


# Conference Program
# PhD-Pre Conference

*28 - 30 August*

TISSA **2026**

## Welcome to Warsaw, Poland

## Welcome!

The International Social Work and Society Academy (TiSSA) is excited to welcome you at the 22nd TiSSA conference in Warsaw, Poland. The PhD-Pre conference will be held from Friday 28.08.2026 until Sunday 30.08.2026 in conjunction with the Plenum conference from Monday 31.08.2026 until Wednesday 02.09.2026. During the conference, we discuss current developments and challenges in social work research and practice.

## About

The international Social Work & Society Academy (TiSSA) is an independent cooperation between European universities, institutes and organisations. It was built up in 2002 as result of an European TEMPUS- TACIS-Project by the initiative of Prof. dr. Hans-Uwe Otto (Bielefeld University, Germany), dr. Olga Borodkina (St. Petersburg State University, Russia), Prof. dr. Walter Lorenz (Free University of Bolzano, Italy) and Prof. dr. John Harris (University of Warwick, Great Britain) to enhance and promote the international scientific and professional discourse about social work and its relation to society, especially against the background of fundamental transformations of 'the social' in the context of globalization. TiSSA provides a forum for involving professionals and academics in innovative discussion on theory and practice at the cutting edge of the social professions. Its overall aim is to identify how the needs of a wide range of societies experiencing transition can be met through the generation of new knowledge, concepts and models. The organisers of TiSSA assume, that socio-economical developments indicate categorically that social work has to deal with its relation to the respective societies in a critical way, in order to build out a clear professional profile for the future, for a renewal of perspectives and to improve its agency. Any site of economic, political and social transition poses a challenge to social professions to reflect on new approaches to social work. In doing so, TiSSA focuses on promoting a comparative approach to the analysis of social work and society, enhancing the development of knowledge, skills and experience, shaping organisational changes and new governance processes, analysing quality criteria and reflecting on best practice and encouraging the international dissemination and exchange of information on significant developments.

## Conference theme

### Social work and social pedagogy: research, impact and social change.

In contemporary social work and social pedagogical research, we are increasingly required to demonstrate impact: to show – often through evidence-based numerical indicators – that our studies generate measurable outcomes. Yet the deeper mission of social work and social pedagogical researchers is to critically analyse the structures that reproduce inequality, to bring forward voices that remain silenced in dominant accounts, and to develop theoretical and empirical insights that sustain forms of solidarity capable of challenging the status quo. As researchers, this role as 'agents of change' risks becoming constrained when impact is defined primarily in managerial or technocratic terms. What is needed is space for a more activist, critical, and imaginative research practice. Research should not only describe social realities; it should also question and unsettle them. It should open new political and conceptual possibilities instead of merely confirming institutional expectations.

This conference invites us to reclaim our role as public intellectuals: as scholars who contribute to public debate, interrogate dominant narratives, and co-produce quantitative and qualitative knowledge in dialogue with communities and with each other. In doing so, we strengthen the transformative potential of social work and social pedagogical research; aligning impact with justice, and linking social change to collective empowerment rather than to compliance.

## Host city

Warsaw, the vibrant capital of Poland, combines historical charm with modern energy. The city rose from the ashes of war and today radiates innovation, creativity, and vitality. Stroll through the beautifully reconstructed Old Town, discover contemporary architecture along the Vistula River, and enjoy a thriving cultural scene filled with music, art, and gastronomy. Warsaw is a city where past and future meet – the perfect setting for inspiration, collaboration, and new ideas during our conference.

Maria Grzegorzewska University (APS) in Warsaw is one of Poland's leading institutions in social sciences and education, founded over 100 years ago. It specializes in pedagogy, psychology, and sociology, offering Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral programs. Social work in the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences is conducted within the frameworks of two specialisations: Social Work in Social Care and Social Work for Family Support.

