

**Social Work Education, Policy, and Practice (SWEPP) Research Cluster**

**Newsletter September 2023**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the fourth newsletter from the **Social Work Education, Policy, and Practice (SWEPP)** Research Cluster. The aim of this newsletter is to let you know about the work of SWEPP, and we hope you find it interesting and informative.

The work of SWEPP is centred on the International Federation of Social Work (IFSW) definition of social work. Although individual group members have differing and diverse areas of interest, our common focus is our interest in particularly marginalised groups and areas of practice. As such, SWEPP aims to promote **social justice**, **human rights,** and **emancipatory practice** in these domains, through its research activities and dissemination of findings.

Headshot photo of Becky Govan, Jess Wagner and Fungisai Mushawa.


**Social Work on the Edge Webinar Series**

SWEPP is delighted to announce its first series of lunch time webinars:

**Webinar One: *Social Work and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): where are we and where are we going?***

Speaker: **Becky Govan: Assistant Lecturer and Doctoral Student (GRTA), BCU**

Date/Time: **Wednesday 11th October 2023 12.00pm—1.00pm**

MS Teams Link: [Here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjQ5OTIyNTQtNjg5MS00ODljLTkwYmQtZWI0MDZiODEyZmQ3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227e2be055-828a-4523-b5e5-b77ad9939785%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2278518f08-e4bf-43b6-b2de-f43b7434d188%22%7d)

**Webinar Two: *Factors promoting nonviolent relationships in men exposed to domestic abuse as children: a study on strength, coping and resilience*.**

Speaker: **Jessica Wagner: Senior Lecturer in Social Work (BCU) and Doctoral Student (University of Central Lancashire).**

Date/Time: **Wednesday 6th December 2023 12.00pm—1.00pm**

MS Teams Link: [Here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzM0N2IyZWUtNzg0MS00NGJjLThkMjItMDk1Mzg0MDZhODlm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227e2be055-828a-4523-b5e5-b77ad9939785%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2278518f08-e4bf-43b6-b2de-f43b7434d188%22%7d)

**Webinar Three: *Challenges facing Black African parents in bringing up children in the UK.***

Speaker: **Fungisai Mushawa: Senior Lecturer in Social Work (BCU) and Doctoral Student (Nottingham Trent University)**

Date/Time: **Wednesday 24th January 2024 12.00pm—1.00pm**

MS Teams Link: [Here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGEzZmY0NjItMDlmNi00MzUwLTk0MzYtNWNmYjIzZmFmZTFl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227e2be055-828a-4523-b5e5-b77ad9939785%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2278518f08-e4bf-43b6-b2de-f43b7434d188%22%7d)

**Latest Publications**

Nyashanu, M., Brown, M., Nyashanu, T., Frost, D. & **Mushawa, F.** (2023) “Ten Days of Paid Incarceration and Mental Torture” Experiences of Quarantined Individuals Arriving in the UK form Red Listed Countries in Southern Africa Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-023-01574-w>

Machin, R., Simpson, J. & **Mushawa, F.** (2023) ‘Poverty and children in care: the challenges for social work’; in T. Philpot (ed). *Children in Care: Needs, Challenges and Evidence.* Hove: Step Beach Press.

**Simcock, P. *(in press)* ‘Bridging the congenital-acquired divide: the experiences of those ageing with deafblindness’; in Hartshorne, T., Janssen, M. & Wittich, W. (eds) *The Oxford Handbook on Deafblindness Volume Two: Learning, Education and Support of Deafblind Children and Adults.* Oxford: OUP.**

**Simcock, P. (*in press)* ‘A marginalised area of practice, with a marginalised population: what can the social work profession offer deafblind people?; in Hartshorne, T., Janssen, M. & Wittich, W. (eds) *The Oxford Handbook on Deafblindness Volume Two: Learning, Education and Support of Deafblind Children and Adults*. Oxford: OUP.**

**Simcock, P.** (2022) Developing our understanding of an impairment much misunderstood: Researching the experiences of deafblind people. In D. Pitcher & B. Burke (Eds) The Advancement of Social Work. Studies in Social Work to Mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Social Workers’ Educational Trust. Birmingham: British Association of Social Workers.

