



UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES
UPPER AUSTRIA



Program

International Days in SOCIAL WORK

9 – 13 June 2025

University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
School of Medical Engineering & Applied Social Sciences

Garnisonstrasse 21 • 4020 Linz/Austria
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Aim

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Organizing Team



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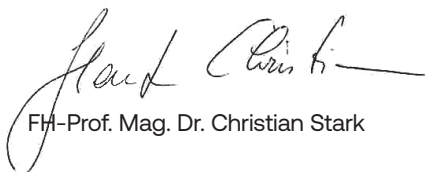
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School of Medical Engineering and
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International Days in Social Work

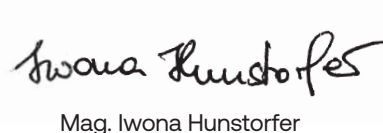
The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (FH Upper Austria) offers practically oriented degree programs which have been carefully put together to meet the needs of industry and society. Each of our four schools is characterized by its own distinctive profile and special field of study. The individual locations focus on the areas Informatics, Communications and Media (Hagenberg Campus), Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences (Linz Campus), Business and Management (Steyr Campus) and Engineering (Wels Campus).

With its Bachelor's and Master's degree programs, the Department of Social Work offers interdisciplinary training for future professionals who are able to advise, accompany and support service users and plan assistance processes. Both degree programs ensure a practice-oriented education. The Master's program also focuses on intercultural competence. Thus, internationalization is an important part of the training. Our students and staff have the opportunity and are encouraged to go abroad for exchange semesters and internships, to visit partner universities and to participate in excursions to social work organizations abroad. Internationalization at home is another way to get an insight into social work abroad and to learn more about different approaches in the different subject areas of social work.

In order to foster the international experience in the social field within our institution, to discuss and explore various topics important to our international guests, the Department of Social Work and the International Office Linz are happy to welcome you for a 5-day program of lectures, workshops and cultural activities – offering everyone the chance to meet people from different countries and to look at Social Work from an international and intercultural perspective. In addition, we will visit social organizations active in a variety of different areas, such as youth work, immigration, or violence prevention.



FH-Prof. Mag. Dr. Christian Stark



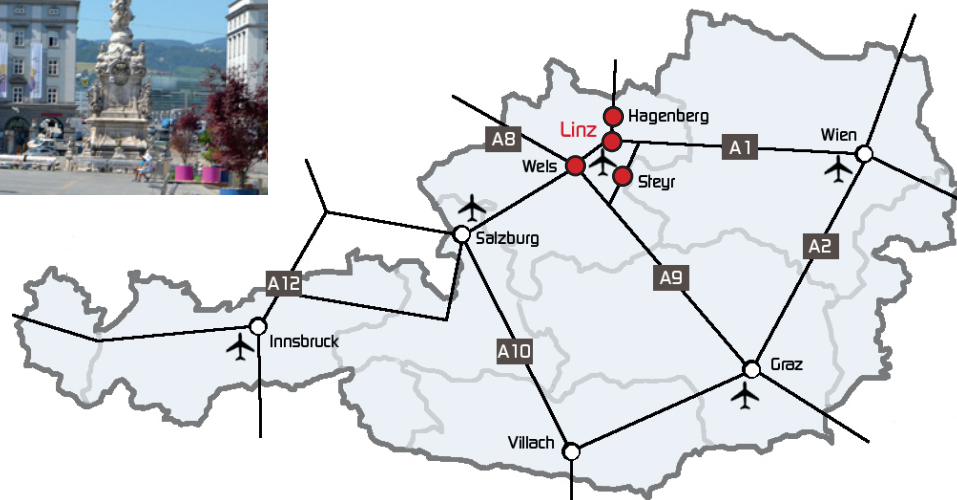
Mag. Iwona Hunstorfer

University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (FH Upper Austria)

The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria is the largest university of applied sciences in Austria and is an integral part of the tertiary education system. The organization is defined by the requirements of regional employment and research needs. Four locations in Upper Austria's central area offer innovative and interdisciplinary academic degrees, each with a different focus.

