

International Social Work day:

Involve your students!



Our network wants to celebrate this day by making a collection of digital presentations, made by social work students, to be presented on YouTube. We hope groups of students will make presentations like a song, drama, video that lasts between from one minute, up to five. If a group of students at your education wants to do this, please inform me (asgeir.solstad@nord.no) on this before December 30th, and I will send you further information,

IFSW describes this year's topic like this: **"World Social Work Day takes place on 19 March 2024.** This year's theme is 'Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change', which is rooted in the [Global Agenda](#) and emphasises the need for social workers to adopt innovative, community-led approaches that are grounded in indigenous wisdom and harmonious coexistence with nature. Please [click here](#) to read more about the background of this theme"

New:

Microcredit course om "Social work in the Arctic"

Our network is now working on a 3 cr. web based micro course, titled "Social Work in the Arctic". We will focus on three topics: Social work and climate change, Social work and indigenous peoples and Urbanity and rurality in the Arctic. Hopefully the course will run in autumn 2024. The course is open for bachelor students and professionals who want an "injection" of extra competence. We will return to this in a later newsletter. And you can read about it on our website [UArctic - University of the Arctic - Thematic Network on Social Work](http://www.uarctic.org/organization/thematic-networks/social-work/). In a month or so.

Arctic Congress Bodø 2024
29 May - 3 June 2024



Join our session at the “Arctic Congress”

Our network is responsible for one session at this congress. It is called **“Youth in the Arctic: Challenges and possibilities: Relationships and processes of participation and belonging”**. We describe the topic like this:

One of the four priority topics for the Norwegian chairship of the Arctic Council has the name “People”. As a part of this topic, The Norwegian government states that “Arctic youth and Arctic Indigenous peoples will be cross-cutting priorities of the Norwegian chairship” (Government, 2023). Youth in the Arctic face different challenges, as the societies are developing rapidly, due to f.ex. urbanization, changing livelihood, consequences of climate change and general insecurity of the future. Research from recent years show that youth in the Arctic struggles with belonging and participation, and has experiences of being outside, and not coping (Frøyland, et al, 2022; Bakken, 2022; Wulf, Follesø & Olsen, 2021; Hyggen, Kolouh-Söderlund, Olsen & Tägtström, 2018; Follesø, Halås & Anvik, 2016).

In this session we focus on research on relationships, participation and belonging as central processes for youth in the Arctic, both in mental health work and in work with inclusion, more generally. Being recognized as an active member of society, who is important to others, is a value and a source of quality for life both for the individual young person, and for youth in the Arctic. The session should also include research and experiences on participation and mobilization of youth by emancipatory and empowering projects that enable youth both to develop their own lives and to play greater parts in developing society. We also look for research that looks at how responsive authorities and NGO’s are towards youth in the Arctic.

We invite you to send an abstract for participation before January 5th 2024. Read more about “Call for abstracts” at [Call for Abstracts — Arctic Congress 2024 Bodø](#).

We hope to see you in Bodø in spring!