

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **A JOB LIKE ANY OTHER? WORKING IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR BETWEEN TRANSFORMATIONS OF WORK AND THE CRISIS OF WELFARE**

Edited by:

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#### **1. Aims and fields of inquiry**

The aim of the Special issue is to shed light on the restructuring of social work in the context of more general transformations of work.

Social work represents an important share of the contemporary job market, especially in the field of services, both in the public and private sectors (mainly education, health, social services).

The different waves of transformation of welfare have had a significant impact on social work: Firstly, the growing importance – from the ‘90s onwards – of local welfare systems and the diffusion of complex local systems of governance with the increasing role of non-public actors in them (Bifulco 2015).

Secondly, the austerity-led stretching of the concept of “social”, with the growing importance of private organizations and entrepreneurial models of social interventions.

These changes have had an impact on values, roles, professional profiles, professional cultures and practices. Emerging practices challenge existing institutional arrangements, but their ability to build public value and public goods and services independently from the State is highly questionable.

In this context, existing research follows two main directions:

1. Research on the impact of such transformation of social workers and their relation to citizens. This strand emphasizes the declining quality and quantity of services devoted to the poor and the working class as well as the growing pressure faced by social workers in the context of severe economic and social crisis (Dellavalle, Cellini 2017, Tousjin, Dellavalle 2017). Trends of a new wave of bureaucratization of social work are also highlighted (Fazzi 2016).

2. Research on transformation of social work within the Non-Profit Sector. Partly inspired by the Foundational Economy approach (Bowman et al 2016), specific extractive dynamics within the NPS have been identified, based on the mobilization of passion in the form of non-paid jobs and de-qualification of professional work in favor of voluntary work (Busso, Dagnes 2016; Busso, Lanunziata 2016; Gori 2012; Curcio 2014).

## 2. Contributions

In this context, the Special Issue looks for contributions articulating theoretical and empirical research on (but not limited to) the following issues:

- The quantitative-qualitative transformation of social work, both in the public and private sectors, including the potential and actual impact of ICT development on the social sector
- The impact of such transformation on the working conditions in the social sector and the redefinition of public responsibility.
- The emergence of new professional figures and the transformation of social work in the emerging “social entrepreneurship” sectors such as urban regeneration, urban agriculture, low-profit social housing, etc.).
- The growth of corporate welfare and its impact on the quantity and quality of social work
- Emerging forms of community and service user/worker participation in the design and production of welfare services.
- Experiences of mobilizations and unionism by social workers.

## 3 Deadlines and guidelines

Abstracts in Italian or in English, with a clear title and max 800 words, must be sent electronically to the editors of this special issue, and [davide.caselli@unito.it](mailto:davide.caselli@unito.it); [barbara.giullari@unibo.it](mailto:barbara.giullari@unibo.it); [dexter.whitfield@gmail.com](mailto:dexter.whitfield@gmail.com) as well as to the editorial staff of the journal [direzione.sdl@gmail.com](mailto:direzione.sdl@gmail.com) by **15 December 2018**.

Editors will notify authors by **15 January 2019** about their proposed contributions; authors of accepted abstracts must register online as “authors” on the webpage of the journal *Sociologia del Lavoro*: <http://ojs.francoangeli.it/ojs/index.php/sl/index> and follow the instructions to upload their completed articles by **1 April 2019** through the online platform *Open Journal Systems*.

Articles must not exceed **8.000 words** and must follow the journal guidelines: <http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/NR/Sl-norme.pdf>. Articles exceeding the word limit or not abiding to the journal guidelines will not be included. Once uploaded, articles that are correctly formatted will go through a process of *double blind review*.