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## **EDITORIAL**

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As we have noted previously, the topics addressed in the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* are not restricted to one specific domain of intervention. The current issue demonstrates perfectly that the concept of social intervention is relevant to various areas, as it includes articles about research in the fields of disability studies and youth care and a theoretical contribution concerning signalling and structural social work. But despite this variety, the subjects discussed in the Journal are all relevant to the field of social intervention.

Before elaborating further on the contents of this issue, two points need to be mentioned. Firstly, the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* would like to announce a change to the editorial board. Karin Dangermond relinquished her position as managing editor of the Journal in June 2014. We would like to thank her for a period of excellent work. Karin Dangermond is succeeded by Yke Eykemans, who will now be the principal contact for authors, reviewers and readers of the Journal. Yke Eykemans is a teacher and tutor at Utrecht University at the department Cultural Anthropology.

Secondly, we are delighted to announce the round table discussion “Feelings of home and citizenship”, which will be held on 6 November 2014 by the *Journal of Social Intervention: Theory and Practice* together with the editors of the book *Een vreemde, thuis in den vreemde* [A stranger,

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feeling at home in foreign contexts]. In the book, which was released in March 2014, editors Sietske Dijkstra and Lia van Doorn argue that in current times, our feelings of “home” and the meanings we attribute to the concept of home are shifting. Mobility is increasing, and uncertainty is rising along with it. This has profound implications for our identity. The authors argue that we are all becoming, to a greater or lesser extent, alienated from what is familiar. Our identities are becoming more fluid, while at the same time we are tied to a particular area through our (state) citizenship.

The book brings together the essays of 10 authors of various disciplines and origins – including Iran, the Netherlands, Suriname, Belgium and the USA – to discuss this matter. They combine and supplement their professional reflections on the concepts of “foreign” and “home” with their personal experiences. Furthermore, portraits of a Japanese person from Amsterdam, a Dutch person in Singapore and a Korean German from Chicago illustrate how the world has become a playing field where “winning and losing” takes place. During the symposium, three key-note speakers will take the debate further and invite participants to join them in discussions about what citizenship can or should mean in these times of migration, fluid identities and shifting notions of “home”. For additional information and registration, please see <http://stilinovi.nl/shop/thuisgevoel-en-burgerschap-rondetafelbijeenkomst/>.

Meanwhile, we open this issue with an article by Kees van Haaster, who is lecturer and researcher at the HU Utrecht University of Applied Sciences. He recently completed his PhD at the University of Humanistic Studies with a dissertation entitled *Youth care knowledge exchange through online simulation gaming*. In earlier issues, the topic of embedding ICT applications in social work was addressed by Van Laere (2005/1), in our theme-issue on “digi-interventionism” (2008/1), and by Van Haaster himself (2008/4). This article presents a proposal for a case study, following from the results of the PhD research. Starting with the fact that the youth care service in the Netherlands is subject to a major transition – from national and regional finance and control to localized regulation and responsibility – Van Haaster explored how online simulation gaming may help the service to navigate through this process of transformation. His research shows that it is valuable to model complicated issues from practice using simulation gaming and that youth care professionals see the relevance, and usefulness of this method. The article addresses the question how to develop a practicable approach, using online simulation gaming to improve patterns of action and reflection on dilemmas and hard-to-solve problems in youth care practice.

The second contribution is by Koen Hermans, professor at the University of Leuven, about signalling in social work. Previously, Oostrik (2010/2) also addressed the topic of signalling in the

development of conceptual models. Here, Hermans argues that although signalling is considered one of the main tasks of social workers, the underlying assumptions that guide this responsibility often remain vague. His article focuses on the question of whether “structural social work” can serve as an underlying perspective for signalling. Hermans begins with a historical perspective concerning structural social work, highlighting the diversity of structural approaches. In a literature review, three types of structural social work are distinguished: radical social work, critical social work and policy practice. Subsequently, Hermans analyses which insights from the literature review are relevant to establishing a theoretical grounding for the signal function. The article concludes with a plea for a public professional who will take part in the public debate.

We conclude this issue with a contribution by Jean-Pierre Wilken, professor at the Research Centre for Social Innovation of HU Utrecht University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands, Marju Medar, PhD researcher and director at the Institute for Social Work at Tallinn University, Estonia, Zsolt Bugarszki, PhD researcher and lecturer at Elte University Budapest, Hungary at the faculty of Social Sciences, and Frans Leenders, researcher at CESRT/Research Centre Social Integration at Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands. The authors describe a European project that aimed to study and improve the situation of persons with psychiatric or learning disabilities, with regard to social participation and citizenship. The project took place in three countries (Estonia, Hungary and Netherlands) and four cities (Tallinn, Budapest, Amersfoort and Maastricht), and it included research and actions at the policy level, organizational level and practice level. One of the remarkable outcomes of the study was, that despite differences regarding policy, culture and service systems, people with disabilities in each of the countries seem to face similar problems. The article presents a selection of insights, recommendations and methods for improving the quality of services and increasing the opportunities for community engagement.

This issue ends with the familiar book reviews and the News from Higher Social Education section. In the first book review, Febe Deug discusses the book that we have already mentioned *Een vreemde, thuis in den vreemde* [A stranger, feeling at home in foreign contexts], written by Sietske Dijkstra and Lia van Doorn (Eds.). Deug will be one of the key-note speakers at the symposium. Secondly, Joop Berding reviews *Wie wil er nou niet zelfredzaam zijn? De mythe van de zelfredzaamheid* [Well who wouldn't want to be self-reliant? The myth of self-reliance] by Richard den Brabander. The final review is by Gert Schout, who discusses *Kleine waarden en grote waarden. Normatieve professionalisering als politiek perspectief* [Small values and large values. Normative professionalization as a political perspective], written by Harry Kunneman.

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In the News from Higher Social Education section, Tine Vanthuyne, Sven De Visscher and Greet De Brauwere discuss how the connection between applied research and the training of professional graduates in social work is taking shape at Hogeschool Gent in Belgium. They focus particularly on a recently completed study on neighbourhood-oriented work in a nursing home that involved students from different educational backgrounds.

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