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NOL REVERDA,
SABRINA KEINEMANS **EDITORIAL**

The *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* would like to announce a change to the editorial board. Sabrina Keinemans will relinquish her position as managing editor of the editorial board in June 2011. This is not farewell, however, as she will remain a member of the editorial board. We are delighted to welcome Jitske van der Sanden as the new managing editor of the Journal. As managing editor, she will be the principal contact for authors, reviewers and readers of the Journal. Jitske van der Sanden is lecturer at Fontys University of Applied Science and she is currently working on a PhD thesis about “the citizenship of young people in vocational education”.

On 15 March, Sarah Banks was invited by the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* and the Research Centre for Social Innovation at the Utrecht University of Applied Sciences to give a lecture about ethics in social work. The lecture was entitled “Ethics in an age of austerity: Social work and the New Public Management.” In it, Banks describes the growing interest in ethics and social work, and relates this to the characteristics and development of New Public Management (NPM). In doing so, Banks distinguishes two ways of looking at the relationship between ethics and NPM in social work: one that considers the growth in interest in ethics as a reaction to the worst excesses of NPM and one that considers the growth of interest in ethics as part of the trend towards NPM approaches. She presented some suggestions for reclaiming a progressive and radical ethic for social work. The lecture was attended by 80 readers of the *Journal of Social Intervention*

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and lecturers and students of Bachelor's programmes in social work in the Netherlands. It provided much food for thought, particularly the lively debate between Banks, a panel of experts and the public that was held after the lecture. In this issue of the *Journal of Social Intervention*, we publish the lecture of Sarah Banks for all of you who were not able to come to Utrecht and those of you who did come, but would like to read it again.

Ethics is also an important issue in the second article of this issue. In this paper, Victor van den Bersselaar offers a critical view of the argument for neurological research into social intervention by Victor Lamme, a renowned Dutch neuroscientist. Lamme's argument is based on the neurologically based premise that there is no such thing as free human will. This poses questions about the moral and legal responsibilities of humans, which are relevant to social intervention practices, and Lamme also makes the case for a stronger emphasis on "neurosocial" interventions: interventions that influence brain structures with the aim of modifying (undesirable) human behaviour. The normative framework that suits this approach the most, according to Lamme, is utilitarianism and he argues for a neurologically based utilitarian approach to training and correcting human behaviour. Van den Bersselaar questions the use of this utilitarian approach to the exclusion of all else, and argues that Lamme's thesis should also be connected with existential ethics (virtue ethics, care ethics), which are also neurologically relevant as a framework for research into social intervention. His recommendation is based on Lamme's view of the communicative function of the speech centre in the brain, which leaves room for public debate on the rules of behaviour and personal freedom as a regulative principle. As a consequence, other normative frameworks than utilitarianism become relevant.

The third article, written by Lambert Engelbrecht, concerns the global financial crisis and its relevance to social work. It discusses financially vulnerable households and the efficacy of social workers in improving the financial capacity of these households. The article is based on a secondary analysis of the existing data published in scholarly research reports and focuses on the South African context, although the findings may have global relevance. Engelbrecht states that the impact of the global financial crisis is being felt at the household level in developing countries and that it is impacting on social protection responses to poverty and posing challenges for those trying to translate poverty policy into practice. However, Engelbrecht states that the financial ability of vulnerable households has yet to become a mainstream theme in social work. Furthermore, Lambert concludes that both advocating institutional financial inclusion and facilitating micro-level social work intervention are essential in order to contribute meaningfully to the creation of financial capacity for vulnerable households.

The radicalization of Muslim citizens is a phenomenon that is being monitored closely in many Western societies. Intelligence and security services in the Netherlands also monitor radicalization

among Islamic communities, and especially young Muslims, very closely. According to public reports by the General Intelligence and Security Service of the Netherlands (AIVD), the National Coordinator for Counter-terrorism (NCTb) and the Information Network Radicalization (ISPR), there is a risk of radicalization among this group. Ton Notten and Toby Witte are critical of this idea, however. First of all, they state that it is very difficult to determine whether and how many youngsters are susceptible to radical ideas. Research carried out by the organizations mentioned above has not provided any clear insight into this issue, since there is no clear definition of radicalization. As a consequence, the statistics on radicalized citizens or citizens at risk of radicalization differ greatly. Secondly, Notten and Witte take the city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands as an example and state that this city shows hardly any signs of radicalization. They do observe a growing gulf between Muslims and non-Muslims, however, as cultural and normative differences increase. As a consequence, Notten and Witte argue that it is polarization – rather than radicalization – that poses the real threat. The lack of knowledge about young people at risk of radicalization would seem to indicate that an interdisciplinary search for locations where unexpected risk factors may be discovered is needed, as well as an examination of the in-depth causes of the “safety discourse” that is dominating the current debate on radicalization.

Van Gilst and colleagues have written a literature review on brokerage on the Dutch volunteer market. Many Dutch volunteer organizations, particularly in the healthcare sector, face a shortage of volunteers. This Dutch volunteer market is first described in the article by Van Gilst and colleagues. Most attention, however, is paid to brokerage. Brokerage can be a way to match volunteer-involving organizations and volunteers and to recruit new volunteers. The phenomenon of brokerage is described in the article, and different stages are distinguished that are relevant in the process of brokerage. Furthermore, the authors discuss by whom or where brokerage is offered and its importance as a recruitment channel. They also explicitly address proven success factors for brokerage and the potential impact of brokerage on the preservation of volunteers, such as pride, respect and the motivation of the (future) volunteer. The final section of the article also provides some “food for thought” for volunteer brokerage, and the authors suggest that local voluntary work support centres join forces.

Finally, this issue includes the familiar columns with book reviews and Higher Education News. Ellis Jonker discusses *Eervol jong moederschap. Een studie naar de leefwereld van adolescente moeders* [Honourable young motherhood. A study on the lives of adolescent mothers] and Gerard Lohuis discusses *Opvang en zorg onder één dak. HVO-Querido Amsterdam 1969–2009* [Shelter and care under one roof. HVO-Querido Amsterdam 1969–2009]. In the Higher Education News column,

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we meet Ton Notten again. In issue 4/2009 and 1/2010 of the *Journal of Social Intervention*, he discussed the study programme profiles in higher social education in the Netherlands and noticed that some major issues, relevant for the higher social education, were not mentioned in these profiles. In this issue of the *Journal*, he discusses how institutions for higher education (for example the Rotterdam University) address or could address these issues.

Nol Reverda, editor-in-chief

Sabrina Keinemans, managing editor