

PARIS CONFERENCE 2017

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Abstract “ Global Social Work: Study Abroad -Impact On Practice” (250 words or less)

The practice of social work both at home and abroad is now more than ever being affected by globalization and migration. One approach to gaining necessary global knowledge is via faculty led short-term study trips abroad. The Council on Social Work Education has recognized global experiences as an important aspect of social work education and the number of short term study tours has risen dramatically in recent years. In light of this growing area of curriculum development, research of the impact of these trips is important. Understanding of cultural identity both one's own and that of another; deepening cultural values awareness; understanding the social, cultural and economic impetus for migration; these are just a few issues relevant at all levels of social work practice.

A qualitative study examining the experience of social work students on a faculty-led study trip to India and Chile will be presented. Specifically, the facts and experiences that reshaped the students' social work practice will be addressed. The implications of this for curriculum change needed for 21st century social work education will also be discussed. This presentation will include the impact of the faculty's respective experiences abroad; one as educator/practitioner leading social work study trips and the other as social work student /practitioner experienced in a variety of study trips. They will outline various models of global social work learning from various study abroad experiences including the often-painful lessons learned during the two-three-week program.