Program of the seminar
Social Work with Families and Children
in Europe and in the United States

Arcavacata Campus
University of Calabria
Arcavacata di Rende (CS), Italy.

May 9 - 13, 2011

Seminar Description

The two previous editions of the Italo-American seminar took place at the headquarters of Loyola Chicago University in Rome where social work teachers and students from Loyola and some Italian universities gathered to study and discuss about migration (2009) and aging society (2010).

This 2011 seminar offers an exploration into some of the main issues related with contemporary social work with families and children. This exploration is grounded in an understanding of the major transformation in some European (Italy, Switzerland and Czech Republic) and American societies, the trends in welfare policy, and the social work responses both in Europe and the United States. This seminar addresses the practice of social work as it applies to the concrete dilemmas posed by families and children and provides a comparative view of both nations.

Seminar Location

The University of Calabria, situated in Southern Italy (in Calabria near the town of Cosenza, about 500 km South of Rome), is a public institution established in 1972. The University of Calabria is a medium-sized university with about 36,000 students.

Since its very beginning the University of Calabria has clearly set out the strategies for the development of its international dimension. In the past twenty years several bilateral agreements were established by the University of Calabria with European and other foreign universities. Such agreements aim at encouraging cooperation in the fields of research and didactic activities. Apart from the participation in programmes co-financed by the E.U., the University of Calabria has established contacts with international organisations such as FAO, UNESCO of the United Nations, and OECD.

More information in English about University of Calabria can be found at: www.unical.it/portale/international.

The activities of the seminar will take place in the meeting room at the ground floor of University of Calabria, Dipartimento di Sociologia e di Scienza Politica (Department of Sociology and Political Science), Ponte Bucci – Cubo 0B, Rende (CS).
# Seminar Agenda

## Sunday May 8th

I. **Orientation (20:00 PM - 21:00 PM)** (Entrance hall, Residenza Socrates)

## Monday May 9th

I. **First Session (9:30 AM - 1:00 PM)**
1. *Introduction of participants and overview of seminar format and content*
   Rector Giovanni Latorre, Dean Guerino D’Ignazio, Gianpiero Barbuto and Alessandro Sicora, University of Calabria, Italy
2. *Changes of the family in the third millennium*
   Annamaria Campanini, University of Milano Bicocca, Italy
3. Break (15 min)
4. Questions and discussion

II. **Lunch Recess (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)**

III. **Second Session (2:30 PM - 5:00 PM)**
1. *Working with families: a systemic approach*
   Annamaria Campanini, University of Milano Bicocca, Italy
2. Questions and discussion
3. Break (15 min)
4. *Welfare Changes in Italy and Europe*
   Vincenzo Fortunato, University of Calabria, Italy

## Tuesday May 10th

I. **First Session (10:30 AM - 1:00 PM)**
1. **Field visit:** Centro Diurno Minori [Day Centre for Minors] “Maria Teresa di Calcutta”, Località Quattromiglia – via Todaro, Rende (CS)

II. **Lunch Recess (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)**

III. **Second Session (2:30 PM-5:00 PM)**
1. *Transnational families and national regulations: challenges and dilemmas for social intervention*
   Claudio Bolzman, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, Geneva, Switzerland
2. *Discussion and Questions*
3. Break (15 min)
4. *Contemporary professional roles of social workers in Italy with family and children*
   Alessandro Sicora, University of Calabria, Italy
5. *Discussion and Questions*
Wednesday May 11th

I. First Session (9:30 AM - 1:00 PM)
1. Field visit: Associazione “San Pancrazio”, Via Lungo Busento Oberdan, Contrada Macchia della Tavola, Cosenza

II. Lunch Recess (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

III. Second Session (2:30 AM - 5:00 PM)
1. Local welfare and social work with children
   Massimo Tagarelli and Emanuela Chiodo, University of Calabria, Italy
2. Discussion and Questions
3. Break (15 min)
4. Working on the edge: experiences of minors’ de-institutionalization
   Emanuela Pascuzzi, University of Calabria, Italy
5. Discussion and Questions

Thursday May 12th

I. First Session (9:30 AM - 1:00 PM)
1. Social work with family in Czech Republic
   Monika Chrenková, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
   Discussions and questions
2. Break (15 min)
3. Social Work with Families and Children in the U.S.
   Janice Mathews Rasheed, Loyola University Chicago, USA
   Discussions and questions

II. Lunch Recess (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)

III. Second Session (2:30 PM - 5:00 PM)
1. Formation of student work groups
2. Student group work to finalize group project and prepare presentation

Friday May 13th

I. First Session (9:30 AM - 13:00 PM)
Presentation and discussion of student group projects.
1. Group 1 and 2 (60 min: two 25-minute student group presentations followed by 10 minutes of question and discussion)
2. Group 3 and 4 (60 min: two 25-minute student group presentations followed by 10 minutes of question and discussion)
3. Break (15 min)
4. Group 5 and 6 (60 min: two 25-minute student group presentations followed by 10 minutes of question and discussion)
5. Final evaluation
Seminar Assignments

The various lectures presented in the seminar provide an introduction to Social work with families and children in Europe and in the United States. For your group project, you are asked to consider a central question related to the seminar issue that presents an ethical dilemma, as well as concrete social, material, and policy challenges. As a group, you are to reflect on the question and consider it from the perspective of your professional social work values and your understanding of social welfare. Six (or four) groups will be formed and each of them will be comprised of Italian students and of U.S. students. On the final day of the seminar, each group will be given 25 minutes to present their ideas, followed by 10 minutes of question and discussion. Each group will be asked to prepare a 4-page (double spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins) summary of their ideas for distribution to the participants on the final day of the seminar. The questions to be considered will be communicated during the seminar.

Course Materials and Readings

Lectures, lecture notes, suggested readings and web-based resources will be posted on Alessandro Sicora’s electronic blackboard. Go to <http://www.unical.it/portale/strutture/facolta/scipol/stud/bacheca/>, click on “S”, then on “Sicora Alessandro”, “Materiale didattico” and on “Social Work Seminar (University of Calabria, May 9 - 13 2011)”.

A Facebook group has been created to allow the exchange of information between the participants of the seminar. Its title is: “Social Work Seminar (University of Calabria, May 9 - 13 2011)”.  

Residenza Socrates (Centro residenziale)

Canteen

Seminar room

Bus stop (“Pensiline”)