

## **Methods of International Social Work**

Seminar, winter term 2023/24

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Time: Wednesday, 10.15-11.45 am

Room: E10, 1.06

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Office hours for consultations: Tue, 3.00 -4.00 pm (upon request via email), Room: E11, 1.11

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### **Short course summary**

This course provides an overview of key methods in the field of international social work. This includes reading material that refers to primary methods such as social case work, social group work and community organization as well as secondary methods such as social action, social welfare administration and social work research. Students can choose to learn about various practice approaches, such as the anti-oppressive approach, critical empowerment methods and community capacity building as well as critical development approaches based on their individual and group work choices. The course enables the students to gain a critical and self-reflexive perspective on global, transnational, international and transcultural fields of social work practices by learning about and discussing “the pedagogy of the oppressed” by Freire and critical social work action approaches methods of enquiry and practice. The seminar requires an active participation of students in teams planning their “year abroad” and present the literature on the methods of their choice and apply them to specific cases they are interested in. This team work process results in presentations that support the students in their individual year abroad plans in a collective, supportive, transcultural and bilingual (German/English) setting.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate their understanding of key methods in international social work
- Use methods to develop and to transfer theoretical and practical questions and issues in research and practice questions relevant for international social work
- Identify key issues of international social work methods
- Critically reflect on the opportunities and limitations of international social work methods

- Self-reflect on their own positionality in international social work fields of research and practice

**Assessment:** In class presentation (graded)

**Moodle**

Please upload your presentations on Moodle: Name of the digital folder: “Methods of International Social Work”. Password: MOISW

	<b>Datum</b>	<b>Thema</b>	<b>Lektüre/Aufgabe</b>
1	18.10.23	Cancelled due to illness	
2.	25.10.23	Introduction	Introduction of the participants, expectations, input code of conduct, course plan  Task: Think about your plans for your year abroad. Structure how you approach the planning and what methods you are going to use to reach your defined goals.
3.	01.11.23	Overview: Primary and secondary social work methods	Please read: <a href="https://thinksocialwork.com/social-work-methods/">https://thinksocialwork.com/social-work-methods/</a>  Tasks: a) Summarize the definitions of primary and secondary social work methods in your own words.
4.	08.11.23	Primary and secondary social work methods +	a) What are the primary and secondary social work methods stated in the text (see above)? How do you find further literature about them in English? What are your findings? Which ones are most interesting for you to learn in class and practice?

		Your year abroad plan	<p>b) Your plans for your year abroad: Please present your drafted plan, the information you have gathered so far, your methods of searching for institutions, partners, funding and your goals. If you haven't done so for the class: writing exercise in class and presentation and allocation of interests in specific social work method that you want to learn about more in-depth in seminar settings and in practice prior and during your year abroad.</p> <p>c) Task for next week: Find two academic journal articles/book chapters that relate to the method you want to learn about more in class settings and practice prior and during your year abroad and write short summaries of max. 500 words for each text. Please send your summary as a pdf document via email until the 14.11.23</p>
5.	15.11.23	Social Work and the Pedagogy of the Oppressed	<p>Freire, P., Moch, M. (1990) "A Critical Understanding of Social Work", Journal of Progressive Human Services, Vol. 1 (1), 3-9.</p> <p>a) Discussion of Freire's speech in class and its relevance today. b) Allocation of (graded) presentation topics based on the results of tasks (see session 4) c) Team building according to method choices: share your individual summaries and literature on your shared method choice. Think about what you want to present in class together. Arrange time for work meetings and tutorial.</p> <p><i>19 students are enrolled in class, which means we'll have 5 presentation groups (5 people in 4 groups, 4 people in 1 group), see schedule session 8-12.</i></p>
6.	22.11.23	Critical Social Work Action	<p>Levin, L., Liberman, A. (2019) "A Case for Critical Social Work Action", Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services, 1-12.</p>
7.	29.11.23	<b>No class due to student project week</b>	
8.	06.12.23	Presentation Group 1	
9.	13.12.23	Presentation Group 2	
10.	20.12.23	Presentation Group 3	

11.	17.01.24	Presentation Group 4	
12.	24.01.24	Presentation Group 5	
13.	31.01.24	Final session	Summary of the course and evaluation.