

Social Work Practice With Populations at Risk

Fourth National Symposium
on Doctoral Research and
Social Work Practice



College of Social Work

April 6 and 7, 1988

FOURTH NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DOCTORAL RESEARCH
AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Social Work Practice With Populations at Risk



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FORWARD

The Ohio State University College of Social Work National Symposium on Doctoral Research and Social Work Practice is intended to provide a mechanism for improving linkages between doctoral scholarship and the practice of social work. The symposium papers serve to recognize the contributions of recent graduates of social work doctoral programs by featuring those research efforts which offer potential for making a significant contribution to the development of new knowledge for the practice of social work. The format of the symposium is designed to provide practitioners with active roles in the discussion of dissertation research presented by recent Ph.D. graduates from around the country. Through extensive panel and floor discussions, the practice implications and applications of research findings are elucidated, and new questions for further research are generated. Through exchanges of this kind, the symposium organizers hope to encourage a better appreciation and utilization of research on the part of practitioners and, similarly, to encourage an appreciation, on the part of researchers, of the nature of crucial researchable questions pertaining to social work practice.

The papers from our fourth symposium represent the college's continuing dissemination of recent dissertation research findings to the social work community. Through this dissemination, we encourage the wider utilization of research in practice. The Fourth National Symposium on Doctoral Research and Social Work Practice took place on April 6 and 7, 1988, on the campus of The Ohio State University. The symposium theme was on Social Work Practice with Populations at Risk. The keynote address, entitled "Mental Health Problems and Black Americans," was delivered by Dr. Lawrence Gary, Professor of Social Work at Howard University. A total of 27 papers on research on populations at risk--ranging from the severely mentally disabled to homeless families to heroin addicts--were presented. The presentors represented 24 different social work doctoral programs from all sections of the country, and in many instances our conference was enriched by the presence of the principal advisers to these dissertations. Our conference was additionally enriched by a special forum focused on "Social Work Responses to Aids." These deliberations were led by several dedicated professionals including Dr. Joanne Mantell of the Gay Men's Health Crisis of New York City, Mr. Bruce Koff, Executive Director of Horizons Community Services, Inc., of Chicago, Ill., and Dr. Michael Para of The Ohio State University College of Medicine. We are grateful for the insights and information which these experts shared with us.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to the Symposium Planning Committee, listed below, for all their hard work and dedication. A special note of thanks is due to Margaret Coleman, Assistant Dean of the College of Social Work for seeing to the publication and dissemination of these papers.

The symposium was an exciting and memorable intellectual event, and we hope that readers of the papers presented in the volume will find the ideas both stimulating and enlightening. We are planning to hold the next symposium on doctoral research and practice in November of 1989, and we hope many of you will be able to join us in Columbus for that event.

Richard E. Boettcher, Dean
College of Social Work
The Ohio State University
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1988 Symposium Planning Committee

Gwendolyn Gilbert, Chair
Margaret Coleman
Stanley Blostein
Virginia Richardson
Ed Malits
Denise Goodman

Lawana Wimberly, Admin. Ass't.
Carol Austin
Richard First
Mary Lou Harrison
Deborah Stokes
Michael Graham