



ERIS web journal, 2/2012

Book review

Ralph-Christian (2012): *Einführung in die Berufsgeschichte der Sozialen Arbeit*. Beltz Juventa (ISBN: 978-3-779-2214-8)

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The book about the history of social work education in Germany is published in the book series „study modules of social work“ of the Beltz Juventa publishing house. Therefore it contains 14 chapters and each chapter ends with study questions and hints to additional reading material or movies/websites. Even though the book is a study book and therefore it is written mainly for students on the bachelor and master level it is interesting for scholars as well. It provides a comprehensive overview about the history of social work in Germany and focuses not only on the historical development but also on the different theoretical developments (i.e. social pedagogy) in Germany.

Chapter one is the introduction to the book itself. Chapter two gives you a brief overview of the current status of social work in Germany. Amthor states that by doing this the readers will get a better understanding of the history of social work. Chapter three and four are focusing on the historical development from the 14th to the 19th century and the helping professions in this timeframe. This historical overview is completed with the chapter eight about the late 19th and early 20th century and chapter eleven and twelve in which Amthor is writing about the helping professions in Germany and the former German Democratic Republic (GDR). In addition there are two chapters (nine and ten) in which the author is looking at social work under the influence of the nazi regime. Chapter nine is focusing on social work as part of the nazi regime while chapter ten is looking specifically on resistance of social workers against the nazis during this time. In addition to this historical developments there are for more chapters (five, six, seven and thirteen) which are specifically on the development of social work education. Amthor sees four different historical roots leading to the current status of social work education in Germany. The first is about early childhood

education (chapter five) which is not part of the school system in Germany. The second root lies in schools of social work exclusively for women (chapter six), Amthor sees the third root in christian schools of social work mostly for men and finally the fourth root lies in the beginning of social work education on the university level.

The book from Ralph-Christian Amthor is a wonderful reading for those who are interested in the history of social work in Germany. It explains in a profound way why social work in Germany has developed in the way it did. It provides many interesting insights and passages of original material and pictures. By asking study questions at the end of each chapter students can evaluate their own learning progress and by providing hints to literature, movies and websites Amthor inspires to additional self studies.