

# 21ST ERASMUS WEEK E-SYMPOSIUM "SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC: OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS"



## SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ROMA POPULATION. THE SPANISH CASE



*The Hellenic Mediterranean University  
Welcomes Prof. Carmen Roncal Vargas (Complutense University  
of Madrid, Spain) 24th of May at 1300 Athens Time*

The Roma population is the largest ethnic group in Europe and Spain. Even so, there is a significant lack of knowledge about their high levels of social risk and exclusion. In Spain, following European and national guidelines, a strategy is being developed throughout the country to guide policies aimed at their inclusion. The inclusion of the Roma community requires structural changes. These do not come on their own or from the hand of professionals. It requires political will and decision in the short, medium, and long term since the gypsy reality is complex and multicausal. It is the most vulnerable population that in crisis times, such health crisis caused by COVID 19 suffer much more the consequences. In this context, we reflect on the various aspects that Social Work considered for the inclusion of this population and their whole citizenship exercise. Objectives: a) To provide knowledge about the Roma population in the European context. b) To provide an understanding of the social evolution of the Roma population in Spain. c) To give known the axes, principles, and methodological strategies for the inclusion of the gypsy population in Spain.

*Students or colleagues with a special interest to a specific topic are pleased to visit the course "Erasmus opening minds, changing lives- important announcements" at the link and choose any of the lectures they wish to attend. For additional info please contact Dr Koutra K (kkoutra@hmu.gr) or Mrs. Vega G (vega@hmu.gr)*

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## WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



*The Hellenic Mediterranean University*

*Welcomes Prof. Begoña Leyra Fatou (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain) 24th of May at 1600 Athens Time*

The intention behind this lecture is to present and analyze the main actors, modalities, and instruments that come together in the international cooperation system from a gender perspective. It will draw attention to basic notions such as sex, gender and culture, feminisms, equality, equity, masculinities and will clarify them. It will also show the concept of gender in its analytical and political dimensions. Likewise, we will analyze and reflect on the consideration of women and girls in the International Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) focusing on the impact of Coronavirus and all challenges that appear from the Social Work perspective. The main objective of this lecture is to reflect on the role of Social Work in the international dimension of Agenda 2030 considering the development process from a gender perspective in the international normative and political framework. We will conclude our lecture with a collective debate with students and professors about the importance of considering Social Work from an International view comparing different aspects of the social intervention in different contexts in the current pandemic situation.

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## SOCIAL WORK'S STUDENT'S VIEWS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC



*The Hellenic Mediterranean University  
Welcomes MARIA ANGELES CUADRADO CENZUAL  
25th of May at 1200 Athens Time*

The year 2020 has been characterized by the appearance of an unprecedented world situation. The COVID-19 Pandemic is assuming an overwhelming burden at all levels, economic, health and social and within this extremely complex situation, the population has had to adapt to new measures and lifestyles. The daily life has changed dramatically. Work and study life affected, it has been completely computerized, most people do it from home to avoid infections and not exceed the allowed capacity of people in closed spaces in classrooms and offices. This lecture will present the Impact of the Pandemic on their emotions, attitudes, perceptions and how their social life has changed of young people. The Faculty of Social Work of the UCM has carried out a survey focusing on all students of the degree in Social Work who have been affected by the serious situation that has been experienced since the end of 2019 until today. The objective of this survey is precisely to highlight the knowledge, perceptions, attitudes, emotions and current knowledge regarding the Pandemic that we are experiencing.

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## BLENDING COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING IN COMPLEX URBAN SETTINGS GLOBAL PANDEMIC MIRRORS OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS



***The Hellenic Mediterranean University Welcomes : Erik Claes and Mieke Schrooten (Odisee University of Applied Sciences - Brussels, Belgium) 25th of May at 0900 Athens Time***

This lecture presents an ongoing European Erasmus+ project on urban diversities, in which five social work programmes developed a joint blended learning course. The main aim of this course is to strengthen the capabilities of future social professionals to intervene in situations that involve urban tensions and complexities. The course consists of a community service learning (CSL) trajectory at the local level, combined with the virtual transnational exchange, lectures, discussions and reflections. Since February 2021, the course is being piloted in five European universities (in Brussels, Debrecen, Manchester, Turku and Utrecht). The pilot takes place in the midst of the second - for some even the third - pandemic wave. Community service-learning (CSL) is an alternative pedagogical approach that prioritises civic engagement and critical reflection. While serving a community, communities or a common goal of public interest, students learn together with professionals and stakeholders on the field. Their learning trajectory is grounded in reflectively sharing and exchanging experiences, stories, events. Lecturers are to engage themselves as well and to expose themselves to urban complexities. The central hypothesis of the project comes down to this: CSL is an appropriate way to prepare social work scholars in dealing with urban diversities, tensions and complexities. In this lecture, we will share our experiences as partners in this project. We will sketch how community workers and a civic collective struggle to launch learning experiences for vulnerable groups in deprived urban areas in Brussels. We will use the global pandemic as a mirror that reflects urban complexities as well as opportunities and challenges for Community Service Learning to deal with these complexities. In line with the participatory ambitions of CSL, our course will reflect a plurality of voices, perspectives and experiences. Students, professionals, residents and lecturers will be given the floor.

