

PARIS CONFERENCE 2017

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Conference theme: Ethical issues

The Ethical Dilemmas for Educators

Social work educators often encounter ethical dilemmas in their interactions with students, in the choices they make in their teaching practice, as well as in their relationships with colleagues, co-authors, and others. However, faculty members may have few opportunities to discuss these dilemmas and receive support and assistance. The aim of this workshop is to provide participants with a framework for understanding the dilemmas experienced by educators and begin to open discussion about the challenges educators face in this respect. Finally, the intention is a sharing of ideas for addressing the ethical dilemmas of educators, as well as reflecting on the ethical commitments of social work educators (and how these are translated into action).

The objectives of the session are as follows:

1. To acknowledge the array of dilemmas that educators experience.
2. To give faculty voice and permission to share their challenges.
3. To develop an understanding of the main issues experienced by faculty, and the frequency and intensity of those dilemmas.
4. To invite examples of how participants handle their dilemmas and explore other resources available for future support and assistance.

The workshop will be organized in the following manner:

1. Presentation of a paradigm of competing goods (justice vs. mercy, truth vs. loyalty, short term vs. long term, and individual vs. other) as a framework for understanding dilemmas (Kidder, 2003).
2. Each member of the international panel of presenters will briefly share a dilemma drawn from experience and contextualize it in the competing goods paradigm.
3. Panelists will identify the contextual supports or barriers that affected their response to the case.
4. With the consensus of interest from the audience, panelists will discuss two of the presented cases to more deeply examine the process used to resolve the situation.

5. Examples will be solicited also from the audience, interactively creating a pool of experiences that can be examined and discussed in terms of their similarities, differences and their theoretical, professional and educational implications.
6. Panelists will share other written, online, and organizational resources available for educators with ethical dilemmas.

The workshop brings together presenters from an array of national and social work educational contexts (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Italy, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, United States) so it can be expected that the discussion will be wide and open enough to provide reference points, relevant for majority or all participants. Similarly, it is expected that the shared experiences of dilemma responses can be useful and relevant in a variety of educational contexts. If interest will be expressed, the results could possibly create a base for further developments including a special interest group or other initiatives promoted under the EASSW support (i.e. establishing a forum or a database of online resources).