18th International Project Week 2016
25th – 29th April 2016

Lecturer: Hellmuth Weich
University/Company: University of Northumbria at Newcastle
Country: United Kingdom

Looking at Social Work from an African Perspective

Content:
The European Union has seen a rise in the number of people from different parts of the world who either come here to seek asylum or who arrive as migrants. This session will explore some of the variables that impact on the work we do with people that are culturally different to ourselves.
In order to understand the impact of these, students will be supported to explore the field of social work practice from an African perspective, although experiences from the United Kingdom and Moldova will also be included.

Students will explore the impact of:
1. Faith and Religion
2. Values, norms and culture
3. Language and how it impacts on the expression of emotions.
4. The basic principles of effective transcultural social work

Towards the end of the session, students will be presented with an example of a social work project from South Africa and be challenged to become involved in a similar project, either abroad or in their local area.

Methods:
The delivery method will depend on time and technology available for the session.
The session will consist of:
1. A PowerPoint presentation
2. Various Case studies and examples will be explored
3. Depending on time and technology, a link with practitioners in South Africa or the UK will be established to support the student groups further learning.

Competences and skills to be acquired:
This session will support students as future practitioners to work effectively with persons that are culturally different from themselves, including refugees and asylum seekers. This session will help students to:
1. Understand the impact of language and culture and
2. have a basic working knowledge of how to address these.
3. Understand the basic principles of practice for transcultural/multicultural social work
4. Explore practice based examples.
4. By linking with students and/or practitioners in another country, students will be able to critically reflect on the context in terms of policy and practice of their own work at a local level.
Prerequisites:
Good knowledge of English.

Language of instruction: English

Recommended for: Social Studies