

4TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Bozen/Bolzano 15 - 16 - 17 April 2014

1) Your name

Dr. Ephrat Huss

Senior Lecturer

Chair: MA specialization Creative tools in Social Work

Spitzer Dept. of Social Work Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

P.O.B 653 Beer-Sheva 84105, Israel Phone 972-86428136

2) Title of the SIG:

Creative arts in social work theory research and practice

3) Brief description of scope and aims of the group

The usefulness of the arts for social workers is manifested in individual, family, group and community work as well as in arts based research methods: It is expressed in the conceptual question of whether social work is an 'art' or a 'science'. Rather than dichotomous definitions, this group will explore ways that the arts intersect with social work on all of its different levels: The arts are cited as able to help humanize social work and research, by enhancing understanding of individual perspectives, intensifying the clients phenomenological voices, and by focusing on the client's and social workers creative problem solving skills. Arts have been found to be a reflective and restorative outlet for social workers dealing with secondary trauma and heavy work-loads, that leads to mechanistic and rigid – rather than creative practice.

The aim of this group is not to turn social workers into artists or art therapists, but rather to explore the relevance of the explosion in arts based research and practice methods in the social sciences, can be relevant for social work theory, research and practice.

I have published a book on this subject last year, called *What we see and what we say: Using images in research, therapy, empowerment, and social change*. London: Routledge. and also published extensively: I will be very happy to meet with and collaborate on research projects together with others interested in these directions.

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