NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MONGOLIA
SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SOCIAL WORK INNOVATION, EXPERIMEN
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SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MONGOLIA

OPEN-MIND MONGOLIA 2025

"SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL ERA"

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

OPEN-MIND MONGOLIA 2025: “SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL ERA” INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025
ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

OPEN-MIND MONGOLIA 2025: "SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL ERA" INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE AGENDA

OPEN-MIND MONGOLIA 2025: "SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL ERA."
INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

08:30	Conference Registration at NUM Library Building, Room 502
9:00 AM- 9:30 AM (Ulaanbaatar time, UTC +8)	**Opening Ceremony**
09:05	**Dr. Zayabaatar Dalai,** Professor, Pro rector, National University of Mongolia
09:10	**Dr. Bold-Erdene Baast,** Professor**,** Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, National University of Mongolia
9:15	*Cultural Performance*
PLENARY SESSION: KEYNOTE ADDRESS **VENUE:** CONFERENCE ROOM 502, NUM LIBRARY BUILDING 9:30 AM- 11:30 AM (Ulaanbaatar time, UTC +8)	
09:30	Dr. Gautam Yadama, Professor, Dean, Boston College School of Social Work, USA, **"Dynamic Complexity of Technology and Society: Field Observation"**
09:45	Dr. Cheng Sheng-Li, Professor, School of Philosophy and Social Development, Shandong University, China **"Today's Chinese families in the midst of the great social transformation: Challenges and Responses"**
10:00	Dr. Hong-Jae Park, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University, Australia **"Eco-Intergenerational Sustainability in the Digital Era: Critically Weaving Technological Innovation and Ancestral Wisdom"**
10:15	Dr. Josef Gohori, Professor, Graduate School of Integrated Human and Social Welfare Studies, Shukutoku University, Japan **"Cultural and Lifestyle Shifts in Urban and Rural Contexts: Challenges and Opportunities for Social Work Practice"**
10:30	Dr. Le Van Công Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam **"Service-Learning as a Way of Transformation on the Environment of Education, Training, and Information at the Faculty of Social Work in Vietnam"**
10:45-11.25	Handover ceremony of the Honoured Doctor of SAS
11:25	Group Photo
Moderators: *Dr. Oyuntsetseg. D, Department of Sociology and Social Work, National University of Mongolia* *Mr. Badamdash. D, Department of Political Science, National University of Mongolia*	
11.40	**Coffee and Tea Break**

The opening ceremony and keynote address will be held in conference room #502 at the National University of Mongolia's library. After the coffee break following the Plenary Session, the conference will proceed in two parallel sessions in two different conference halls:

- *The sessions on "**Cultural and Lifestyle Shifts in Urban and Rural Contexts**" and "**Trends in Changes in Family Structures, Gender Relations, and Intergenerational Dynamics**" will be held in the conference room No 502 (the same room as the plenary session) NUM Library.*

- *The sessions on "**Transformations in the Environment of Education, Training, and Information***" and "***Emerging Trends in the Fields of Work, Occupations, and Labor**" will be held in conference hall No 502 at the Development Center for Teachers and Students, NUM*

