20th International Project Week 2018  
23rd – 27th April 2018  

Lecturer: Hellmuth Weich  

University/Company: UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA AT NEWCASTLE  

Country: Great Britain  

Transcultural communication and social work: Ideas informed by an African experience  

Content:  
During the week students will explore the field of social work and counselling by looking at the world from an African perspective. Students will acquire a basic knowledge of the social, political, cultural, and economic situations some migrants bring with them and how this can have an impact on their perception of western society. Through the lens of an African worldview, we will consider how culture affects communication, the process of adjustment that refugees and migrants may experience and how language can be used more effectively, including the effective use of interpreters. Most importantly, the module is practice-based, and students can expect to learn how to assess, plan and work alongside clients through the effective use of language and culture.  

Methods:  
Teaching sessions, small group discussions, practical tasks to develop tools to take to practice and exploration of case studies. Depending on the availability of technology, students will be linked to practitioners in South Africa.  

Competences and skills to be acquired:  
Students will:  
- Develop practical communication skills including how to use interpreters effectively.  
- Develop a clear awareness of their own values and the possible impact on transcultural communication in order to control bias, stereotyping and ethnocentrism.  
- Develop their understanding how value-laden Western ideas about family, health and mental health can influence persons from other cultures and how to minimise the impact of these.  
- Understand some of the pitfalls in transcultural social work and counselling and how to avoid miscommunication.  
- Understand the process of adjustment/acculturation and how to support people moving to Germany in this process.  

Prerequisites:  
In order to maximise the value of the programme, students need to:  
- Have a working knowledge of English  
- Have an interest in working and communicating with persons from other cultures  

Language of instruction: English  

Recommended for: Economics