Social Policy Challenges and Innovation: An International Perspective

stand. speak. act.

John Gal
The aims of the project

Is policy change an integral part of social work in different countries?

- The importance of policy practice in the social work discourse in the countries studied
- The degree to which social work education prepares social work graduates to engage in policy practice, and the manner in which it does so
- The actual engagement of social workers in policy practice, in terms of the extent of this engagement and the forms that this takes
The Project

- **Country experts**: Rick Hoefer (USA); Philip Mendes (Australia); Graeme Simpson (England); Idit Weiss-Gal (Israel); María-Asunción Martínez-Román (Spain); Katarina Thorén; Tapio Salonen (Sweden); Annamaria Campanini; Carla Facchini (Italy); Elena Larskaia-Smirnova; and Pavel Romanov (Russia)

- Identical research questions

- Review of primary and secondary sources

- Diverse country-specific research projects
## Comparing Policy Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Discourse: Codes of Ethics</th>
<th>Discourse: Other Professional Documents</th>
<th>Discourse: Professional Literature</th>
<th>Education</th>
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<tr>
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Policy Practice Routes

- Policy Practice by Proxy
- Policy Practice thru Recruitment Networks
- Academic Policy Practice
- The Civil Society Route
- The “Insider” Route
Policy Practice: Moving Research Forward

• What are the factors that explain social worker engagement in policy practice?

• What explains the divergences in the level of engagement in policy practice among social workers in different countries?

• What are the factors that explain the divergence in the forms of policy practice in different nations?


A Policy Practice Engagement (PPE) Conceptual Framework

Opportunity:
Political Institutions

Facilitation:
Organizational Culture

Motivation:
Professional Socialization; Individual Characteristics and Values

Policy Practice Engagement

Level of Engagement
"Why"

Forms of Engagement
"How"

Routes:
- By Proxy
- Recruitment Networks
- Academic
- Civil Society
- "Insider"

Strategies:
- Legislative
- Litigation
- Social Action
- Policy Analysis