovenia coincide with the time of the awakening of national awareness. Even though voluntary work helped create the foundations of the Slovenian society, some activities fell prey to the monolithism of certain ideas. In the period of transition voluntary work has been developing a new significance for the integration of social complexity. In the second part, the author presents an example of how chaotic processes can be surpassed in a very diverse group. The developmental crisis may be overcome by way of consent with regard to the rules about the transition into a new mode of activity of the group. The main functions of the rules of conduct and communication in the period of transition are to ensure the safety of all participants, to stimulate the development of new ideas and not to overtake the process of reaching an agreement about the new ways of co-existence and co-operation.

Franč Hribernik

Social security of the unemployed

Between redundancy and lack of workers

Sociologist Franč Hribernik, Ph. D., is an assistant lecturer of rural sociology at University of Ljubljana Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Agronomy.

The phenomenon of unemployment has become one of the most expansive and difficult social problems in post-socialist societies. Since 1987 till 1993, the rate of unemployment in Slovenia has increased from 1,4% to 14,4%. Among 130.000 registered unemployed persons less than a half benefit from social welfare. How-

ABSTRACTS

ever, in spite of this the availability of contract-based or seasonal workers is insufficient, especially in agriculture. Unemployed natives refuse to take such jobs, mainly because of harsh working conditions, lesser esteem of agricultural work and lower payments in agriculture. Consequently, thousands of seasonal workers are needed in Slovenian agriculture yearly.

Nace Kovač, Vesna Švab

Relatives and carers as the active participants in mental health service users' care

Social worker Nace Kovač works at Ljubljana Moste-Polje Social Work Centre and chairs the executive committee of ŠENT - Organisation for mental health.

Psychiatrist Dr. Vesna Švab works at Ljubljana Polje Psychiatric Clinic.

The authors describe the main problems met by relatives and carers of the persons with deep psychological problems, as well as the possibilities to solve them, especially outside institutions. They particularly describe and point out the significance of self-organising and self-help in this field. The experiences in Britain and the USA are compared with the local initiatives. They also describe the experiences that resulted from working with relatives and carers within the Organisation for mental Health ŠENT and from the first national meeting of relatives and carers of the mentally ill which took place in September 1994 in Ljubljana.

Srečo Dragoš

The social aspect of music

Notes to Rajko Muršič' The unwordable play of sounds

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

The author discusses the possibilities of rethinking, questioning and pointing out that which is in various ways presumed in all theoretical considerations of the phenomenon of music. He refers to the three fundamental emphases articulated in Rajko Muršič' book (presented in detail in this article), i. e.: it is not productive to limit oneself to one theory; it may be productive to step down from philosophy to anthropology when discussing music; the specificity of musical expression is precisely in the book's title: the unwordable play of sounds. The phenomenon of music may thus be approached only through the avoidance of (especially theoretical) presumptions, with a suitable method, and by taking into account the specificity of the object of our questioning. This leads us to conclude that there is no music »by itself« and that it may only be understood in terms of social interaction — which, however, differs considerably from the emphases laid by Muršič.