

4TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Bozen/Bolzano 15 - 16 - 17 April 2014

1) Your name(s)

Steve Myers (University of Salford, UK), Paul Willis (Swansea University, UK) and Priscilla Dunk-West (Flinders University, Australia)

2) Title of the SIG

Sexuality in Social Work Special Interest Group (SSWSIG)

3) Brief description of scope and aims of the group

While human sexuality is now widely recognised as a critical dimension in anti-oppressive social work, the ways in which sexuality informs service users' life circumstances and wellbeing and the ways in which it shapes social worker interactions with service users represents new terrain for social work research. Since its inception in June 2004, this UK-based interest group has sought to stimulate and generate new knowledge and practice innovations in the field of sexuality studies and social work. During this time, the group has successfully raised awareness of the relevance of sexuality issues as critical to social work knowledge, and to service users and carers' everyday lives through hosting annual events (conferences at London South Bank University, Salford University, Glasgow Caledonian University and Nottingham Trent University), publishing peer-reviewed articles and, producing special issues on Sexuality in *Social Work Education* (2008) and *Practice: Social Work in Action* (2009). The group has also played an important function in giving members the opportunity to flag issues relating to anti-oppressive practice, such as challenging homophobia in practice and in higher education, and campaigning for equality issues.

The aims of the meeting are:

1. To share current research endeavours in the field of sexuality and social work studies
2. To identify new opportunities for research collaboration across international borders
3. To initiate a European network of sexuality studies in social work
4. To explore opportunities for preparing an edited collection on 'Sexuality and Social Work Studies in Europe'.

4) Any further relevant information you would wish to include:

Powerpoint facilities; flipchart paper required