APS is renowned for its research in special and social education and hosts the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair in Social Pedagogy. The university actively participates in Erasmus+ with 49 partner universities and provides rich academic resources, fostering innovation and inclusion in education and social development. The founder of the university Prof Maria Grzegorzewska (1888-1967) was the pioneer of social inclusion and special education in Poland. Children rights activist Dr Janusz Korczak (1878-1942) worked at Maria Grzegorzewska University. In 2004, the 'UNESCO / Janusz Korczak Chair in Social Pedagogy' was established at the Maria Grzegorzewska University, preserving the educational heritage of both Maria Grzegorzewska and Janusz Korczak.

## How to get to the Conference

The Maria Grzegorzewska University (APS) – BUILDING D

Ochota District

Ul. Szczesliwicka 40a

Warsaw

A map of the campus can be found here.

There is excellent public transport in Warsaw, which reaches even remote places in Warsaw. Means of public transport include:

- Bus or Metro
- Tram (line 9 provides a connection with the host university and the city center)
- Warszawska Kolej Dojazdowa- "WKD" (Warsaw Commuter Rail)
- Szybka Kolej Miejska - "SKM" (Fast Urban Railway).

## Signal?

If you would like to join the TiSSA Signal group 'Road to Warsaw, you are more than welcome! Consider it a joyful online community where practical arrangements and laughter meet… Just scan this QR and join us!

## Our Team and Supervisors

Each year, an engaged and enthusiastic team works together to organize a smooth conference. In addition, at the PhD-Pre Conference, a board of professors of international standing will form a panel to comment on the presentations and will be available for any further guidance. The PhD-Pre Conference therefore offers a very valuable and exceptional occasion to engage in comprehensive networking with colleagues from other European and non-European countries.

### Supervisors TiSSA 2026

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|---|---|
| • Prof. Lieve Bradt | Ghent University (Belgium) |
| • Prof. Jim Campbell | University College Dublin (Ireland) |
| • Prof. Anna Gupta | Royal Holloway, University of London (UK) |
| • Prof. Onno Husen | University of Münster (Germany) |
| • Prof. Christian Kjeldsen | Aarhus University (Denmark) |
| • Prof. Walter Lorenz | Ghent University (Belgium) |
| • Prof. Anna Odrowaz-Coates | Maria Grzegorzewska University (Poland) |
| • Prof. Anna Perkowska-Klejman | Maria Grzegorzewska University (Poland) |
| • Prof. Anna-Lena Rademaker | Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences (Germany) |
| • Prof. Kim Robinson | Deakin University (Australia) |
| • Prof. Griet Roets | Ghent University (Belgium) |
| • Prof. Rudi Roose | Ghent University (Belgium) |
| • Prof. Shachar Timor-Shlevin | Bar Ilan University (Israel) |
| • Prof. Martin Wagener | UC Louvain (Belgium) |

# Important information for PhD students

*Timeframe*

Each participant is allowed to present for 20 minutes. Afterwards, other participants and the supervisory board will be granted with 20 minutes to discuss the presentation, ask questions or give remarks. To provide all participants with an equal amount of time, we kindly request not to exceed the 20 minutes presentation limit.

Please do not forget to include the following elements in your presentation

- Name of your supervisor
- Introduction (including the timing of your doctoral research)
- Research question
- Methodology
- Findings (if applicable)
- Concluding remarks (if applicable)
- Questions for the audience and supervisory panel

*Abstracts*

The abstracts of each session can be found on our website and through this link. The abstracts are listed in alphabetical order by first presenter. You can also use the QR-code.

*Accommodation*

Each room has a computer, sound system and beamer. All available computers are Windows computers and have access to the Internet. It is possible to use your laptop, but we recommend saving the presentation on a USB stick, email or disk drive that can be accessed from remote locations.

*PhD Welcome Reception*

On Friday evening after the last presentation, all participants are invited for joining us at the PhD Welcome Reception, drinks and food are provided. This reception will take place at the conference venue.

