

From object to subject - social work research as professional responsibility

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Interest in authentic social work research as a means of rendering professional methods more accountable and reliable is growing just at a time when epistemology in various fields of science appears in crisis. The gap between approaches that emphasise detachment and objectivity as the hallmark of scientific responsibility and those that point out the impossibility of eliminating interests and subjectivity, a contrast that is characteristic of the project of modernity itself, is widening, leaving society disoriented. In this situation, an affirmation of the key principles of social work, such as authorship and personal dignity, elaborated also through research, can make a significant contribution not just to the wider epistemological problems but to a reorientation of science and professional action on community-building inter-subjectivity.