

Embracing Longevity : Wisdom, Challenges and Opportunities Series 2

Optimizing evidence for social work profession : A framework synthesizing evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence

As a discipline, social work has faced longstanding skepticism about its scientific and professional legitimacy. To address this, researchers studying social work interventions have turned to evidence-based approaches as methodologies that facilitate scientific rigor. However, these researchers applying experimentalist evidence-based methods to social work have faced significant criticism that raises three core issues: the lack of generalizability of “standardized” quantitative evidence, the limited scope of the evidence collected and the oversimplifying of evidence integration methods. The effective application of an evidence-based approach to the field of health social work requires researchers to engage in a process of localization to suit the complex and personalized contexts in which social work interventions are based. This paper proposes an integrative framework that addresses the three aforementioned issues by setting out a program of research to support social work intervention design.

This framework consists of three stages: in the first stage, research evidence (both quantitative and qualitative) and practice evidence directly from professionals are collected to provide a comprehensive proposal of “best evidence” for intervention design. In the second stage, the researcher(s) collaborate with stakeholders to design the intervention and refine it. In the third stage, which follows the implementation of the intervention, the researcher(s) and stakeholders undertake comprehensive reflection and evaluation. This framework which marks a shift towards a localized evidence-based methodological framework for social work intervention studies, enables data integration (to expand the scope and generalizability of supporting evidence), methodological integration (to enable research flexibility and operability), and epistemological integration (to balance scientism and naturalism).

About the Speaker :

Academic Achievements : 4 provincial and national projects as PI, including 國社科後期重點; one monograph (Springer Nature) and one edited volume (Routledge) on aging; as the first or corresponding author, over 20 SSCI/SCI papers in Nature Aging, British Journal of Social Work, Journal of Contemporary China, etc. and numerous Chinese papers.

He serves as Deputy Editor-in-chief of Social Work and Management 社會工作與管理, Guest Editor of Asia Pacific Viewpoint (SSCI Q1), section editor in social science for General Practice in China 中國全科醫學, Editorial Board Member for Humanities and Social Science Communications (SSCI Q2) under Nature. He has appeared as a end-of-life specialist on the TV program “很高興認識你”.



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Research Areas : Medical Sociology and Social Work

DATE & TIME

December 18, 2024 (Wed)
5:00PM - 6:00PM

VENUE

CPD-2.45,
Centennial Campus, HKU

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LANGUAGE

Putonghua

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