## Friday, 28 August 2026

**12:00 – 12:30** **Registration**

**12:30 – 13:30** **Welcome and introduction of the PhD-Pre Conference**
*(aula E – room 4066)*

**13:30 – 14:00** **Coffee Break**

**14:00 – 16:00** **4 Afternoon Parallel Sessions**

*Session I (Room 4111)*

Social Work in Child Protection: Decision-Making Processes and Everyday Practice - *Dominik Mácha*

Who has the capability to know? - *Joni Lähde*

Social Work as a Tool for Supporting Refugee Families with Children with Intellectual Disabilities - *Oleksandra Shromova*

*Session II (Room 4112)*

Recognizing experiential knowledge in social work: epistemic justice, subjectivity and agency - *Els De Waele*

Adaptation to Independent Living among Youth Leaving the Child Protection System - *Angelica Bordei Costea*

The role of emotional intelligence in the socio-professional integration of young people who have left the child protection system - *Elizabeth Farcas*

*Session III (Room 4113)*

Between Inclusion and Exclusion: The Participation and Involvement of Children and Young People - *Stephanie Langer*

Vulnerability, Adultism and Institutional Power: Reframing Participation in Residential Child Care - *Franziska Lara Markelj*

Practitioner turned researcher: Reflecting the transition of roles from Social Worker to Social Work researcher - *Frederike Weß*

*Session IV (Room 4126)*

Negotiating Boundaries of Legitimate LLM Use in Organizations Working with Migrants and Refugees - *Lukáš Kytka*

Arab young adults' voices on intersecting risks and identity formation in Israel - *Ruba Aburass Mograbe*

From Discourse to Power? How Roma Inclusion Is Governed in Social Policy - *Martin Daňhel*

**16:00 – 16:30** **Coffee Break**

**16:30 – 18:30** **3 Evening Parallel Sessions**

*Session I (Room 4111)*

Neurodiversity in STEAM Education - *Andrzej Manujło*

Craft for inclusive education: holistic support for children with ASD - *Patrycja Mika*

Development and validation of a questionnaire for measurement of minority stress in neurodiverse individuals - *Jan Gierzyński*

*Session II (Room 4112)*

"I don't want to save the world? Well, yes, in a way, but not save it." - On the ambiguous relationship of critical social workers perception on 'helping' - *Latifa Hahn*

Structural Neglect in Elderly Care - *Nicoleta Mereș (Cojocaru)*

Barriers to Accessible Communication for Hard-of-Hearing People - *Monica Florina Zdrite*

*Session III (Room 4113)*

Expanding Personal Assistance to Individuals with Mental Health Problems - *Marianne Skopal*

Bridging the gap between social pedagogy, social work and L2 acquisition: Ukrainian refugees in Finland - *Egor Zharovskiy*

**18:30 – 20:00** **Welcome reception for the PhD-Pre Conference participants**

## Saturday, 29 August 2026

**09:00 – 10:30** **Morning Plenary Session**

*Session I (aula E – room 4066)*

Reflecting on Impact: Politicisation and Social Work Research - *Melih Samson*

Dialogical Rupture in a Time of Polycrisis - *Catharina Nickel*

**10:30 – 11:00** **Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 13:00** **4 Morning Parallel Sessions**

*Session I (Room 4111)*

Happy senior age as a contemporary challenge of social pedagogy - *Martyna Karwińska*

Structural Legacies and Engagement of Older Adults in a Post-Soviet Landscape - *Annela Samuel*

Social Work Practice with the Elderly and Caregivers - *Veruska Menghini*

*Session II (Room 4112)*

Homelessness, squatting and social work - *Jef Timmermans*

Housing trajectories of families living in family shelters - *Veronika Sikorová*

From Evidence to Participation: Analysis of Critical Evaluation Strategies in the Context of Housing First - *Barbora Mendlová*

*Session III (Room 4113)*

Entering residential care - *Sara Teresa Tornielli*

Ethics, Power, and Professional Boundaries: The Role of Social Workers in Multidisciplinary Transgender Care - *Kath Khangpiboon* & *Tereza Veselá*

Relationship changes impacting couples following breast cancer diagnosis - *Yimeng Du*

**13:00 – 14:30** **Lunch Break**

**Lunch session** Seminar on Mixed Methods in Social Work Research – *Griet Roets* & *Christian Kjeldsen*
This session offers researchers a chance to ask questions about their research quantitative and qualitative methodology. Topics include choosing methods, ethical challenges, and incorporating reflexivity.

