

the same time explaining the actual historical context and the developments that have taken place.

Didactical considerations about school children's ability to understand the complexity of being placed in residential care were challenged by the complexity and the desire to include every type of disability in order not to disadvantage the various groups of marginalized citizens and their present day interest organizations.

The presentation intends to open a discussion about the correct way of presenting facts of social history which are true to history while at the same time making the historical facts understandable to students of various ages.

*Candeia (1943-1947): the earliest face of professional association among Portuguese social workers. A (trans)national project*

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Keywords | Portuguese social work history, professional associativism, transnational social work, international Catholic organizations

In Portugal, the emergence of professional social work took place during the late 1930's, following the opening of the oldest countrywide training school: the Lisbon Social Work Institute. This period of Portuguese history leads us to the New State's (Estado Novo) construction phase, throughout a new national conjuncture in relationships between Catholic Church, State and intellectual movements, and across a national historical framework shaped by political authoritarianism, and strongly closed to international influences.

This presentation covers the first movements towards an associative grouping of Portuguese social workers, carried out by catholic former students from the Lisbon Social Work Institute, which was conveyed through *Candeia* [Candle Lamp] bulletin. Published between 1943 and 1947, *Candeia* bulletin closely followed the process of establishing the "Association of Social Workers from the Lisbon Social Work Institute" (officially recognized in 1946), encouraging professionals to take action around a common associative project, similarly to what was happening with other Catholic social workers all across Europe.

Curiously, given the Portuguese "closing aboard" imposed by political reasons since the early 1930's, transnational connections took here a significant role, more precisely, relations taken between the Lisbon Social Work Institute's board and an international Catholic organization: the "Union Catholique Internationale de Service Social" (UCISS), seated in Brussels during that same period. The newly created professional Association, throughout *Candeia* bulletin, claimed the improvement of its associate members, not only at a professional level, but also in a moral and religious dimension, based on Catholic Church's social doctrine. This first professional Association was incorporated as a UCISS's full member in 1946, being this illustrative of the

transnational relations that sharply marked Portuguese social work's identity since its early beginnings.

The historical sources that support this presentation have been collected in Portuguese and foreign historical archives, mainly in Brussels (Centre d'Animation et de Recherche en Histoire Ouvrière et Populaire).

*The construction of children in social work: In the shadow of their parents*

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Keywords | child's perspective, social work with children, case management ICS, Social Diagnosis

In this paper I will discuss paradoxes between the development of certain social work practices with children, such as ICS (Integrated Children System), and casework traditions of the social work profession.

In recent years, Danish law has incorporated "the child's perspective" - which means that social workers are required to bring the child's voice into their casework. Within a similar timeframe, social work methodology has changed with the introduction of ICS. In social work practice, however, these new standardizations live side by side with a case management tradition of social diagnosing.

In my research, I have been studying how the child is constructed in social work practices, focusing (as a psychologist) on which discourses and psychological paradigms are used in such constructions. I have conducted a qualitative study of social work in Denmark, observing three different teams in a Danish municipality.

Overall, I have found that social workers talk about families in a way that rarely gives children's words or perspectives any weight. Instead, social workers are mainly concerned with the social or psychiatric diagnosis of the mother, or their own professional relationship with the parents. In important ways, their discussions of families are informed by the traditions of social diagnosing, which have historically been informed by psychiatric and psychoanalytic thinking, particularly the notion of psychological determinism; the child's perspective remains out of sight. In this tradition, children are largely constructed as passive victims of the parents' problems.

With the child obscured in the shadow of the parents' social diagnosis, it remains difficult to implement the intentions of legislation that seeks to foreground the child's perspective. I conclude that if children continue to be constructed as passive victims, social work will struggle to implement the ICS model; more importantly, children's active agency will remain underrepresented in social work practice.