

5TH IARS ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017

"Youth-led Solutions to
Unemployment: The Voices of
Young Marginalised Carers"



Thursday 27th
April 2017,
9am - 4pm

The Honourable
Society of the
Middle Temple

 The IARS
International Institute
Community-led solutions for a fairer society

 CARE2WORK

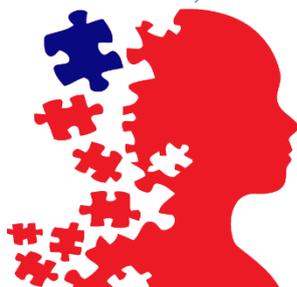
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27th April 2017

Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, London



The IARS International Institute

Community-led solutions for a fairer society

Thursday, 27th April, 12:00-13:15. WK Group 1

Name: Maria Böös, MSc., and Charlotte Kellander, MSc.

Affiliation: Söderslättsgymnasiet, Sweden

Presentation title: “Support for students to handle their schooling, in an upper secondary school”

On the upper secondary school Söderslättsgymnasiet in Sweden, students are studying for three years in each program. The school can adapt the studies according to an individual study plan adapted to the student’s needs. Reasons for altered studies can be long lasting illness of the student or their parents, substance abuse, mental illness, early parenthood or disability. The school can provide different kind of support interventions. Together with teachers, students can make individual study arrangements as long as it remains within the framework of the course. There are also two “study squares” manned by teachers. The study squares are open every day also during holidays, and students can book individual teaching, guidance and support.

There are also student tutors and special education teacher. The student tutor works as an additional support for the student, is conversant with the program and often participates in the classroom. There is also a resource center manned by special education teacher. There, students can get individual support, study in small groups and get access to various tools to facilitate learning for students, e.g. audio literature. Furthermore, students can get support from the student health consisting curator, school nurse, school doctor, psychologist and school counselor.

Name: Pauline Johansson, PhD^{1, 2}, and Eva Nordqvist¹, MSc.

Affiliation: ¹The Swedish Family Care Competence Centre and ²Linnaeus University, Sweden

Presentation title: “Systematic follow-up of support activities for children as next of kin”

Children as next of kin are at a significantly increased risk to affect negatively when they are involved in incomprehensible situations in life, such as anxiety and unpredictable incidents. Family economy, social relationships, and division of roles can changes negatively. This can in turn lead to socio-economic problems, poor school performance and mental illness. Swedish health and social care services, and non-profit organizations provide support for this group. Although, there is little knowledge of the results of the support given. Therefore, a national project was conducted aiming to implement or develop systematic follow-up of supportive activities for children as next of kin.

Managers and professionals from 24 organizations, within Swedish health and social care services and non-profit organizations, participated. Initially, participants were interviewed to explore how these organizations work with support activities for children as next of kin and how they follow up to obtain results. After, the work began to develop or implement systematic follow-up in the participating organizations. The results show differences

regarding organizations' conditions and how they worked with systematic follow-up. But also many similarities on how they experienced the children who participated in their support activities, but also their incentives to implement systematic follow-up.

Name: Dr. Antonia Torrens

Affiliation: KMOP, Greece

Presentation title: "Helping young family carers in supporting a family member with mental illness. Good practice examples of the Day Care Center 'Ariadne' of KMOP"

Throughout the 14 years of its existence the day Care Center of KMOP "Ariadni" provides everyday assistance both to young people suffering from mental illness, aged 18-30 years old, as well as counseling and support to their family members.

The project Care2Work has given us the opportunity to give more insight to the great benefits that may occur by empowering the capacities of young family members and other young professionals who help these mentally ill people. The knowledge gained through the implementation of the Care2Work project, had an added value to our work done with these carers in many respects.

In the "5th Annual IARS International Conference: Youth-led solutions to unemployment: The voices of young, marginalised carers" we are going to present two case studies from the Day Care Center of KMOP, which prove the benefits that may occur by empowering young carers, not only for themselves, but also for the beneficiaries to whom they give assistance and the whole community.

Thursday, 27th April, 12:00-13:15. WK Group 2

Name: Stefania Buoni

Affiliation: My Blue Box, Italy

Workshop title: "The impact of parental mental illness on young BAME carers' life and careers and how to tackle it"

Parental mental illness is a highly pervasive and underestimated condition in many families across countries.

