Call for Papers

For the 3rd Workshop of the ESWRA Special Interest Group (SIG) on 'Solidarities and Social Work`

'Co-Creating Solidarity in Times of Crises: Kinds, Practices and Functions`

at the 16th European Conference for Social Work Research (ECSWR)
on 5-7 May 2027, at the Bucharest University, Bucharest, Romania

Solidarity is a polyvalent concept, applied individually, societally, nationally and internationally to an expanding range of praxes, usually perfused with feelings of - or a sense of - moral commitment/s towards a person or people in need of support. While this broad definition might be widely understood, it is often unclear how feelings or commitments of solidarity might be expressed – formally or informally - in ways which can be seen or felt, and which have positive tangible outcomes for people in need of solidaric support. In addition, the concept and the term solidarity as applied in social work, in much existing academic scholarship, and in the development of national and international policies and politics, has a pronounced European emphasis which requires countermanding and decolonizing.

In addition to living with the consequences of ecological crises and crises brought about by international conflicts, within many nations across the globe, internal fragility, volatility and social upheaval in everyday life currently is experienced by many individuals, families and communities. It is not as straightforward as it once might have been, for social work practitioners, educators and researchers to understand who might need solidarity at any particular time, or how that solidarity might be expressed; thinking and acting in solidarity both require a wider and more inclusive lens than formerly they did. Similarly, this wider and more inclusive lens may comprise more than people; the belief that we humans should not separate ourselves completely from the natural world is demonstrated in movements of solidarity toward rivers and oceans; plants and trees; deserts and wildernesses. Solidarity expressed toward people or toward aspects of the natural world in an international context may have unforeseen and significant effects internally, and social work practitioners, educators and researchers know that some of these effects will be felt more directly within some families and communities than within others.

One widespread normative assumption is that feelings or expressions of solidarity are inherently positive, and will be of some benefit to the human or natural world recipients. However, there exist also forms of 'parasitic solidarity' (Scholz), where groups are developed from, formed and are dependent upon, oppositional insider/outsider thinking. Such thinking then is actualized in a series of escalating insider/outsider speech and conflictual actions, leading to ever greater need for both formal and informal positive solidaric expressions, from the social work profession among others. In this example of 'parasitic' solidarity, any benefits are experienced by group members and within the group itself only.

All the foregoing reflects rapidly developing interest within social work research, education and practice, within the social sciences, and within the fields of politics and social policy in the conceptualization of solidarity, in its deployment as a descriptive or prescriptive term, and in its widespread and varying applications. There is a need for more social work empirical research on expressions and actions of solidarity within and between individuals, groups, communities, nations and the natural world, particularly longitudinal research studies.

Accordingly, the following subjects should be explored during the SIG-Workshop from international perspectives:

- How are current existing practices and kinds of solidarity relevant for the social work profession in times of crises?
- Do times of crises require new practices and kinds of solidarity, from or by social work practitioners, educators and researchers?
- What is, or what are, the function/s of solidarity in times of crises? For individuals? For societies? For nations? For international relationships? For the natural world?
- How might co-creation be understood in conceptualising practices and kinds of solidarity in times of crises?
- How might processes of co-creation impact the functions of solidarity in times of crises? What are the implications of these co-creative processes for social work research?
- Given the fragility and volatility of societies and nations in all parts of the globe, how might new - sustained *and* sustainable - practices and kinds of solidarity be co-created within social work?

The proposal for a presentation should be assigned to one of the following categories:

1. Theories and concepts of co-Creating Solidarity in Times of Crises.
2. Empirical research on co-Creating Solidarity in Times of Crises.
3. Conceptual or theoretical analyses with implications for practice and policy.

Submission and format of the proposal

- Proposals can be submitted via email to petro.mozolevskyi@fhnw.ch or mariabernadetta.jastrzebska@fhnw.ch
- The proposal may not exceed 500 words and must include the title of the presentation, a short biography (full sentences and, if available a link to a personal website, max. 5 lines), and contact details (email, telephone and postal address).
- Respondents are requested to specify which category their contribution belongs to.
- Workshop language is English

Deadlines

Submission of the proposal: November 15, 2026

Feedback will be provided by: **December 1, 2026.**

General Information: The proposals submitted will be peer-reviewed.

Organizers and SIG convenors:

Prof. Dr. Thomas Geisen, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, School of Social Work, thomas.geisen@fhnw.ch
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Contact and information

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Participation as a speaker at the workshop

There is a fee for speakers participating in the workshop. After receiving positive feedback regarding acceptance of contributions, authors will be asked to register for the conference or workshop at their own expense. Only registered speakers will be included in the program. We are planning to publish an edited book or special issue with the workshop-contributions.

Venue

Bucharest University (Bucharest, Romania)

Save the date

2026 November, 5-6 2nd International Solidarity Research Conference (ISRC), Focus 'Limits of Learning and Solidarity' https://solidarity-research.ch/conference/