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## **EDITORIAL**

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### **In Memoriam prof. dr. L.H. Mulder**

*Ons redactielid Lambert Mulder is 10 oktober jongstleden overleden. Lambert heeft gedurende zijn hele wetenschappelijke loopbaan niet alleen deel uitgemaakt van de redactie van het Journal of Social Intervention, maar ook van al haar voorlopers. Zijn leeropdracht in de theoretische agogiek bij de universiteit van Groningen maakte het vanzelfsprekend dat hij deel uitmaakte van het eerste tijdschrift op dat gebied – het Tijdschrift voor Agologie – dat in 1972 het licht zag en vanaf 1987 TVA werd genoemd. Naast zijn algemene inbreng als redactielid heeft hij zich specifiek ingespannen voor de boekenrubriek, die altijd een belangrijke informatiebron is geweest, zowel voor wetenschappers en hogeschooldocenten, als voor lezers uit het professionele veld van maatschappelijk werk, opbouwwerk en sociaal cultureel werk. Vanaf 1992 heeft hij die werkzaamheden voortgezet in de opvolger van TVA: het tijdschrift Sociale Interventie. Hij zag in die naamgeving een goede kans om de betekenis van de multidisciplinaire invalshoek van de andragologie, die inmiddels zijn erkenning als wetenschappelijk discipline was kwijtgeraakt, niet verloren te laten gaan. Hij benadrukte daarbij de inbreng vanuit de theorie en methoden van het “social work”, de sociale pedagogiek en het daarmee verbonden vormingswerk, als ook de “group dynamics” en “planned change” uit de sociale psychologie. Het tijdschrift Sociale Interventie is verbonden geraakt aan het Landelijk Expertisecentrum Sociale Interventie (LESI), dat onder andere een wetenschappelijke post-initiële masteropleiding Sociale Interventie tot stand*

## EDITORIAL

*heeft gebracht. Lambert was van die opleiding mede vormgever en docent. In 2005 is Sociale Interventie onder de naam Journal of Social Intervention een Engelstalig tijdschrift geworden. We herinneren ons Lambert als een aimabele, bescheiden en trouwe collega, die zich bleef inzetten voor de wetenschappelijke basis van sociale interventiepraktijken.*

## EDITORIAL

In March this year we published a call for papers on the theme of the decentralization of the welfare state. The reason was the transformation of the Dutch and Flemish welfare states, causing major changes in the way that our societies are organized.

“Decentralization”, “self-reliance”, and “participation society” are now frequently used, yet much debated terms. We therefore invited social scientists and social professionals to provide a meta-level analysis on various themes such as:

- Which scenarios can be discerned in the context of the participation society with regard to community formation, citizenship and self-reliance?
- What are the differences and similarities between citizenship initiatives, volunteering and informal bonds, as seen from both the governmental and the citizen's perspective?
- How do welfare professionals attribute new meanings to the concept of social intervention?
- Does decentralization reveal new forms of individual vulnerability and social inequality and/or are these being reinforced by the transformations?

Our call for papers resulted in several submissions, of which a first selection is presented in this issue.

As part of this special issue, we start with a contribution by Michael Kolen, mental health carer and advisor in care ethics at Prisma; Frans Vosman, professor in care ethics at the University of Humanistic Studies; and Guus Timmerman, researcher at Presentie. The authors report on a qualitative study on the moral meaning of everyday interaction between young people with a mild intellectual disability (MID youngsters) and their care professionals. Healthcare organizations face the task of reshaping their social mission in the context of a transition in care and an increasingly complex society. In this respect, the question is which sources they can turn to in their attempt to navigate through this new constellation. For healthcare organizations that support MID youngsters this mission has a dual character. On the one hand, it consists in protecting the MID youngsters

and society; on the other, it should assist them to realize a life of freedom. Combining examples from institutional ethnographical research and the theory of life forms, the authors show that there is a source of morality in everyday interaction that proves to present solid solutions. The answer to the question “what is the good life?” appears to be hidden in the everyday interactions between MID youngsters and the care professionals themselves. This is an internal, moral source of knowledge that is often overlooked but is present “under the radar”.

The second theme-related contribution is an essay by Ymke Kelders, Sanne ten Hoeve, Rick Kwekkeboom, Linda Schmale, Yvette Wittenberg and Stefanie van Zal, all of whom work at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. The authors reflect on the consequences of the recent changes within the Dutch healthcare system regarding research and education. In their article, they relate the ideology and the goals of this transition to the ideas underlying the ideal of “community care”. In addition, they address the real and possible implications of the changes with respect to research and education within the social domain and, more specifically, within the AUAS Community Care Research Group. They explain why the research topics addressed by this group are particularly relevant to contemporary circumstances, and the consequences of their research for the curriculum of social/care education programmes.

The third contribution is authored by Michelle van der Tier, researcher in the department of social integration at Zuyd University of Applied Sciences and PhD candidate at Leuven University; Koen Hermans, assistant professor at the centre for sociological research at Leuven University and project leader at LUCAS; and Marianne Potting, lecturer in informal care at Zuyd University of Applied Sciences. The article presents a methodological description of Program Theory, consisting of both a literature review and a case study. The authors reflect on both the practical and the scientific benefits of this method for the theoretical foundation of social interventions. This is a relevant question in a situation where policymakers increasingly demand the justification of professional social work practices, while at the same time there are very few social interventions that have theoretical and/or scientific support. The authors argue that a Program Theory approach provides a valuable addition to the evidence-based approach that often prevails.

This issue concludes with our regular Book Review and Innovations in Social Practice and Education sections. In the Book Review section, Ton Notten discusses *Hoe de verzorgingsstaat verbouwd wordt. Kroniek van een verandering* (How the welfare state is being reconstructed. Chronicle of a change), by Albert Jan Kruijer, Femmianne Bredewold and Marcel Ham, while Rick Kwekkeboom

## EDITORIAL

reviews Mariely López-Santana's *The New Governance of Welfare States in the USA and Europe – Between Decentralization and Centralization in the Activation Area*.

In the Innovations in Social Practice and Education section, Judith Metz, Jolanda Sonneveld and Said Awad discuss the method of “Youth Organizing” as a new, activating, motivating tool in youth work. They also present some initial insights based on an evaluation of the method among adolescent participants.

Nol Reverda, editor-in-chief

Roelof Hortulanus, editor

Yke Eijkemans, managing editor