

Call for Papers for the Annual Conference of the Centre of Competence for Social Intervention Research (KomSI)

5.11.-6.11.2020, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

The Centre of Competence for Social Intervention Research (KomSI) invites to its annual conference: "Controversies over the complexity of social issues – Debating social intervention research"

Interventions are the daily business of social workers: They advise and accompany, guide and direct, educate and support people in the most diverse situations. However, they do not only support their clients in coping with their lives but actively intervene in shaping living conditions, measures, services institutions and social policies. Social workers thus cover a wide range of tasks and activities, ranging from practical work in child and youth welfare, assistance in special problem situations, assistance for disabled, health care and elderly care, to data collection, evaluation, policy advice and the management of complex administrative mechanisms.

This raises the question of how the term "intervention" is understood in social work and social intervention research. Social intervention research draws methodologically and theoretically both on social work research and on the disciplines of social science (e.g. sociology, educational sciences, law, psychology, economics). The ways in which this body of knowledge and its various components are linked to social interventions in social work represent the main areas of interest for both theoretical explorations and empirical research at the Centre of Competence for Social Intervention Research (KomSI) at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. The research focuses on three areas: research on institutions of social work, on processes of the professionalization of social workers and on the interaction between professional practitioners and their clients. In addition to the research on the living conditions of the clients, the focus lies on the ways in which social interventions in social work are designed and realised. This includes questions on self-positioning and self-reflexivity, both for professionals and researchers in social work, as well as questions on where to situate social intervention research between evidence-based research on the one hand and participatory action research on the other.

We invite you to contribute to this years' conference. The contributions should address original questions in the field of social intervention research in social work with regard to the above-mentioned dimensions of research on institutions, the processes of professionalization or research on the interaction between professionals and clients. The contribution can focus on theoretical, methodological or application-oriented questions. Please submit your abstracts (max. 250 words) for a 20-minute talk by April, 30th 2020 to the following address:

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We particularly encourage early-career scholars to present their research.

A publication of the conference contributions is planned.