Consequences for young people may occur in various areas of their life (family, education friendship, physical & emotional health, etc.), the impact varying according to multiple factors: type of parental mental illness (anxiety, PTSD, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, etc.), severity of illness, whether it is treated or untreated, the presence/absence of a supporting network (familiar/external), personal internal characteristics and resilience, age of the children when the parent first showed symptoms, parental conflict.

In the particular case of young BAME carers the impact of parental mental illness may be increased by the following additional risk factors: isolation and distance from the extended family, language and cultural barriers, possible traumas experienced by the parents before and during their migration (war, a difficult and dangerous journey, the loss of dear ones, homesickness, the loss of certainties), poverty.

How to increase protective factors for those among these young people who may lack them, in order to promote their resilience and help them achieve their goals in life, while valuing their positive, unique characteristics, abilities and strengths gained through their experience, is our best bet for the future.

Name: Daniel Linnotte

Affiliation: Oxford University, U.K.

Workshop title: “Youth unemployment in the Balkans, ‘grey’ economy’, ‘Social’ Economy and Policy”

Balkan countries (i.e. former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania) are confronted with very high levels of youth unemployment. Such a situation may severely impact on social and political stability in the region and can cause tensions between communities, it also contributes to poverty; in addition, it stimulates illicit activities in the grey economy. Policies are also implemented to support the creation of new jobs; however, so far, outcomes are rather limited. This paper will first present data on youth unemployment (Part 1). It will also consider the importance of the grey economy (Part 2). Youth employment policies are then discussed (Part 3), before discussing the importance of the social and solidary economy (Part 4).

Name: James Alexander

Affiliation: London Metropolitan University, U.K.

Workshop title: “Criminal barriers to young people working”

This workshop considers both the importance of employment opportunities in helping young people avoid criminal activities and also how these same criminal activities can limit young people’s perceptions of work.

It is well documented that a criminal record can negatively impact on someone’s ability to find employment, with many of the reasons given focus on labelling and the reactions that an employer may have to a job applicant with a criminal record. However to further understand this issue, it is important to understand the issue of criminality and employment from the young people who engage in criminal activities and are unemployed.

Drawing on ethnographic and interview data the workshop tries to produce an understanding from a young unemployed person’s point of view on their employment chances and why they choose alternative activities to earn an income. The workshop will end by discussing some practical examples of projects that have supported offending young people to find employment. As such we will cover:

- How beliefs about employment chances affect criminal activity
- How criminal alternatives to gaining money impact on young people’s desire to secure a job

- What support young people involved in criminal activity believe is missing from their life
 - Examples of projects that can support young offenders into employment
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Thursday, 27th April, 14:00-15:15. WK Group 3

Name: Dr. Daniel Briggs

Affiliation: European University of Madrid, Spain

Workshop title: "Can welfare ever be well and fair again?"

Over the last 30 years, we have seen the State capitulate and become subservient to the market. As a consequence, political will to intervene in the world in the hope of setting things straight as waned. At best all politicians hope to do – regardless of their party affiliation - is to tamper with what already exists, and castigate anyone who proposes disrupting the smooth rhythm of capital accumulation, even though the majority of people around the world have been getting poorer. Countries like the UK are now a hideously stretched society, and, unless we make changes at the fundamental level, the gap between rich and poor will only get bigger. It's bad now, but worse is to come. Any solutions to these problems cannot come from the introduction of new bespoke social policies because they are bound to a problematic political system which does not discriminate against how it treats inequality. We first need to concede to this and end the obligatory optimism about the fact that a quick-fix solution is just around the corner. This presentation charts these political and economic changes we have experienced over the last 30 years and what they have done to the social, health and care system, questioning whether the welfare system can ever be well and fair again.

Name: Faith Gordon

Affiliation: University of Westminster, U.K.

