

Abstracts

Adrian Sinfield: Why do we need to keep reading Titmuss?

The world has changed greatly since Richard Titmuss was writing about it, and social policy as a subject has also moved on. What grounds are there for still studying Titmuss's work today forty years after his death? My paper seeks to persuade you of the need for continuing to read Titmuss, and certain essays and analyses in particular. This choice is much influenced by working with his writings over the years, and particularly the teaching of a course on the social division of welfare at honours and masters level over some 30 years.

Elke Viebrock and Jochen Clasen: Flexicurity – a state-of-the art review

The notion of 'flexicurity' promises to overcome the tensions between labour market flexibility on the one hand and social security on the other hand by offering 'the best of both worlds'. In this review the development of the concept will be set against the background of changed economic circumstances in the last two decades. The principal components of flexicurity are presented, followed by a review of 'real worlds of flexicurity' in selected European countries, with Denmark and the Netherlands as the most prominent examples. The subsequent section considers the transferability of flexicurity policies across borders. Finally, we concentrate on collective actors involved in promoting the idea of flexicurity and conclude with a discussion of some tensions within and criticisms of the concept.

Tünde Virág: Public employment and elderly-care facilities – responses to poverty in a small town and its outskirts farmlands

The aim of the article is to explore a small town's social policy, its welfare institutions and the social workers' attitudes to and views on poverty. In this small town situated in the Great Plain and surrounded by outskirts farmlands mostly poor, agricultural worker families have lived for generations. The local council and churches through the exploitation of state provided resources of the public work scheme and social services created many quasi-jobs for low-educated people which offer moderate income but secure and permanent employment. Organizing and running these quasi-jobs are very expensive and wasteful, increase welfare dependency, perpetuate poverty while they create the illusion of being connected to the world of work and, with the support of the churches for their workers, they decrease the feeling of social exclusion.

Edina Héderné Berta: Special aspects of social casework with Roma families

As a premise of the paper, the effects of different social group-identity of Roma users and Non-Roma social workers play important role during the process of casework. The research, guided in family and child care centres in Csongrád county, tried to discover the activities carried out by experts, the frequency of this occupation, the experts' beliefs concerning both the methods the clients as well. Analyzing data has made evident that social workers tend to apply the short-term, reduced methods towards Roma users.

Ilona Ruzsics: Direct payment – a means for the social integration of people with mental disability

Social integration is a key issue in Hungarian deinstitutionalization of homes for people with mental disability. The direct payment in Western Europe is a well-functioning instrument of social policy. After the description of how direct payment works the paper shows its history. Supported by German studies, direct payment is also adaptable for people with mental disability. However direct payment does not play a prominent role in the Hungarian program of deinstitutionalization yet. Possible obstacles during the implementation will be mentioned briefly.

Vera Kovács: From the woods to social housing – experimental project in the 10th district of Budapest, executed by the City is for All Group

After preventing some shacks from clearance in the 10th district of Budapest, the City is for All Group (AVM) initiated negotiations with the local council. The Group involved the people affected by the former disturbance in the process. My article is about the work that started with and emerged from these negotiations. After helping two couples to get out from their self-built shacks and into social housing, stakes grew. Our goal became to test if it was possible to employ points of Housing First method within a low budget grass roots project with a very small target group. Our first year accomplishments convinced the municipality to initiate a program based on our work in the district. This paper is about the work AVM did in Kőbánya and what we have learned from it so far.