



CALL FOR HISTORY PAPERS

***British Journal of Social Work* 2008 SPECIAL ISSUE:**

‘Looking Back While Moving Forward: Historical Perspectives in Social Work’

The editors of BJSW invite submission of abstract proposals for a Special Issue, to be guest edited by Caroline Skehill, with a proposed publication date of June 2008 (Vol 38, No. 4).

This edition will be underpinned by the argument that a sound understanding of the history of the profession can contribute significantly to present day workers’ sense of professional identity and purpose. A critical understanding of the history of social work illuminates how, despite the ever-changing social, political, cultural, institutional and intellectual contexts of social work, some debates have persisted for over a century. This special edition is timely given that we are in a new century for social work and at this time, are experiencing yet more changes in social work education and practice. Indeed, the history of social work is increasingly becoming an area of particular interest reflected, for example, in the establishment of the European Network for Historical Studies in Gender and Social Work (est. 2001) and the UK Social Work History Network (est. 2002). The editorial will argue that problematization of present day social work in terms of its past can open up new avenues for understanding and critical appraisal.

The aim of the special edition will be to:

- Disseminate high quality research findings relating to histories of social work across different jurisdictions
- Highlight the value of history as a mechanism for developing critical understandings of the present
- Provide insight into different methodologies for studying the history of social work
- Celebrate the persistence of social work as a profession over time, despite many the many challenges and ongoing debates about its nature, purpose and form
- Provide readers with an appreciation of the complexity of social work as a profession within its broader social, cultural, political and institutional context.

Papers on the following themes relating to the history of social work are invited:

- International perspectives on the history of social work within the context of globalization such as analyses of: the construction of international social work; the impact of communism on social work in Eastern Europe; development of social work during national and international political conflicts; similarities and divergences in

developments of major theories and ideas underpinning the project of 'social work'; or focus on professional development and training in social work internationally.

- Comparative Histories across two or more jurisdictions.
- Histories which focus on debates in and for social work over time: The following are some areas that might be addressed
 - Social work: an occupation or a profession? Exploration of professional developments over the history of social work to highlight the persistent debate which features in histories of social work in terms of its position and status.
 - The purpose and nature of social work: Illumination of multi-faceted debates surrounding the purpose and nature of social work at different times and in different contexts by considering some sample histories - especially focusing on the dualisms of maintenance vs. change/empowerment vs. social control/individualist vs. collectivist etc.
 - Models and practices of social work internationally – this could include papers on: development of philanthropy/role of churches and religion in social work/ development of social pedagogy models/social reform and social work/state social work etc.
 - Development of different forms of social work over time across jurisdictions (medical, child protection etc)
 - Historical construction of anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice in different social and political contexts.

Papers outside of these themes are invited on the basis that they are consistent with the aims of the special edition set out above.

Abstract proposals of not more than 800 words in length should be sent by **Friday 28th April 2006** via e-mail to:

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If abstract proposal is accepted, submission date for first draft of papers will be June 2007.

U.S. authors also may contact the *BJSW* U.S. Associate Editor about the Journal: Rebecca L. Hegar, Professor, University of Texas at Arlington: rhegar@uta.edu