- School of Informatics, Communications and Media - Hagenberg Campus
- School of Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences - Linz Campus
- School of Business and Management - Steyr Campus
- School of Engineering - Wels Campus

You will find more information at:
www.fh-ooe.com



School of Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences

The focus in Linz is Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences. Our aim is to prepare students for the leadership positions of the future. Because our programs are designed around a common theme, the synergy effects are obvious: more knowledge and a multitude of partner organizations, such as the Austrian Red Cross, leading charities and numerous human services organizations and companies such as Otto Bock.

All degree programs combine comprehensive training with practice. The School of Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences offers study programs at undergraduate (bachelor's) and graduate (master's) level.

Medical Engineering (BA/MA) combines medicine and medical device technology and prepares students to bridge the gap as Medical Engineers.

Social Work (BA/MA) trains students to advice and counsel people in distress and enables graduates to plan and organize the helping process.

Social-, Public- and Nonprofit-Management (BA) is a business degree program that is geared towards the realities of the social and health, the public and the non-profit sectors.

Applied Technologies for Medical Diagnostics (MA) covers a new professional area at the intersection of engineering, natural sciences, and technology-oriented health professions, neatly filling the gap between development engineering and the application of medical devices.

Leading Transformation for Impact Organizations (MA) combines sustainability and digitalization with leadership and organizational change.

Managing Nonprofit and Public Services (MA) offers an industry-specific general management education with a focus on non-profit organizations and public institutions.

Program

→ Monday, 9 June 2025

7:45 Departure from FH Upper Austria for trip to Sankt Wolfgang
18:30 Arrival back in Linz

→ Tuesday, 10 June 2025

8:30	Registration	main hall
9:30	Welcome & Introduction: Christian Stark (Dean, FH Upper Austria)	HS2
10:00	Organizational: Iwona Hunstorfer (Head of International Office, FH Upper Austria)	HS2
10:15	Group Picture / Break	
10:30	Lecture / Workshop: • Timothy Dueck / Leah Douglas / James Cunningham: International relationality in action: language sharing and experience (workshop) • Anna Zenarolla: Supporting parents in poverty (lecture) • Charlotte Wekker: „I have to deal with the fact that they think I am an alien“ (1st workshop, max. participants: 15)	HS2 HS7 SR A-203
12:00	World Café (booth fair) Introduce yourself and your home university and get to know other participants, share local food from your country, what is your hometown/country known for?	main hall
14:00	Social Work from International Perspective Discuss / work in groups	HS2
15:30	Welcome Late Lunch	main hall

→ Wednesday, 11 June 2025

9:00	Lecture / Workshop: • Mikael Bengtsson: Discretion, improvisation, and change – exploring the doing in professional roles of social work (lecture/workshop) • Jana Stejskalová: Empowering future social workers: skills, practice & collaboration (workshop, max. participants: 30) • Jaap Bruijn: Tackling polarization (workshop)	HS7 SR A-203 SR A-205
10:30	Break	
10:45	Lecture / Workshop: • Erik Hahn: Principles of EU social security coordination (lecture) • Eva Krizova: Spirituality today - Exploratory techniques and use in social work (workshop, max. participants: 20) - until 12:30! • Manane Petrosyan / Mira Antonyan / Tatevik Karapetyan: Trauma-informed support for migrants and refugees (workshop)	SR A-203 SR A-205 HS7
12:00	Lunch Break	
13:00	Presentation / Site Visit: • LENA (Social Work with Sex Workers) • AIDS Hilfe (Counselling Center) • Neustart (Social Work with Offenders)	HS7

Program

→ Thursday, 12 June 2025

9:00 Lecture / Workshop:

- Susan Rose: The role of optimism in successful re-entry and future desistance from crime for incarcerated women (workshop)
- Ingrid Baloun: Meditation in social work (workshop, max. participants: 20)
- Jaap Bruijn: Case management - the client is the captain of his own ship (workshop)

HS7

SR A-203

SR A-205

10:30 Break

10:45 Lecture / Workshop:

- Anne Vande Berg / Charissa Eaton: Resilience without borders: exploring ACEs and trauma-informed care practices (workshop)
- Charlotte Wekker: „I have to deal with the fact that they think I am an alien“ (2nd workshop, max participants: 15)
- Eva Krizova: Spirituality today - exploratory techniques and use in social work (2nd workshop, max. participants: 20) - until 12:30!
- Leah Douglas / Miranda Rosehill: Exploring and regulating emotions related to climate change to improve mental health: Climate Cafés and eco-social work in Canada (workshop)

HS7

SR A-203

SR A-205

SR A-207

12:00 Lunch Break

Participants of the two-week program: free afternoon

12:45 Departure from FH Upper Austria

13:30 Guided tour:

Historical Site – Former Concentration Camp Mauthausen (optional)

18:30 Dinner for lecturers

→ Friday, 13 June 2025

8:45 Departure from FH Upper Austria

9:00 Presentation / Site Visit:

- Caritas Wärmestube (Day Center for Homeless People)
- Verein ISI (Outreach work)

9:30 Presentation / Site Visit:

- Exit Sozial (Forensic Residential Facility)
- SOS Human Rights (Social Work with Asylum Seekers)

SR A-203

12:30 International Social Work – Discussion Groups

13:00 Closing Session

HS2

14:00 Farewell lunch

main hall

Organizations/Site Visits

→ Wednesday, 11 June 2025

LENA (Counselling Center for Sex Workers)

<https://www.lena.or.at/en/>

LENA offers counselling, support and guidance for people who are or have been involved in sex work. The services of the counselling center are voluntary, free of charge and confidential. The social workers at LENA offer counselling on social, legal and health-related issues. If possible, qualifications and leisure activities are also offered.

AIDS Hilfe Oberösterreich (Counselling Center)

<https://www.aidshilfe-ooe.at/>

“There is nothing healthier than working together on health”. AIDS is a disease that has brought many unresolved social problems to light. AIDSHILFE OBERÖSTERREICH has been facing the challenge of HIV/AIDS as an independent non-profit organization since 1991. Find out more about the offered services at this organization.

Neustart

<https://www.neustart.at/en/probation/>

Resocialization assistance for offenders, support for victims and prevention: these are the services Neustart offers to reduce crime in society. Offenders should be reintegrated into society with the support of social workers. Victims receive concrete help in the form of process support, apologies and compensation. The association provides services in the following areas: Help for offenders, help for victims and prevention.

→ Thursday, 12 June 2025

Mauthausen Memorial (Historical Site)

<https://www.mauthausen-memorial.org/en>

From 1938 to 1945, the Mauthausen concentration camp was at the center of a system of over 40 subcamps and was the main site of political, social and racist persecution by the National Socialist regime on Austrian territory. Of a total of around 190,000 people imprisoned here, at least 90,000 were murdered.

The Mauthausen Memorial is a former crime scene, a place of memory, a cemetery for the mortal remains of thousands of those murdered here and, increasingly, a site of political and historical education. Its task is to ensure public awareness of the history of the Mauthausen concentration camp and its subcamps, the memory of its victims, and the responsibility borne by the perpetrators and onlookers. At the same time, it seeks to promote public critical engagement with this history in the context of its significance for the present and future.



Organizations/Site Visits

→ Friday, 13 June 2025

Caritas Wärmestube (Day Center for Homeless People)

<https://www.caritas-ooe.at/en/homelessness/waermestube-day-center/>

Offers a quiet zone and a place to retreat - without the need for consumption or counseling. Furthermore, visitors can get a warm meal, shower and wash clothes for a small fee. In cases of emergency, clothing or a small amount of financial support can also be provided.



Verein ISI (Outreach Work)

<https://vjf.at/streetwork/>

Verein ISI works with and for young people. We visit a youth center and learn more about the work with young people, their everyday problems and the assistance offered. But outreach work also means approaching young people on the street and informing them about what ISI has to offer. We learn more about this on site.



Exit Sozial (Forensic Residential Facility)

<https://www.exitsozial.at/>

It is an association for psychosocial services that was founded in Linz in 1981 as an "association for psychiatric aftercare facilities". The association's mission is to improve the situation of people with mental and social problems.