Workshop title: "The marginalised and hidden voice of young people in the mainstream media and young people's use of their own forms of media"

The 'news-making processes' ensure the maintenance and centrality of dominant discourses in the mainstream media. Hall's (1986) analysis asserts that 'the hierarchy of access' to the media and the perpetuation of negative representations of certain social groups are intertwined. Hall (1986: 9) explores 'how things, people, relationships are represented', alongside the prominence of certain voices and the absence or marginalisation of 'hidden' voices. The main focus of this paper is 'what and who regularly gets left out' (Hall, 1986: 9) of media reporting and what impact this has on the experiences of those 'hidden' voices. Drawing on extensive content analysis of media coverage, this paper will expose how 'hidden', 'marginalised' and 'missing' the voices of young carers are. It will also demonstrate how the mainstream media have reported on youth unemployment in Northern Ireland. The paper will include the voices of children, young people and their advocates, as well as media professionals. The second part of the paper will explore how children and young people create and use their own forms of media to challenge negative media stereotypes and to have their voices heard. It will draw specifically upon the work of Headliners UK, which is a youth charity that empowers vulnerable and disadvantaged young people to have a voice. Through its unique multi-media journalism programme, children

and young people research and produce stories for publication and broadcast about issues that concern them and campaign for change in their communities. The programmes improve the educational and employment prospects for young people.

Name: Dr. Brenda Brown

Affiliation: Buckinghamshire New University

Workshop title: "Employment after trafficking experiences – young Carers' Too!"

Thousands of children are trafficked in and through the UK every year. Many of them are victims of servitude and forced labour - undertaking a variety of work in restaurants, catering, manual labour, and committing crimes such as theft and drug trafficking or dealing. As professionals become more informed about Human Trafficking, greater numbers of victims are being identified, and there is a growing body of policy developing to protect and support this very vulnerable group.

But what about those working directly with young victims of trafficking? How do you engage a young person in employment after they have spent years in servitude? Or been a victim of sexual exploitation? Many children in servitude care for children as well as manage the household. These young people are still young carers, but with a disparate experience of the role to those we normally come into contact with.

Professionals need to consider the differences that may exist for this group and how we might start to adapt our practices to meet their needs in a sensitive, but effective way. We will overview current policy for victims of Human Trafficking and how this fits with our current support systems for getting young people into work.

Thursday, 27th April, 14:00-15:15. WK Group 4

Name: Tayna Coles, Sally Chandler & Jo Burns

Affiliation: Carers Trust & Hillingdon Carers, U.K.

Workshop title: "Young carers in transition: pathways to education and employment"

Name: Daniel Phelps

Affiliation: Young Carers & University of Winchester, U.K.

Workshop title: "Supporting young and young adult carers into and through higher education"

Being a young carer can be challenging. It can impact aspiration and present an array of barriers to progressing and succeeding in higher education. This presentation will discuss these barriers and look at models of practice taking place that will enable young and young adult carers to aspire, progress and achieve, in line with their peers.

Name: Professor Esther Friedman

Affiliation: Linnaeus University, Sweden

Workshop title: "Restorative solution in the re-entry service for young people"

Background: The population of ex-prisoners is unique among delinquents and poses various challenges for the professionals involved in their re-entry to society. For young people at high risk, it can be the "last chance" where all else has failed. Attitudes toward ex-prisoners and their rehabilitation are complex. Many are the people who believe in the possibility of change, recovery and integration. Alongside with them are concerns consisting of the demonetization, judgements and lack of acceptance. Some evidence implies that restorative process might offer a more efficient respond if applied correctly, especially to young people at high risk.

Aim: Analyse the outcomes of a restorative intervention at the Israeli re-entry service for youth.

Method: Qualitative thematic analysis of the perceptions of young people, their families and their professional contact people, following a restorative intervention.

Findings: Findings show that restorative interventions were helpful where other interventions failed. Where family, the young person and the professionals felt disrepair, lack measures and coping mechanisms to deal with their life, as well as a lack of hope, the restorative measures offered a new way. It was helpful in regaining trust in family members and professional intervention, build cooperation and develop positive opinions of each other. Participants stated they felt that the professional "really" care about them and are attentive to their needs and views.

Discussion: The findings corroborate with data from research elsewhere. The restorative measures have been regarded as useful, particularly when other interventions failed. Further research is needed.

Conclusion: RJ ideas can provide useful intervention tools where other methods have failed.