

Closing - FESET Seminar 9th May 2018

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Introduction

Revisit and conclude our seminar – “Ethical Dilemmas in Socio-Educational Care Work”
Thank all participants for contributions, time and efforts.

Head, Heart and Hands Pedagogy at Cocktail Reception - appreciation of future generation of students who engaged with the theme of the seminar – collective effort. Proud of the achievements.

Key Challenges eroding the value and recognition of Socio-Educational Care Work

- New Public Management
- Austerity
- Performance Management
- Neoliberalism
- Regulation and Governance
- Conformity and Competencies
- Concept of Professionalism
- Transformation of important values
- Intensification of Managerialism - micro management
- Victim Blaming
- Responsibility for own care
- Marketisation

Key Themes / Conclusions

- Negative trends and challenges are dehumanising service users, social professions and the relationship between them.
- Devaluing of professional identity, autonomy, judgement, reasoning and discretion.
- Socio-educational care work may be considered to be in crisis.
- Dangerous, risky and unpredictable practices – are we at risk of normalizing these practices??
- Individual and Collective Resistance – multiple levels, personal and political
- Pursuit of Social Justice – where does this leave ethical wisdom?
- Emotions – compassion, righteous anger, resilience
- Making and justifying moral judgements
- Developing a client's own ethics
- Overall Conclusion – accountability, visibility of ethics to all, requires relationship work – dialogue and relationship building.

3 days of reflection, discussion and debate.

Keynote 1

Jan Japp – Regaining Status for Practitioners Sense for Good Socio-educational Care Work

It is an unfinished project, the status of the social pedagogue is declining in the terrain of social education.

Limited research in terms of ethical formation in everyday settings.

We need to regain status for the “moral good”. Moral agency is an important concept of professionalism. Knowing what to do is no longer good enough, our role is to empower so we need to adapt and improvise.

Focus on making realistic plans that work for two important concepts – Quality and Professionalism.

These are two profound concepts.

We require signposts to orient ourselves in the right direction.

Key Reflective Questions:

- Duty on social care professionals, pedagogues, educators and practitioners
- Our attitude is central – we need to act on our sense of responsibility.
- Social Commitment.

Keynote 2

Sarah Banks - Being Ethical In Hard Times : the social professions under austerity

- Concept of Ethics Work and “Being ethically good”
- State Professional and State Resources
- Austerity and the 2008 Crisis has impacted on the social professions.
- Focused on key challenges but also provided us with key solutions
- Individual and Collective Resistance
- How to support Social Professions - reclaim moral agency and professional autonomy.
- Reassert the social justice mission of social professions
- Reconfigure professional ethics – bringing the personal back into the profession
- Concept of Ethics as decision making, new managerial ethics.
- Practical and Philosophical vs Controversial
- Moral Comfort – does this actually exist?