

**International school social work conference:  
"Empowering Global Futures: Strategies for School Social Work".**

*Recently, there has been renewed interest in school based social work. In 2022, we formed the SWISIC (Social work in schools International Collaboration), to bring together school social work perspectives from across the world. In 2024, we will host our first international conference in the UK. This event has been organised to attract researchers in this field but also practitioners and students with an interest or experience of social work practice within schools. In this first conference, the focus will be to exchange ideas and create a platform to come together and share our knowledge and experiences in this growing field of speciality in social work.*

The first conference will be hosted by ARU Anglia Ruskin University, Essex, England, on the **9th and 10th September 2024.**

This event is sponsored by Whiting Birch, the Journal of Practice Teaching and learning.

Options for payment:

Delegates

- £150 two-day conference price.
- £100 one day conference price

Speakers

- £75 two-day conference price.
- £50 one day conference price.

Students free

- Free for ARU students.

You can reserve your ticket here on eventbrite and your name and contact details will then be added to the event register.

However, your booking will not be confirmed and you will not be admitted on the day, until we have received payment (with the exception of ARU students).

To book, and secure your place, please use the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-school-social-work-conference-empowering-global-futures-tickets-763823716297?aff=oddtcreator>

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

We invite submissions of abstracts which reflect the conference theme: "Empowering Global Futures: Strategies for School Social Work". **No more than 300 words.**

Theoretical considerations, case studies and research reports are welcome from any country in the world.

Submissions Researchers, scholars, practitioners, and students are invited to submit abstracts to [maria.kjellgren@umu.se](mailto:maria.kjellgren@umu.se)

You should indicate whether your proposal is for an oral presentation, a workshop or a poster presentation.

The main theme of the 1st International Conference for School Social Work Research is **"Empowering Global Futures: Strategies for School Social Work"**.

Submission of abstracts are invited in one of three categories:

1. Oral Paper presentation
2. Poster presentation

### 3. Workshop

#### Sub-themes

1. Theorising school social work
2. Country/Region specific school social work
3. Challenges, Benefits and opportunities for research into school social work
4. Professionalising school social work
5. Interdisciplinary working

#### Timeline:

Submission of abstracts 31st March 2024

Notification of outcome by 31st May 2024

Registration Ends 9th August 2024

If accepted, speakers will be offered a discounted rate of:

- £75 two-day conference price.
- £50 one day conference price.

Accepted presenters at the conference will be invited to submit an article to a special edition of Whiting Birch, the Journal of Practice Teaching and learning.

#### Conference organisers:

**Prospera Tedam** is a qualified social worker with practice experience in children and families social work (fostering, adoption, child protection and family support) in the midlands. She has taught social work at Open University, University of Northampton, Anglia Ruskin University, United Arab Emirates University and currently Professor of Social Work at University College Dublin, Ireland. She was awarded a research grant in 2020 to explore 'The role and purpose of school social work' in the United Arab Emirates, England and Ghana. From this she has published *Re-Imagining School Social Work: Insights from a Tri -Country Study* in the Italian Journal of Sociology of Education.

**Jenny Rafter** is a qualified social worker, who started her career in adult mental health in East London. She then worked for a children's charity as a social based social worker across schools in the East of England. She then joined Anglia Ruskin university, where she has always championed the role of social workers in schools. In response to the pandemic, she launched the SWIS (social workers in schools) project - the project now entered its 4th year and works with over 130 schools who host social work student placements. She was then commissioned to roll out a project in the region by a neighbouring teaching partnership and has been invited to present the success of SWIS at national and international events. She is now in her 5th year of doctoral study in relation to school practice. She has formed an international network of academics who share her passion and interest in school social work and she has begun to collaborate and share her early insight of the potential benefits of the project.

**Marelize Vergottini** has been a social worker for 25 years. She has rich experience within different areas of social work such as generic social work in the Department of Social Development, Child and Youth Care centres as well as probation work (criminal justice system), but the last 11 years of her practice was within the education system. She

completed her PhD study in the field of school social work during 2018 and was appointed during 2022 as a senior lecturer at the North-West University, Vaal triangle campus, South Africa. Currently, she is not only lecturing undergraduate social work students, but is also the program leader for a proposed Masters qualification in School social work which is currently under development. Furthermore, she is involved in training of postgraduate social workers working in schools with the aim of enhancing their knowledge and skills.

**Maria Kjellgren** is an authorized social worker (MSc social work), a Licensed psychotherapist, a Licensed Health care Social Worker, Supervisor and teacher of psychotherapy and a PhD student in social work at the Umeå university. Maria will finish her doctoral studies in April 2024. Her thesis research is about school social worker's individual counselling practice with children in the Swedish elementary school. Maria has been a social worker since 1993. All of her practical social work (and psychotherapeutic work) has been with children, adolescents and their families in different settings particularly in social welfare, child and adolescent psychiatry and schools.

**Venue details:**

Address:

ARU Rivermead campus, Bishops Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, England, CM1 1 SQ