



**SOCIAL WORK INNOVATION, EXPERIMENTATION AND RESEARCH CENTER
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MONGOLIA**

Background

Social work is a helping profession. The following definition developed by the *International Federation of Social Work General Meeting* and *International Association of Schools of Social Work General Assembly*, approved in 2014, captures this sentiment:

Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people (IFSW & IASSW, 2014).

In 2000, lecturers in the *Department of Sociology* at the *National University of Mongolia* (NUM) established a Bachelor-level program in social work. As a result of the success of this offering, the Department was later re-named as the *Department of Sociology and Social Work* (DSSW). Currently, the DSSW offers social work programs at Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral levels.

Following the introduction of the *Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training* in 2020, social work lecturers in the DSSW at NUM discussed and agreed to the establishment of a social work innovation, experimentation, and research center. The intention of the center would be to develop evidence-based social work education approaches and practices in collaboration with local and international scholars.

The *Social Work Innovation, Experimentation and Research Center* (SWIERC), affiliated with the *School of Arts and Sciences* (SAS) at NUM was officially established by the Rector's order (no A/146) on the 19th March 2024, which was designed to coincide with *World Social Work Day*.

Aim

The aim of the SWIERC is to meaningfully contribute to the development of social work infrastructure based on social work research, knowledge innovations, and practice. In addition, SWIERC aims to become a national center which is capable of undertaking social research at local, national, regional and international levels.

Main activities

Lecturers and researchers affiliated with SWIERC will carry out research and training based on their specialised fields. These areas are inclusive, but not exhaustive, of:

- Social work;
- Social protection and welfare policy;
- Child protection;
- Disability;
- Inclusive social and education services;
- Gender Equality; and
- Public and Private Partnership.

As a team, the center members will undertake independent and cutting-edge research and training in the fields of fundamental and applied social science and education, specifically in the field of social work. They will also collaborate with professionals and practitioners across the country, region, and world with the same interests to enact research and experimentation to further develop and apply innovative knowledge and practice in the field.

Local and International Partner Organizations

Partner organizations collaborating with SWIERC include:

- State Authority for Children and Family Development and Protection
- Municipal Authority on Culture
- State Authority of Education
- Non-Government Organizations
- Shukutoky University, Japan
- RMIT University, Australia
- Flinders University, Australia

SWIERC Director and Members

(in Alphabetical Order of Surname)

Director

Dr. Batkhashig Adilbish, Director of the SWIERC and Associate Professor in the DSSW (NUM). She received her PhD in Social Work from Flinders University (Australia) and her Master of Social Work from Washington University in Saint Louis (USA). Her areas of research interest include: social work theory and practice, child protection and rights, development of human service and programs and gender-based violence, social and gender analysis, and Buddhist and Indigenous social work.

Members

Oyuntsetseg Dugarsuren, member of the SWIERC and Senior Lecturer in the DSSW (NUM). She obtained her Master of Public Health from the University of Melbourne (Australia) and her Master of Sociology from NUM. Her areas of interest include: community opinions, food sociology, public health, and social and environmental assessment.

Dr. Zoljargal Dembereldorj, member of the SWIERC and Associate Professor of the Department of Educational Studies (NUM). She received her PhD in Education Studies from Korean University and her Master of Language Studies from NUM. Her areas of research interest include: technology of training and AI, internationalization of higher education, quality of education, students' participation, ranking of higher education institutions and universities, research methodology, quantitative and qualitative research, and online training.

Dr. Angela Fitzgerald, member of SWIERC and Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (Australia). She obtained her PhD from Edith Cowan University (Australia) and her Master of Education from Deakin University (Australia). Her areas of interest include: teacher professional development, innovative educational research, and academic community engagement and mentorship.

Dr. Tumennast Gelenkhuu, member of SWIERC and Head of the DSSW (NUM). He obtained his PhD in Sociology and his Master of Sociology from NUM. He is currently a doctoral student of social work at Shukutoku University (Japan). His areas of research interest include: improvement of social welfare systems, impact of social welfare policy, social work management, history and cultural competence, and Buddhist and Indigenous social work.

Dr. Josef Gohori, member of SWIERC and Professor in the Graduate School of Integrated Human and Social Science at Shukutoku University (Japan). He received his PhD in cultural anthropology, social welfare and education from Hyogo University of Education (Japan) and his Master of Philology and Cultural Anthropology from Charles University (Czech Republic). His areas of research interest include: cultural background of social work, Buddhist social work, religion/spirituality and social work, decision making processes, social networks, death and dying, and international social work.

Dr. Batbaatar Monkhooroi, member of SWIERC and Associate Professor of the DSSW (NUM). He received his PhD in Sociology and Master of Sociology from NUM. His areas of research interest include: methodology of studying quality of life of Mongols, quantitative and qualitative research methodology, migration, quality and accessibility of education, corruption and justice research, gender, human rights, child protection, child care, and evaluation and monitoring.

Dr. Boldmaa Naran, member of SWIERC and Associate Professor of the DSSW (NUM). She received her PhD in Sociology from South Federal University (Russian Federation) and her Master of Sociology from Erkhuu' University (Russian Federation). Her areas of research interest include: gender, gender analysis, gender-based violence, disability, and business accessibility and regulations.

Bayarmaa Narantuya, member of SWIERC and Head of Family Policy Implementation and Coordination Department in the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (Mongolia). She received her Master of Public Management from Public Administration Academy (Mongolia) and her Master of Education from the Mongolian State University of Education. Her areas of expertise include: family policy, child protection, development of social and educational services and programs for children and families, and child rights and social work.

Chanzalzuren Mavag, member of SWIERC and Director of Ulaanbaatar Branch, Norwegian Lutheran Mission. She is a social work doctoral student at NUM. She received her Master of Business Administration from Public Administration Academy (Mongolia). Her areas of research interest include: child rights and protection, gender-based violence, and community and social development.

Dr. Otgonbayar Yadamjav, member of SWIERC and Associate Professor of DSSW (NUM). She received her PhD in Sociology and Master of Sociology from NUM. Her areas of research interest include: higher education, teacher development, empowerment of social disadvantaged groups, poverty alleviation, employment opportunities for people released from prisons, socialization of homeless people, and development of life skills.

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