Their origins lie in the idea of "democratic psychiatry" and the socio-political commitment of some Linz residents in the late 1970s.



SOS Human Rights (Social Work with Asylum Seekers)

<https://www.sos.at/>

Their tasks include supporting and accompanying refugees as well as projects on the topics of integration, anti-discrimination and human rights education.





Lectures and Workshops

→ Tuesday, 10 June 2025

Timothy Dueck / Leah Douglas / James Cunningham
University of the Fraser Valley (Canada)

International Relationality in Action: Language Sharing and Experience

This interactive workshop explores the theme of relationality as a core social work value. Using examples of different Canadian Indigenous words for relationality and the variations in meaning and application, the co-facilitators invite the workshop participants to share words from their own languages that reflect different concepts of relationality. In the spirit of the World Café's sharing of culture and ideas, this exchange of value-informed language creates an international relationality among presenters and participants alike. Participants will also be encouraged to reflect on the experience of this exercise and subsequent new cross-cultural relational learning.

Anna Zenarolla
University of Trieste (Italy)

Supporting parents in poverty

Drawing on the results of the National Interesting Research Program (PRIN) «Construction on parenting on Insecure Grounds: What Role for Social Work?», the lecture will describe what parenting in poverty means in their everyday life, how they are able to cope with the challenges that arise from a condition of economic deprivation and how social work can enabling and disabling parents' coping processes. Students will be accompanied in recognizing structural conditions and dominant narratives that lead to normalize and personalize disadvantages and the role of social work in designing policies and services that are supposed to help parents' in poverty.

Charlotte Wekker
Hanze University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)

„I have to deal with the fact that they think I am an alien“

In the workshop Charlotte Wekker introduces an intervention that has made everyday racism open for discussion within Hanze University of Applied Sciences. The so-called 'dialogue sessions' were intended to discuss experiences with exclusion within the university of applied sciences. The shared narratives have given a meaningful boost in the development of an inclusive learning and working environment through a change in existing relationships. During the workshop we are doing such a dialogue ourselves and experience how powerful that is.

Lectures and Workshops

→ Wednesday, 11 June 2025

Mikael Bengtsson

Linnaeus University (Sweden)

Discretion, Improvisation, and Change – Exploring the Doing in Professional Roles of Social Work

Social work is relationship-based, with interactions between professionals and clients occurring within roles defined by profession and organization, shaped by internalized norms. „Doing“ the role in the space between profession, organization, and individual can be challenging and filled with tensions, but it is neither static nor predetermined. This often requires social workers' ability to improvise, particularly to meet professional aspirations for change that are constructive for individuals. In this lecture and workshop, we will move beyond the global definition of social work to explore how social workers need to navigate the balance between structure and action through improvisation. The concept of improvisation will be used to understand how this „doing“ relates to change – but do social workers see themselves as change agents?

Jana Stejskalová

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (Czech Republic)

Empowering future social workers: skills, practice & collaboration

The workshop is intended for social work students who want to enhance their professional skills and prepare for the challenges of practice. In a safe and interactive environment, participants will have the opportunity to share their study or practice experiences, analyze case studies, and explore new approaches to working with clients. The program includes teamwork and practical activities that students may encounter in their future careers. The workshop fosters peer learning, inspiration, and collaboration, helping students gain a deeper understanding of their future role as social workers.

Jaap Bruijn

Hanze University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)

Tackling Polarization

How do we tackle polarization without falling into it ourselves? How can social workers and teachers actively respond to extreme opinions? And is following our heart always the most effective approach?

In this optimistic and hands-on workshop, we'll dive into practical ways to respond to polarization, drawing on both powerful theories and our own real-life experiences.



Lectures and Workshops

→ Wednesday, 11 June 2025

Erik Hahn

University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Goerlitz (Germany)

Principles of EU social security coordination

Due to the significant economic and administrative differences between Member States, the European Union does not have a single, common social security system. However, the intra-European mobility across national borders that is part of the EU's DNA requires national social security systems to be effective abroad. To this end, the European Union coordinates the different national systems. The lecture aims to familiarise students with the basic principles of this coordination in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 883/2004.

