

ABSTRACTS

Zsuzsa Ferge: Woe to the country where public spirit is an offence!

István Széchenyi (1791–1860, honored with the epithet “the Greatest Hungarian”) was deeply interested in public issues. One of his topics was taxation. He wanted to abolish the privilege of the nobility not to pay taxes, to introduce progressive taxation, and to free the poor from taxes. After 1848 the privilege of the nobility was abolished. Modern progressive taxation and a tax-free zone for the poor was introduced in 1989. The current government abolished progressive taxation and replaced it by a flat-rate tax with no 0-tax first bracket. The development of a then non-existent civil society was important for Széchenyi in order to mobilise people to participate in public issues for the development of the country. Hungarian civil society was dormant until 1990. The organisation of free and independent associations started then, including organisations for advocacy. In case of need for it civil disobedience also appeared. The current government is hostile towards advocacy organisations, does not accept them as equal partners and ignores the potential importance of civil disobedience.

Ágnes Darvas, Zsombor Farkas, Ágnes Kende, Katalin Vígh: Roma children in child protection system. Child well-being and child protection system in Nógrád county

The study is about a research on the situation of child welfare services and professional child protection, the circumstances and reasons of child removal and the features of the placement of children within the child protection system in Nógrád county with a special attention of Roma children whether the prejudices against Roma people can play a role in removal from their families. The overrepresentation of ethnic minorities in child protection system is a well-known fact in Hungary as in other countries as well. The deeper knowledge about the situation of Roma children in child protection system is made the lack of sensitive registration more difficult even if it has been recommended by UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for a long time. The research experiences presented in the study offer more precise knowledge about the situation. Although the research focused on one county in North Hungary, the explored situation does not correlate with the features of this special county child welfare service and child protection system, but shows correlation with a more general and more specific for the national processes in Hungary.

Domonkos Sik: Substance abuse from a critical network theory perspective

The article is part of a broader research project aiming at renewing critical theories based on the empirical descriptions of suffering appearing in psychological and psychiatric discourses lead by therapeutic “knowledge interest” (Sik 2015a). The present essay contributes to this project in two steps. Firstly, a conceptual analysis of distorted network constellations resulting in addiction is elaborated based on the integration theories of Giddens, Habermas, Honneth and Lash on the one hand and the explanation of the symptoms and causes of addiction provided by psycho-sciences on the other. Secondly, the key network dynamisms are analyzed with the help of a case study based on a narrative biographical interview. Beside the aim of renewing critical theories, the article also hopes to provide conceptual framework for the practice of social policy and social work by introducing the relevant distortions of social network.