# The circle of social reform - The relationship Social Work: Social Policy in Addams and Richmond

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An assumption strongly anchored in the social work literature, not only in primary sources, but often in secondary literature, is that social work was developed according to two major traditions, the social case work (or psychosocial approach) and the social reform (or socio-political approach) founded by two of the most influential pioneers of Social Work: Mary Richmond and Jane Addams. By taking up a term from Mary Richmond we could name these two traditions: "sociatries" (Richmond, 1920: 478), two different visions how to deal professionally with social and urban questions that the social worker and social reformer were facing at the time. These two traditions were often considered as irreconcilable approaches. Despite their different ideological roots and trajectories, the classic writings and the less well-known papers reveal many points of convergence in their thought and action. Particularly, the different standpoints on social policy were emphasized. Considering Richmond's image of the "circle of social reform", this presentation focuses on the inseparable relationship between Social Policy and Social Work, clearly present in the thought and action of these seminal authors of Social Work. These insights will shed new light on ongoing debates and the disputed role of social policy perspectives within professionalized social work and the articulation between micro and macro level approaches, direct intervention with individual, groups and communities and social policy practice.

Keywords: Social Work, Social Policy, Jane Addams, Mary Richmond.