Eva Krizova

Charles University (Czech Republic)

Spirituality today – Exploratory techniques and use in social work

The workshop presents spirituality as an optional and potentially beneficial dimension in social work and demonstrates techniques applicable in the interaction with clients. Students will have the opportunity to creatively investigate their own spirituality by making their own collage and reflect on the theme and creative outputs it in the group.

Manane Petrosyan / Mira Antonyan / Tatevik Karapetyan

Yerevan State University (Armenia)

Trauma-Informed Support for Migrants and Refugees

This workshop explores trauma-informed, resilience-centered strategies for supporting displaced children and families, with a special focus on lessons learned from recent humanitarian crises in Artsakh. Participants will learn why addressing survival needs must precede psychological interventions and how creating safe, supportive environments fosters sustainable recovery. We will emphasize the importance of balancing structure with flexibility, using local culture as a bridge, and embedding support within families and communities. Real-world examples will illustrate how shifting from a vulnerability-based approach to a resilience-building model empowers individuals to rebuild social skills, networks, and self-sufficiency. The session will offer insights into fostering sustainable recovery while responding sensitively to both immediate and long-term needs.

Lectures and Workshops

→ Thursday, 12 June 2025

Susan Rose

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA)

The Role of Optimism in Successful Reentry and Future Desistance from Crime for Incarcerated Women

Building off a study of substance use by incarcerated women, this workshop will examine the role of hope, optimism, and self-efficacy in the success of these women reentering their communities and in not engaging in future criminal activity. In addition to these more personal characteristics, the role of race, age, marital status, employment, presence of childhood trauma, mental health status, education and other demographic information will be explored. Through case study examples, practice strategies and policy recommendations will be discussed and identified.

Ingrid Baloun

University of South Bohemia, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences (Czech Republic)

Meditation in social work

This workshop explores the role of meditation in social work, focusing on its benefits for both practitioners and clients. Participants will learn how mindfulness and meditative techniques can help reduce stress, prevent burnout, and improve emotional regulation. The session will also discuss how meditation fosters empathy, enhances communication, and supports trauma-informed care. Through practical exercises and guided meditation, attendees will gain tools to integrate mindfulness into their professional practice, ultimately improving their well-being and the quality of care they provide.

Jaap Bruijn

Hanze University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)

Case management - the client is the captain of his own ship

In the workshop the underlying concepts of casemanagement and community social work are discussed and concrete connections between theory and practice of social work are made. Several good practices are presented and a new method of collaboration in social work is introduced.



Lectures and Workshops

→ Thursday, 12 June 2025

Anne Vande Berg / Charissa Eaton
Winona State University (USA)

Resilience without Borders: Exploring ACEs and Trauma-Informed Care Practices

This is an interactive workshop focused on exploring how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) concepts and trauma-informed approaches are utilized across diverse cultural contexts. Participants will explore how trauma manifests in different communities. Several case studies will be examined.

Charlotte Wekker
Hanze University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)

„I have to deal with the fact that they think I am an alien“

In the workshop Charlotte Wekker introduces an intervention that has made everyday racism open for discussion within Hanze University of Applied Sciences. The so-called 'dialogue sessions' were intended to discuss experiences with exclusion within the university of applied sciences. The shared narratives have given a meaningful boost in the development of an inclusive learning and working environment through a change in existing relationships. During the workshop we are doing such a dialogue ourselves and experience how powerful that is.

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Lectures and Workshops

→ Thursday, 12 June 2025

Leah Douglas / Miranda Rosehill
University of the Fraser Valley (Canada)

Exploring and regulating emotions related to climate change to improve mental health: Climate Cafés and Eco-social work in Canada

You are invited to join us for this interactive and participatory workshop, focused on how social workers can best acknowledge, explore, and support people with tensions and emotions related to climate change or environmental crises. MSW student Miranda Rosehill and Registered Clinical Social Worker Dr. Leah Douglas will guide you through a mini-Climate Café and discuss how eco-social work practices are used in Canada. We will use photographs, storytelling, and a non-judgmental approach to demonstrate best practices in this emerging area of mental health for social work practice.

Visit us at Campus Linz.



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