

Editorial

This issue of *Social Work and Social Sciences Review* is truly global. There are papers from Germany, Sweden, Spain, the UK, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. The topics covered are equally wide ranging, from work with young offenders, to dealing with adult unemployment. These are all issues with relevance for the professional practice of social work.

The first paper by Anna Kolbeck and Mathias Blanz, surveyed the extent to which German social workers neglected ethical principles in their practice. The principles were taken from a set of guidelines produced by the International Federation of Social Workers. The authors conclude by suggesting that student social workers should be helped to develop a positive social work identity. They should also deal with people as individuals and not as 'cases.' Finally, they caution about the risk of burnout in social workers later on in their careers.

Craig Griffiths and colleagues describe a project based in Leicester, UK, which provided input to youth justice services, from a specialist child and adolescent mental health team. The mental health team provided three main inputs. First, work supporting staff. Second, direct client work with children and young people. Third, training workshops for professionals. This work is grounded in the notion of trauma informed care. This concept seeks to ensure that services empower individual clients and provide a sense of safety and security. It seeks to understand youth offending from a perspective that considers early life experiences and social adversity. The work builds on the important research into Adverse Childhood Experiences (so-called ACEs). Sadly, many of the young people in the service are both victims and perpetrators.

Maurice Kwembeya and Dhlomo-Sibiya Rosemond Khaliyezwe, looked at loss of employment in Zimbabwe through the process of retrenchment. The authors comment that some 27,000 state workers were retrenched in 2015. They interviewed 19 people who had been out of work for between one and six years, with jobs ranging from bank manager to petrol pump attendant. They identified four main needs, social, cognitive, emotional and mental health. Some 18/19 of their interviewees felt they needed counselling. In Zimbabwean society, job loss is viewed in terms of employees being seen as unproductive and unreliable at work. Reading their paper helps those of us living in more affluent societies to appreciate how much more support is offered in such countries to retrenched employees, in contrast to the situation that prevails in Zimbabwe.

Jose Nogueiro and colleagues reported the findings of an online survey of 180 Spanish mediators and their professional quality of life and self-care practices. Humour at work, being in a comfortable environment and doing activities with family and friends, have the greatest impact on compassion satisfaction. Interestingly recreational activities with

co-workers were the least common self-care activity. So much for 'team nights out.' Self-care practices seem to increase with age and experience and may mitigate against the burnout predicted earlier by Kolbeck and Blanz.

Jansson and Saxonberg discuss the New Public Management approach to national and local policies for dealing with violent men in Sweden. They lament that this means that the Swedish Prison and Probation Service use cognitive behavioural approaches exclusively for dealing with violence, as these methods are easy to measure and implement. In contrast, locality-based services will use a combination of psychodynamic approaches alongside CBT. The authors clearly favour adopting a combined approach, rather than the 'one size fits all' CBT model.

The final paper in this issue is from Prince Agwu and colleagues in Nigeria. They conducted qualitative interviews with 30 undergraduates from two Nigerian universities. They investigated the impact of social media on the sense of identity of these young people. Many of the role models of these young people were very successful, which pressurised them to be successful as well. One of the young persons commented,

My friend bought a Lexus 330...Although I felt happy for him, but I still feel I am getting it wrong somewhere...I have considered joining the Internet fraudsters even ...

The authors suggest that this social media pressure is having an adverse effect on the mental wellbeing of these young people.

Six contrasting papers, most with lessons for all of us. The two African papers give a foretaste of the Special Issue on Social Work in Africa, that is currently in preparation. This will be preceded by a Special Issue on Autoethnography in Social Work. Exciting times ahead.

Professor Jerome Carson and Professor Marcus Chiu.
Co-Editors