

Editorial

A chief editorial within a special issue of JCSW

by

Siv Oltedal

Professor, PhD

Department of Social Studies, University of Stavanger

Norway

E-mail: siv.oltedal@uis.no

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In 2006, the first edition of the open access online Journal of Comparative Social Work was published at the current Nord University, Norway, within a nationally funded strategic project on “Comparative Welfare Research”. I was the project leader, and then became the chief editor during the first 10 years, and now I have had the pleasure to serve in this role since 2020. Now my colleagues, Associate Professor Ayan Handulle and Associate Professor Aleksandar Bozic, both from the University of Stavanger, Norway, will be the new chief editors of the Journal of Comparative Social Work.

Writing this “Editorial from the chief editor” also marks a new publishing policy in the Journal of Social Work history. Two special issues will continue to be published annually, along with the introduction of a regular issue once a year for “ordinary” articles.

From a German perspective, the article is the first to be published in the newly introduced regular issue.

Magnus Frampton, Günter Friesenhain and Jonathan Parker write about human development and service users’ real freedoms to act in the article: ***Bildung, capabilities, human freedom and human flourishing – impulses for social work.*** This is an article in which the relationship between social pedagogy and social work is thematized. The message is that the *Bildung* tradition belongs to the same theory-family tree as the capabilities approach. Both the *Bildung* and the capabilities approach are relevant for the social work profession. This is also a very interesting article in the sense of bridging a possible knowledge gap between different traditions.

Frampton, Günter Friesenhain and Jonathan Parker write in the article “*Bildung*, at its critical best, like the capabilities approach, is a concept anchored in human freedom. *Bildung* presupposes voluntariness: It takes place in the absence of coercion.” Does this show us that we need different approaches within different contexts of social work? For example, within the street-level bureaucracy, frontline social workers will inevitably be using power. Or how can we give a space for more human freedom within such institutional contexts? This is an interesting question to explore. In my opinion, this article can also contribute to such an exploration.