**14:30 – 16:30 3 Afternoon Parallel Sessions**

*Session I (Room 4111)*

Connecting Care & Campus – German University Students as Informal Caregivers - *Marc André Kellert*

The role of social welfare and the expertise of social work in Finnish substance abuse work - *Irina Kaarnakari*

Self-identification of young carers and ethics of care - *Lena Van Bergen*

*Session II (Room 4112)*

On the regular and the accidental. Or the place of the singular in mental health care networks - *Tom De Bois*

The Construction and Interpretation of Emotions in Child Welfare Practice - *Giulia Turrina*

The Two-Factor Model of Attachment Avoidance - *Magdalena Pietrzak*

*Session III (Room 4113)*

Abolish social work, or abolitionist social work? - *Jaroslav Michl*

Unsettling the Punitive Turn: Youth Crime and the Politics of Historical Narratives - *Hatto Frydryszek*

Beyond Reflexive Impotence in Social Work Education - *Oliver Brockmann*

## Sunday, 30 August 2026

**09:00 – 10:30** **Morning Plenary Session**
*Session I (aula E – room 4066)*

Adult Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse Exposure - *Ann Ryan*

The Role of Social Workers in Developing Rights Based Social Services - *Zurab Tatanashvili*

**10:30 – 11:00** **Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 13:00** **4 Morning Parallel Sessions**

*Session I (Room 4111)*

Parenting-as-Resistance: Reframing Parenting in Poverty - *Liliana Lakatosova*

Possibilities and Limits of Social Work in Supporting Single Mothers in Energy Poverty - *Nikola Francáková*

At the intersection of Emergency and Everyday: Child Protection in Lebanon - *Jana Abdel-Jawadova*

*Session II (Room 4112)*

Social work and Pedagogy in the making - *Dieter Oorlynck*

Examining the Merging of Knowledge Model - *Jordan Shaibe*

Towards Multispecies Social Work: Theoretical and Methodological Reflections - *Giorgia Aschero*

*Session III (Room 4113)*

Service-Learning in University-Level Social Work Education - *Monika Gruslyte*

Social Work's Professional Mandate in Education: A Multi-Level Comparative Study on the Normative Dimension in Germany, Hungary, and Ireland - *Daniel Ternyik*

What is Finnish social work education for in the age of polycrisis? - *Linda Majander*

**13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch Break**

**Lunch Session** Writing for publication – *Rudi Roose & Jim Campbell*
In this session, we discuss the fun and struggles of publishing in international journals, and discuss how journal editors share how they assess submissions and offer practical tips for getting published.

**14:00 – 16:00** **4 Afternoon Parallel Sessions**

*Session I (Room 4111)*

Regeneration in Higher Education - *Ewa Duda-Maciejewska*

Resistance of Lecturers against the Neoliberalisation of Social Work Programmes - *Bart Van Bouchaute*

Professionalization of educational practitioners in networks of international youth work - *Maximilian Deinlein*

*Session II (Room 4112)*

Either You Get Sick or You Quit? Stressors and Relief Factors of Digitalization in Social Work - *Nadine van der Meulen*

Documentation and documentation processes in Social Work - *Anja Bischeltsrieder*

Tinder's language and how users learn it - *Jagoda Apanasewicz-Burcon*

*Session III (Room 4113)*

Pillars of Trust in the Information Practices of Clients in Field Social Work - *Veronika Vantuchová*

Understanding democratic professionalism in the context of caring neighboorhoods - *Elke Plovie*

Social Reporting from the Perspective of Critical Structural Social Work - *Sini Pallasvuo*

*Session IV (Room 4126)*

Participation through the Lens of Social Network Research - *Julia Bäring*

Sustainability factors in social entrepreneurship - *Dilyana Gyurova*

**16:00 – 16:30** **Closing Session**
*(aula E – room 4066)*

**16:30 – 18:00** **Reception**

## The international Social Work and Society Academy

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