

C. COLLABORATION & CO-CREATION WITH SERVICE USERS

The aim of the collaborative is to focus on discussing and developing service user participation in practice research. The issue has been touched at all practice research conferences and will be the main topic for this 6th International Conference in Practice Research in Social Work in Aalborg, Denmark. The topic needs ongoing discussions and development. Collaboration and co-creation are central parts of any kind of practice research. The collaboration between researchers and service users can be challenging and contradictory – especially if we include experiences from collaboration between social workers and service users.

We are interested in building an international community of practice of collaboration and co-creation with service users in health, mental health, and social services and related areas. The idea of the group is for members to share experience from different regions and projects, to discuss issues, notions, barriers, and possibilities, maybe to write and present together – and naturally to include service users, service user organizations and practitioners in the discussion of the collaboration and co-creation.

We invite you to participate in our conference on 7th of June, 09.00 – 13.00 (including lunch) at the Aalborg conference.

The program contains:

- Two invited speeches
- Presentations based on a specialized call for abstracts
- A sharing session on diverse practice experiences in each other's social and cultural contexts

The conference will bring you abundant of opportunities to explore the theme of the conference together.

Call for abstract:

We are calling for abstracts on the topic of **COLLABORATION & CO-CREATION WITH SERVICE USERS**.

We are interested in sharing current work and thinking together, exploring questions such as:

What topics are people researching in settings that involve service user participation?

How are they doing it?

What kind of strengths are there in methodologies and methods to engage and support service users to participate in and lead research?

What kind of barriers are there to support co-research with service users?

How do we collaborate?

What are examples of enablers that have helped, in terms of policy or people or approaches?

Accepted papers will be presented day 1 of the conference, and all presenters will be given 15 minutes to present.

Preparation guidance: The abstract should be approximately 250 words, containing a brief description of the topic and a brief description of the challenges and lessons learned, and/or best practice or lessons learned, related to collaboration and co-creation with service users in social work practice research.

Please submit your abstract to Melissa Petrakis melissa.petrakis@monash.edu by 16th of January 2023. Decisions will be made by the organizing committee during January 2023, and you will be notified by email.

The collaborative is led by professor Lars Uggerhøj, Aalborg University, Denmark. Lars has 50 years of experience in social work. He is a trained social worker and worked as such for 15 years. His research interest is service user experience and participation. Lars has been part of the international advisory board of practice research since it was established and has published several articles and book chapters about the topic

Organizing committee for this collaborative group for the 7th June:

- Melissa Petrakis, Dep. of Social Work, Monash University (Australia)
- Kevan Myers, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (Australia)
- Grace McLoughlan, Neami National Research & Evaluation (Australia)
- Lemlei Le Velle, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (Australia)
- Maija Jäppinen, Faculty of Social Sciences (Social Work), Helsinki (Finland)
- Jaz Chisholm, Mental Health, Eastern Health (Australia)