

PREFACE TO THE EDITION

It is with great pleasure that we present the latest issue of the **Eduschool Journal of Sociology and Social Work (EJSSW)**. This collection of scholarly contributions reflects the dynamic and evolving landscape of sociology and social work in the twenty-first century, where practitioners and researchers are increasingly called upon to respond to complex social realities shaped by technological innovation, environmental change, public health crises, demographic transitions, and persistent structural inequalities.

The articles featured in this issue collectively examine some of the most pressing challenges confronting contemporary societies while reaffirming the central values of social work—human dignity, social justice, inclusion, empowerment, and ethical practice. Together, they demonstrate how sociological inquiry and social work intervention can contribute to understanding and addressing emerging forms of vulnerability and social exclusion.

The opening article explores the growing role of artificial intelligence in child welfare decision-making, critically examining the ethical implications of algorithmic governance and predictive analytics within child protection systems. As digital technologies increasingly influence professional practice, the study offers a timely framework for ensuring accountability, transparency, and human-centred decision-making.

The issue then turns to the urgent global challenge of climate-induced displacement. Through an examination of ethical frameworks and intervention strategies for climate-displaced populations, the article highlights the profound social consequences of environmental change and advocates for climate justice-oriented social work responses that address both immediate needs and structural causes.

Subsequent contributions focus on populations experiencing heightened vulnerability and marginalisation. The article on harm reduction examines evidence-informed approaches to supporting people who use drugs, emphasizing dignity, autonomy, and public health perspectives. Another important study addresses social work practice with survivors of human trafficking, proposing trauma-informed and survivor-centred interventions that uphold human rights while confronting the structural conditions that sustain exploitation.

The final article addresses the growing concern of loneliness and social isolation among older adults in ageing societies. By highlighting community-based interventions and ethical approaches to engagement, the study underscores the importance of fostering social connectedness, intergenerational solidarity, and age-inclusive communities.

A common thread running through all contributions is the recognition that contemporary social problems cannot be addressed through isolated interventions alone. Rather, effective responses require interdisciplinary collaboration, ethical reflection, community engagement, and a commitment to challenging structural inequities. The authors collectively demonstrate how social work and sociological scholarship can illuminate pathways toward more inclusive, resilient, and equitable societies.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all authors for their valuable contributions, the reviewers for their rigorous evaluations and constructive feedback, and the editorial team for their dedication throughout the publication process. Their collective efforts have ensured the scholarly quality and relevance of this issue.

We hope that the articles presented herein will stimulate critical reflection, inspire further research, and support practitioners, educators, policymakers, and students in advancing socially just and ethically informed responses to contemporary challenges. It is our belief that this issue will make a meaningful contribution to ongoing conversations within sociology, social work, and related disciplines.

Dr. Justin P. J

Chief Editor

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