

## Syllabus

### Course description

<b>Course title:</b>	<b>Participation and evaluation in social work practice</b>
<b>Course year:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Semester:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Course code:</b>	53106
<b>Scientific sector:</b>	SPS/08
<b>Degree:</b>	Master in Innovation and Research for Social Work and Social Education
<b>Lecturer:</b>	Prof. Dr. Ulrike Loch
<b>Modular:</b>	No
<b>Lecturer other module:</b>	/
<b>Credits:</b>	6
<b>Total lecturing hours:</b>	30
<b>Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring:</b>	18
<b>Office hours:</b>	from Monday to Friday on request
<b>Attendance:</b>	According to the regulations
<b>Teaching language:</b>	English
<b>Propaedeutic course:</b>	none
<b>Course description:</b>	<p>The methodological expertise of social workers, while being based on scientific evidence, is only professionally acceptable when it respects the dignity of the person to whom it refers. The engagement with that person is therefore both an ethical and a practical issue in the identification of appropriate methods, and a focus on the nature of this participative process is essential in social work methodology. At the same time this also requires special attention to the evaluation and the criteria for evaluation of one's intervention results which need to be built around the same principles of a critical, interactive engagement with the users of social services.</p>
<b>Specific educational objectives:</b>	<p>Basic discipline: Social work methodology</p> <p>Caratterizzanti: social politics</p> <p>Participants will widen their methodological repertoire of methods of intervention and evaluation in the light of the above principles. In particular, they will learn to incorporate an ongoing process of research into their practice with different client groups and in different situations.</p>
<b>List of topics covered:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. social work history: between procedural and person-oriented intervention methods</li> <li>2. diagnosis between positivist investigation and hermeneutic process</li> <li>3. user movements and the challenge to professionalism</li> <li>4. community work, community action and self-</li> </ol>

	<p>representation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. helping processes as the recognition of capacities</li> <li>6. participation principles in the context of social policy constraints</li> <li>7. towards participation as co-construction of capacities</li> </ol>
<b>Teaching format:</b>	Group discussions with the use of blended learning facilities
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<p>Knowledge of the various forms in which user participation is being discussed in the social work literature</p> <p>Knowledge of key principles of participative social work research</p> <p>Ability to distinguish specific forms of user participation in various practice contexts</p> <p>Openness to learning processes as they present themselves in real intervention situations</p>
<b>Assessment:</b>	Examination will be in the form of a written summary of a chosen key text with oral discussion of the theoretical elements thereby used as foundation for the understanding of different forms and levels of participation
<b>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:</b>	<p>Clarity and consistency of the written summary, understanding of underlying theoretical assumptions</p> <p>Written exam: ability to relate relevant theory to specific practice situations</p> <p>Understanding of participative research methods in social work</p>
<b>Required readings:</b>	<p>Robert Adams. Empowerment, Participation and Social Work. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008</p> <p>Jan Fook (2006), Social work - critical theory and practice, London [etc.]: Sage.</p> <p>Wendy Ghaffar, Martin Manby, and Tracey Race. Exploring the Experiences of Parents and Carers whose Children Have Been Subject to Child Protection Plans. British Journal of Social Work (2012) 42, 887–905.</p> <p>C. Hall &amp; S. Slembrouck. Parent participation in social work meetings – the case of child protection conferences. European Journal of Social Work, 4:2, 143-160</p> <p>Elizabeth Depoy, Stephen Gilson (2008): Evaluation Practice, How to Do Good Evaluation Research in Work Settings. Routledge</p>
<b>Supplementary readings:</b>	Susanne Kvarnström, Elisabeth Willumsen, Boel Andersson-Gäre, and Berith Hedberg. How Service Users Perceive the Concept of Participation, Specifically in Interprofessional Practice. British Journal of Social Work (2012) 42, 129–146