SUB SESSION I: CULTURAL AND LIFESTYLE SHIFTS IN URBAN AND RURAL CONTEXTS **VENUE:** CONFERENCE ROOM 502, NUM LIBRARY BUILDING **12：00 PM- 14：50 PM (Ulaanbaatar Time UTC+8)** **Chair:** Dr. Bayartsetseg Terbish, Department of Sociology and Social Work, National University of Mongolia	
12:00	Munkhtur Dashzeveg & Nandintsetseg Battulga, National University of Mongolia **Exploring the possibilities of maintaining and developing traditional nomadic culture using technological advancement**
12:10	Dr. Sondra Cuban, Professor, Western Washington University **Critical Cases of Distance-Mothering Among Mongolian Women in South Korea (online)**
12:20	Kana Matsuo, MSW, Asian Research Institute for International Social Work, Shukutoku University, Japan **Is "Living in Harmony with Foreign Residents" an Appropriate Perspective in Social Work Discussions? A Reflection on the Intersectionality of Social Work in Contemporary Japan**
12:30	Dr. Anna Vinokurova, Far Eastern Federal University, Russia **Everyday Practices of Local Communities in Urban-Type Settlements: The Case of the Russian Far East (online)**
12:40	Sahan Premarathna, National Institute of Social Development, Sri Lanka **Cultural and Lifestyle Shifts in Urban and Rural Sri Lanka: A Comparative Analysis of Tradition, Modernity, and Social Transformation (online)**
12:50	**Q & A**
Lunch break 13:10 PM- 14:10 PM (Ulaanbaatar Time, UTC+8)	
14:10	Dr. Oyunkhand Shagdar, National University of Mongolia **Digital detox implementation in different social groups**
14:20	Long Mei, National University of Mongolia, Dr. Munkhbaatar Sengedorj & Dr. Tumennast Gelenkhuu, National University of Mongolia **A research on the structural changes in nomadic land: A case study of Bayanhua settlement in the southern Urad province of Inner Mongolia**
14:30	Dr. Amanda Howard, University of Sydney; Dr. Dan Jezreel Orendain, Ghent University; Dr. Margot Rawsthorne, University of Sydney & Dr. Terbish Bayartsetseg, National University of Mongolia **Community-based adaptation for socio-ecological harmony in times of climate change: Cases from Australia, the Philippines and Mongolia**
14:40	Q&A
SUB SESSION II: "TRENDS IN CHANGES IN FAMILY STRUCTURES, GENDER RELATIONS, AND INTERGENERATIONAL DYNAMICS" **VENUE:** CONFERENCE ROOM 502, NUM LIBRARY BUILDING **15：00 PM - 17：55 PM (Ulaanbaatar Time UTC+8)** **Chair:** Dr. Tserenbazar Pioner, Department of Sociology and Social Work, National University of Mongolia	
15:00	Mieko Ikehata, Professor, Developmental Clinical Research Center at Shukutoku University, Japan **Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders in the Digital Era: Assessment, Intervention, and the Importance of Concrete Learning**
15:10	Dr. Boldmaa Naran, National University of Mongola; Tsogzolmaa Tumur, LL.M; Jargalmaa Ganzorig, MA., Senior researcher of Independent Research Institute of Mongolia **Online and technology-facilitated human trafficking and sexual exploitation (In case**

	Mongolia)
15:20	Kotono Soeda, Shukutoku University Graduate School, Japan **Language Development in Young Children with the Autism Spectrum Disorder: Individualized Support in the Context of Digital Transformation**
15:30	Dr. Batkhishig Adilbish, Social Work Innovation, Experiment and Research Center, National University of Mongolia **Emerging needs of using innovative techniques and technology in social work services for children and families.**
15:40	Q&A
Tea break 16:00 PM- 16:15 PM (Ulaanbaatar Time, UTC+8)	
16:15	Pousy Poulose & Dr.J.M.Arul Kamaraj, Loyola College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India **Digital influence on gender role expectations among young working couples in Thrissur District, Kerala. (online)**
16:25	Dr. Hilary Schwandt, Western Washington University; Dr. Oyuntsetseg Dugarsuren & Dr. Batbaatar Monkhooroi, and Dr. Burenjargal Tegshee, National University of Mongolia **Abortion in Mongolia**
16:35	Bao Tonglaga, National University of Mongolia **A Research Overview on the Transformation of Traditional Elderly Care Models in Rural China**
16:45	Sarengaowa Degejirihu **Family Status and Challenges of Female Civil Servants in the People's Republic of China in the Digital Era**
16:55	Dr. Indra Chandramali, Nagananda International Institute for Buddhist Studies, Sri Lanka **Family, Kinship, and Buddhist Ethics: Sustaining Interpersonal Relationships in the Digital Age**
17:05	Q&A
17:25	Wrap Up: Co-chairs of two sub-sessions will summarize conference sessions.
17:40 - 17:55	Dr. Tamir Chultemsuren, Vice Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Mongolia **"Closing notes"**

