Institute of Sociology University of Lodz

as

Centre for Education and Research on Poverty and Social Services

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Contents

1. Institute of Sociology University of Lodz
2. Social services as a new social institution after system transformation of 1989
3. Care services for ageing population as one of the main social problem
4. Demand and supply in care sector
5. Welfare state dillemas and new tendencies in care

Institute of Sociology
School of Economics & Sociology
Ranked as the 2nd nationally among 17 Institutes of Sociology in Poland

Jerzy Krzyszkowski

R&D staff members of the Institute

- 6 Full Professors
- 14 Habilitated Doctors
- 30 Senior Researchers (Ph.D.)
- 31 Researchers (M.A.)
- 9 Administrators

Participation in R&D projects

EU founded:	**- 2**
7th European Framework	- 2
Based on bilateral cooperation:	- 3
Founded by domestic institutions:	**- 14**
The Ministry of Science and High Education	- 6
The National Centre of Science	-3
The Regional Government	- 3
The Local Government	- 2

7th FP:

- **EUROIDENTITIES** – The Evolution of European Identity: Using biographical methods to study the development of European Identity. (2008–2011), kontrakt nr: 213998, Coordinator : prof. Robert Miller, Queens University Belfast,
- **FESTOS** – Foresight of evolving security threats posed by emerging technologies (2009-2011), (contract nr: 217993), Coordinator : Interdisciplinary Centre for Technology Analysis and Forecasting, Tel-Aviv University, Israel; K: Dr Yair Sharan;

Social Services after 1989

Institution of state social policy designed to provide assistance to those individuals and families who cannot manage their life problems within their own means, capabilities and rights

(Welfare Act of 2004)

Social Services – Basic Facts

1. Local government based but with a strong financial involvement of the state
2. Cooperate with non - governmental organizations (Catholic Church as main partner) and private providers
3. Consist of cash benefit and care services
4. Professional staff but badly paid and with low social prestige

Path Dependency in SS

1. Catholic Church domination in

   many areas of social services: parishes, orders, church, philanthropy (Caritas etc.)

2. Secular welfare institutions evolved much slower and the state had no big control over welfare institutions and their budgets

Demand for Care

1. Growing demand for care services (poverty, and ageing population in the city of Lodz and Lodz Voivodeship)

2. Spatial differentiation of care services supply (small amount in poor and rural areas)

3. Financial barriers of an amount and a quality of care provision in community

Distinguishing Features of the Research Approach Applied by the IS UŁ Team

1. Contextualizing social problems and applying the dynamic approach (focus on life-course and intergenerational transmission of poverty and exclusion)
2. Community and practitioners based participatory action research approach to social services
3. Focusing on exposure of „hot spots” affected by poverty, exclusion and negligence

Case Study Approach

1. Study is conducted in selected communities/ municipalities
2. Triangulation of methods and information sources is applied

Assumption of Focusing on Local Level

1. Tackling social problems requires tailoring social policy measures and social services to specific needs and local resources

2. Smaller units (local governments.) are able to tailor policy measures to the specific needs better than the central government

Community, municipality may tailor social policies better

1. Social diagnosis covering smaller populations may be more correct and specific
2. Segmentation and fragmentation of social services could be overcome at local level

Applying Participatory Studies

1. Involvement of social workers and welfare managers (students of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate studies at the IS, UŁ) in research projects run by IS UL
2. Practitioner led participatory research as a good instrument for practitioners to make them more accountable for their actions and to relate their activities more directly to research findings

The particular interest of the IS UL researchers is focused

- on exposing social „hot spots”, areas of a given community stricken by poverty where intergenerationally transmitted poverty and social exclusion is very likely.

To expose areas stricken by poverty

- In cooperation with urban geographers the IS research team has developed original methodology based on the use of data available from administrative registers (social welfare, education departments, etc.)
- It enabled to calculate poverty rates for much smaller spatial units than provided by nationwide surveys

A poverty stricken area defined as

Locality overrepresented by poor people, being permanent residents of the area.

„Overrepresented” is a relative concept and depends on an average poverty rate for the whole population

Poverty stricken area is a locality with poverty rate at least twice as high as the average for the whole population (in a given town, province, etc.)

Advantages of the Approach

Attaching social problems to space (an administrative unit) enables to design intervention using all sources being at disposal.

Main Publications

- Grotowska-Leder J. (2002) Wielkomiejska bieda. Od epizodu do underclass (*Phenomenon of Urban Poverty. From an Episode to Underclass*), Łódź: UL Press
- Warzywoda-Kruszyńska, W., Grotowska-Leder, J., Krzyszkowski, J. (2003) Lokalna polityka wobec biedy. Bieda poza granicami wielkiego miasta *Local Policy towards Poverty. Poverty in Countryside*). Lodz: IS UL
- Krzyszkowski J. (2005) Między państwem opiekuńczym a opiekuńczym społeczeństwem *Between Welfare State and Protective Society) Łódź: UL Press*

Main Publications

- Krzyszkowski J. (ed.) (2011), *Polish Journeys: Through Social Welfare Institutions*, Warszawa: ELIPSA
- Krzyszkowski J. (ed.) (2011), *Współczesne tendencje w pomocy społecznej i pracy socjalnej, Contemporary presentations in social services and social work,* Warszawa: Wydawnictwo MCPS
- Warzywoda-Kruszyńska W., Mikołajczyk-Lerman G. (ed.) (2011), *Uczeń i student niepełnosprawny – warunki życia i nauki, Disabled pupil and student – living and learning conditions,* Łódź: Wydawnictwo Biblioteka

Thank you for your attention

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