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## LGBT+ AT THE WORKPLACE



*The Hellenic Mediterranean  
University Welcomes Speaker:*

*J. Ignacio Pichardo, Universidad*

*Complutense of Madrid*

**26th of May at 1100 Athens Time**

The workplace role in front of sexual and gender diversity (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people - LGBTI) as an object of study and intervention has barely begun to be addressed. In this presentation, barriers that still exist for LGBTI people in Spanish and Portuguese businesses and organizations will be analyzed: in the context of growing legal equality, discrimination (both formal and informal) persists. This communication will present the results referred to companies and universities that have participated in the European ADIM project: Advancing in the Management of LGBT Diversity in the Public and Private Sector (<https://en.adimlgbt.eu/>). This project was funded by the European Union. A total of 8 public universities and 16 companies have participated in the project. A quantitative questionnaire for workers was designed, programmed and distributed. One of the most relevant aspects that emerge from the results of this questionnaire has to do with the management that LGBT people have to make of their visibility in their workplaces. To face this reality, some innovative experiences are already taking place. An analysis of the different policies for the recognition of sexual diversity and gender identity at the workplace will also be presented. Together with these results, some future challenges for social work students about sexual diversity will be examined.

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## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A HUMAN RIGHTS/INTEGRATED PRACTICE APPROACH



*The Hellenic Mediterranean University*

*Welcomes Speaker: Dr Joseph M. Wronka, Professor, School of Social Work and Behavioral Sciences, Springfield College, Springfield, MA (U.S.A.); 25th of May at 1700 Athens Time*

The presentation examines how the Human Rights Triptych, consisting of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the authoritative definition of human rights standards on the center panel; the declarations, conventions (a.k.a. international treaties) on the right panel; and implementation measures on the left panel can serve as guiding principles to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and others as they might evolve. The implications of this Triptych should have implications for socially just policies and actions for integrated practice (sometimes referred to as advanced generalist practice) on the meta-macro (global), macro (whole population), mezzo (at-risk), micro (clinical), and meta-micro (everyday life) levels of interventions. Such interventions should ultimately promote well-being and eradicate social and individual malaises, in this case, the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## COVID 19 AND GLOBAL INEQUALITY: CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION



*The Hellenic Mediterranean University  
Welcomes Prof. Marion Möhle, University of Applied Sciences,  
Esslingen, Germany 26th of May at 1700 Athens Time*

The pandemic of Covid 19, which started to be a global problem in March 2020 is a unique phenomenon in the last 100 years, which is challenging social work. It affects mainly health issues such as health care systems and public health. However, due to its long-lasting duration for now more than 12 months, it is becoming quite evident, that many more parts of contemporary societies are affected. Besides economic hardship which hits more or fewer people in all countries in the world, it becomes more and more visible, that the consequences of Covid 19 do have a strong impact on deepening social inequality on a global scale. Whereas the global North may be able to install instruments that can offer relief from unemployment or poverty due to Covid 19, the global South will presumably not. The already existing inequalities in the global South which had been at least partly successfully fought against, will not only return but may worsen. Examples are already to be found in recent statistics of the United Nations. Might it be rising numbers of people suffering from hunger and/or malnutrition, might it be an increase of people being thrown over the threshold into poverty or might it be the worsening of the education system due to lockdowns of schools. The presentation will try to sketch out how social work has to prepare itself to fight for a human post-Covid19 world. Furthermore, I will try to discuss from a teaching perspective how social work education could react to prepare students better to allow them to gain the competencies, resilience and knowledge they may need to become „good“ social workers in a very close future.

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## MYTHOLOGY AND HISTORY OF MINOAN CRETE



*The Hellenic Mediterranean University  
Welcomes Dr Gareth Owens  
28th of May at 1100 Athens Time*

Dr Gareth Owens, born 1964 in the UK, studied at UCL, Classics and Ancient History and Archaeology, and for one the year 1991-1992 was Lecturer in Linear B at UCL-ICS Institute of Classical Studies and Archaeology and was also awarded the "Michael Ventris Award" for Mycenaean Studies. He was awarded a PhD in Linguistics by Athens University on the Structure and Nature of the Minoan Language in 2004, and since then has progressed with research on the Phaistos Disk, <https://daidalika.hmu.gr/> And <https://daidalika.hmu.gr/home/>. He has collaborated, amongst others, National Geographic, TEDX, and National Research Centre in Athens. He is interested in all aspects of communication. Since 1994 he has been International Officer at the Erasmus Office of the TEI of Crete and since 2008 has been Institutional Coordinator and is currently Head of the International Relations Office. As Erasmus University Teacher, he teaches Introduction to the History of Crete & Hellas, Modern Greek (A1&2), Academic English (C1&2), and Introduction to Philosophy, Past, Present & Future to Erasmus Students at Hellenic Mediterranean University, CRETE, Greece/Hellas. He is EU ERASMUS+ Ambassador for Higher Education and is responsible for the incoming students and staff and HMU Public Relations.

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