Photo of Dr Peter Simcock stood outside the Faculty of Social Work Tier Building, University of Manitoba.
Photo of Dave Nicholls, Dr Peter Simcock, Prof. Sid Frankel and Florette Giasson.  The four are stood together. 


**SWEPP Working in Partnership with Colleagues in Canada**

In July 2023, Dr Peter Simcock met with colleagues at the University of Manitoba and Université de Saint Boniface, Winnipeg,  having been successfully nominated as a **Distinguished Visiting Scholar** by Prof. Sid Frankel and Prof. Judith Hughes.  During his time in Winnipeg, Peter facilitated a workshop on ageing and disability for social work academics, practitioners and students and delivered a public lecture entitled ‘**The Strength of Disability’** at the Winnipeg City Library; this lecture was live streamed on YouTube and the recording is available [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D7f46AFUZOWY%26t%3D294s&data=05%7C01%7CPeter.Simcock%40bcu.ac.uk%7C488c908433a74c779fd008dbb06fbc89%7C7e2be055828a4523b5e5b77ad9939785%7C0%7C0%7C638297766348077908%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xxdlr6TF%2F%2FHK%2BvEHzCdRLDxP00LSl5M%2BKQzBj8DP0g4%3D&reserved=0).  He was also interviewed about his work on deafblindness on CJNU Winnipeg Radio.   Peter is now working with BCU Department of Social Work colleagues and those at University of Manitoba and Université de Saint Boniface to develop a fifth online conference and also to submit a bid for an SSHRC Connection Grant to fund a student exchange.

**Conferences, Key Notes, and Invited Presentations**

**November 2022:** Dr Peter Simcock was invited by Dr Riitta Lahtinen (University of Helsinki) to present at the Finnish Deafblind Association. The title of his presentation was: ‘**Vulnerability among adults ageing with deafblindness’.**

**March 2023:**  Jessica Wagner and Dr Peter Simcock joined Prof. Sid Frankel and Prof. Judy Hughes (University of Manitoba), Prof. David Alper and Florette Giasson (Université de Saint Boniface) on the scientific and organising committee of the International Conference ‘**The Good, The Bad and the Ugly: How does social work practice need to change to respond to the world’s new realities?’**

**March 2023:** Michael Greenhouse presented at ‘The Good, The Bad and the Ugly’ International Conference. The title of his paper was ‘**Virtual Reality as a tool for developing student resilience in preparation for practice placements’.**

**June 2023:** Dr Peter Simcock was invited to speak at the **Coventry City Council** Practice Week. The title of his presentation was: ‘**Specialist Needs Assessments for Deafblind Adults in England: the law, the practice and the opportunities for professional development’.**

**July 2023:** Jessica Wagner presented at the **European Network for Gender Violence Conference**, Wolverhampton. Her presentation focused on emerging findings from her PhD studies.

**July 2023:** Michael Greenhouse presented at the **CSPACE Conference ‘Rhythms of Learning and Living’, Birmingham City University.** The title of his paper was: **‘Does the use of virtual reality in social work education develop student resilience in advance of their first practice learning placement?’**

**July 2023:** Dr Peter Simcock was a keynote speaker at the **CSPACE Conference ‘Rhythms of Learning and Living’, Birmingham City University.** The title of his keynote was: **A life course with a unique rhythm: The experiences of those ageing with deafblindness’.**

**July 2023:** Dr Peter Simcock presented two papers at the **18th Deafblind International World Conference, Ottawa Canada.** His papers were: ‘**When Level 3 is not Enough: English Local Authority Decision Making in Relation to Required Qualification Levels for Specialist Deafblind Assessment’** and ‘**Educating the Social Care Workforce to Better Support Deafblind People’.**

