

impact on the welfare and protection of the children. This type of intensive targeted service is comparable to services being developed in other countries.

Methods: The author was the lead researcher who carried out additional small scale qualitative research locally to explore support for children and their families as this intensive & targeted approach is widened. The focus was on what factors at an individual and organisational level are contributing to these outcomes with one team of 5 staff in the local borough. The author is now collaborating with a colleague named above to compare similar qualitative interviews with staff based in Ireland who provide a similar intense type of family support.

- Results: The findings from the uk group of staff have centered around several key issues:
  - Intensity of the role & variety of tasks carried out
- A focus on strengths
- workers see hope in difficult cases
- Style of working is crucial
- Perception of other professionals can be negative
- Balance of professional boundaries is an issue raised by all the workers

Conclusions & implications: The research sought to explore how a model rooted in evidence based practice was being implemented locally. As a further dimension a comparison with another nearby country is being undertaken. Issues such as role perception and the processes that are taking place when key workers put the model into practice are among key areas explored.

### ***Eleni Hatzidimitriadou and Maria Psoinos. Transferability of locally collected research results: employing theoretical triangulation in a study on migrant social workers in the UK (Saturday 13.30 h)***

In the last decade the numbers of social workers possessing qualifications from overseas who come to work in the UK have been increasing annually (Hussein et al., 2010a). Several research studies have examined socioeconomic states or psychological outcomes in 'international', 'overseas' or 'migrant' social workers in the UK (Evans et al., 2006; Hussein et al., 2010b; McGregor, 2007; Moran et al., 2005; Sale, 2002). Much of this research focuses on structural challenges this population faces as they enter the social work workforce (e.g. problems with accreditation of qualifications, insufficient induction, limited opportunities for professional progression) or on adverse psychological processes (e.g. difficulties in adapting to the English culture, experiences of discrimination at the workplace). Due to their separate thematic emphasis, most of these studies either draw on rather one-dimensional psychological or sociological theories or lack a theoretical basis altogether. However, without theoretical triangulation it is difficult to render this body of research credible and generalisable.

The need for critical examination of the role of social science theories in social work research has already been pointed out (Sakamoto, 2007). We suggest it is also important to constructively com-

bine different theoretical frameworks within one study in order to 1) understand migrant social worker's psychosocial position in the conflict between their own background and the British society, as well as the structures underlying these conflicts, 2) transfer these findings to other national contexts and professional groups. In this oral presentation we will discuss the theoretical triangulation we employed in order to achieve credibility and generalisability of our research results. The presentation will draw on our original research study which explored the professional trajectories and psychosocial experiences of three groups of migrant and refugee health and social care professionals (doctors, social workers and nurses) before and after migrating to the UK. We will discuss how we employed both sociological and psychological theories (Bourdieu's (1984, 1986) theory of cultural capital and Berry's (1997) acculturation theory respectively) as well as an innovative integrated approach, both social and person-centred (the theory of cultural health capital (Shim, 2010) to interpret the autobiographical narrative interview data collected from the group of migrant social workers. The narrative analysis highlights institutional mechanisms within social services in England but also certain social norms in the field of social work which influence participants' psychosocial outcomes. However our analysis also shows how individuals, by cultivating the cultural health capital they bring, cope effectively with challenges and restore their well-being. The presentation's contribution lies in offering an integrated theoretical framework for understanding migrant social workers' psychosocial outcomes in all their complexity and for transferring these findings beyond the UK context but also to other health and social care professional groups.

***Varda Soskolne, Lynette Barbara Joubert and Peter Beresford. Multi-cultural and social context factors in health care: social work research on health inequalities informs practice (Friday 13.30)***

This workshop is organized and presented by members of the international Social Work and Health Inequalities Network ([www.warwick.ac.uk/go/swhin](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/swhin)). The first part of the workshop will include three presentations that examine issues of multi-culturalism and ethnic differences in diverse health contexts: a) Prof Lynette Joubert (with Alison Hocking) will present findings of a study on "Promoting survivorship in cancer: reducing social risk and promoting resilience" undertaken at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia. The study which explored the psychosocial needs of patients receiving repeated treatments, aimed to provide an evidence base to develop targeted social work interventions to better identify and respond to patient needs. A retrospective audit of 100 consecutive records of patients referred to social work during 2011 was completed utilising a clinical data-mining tool to identify demographic data and documented psychosocial needs and outcomes. The data was thematically analysed and subjected to quantitative descriptive and inferential analysis. A focus group held with social work staff explored issues suggested by the analysis. The findings indicate that patients expressed a high level of complex psychosocial need across multiple social and cultural contexts which impacted on the domain of interpersonal relationships in particular. A model for a survivorship intervention focused on strengthening resilience and reducing social risk is described. b) Prof. Peter Beresford will present evidence on cultural and ethnic differences extending to