

2nd Conference on Street-level Research in the Employment and Social Policy Area, June 2017, Copenhagen

The interplay between policy reforms, governance and street-level practices and the implications for the assistance-seeking citizens

The conference is organized by CARMA & SAB at Aalborg University and is to be held in Copenhagen 21th -22th June 2017 at Aalborg University Campus.

Important dates: Abstract submission deadline: 1th of March 2017. Decisions of acceptance will be given at latest 15th of March

If more information is needed please contact:

Flemming Larsen, Centre for Labour Market Research, Aalborg University, Fibigerstraede 1, DK-9220, flemlar@dps.aau.dk

Dorte Caswell, Department for Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University – Copenhagen Campus. Frederikskaj 10B st., 2450 Copenhagen SV.
caswell@socsci.aau.dk

Call for papers

Gathering some of the most prominent international scholars in the field of street-level research, employment and social policies: Michael Lipsky, Evelyn Brodtkin, Rik Van Berkel & Sharon Wright this second conference on street-level practices seeks to advance research on the role of street-level organizations in welfare state politics. We welcome papers that investigate relations between active welfare state reforms (represented by employment and social policy reforms) and its governance on the one hand and the face-to-face delivery of active welfare policy on the other hand. This encourages integrated and cross-disciplinary approaches in order to explore the empirical interfaces and linkages between ways of “doing policy” and “policy delivery” as well as the processes of knowledge-dissemination that seeks to “inform policy”. We call for papers relating to one or more of the following sub-themes:

1. Street-level Organization: How do street-level organizations adapt to and mediate changing policies, forms of governance and financial conditions and how are the practices at the frontline affected by this?

2. Integrated Services: What challenges and potentials does the increasing demand for integrated services hold? How is this affected by policy, organizational setting, professional identity etc.?

3. The institutional interaction between front-line workers and citizens: How does the institutional and organizational settings, qualifications of front-line workers and the client needs affect the interaction between workers and clients? And how does the encounter between street-level workers and citizens/client affect the possible outcomes of policy reforms?

4. The client as co-producer: What importance does the role of the client and the possibility for actual client participation have in achieving the goals of active welfare policies? How can client participation and empowerment be enhanced and what are the risks?

5. The employer as front-line worker: What role can and does the employer play in the delivery of employment and social policies? How does employer expectations and employer engagement affect the possibility of the clients integration on the labour market? What role does street-level organizations play in matching employer and client needs?

6. The relation between knowledge and frontline practice: What are the possible dilemmas for both researchers and social workers when faced with the increasing demand for evidence? How can scientific research inform and improve social work practices and what pitfalls does this process hold?

Hence, we call for papers that theoretically and/or empirically address how and why the active welfare state paradigm is incorporated in the street-level practices and how this is interrelated with changes in policy, governance, organizational-contexts and scientific research on social work.