

ABSTRACTS

Gøsta Esping-Andersen: Welfare regimes and social stratification

This study examines the conditions under which welfare state policies contribute to an equalization of the opportunity structure, focusing in particular on Scandinavia. Using data on inter-generational mobility and educational attainment, I find a clear equalizing effect in Scandinavia that does not obtain elsewhere. The effect, however, is asymmetric in the sense that it is almost exclusively a bottom-up equalization.

Tamás P. Tóth – Judit Takács – László Mocsonaki:

Effects of stigmatization on gay men living with HIV in Hungary

The main aim of this qualitative study is to highlight the social dynamics of social stigmatisation affecting people living with HIV/AIDS (PLH) in the Central-Eastern European region and specifically Hungary. Our study, based on in-depth interviews conducted with Hungarian men living with HIV/AIDS ($n = 28$), focuses on their special needs and concerns, their coping strategies, and patterns of social functioning, especially in the context of social stigmatization. Analysing the lived experiences of Hungarian men living with HIV/AIDS can contribute to a better understanding of risk factors of HIV/STD infections, and to formulating more effective messages for men having sex with men (MSM) in prevention programmes targeting PLH and MSM in general in Central-Eastern Europe and in Hungary.

Gábor Kapócs – Dániel Bacsák: Psychiatry at the frontier

In Hungary, a significant amount of tragedies occurred recently in psychiatric wards or institutes, with psychiatric patients as participants. The media often exaggerate issues, but it would be a mistake to deny that psychiatric care does come with risks, and people working and living in the area experience every day how insufficiently the national health and social care system is prepared to contain these. The situation was no different in the European Union's biggest residential psychiatric institute, the Home for Psychiatric Patients of Szentgotthárd, where a group of professionals decided to make a self-initiated change two years ago: they created an institution-specific Social Conflict and Crime Prevention Strategy. In this study, after delineating the general issue, we provide details of this project mentioned above.

Nóra Gervai: Different aspects of fundamental human rights regarding healthcare systems

The paper summarises the different aspects of human rights regarding healthcare systems. The three main concepts - one based on the right to health, another one based on patients' rights and the last, the human rights based approach to health – are stages of a historical development. The Hungarian healthcare law – it used to be one of the most progressive rulings in the international area – represents the second concept, and as such, needs to be modernised in the light of the HRBA, which is not only focusing on the patient himself, but is giving a starting point for organising the whole healthcare system – based on human rights.