

Symposium Multi-Perspective Research – Chances and Challenges

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Research on social affairs in general and in the field of social work in particular usually is confronted with a broad spectrum of interests, positions, and views, since various actors are involved and concerned. Furthermore, research faces complex processes of interaction between these various interests, positions, and views. One dimension of this complexity is represented through various subjective perspectives which come together in social life. In social research, we are confronted with the question how to handle this challenge. One solution that has become quite popular in recent years consists of considering subjective perspectives of various participants through multi-perspective approaches. Approaches of multi-perspective research try to consider the views of various actors in a given context in order to get more appropriate and extensive information. Thereby the complexity of research is increased and specific questions are raised. How do we conceptualize the relation of the various subjective perspectives that are studied in a research project? What sort of knowledge can we gain from multi-perspective research? What can we learn from congruent and discrepant information? How can we handle congruence, discrepancies, and differences in our analysis in a constructive way? In our session, these questions should be regarded and reflected upon from the perspective of some research projects which try to integrate various subjective perspectives. Furthermore, experiences in realizing multi-perspective research should be analyzed and finally chances and challenges of multi-perspective research should be brought together.