

# **The history of the Danish profession/education of social pedagogy – reflections about forms of knowledge**

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Professor Inge M. Bryderup Department of Sociology and Social Work University of Aalborg, Denmark Standing up to complexity – specific and universal issues in social work: The history of the Danish profession/education of social pedagogy – reflections about forms of knowledge The aim is to explore the complex development of the social pedagogical forms of knowledge through analysis of the historical debate between the central actors – the State, research and the social pedagogical workers and benefactors with a focus on the historical development of different types of education. The following reflections are made: three phases are identified in the 20 century where you can identify a historical development from moral and practical knowledge to psychological knowledge in the two first phases. From the 1970's the psychiatric and psychological knowledge is integrated in the social pedagogy profession. At the same time the Danish social pedagogy's forms of knowledge has a strong ethical and social engagement – as an inheritance from private benefactors – where sociology plays an important role in all three phases. The development of social pedagogy forms of knowledge has happened in a complex interplay with other actors – policies/local authorities and research/scientific perceptions.