



International Conversation Series on Social Work

Presents:

Social Work Solidarity in Times of Crisis

Fall Semester 2026

10 - 11:30am (cst) / 5 - 6:30pm (German time)





Social Work Solidarity in Times of Crisis

22 October

- **Timothy Dueck - Canada**

"We're in This Together": Co-Creating Solidarity and Resistance Across Borders

10 December

- **Matthias Lorenz - Germany**

Far-right Influencing on Social Work. Empirical Insights and Conceptual Reflections

5 November

- **Mohammed Idrees - Portugal**

Social Work Education and Recognition in Pakistan: Foundations for Building School Social Work

17 December

- **Walt Paquin - United States**

Gender in Social Work Education and the Profession

19 November

- **Oksana Boyko/Kviv - Ukraine**

The role of social work and solidarity in the times of crisis: case of Ukraine





Social Work Solidarity in Times of Crisis

From Global to Local: The International Conversation Series on Social Work

In this online series we bring together Social Work classes from different countries around the world and encourage them as scholars and students to engage in an online discussion about current topics of global interest framed within the main theme, "From global to local–international conversations on social work."

The goal is to create an ongoing platform for international exchange and to reflect on issues which are relevant to social work practitioners and scholars in different geographical contexts and sociopolitical backgrounds. In doing so, we hope to gain knowledge about social work from a global perspective and to create a dynamic and stimulating international network as well as a collaborative platform for further projects.

Social Work Solidarity in Times of Crisis

In this series we bring together Social Workers from different global areas who face challenges and work under precarious conditions due to sociopolitical shifts or geopolitical developments, like authoritarian policies, war, or poverty.

The guiding question throughout these sessions is, if and how solidarity is a meaningful concept for Social Work scholars, professionals and students in the face of these developments and situations.

The different regional and professional perspectives will establish a broad perspective on this and will open up space for discussions about how we conceive Social Work as an international profession in times of global crisis.





Social Work Solidarity in Times of Crisis

Timothy Dueck

University of the Fraser Valley, Canada

Dr. Tim Dueck is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work & Human Services at University of the Fraser Valley (Vancouver, Canada). He is of mixed European and Inuit (Canadian Indigenous) ancestry. Tim teaches graduate and undergraduate social work courses with a focus on Indigenous social work pedagogies and practices. His pedagogy includes the framework of Inuit Qaujimanituqangit, a comprehensive paradigm that includes both traditional knowledge and ways of knowing. His research and publication interests include strategies to decolonize and Indigenize social work educational experiences with an emphasis on relationality and how this applies to international social work engagement.

His work has been published in Social Work Education and Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions.

Mohammed Idrees

**School of Sociology and Public Policy,
Portugal**

Muhammad Idrees is a PhD candidate in Social Work at the School of Sociology and Public Policy, Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa. His PhD project is titled "Building School Social Work in Pakistan: A Co-Creation Model Informed by the Portuguese Context." He is the Director of the Global Institute of Social Sciences Research (GISSR) and an alumnus of the Erasmus Mundus Master in Children and Youth Studies.

Oksana Boyko/Kviv

**National University of Kyiv-Mohyla
Academy, Ukraine**

Oksana Boiko is an Associate Professor, PhD in Social Work, MASW, Chair of the Department School of Social Work at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Oksana has over twenty-four years experience of working as a coordinator, an expert, a trainer, a researcher, an educator in various national and international projects on social work education and research, mental health and psychosocial support, community crisis management, international social work.

Since February 2022 Oksana Boiko has been coordinating from Ukraine the International Initiative for Support and Solidarity with Social Work Educators from Ukraine. She has also been a member of National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group in Ukraine for the last 10 years under the WHO Office in Ukraine. Oksana is a WHO trainer on MhGAP Program, and contributed to development of social work national educational and professional standards in Ukraine. Since 2026 she is the national trainer on social innovations for the EU funded EaSI program.

Oksana Boiko has been an expert and a trainer for the National Coordination Centre for Mental Health of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, where she developed and held a range of workshops on community resilience for policy makers across Ukraine, contributing to development of the national Law on Mental Health Care, adopted in January 2025. During the last five years Oksana has also been a project senior expert on community crisis management within the International Project 'Enhancing community resilience in Ukraine. Psychosocial first aid,



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Oksana Boiko (cont.)

support and anti crisis leadership', supported by Norway Ministry for Foreign Affairs, implemented by NaUKMA and Norwegian Centre for Trauma and Suicide Prevention.

Her research focuses on social work education, social work and mental health, community resilience, international social work. She has over 40 publications on various social work issues.

Matthias Lorenz

University of Vienna, Austria

Mattias Lorenz has been a researcher in the project "Far-Right Influence on Social Work in Bavaria," as part of the research network for contemporary analyses, practices of remembrance, and counterstrategies against far-right extremism in Bavaria (ForGeRex) since June, 2025. He also has an ongoing PhD-project at the Institute for Political Sciences at the University of Vienna.

He has been a lecturer at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Vienna in the field of political theory and Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Social Research, Frankfurt.

He has been an ongoing spokesperson, academic networking and conference planner, and coordinator for various Mobile Counseling Services Against Right-Wing Extremism in Bavaria. He has also been involved in the Bavaria-wide coordination of the Mobile Beratung gegen Rechtsextremismus in Bayern (Mobile Counseling Service Against Right-Wing Extremism in Bavaria) at the State Coordination Office Against Right-Wing Extremism of the Bavarian Youth Council, Coordination.

Matthias has a Doctoral fellowship from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and Magister Artium of philosophy, sociology, and French literature at Ludwig-Maximilians University.

Walt Paquin

Bluffton University, United States

Walt is the director of the Social Work program at Bluffton University where he has taught for 16 years. His professional interests are in housing and community development with a focus on impact racial solidarity in communities. He has worked on issues related to homeless, low income housing and food insecurity.





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All Workshops are Held via Zoom:

<https://cuwaa.zoom.us/j/3468457610>

Meeting ID: 346 845 7610

Passcode: ICS2026

10:00 - 11:30am (cst)

5:00 - 6:30pm (German time)

Participation is free and open to anybody! Feel free to share this program!

For further information, please contact one of the organizers listed:

Prof Dr. Johannes Kloha, TH Nürnberg, Germany - johannes.kloha@th-nuernberg.de

Prof. Nichole Ostrowski, Concordia University, Wisconsin, US - nichole.ostrowski@cuw.edu

IMPORTANT: We will be using the International Conversation Series sessions to produce a set of learning packages, including instructional videos. Therefore, we are recording the sessions. However, we will only use the parts where the contributor is visible. No data from participants will be used. By participating in the session you are expressing your agreement to participate in this recording.