SUB SESSION III: TRANSFORMATIONS IN ENVIRONMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION **VENUE:** CONFERENCE HALL 502, DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, NUM **12：00 PM- 1：00 PM (Ulaanbaatar Time UTC+8)** **Chair:** Dr. Batkhishig Adilbish, Department of Sociology and Social Work, National University of Mongolia	
12:00	Dr. Seth Feinberg, Chair and Professor of Sociology, Western Washington University, USA **Collaborative Research Experiences for Cross-Cultural Learners**
12:10	Dr. David Yang, Western Washington University, USA **Reimagining Assignments in the Age of AI: An Exploratory Study in Teacher Education (online)**
12:20	Dr. Derek Moscato, Western Washington University; Bayarmaa Boldbaatar PhD and Ariunzaya Noruvsuren PhD, National University of Mongolia **Environmental Journalism and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL): A Mongolia-United States Case Study (online)**
12:30	Chiharu Mimura, Tomomi Nakao, Takuro Nakatsubo, Yusuke Kojima, Yasuyuki Hyodo, Dr. Josef Gohori, Shukutoku University **Realizing the importance of eating in the digital era -Practicing through a mindful eating program**
12:40	Zol Narantsatsralt & Dr. Otgonbayar Yadamjav, National University of Mongolia **The interaction between educational tradition and reform in the digital environment**
12:50	Oyut-Erdene Namdaldagva,MSW, Social Work Department, Mongolian National University of Education, Mongolia, & Dr. Eunice Kim, California State University, Los Angeles, USA. **Developing online collaboration in social work education: Lessons learned from Collaborative Online International Learning project**
13.00	**Q & A**
Lunch break 13:20 PM- 14:20 PM (Ulaanbaatar Time, UTC+8)	
SUB SESSION IV: EMERGING TRENDS IN THE FIELDS OF WORK, OCCUPATIONS, AND LABOR **VENUE:** CONFERENCE HALL 502, DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, NUM **14： 20 PM- 17：45 PM (Ulaanbaatar Time UTC+8)** **Chair:** Dr. Oyuntsetseg Dugarsuren, Department of Sociology and Social Work, National University of Mongolia	
14:20	Dr. Judy Taylor, James Cook University, Australia **Relationality in the digital workplace - new directions**
14:30	Brian J. Bowe, Chair of the Department of Journalism, Western Washington University, Ariunzaya Norovsuren, Iderjargal Dashdondog, Tuvshintur Bayarsaikhan, National University of Mongolia **Motivations and Role Conceptions of Journalism Students in Mongolia**
14:40	Jayasurya. K, & Dr. J.M. Arul Kamaraj, Loyola College, India

	GIG economy in flux: Social changes and labour dynamics among the marginalized communities in the north Chennai digitalised workforce (online)
14:50	Tian YouLi, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia and National University of Mongolia **Political Connection and Effectiveness of Civil Social Work Agencies: A Moderated Mediation Model (online)**
15:00	Dr. Natallia Zakharova, Natalia Lazarevich, Maria Viarenich, Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus **Anthropological crisis – Transformation of cultural values (online)**
15:10	Dr. Munkhbaatar Sengedorj, Dr. Tumennast Gelenkhuu, & Dr. Oyunkhand Shagdar, National University of Mongolia; Viarenich Maria, Institute of Philosophy, National Academy Science, Belarus **Well-being of the population and social policy in the digital era: Mongolia and Belarus**
15:20	**Q & A**
Tea break 15:40 PM- 16:00 PM (Ulaanbaatar Time, UTC+8)	
16:00	Dr. Omalpe Somananda, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka & Dr. N.K. Silva, Centre for Buddhist Social Work, Sri Lanka **Emerging Trends in the Fields of Labour Work in Sri Lanka (online)**
16:10	Chantsalsuren Mavag, National University of Mongolia; Munkhbat Orolmaa, Professor, Director, Ulaanbaatar Science and Technology Park **Social Engineering and Systems Transformation: Theorizing Child Protection in the Digital Emergency Era**
16:20	Jia Bo, National University of Mongolia **How do AI-driven job demands influence the job performance of medical social workers? —— A Dual Mediation Model Based on Job Crafting and Burnout (online)**
16:30	Batjargal Gantevne, Tsolmon Baatar, University of Internal Affairs, Mongolia **Technological Advancement in the 21st Century: Impacts on Social Work Trends and Interdisciplinary Collaboration**
16:40	Dr. J. M. Arul Kamaraj, Loyola College, India **Social Work Interventions to Enhance Emotional Intelligence for Organizational Effectiveness in the Digital Era (online)**
16:50	Q&A
17:10	Wrap Up: Co-chairs of two sub-sessions will summarize conference sessions
17:25-17:40	Dr.Tumennast Gelenkhuu, Head, Department of Sociology and Social Work, National University of Mongolia **"Closing notes"**

Poster presentation:

Dong Changzhu & Batbaatar Monkhooroi, National University of Mongolia
The Role of Professional Social Workers in Child Protection and Cybercrime Prevention: China's Specifics

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OPEN-MIND MONGOLIA 2025: “SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL ERA” INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER’S INTRODUCTION AND ABSTRACTS

OPEN MIND MONGOLIA 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER'S INTRODUCTION

Gautam N. Yadama, Dean
Boston College School of Social Work
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, USA

Gautam N. Yadama, PhD, is Dean of the Boston College School of Social Work at Boston College. A key focus of his work is on understanding and intervening in resource-poor communities to enhance social, health, economic, and livelihood outcomes, as well as overall quality of life. He was a member of the Implementation Science Network (ISN) at the Fogarty Institute of the National Institutes of Health, USA. He is the principal investigator of the Early Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (EHIP) program funded by the William T. Grant Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the Spencer Foundation. Yadama's book, Fires, Fuel, and the Fate of 3 Billion: State of the Energy Impoverished (Oxford University Press, 2013), advocates for transdisciplinary research to address complex issues at the intersections of poverty, environment, and health. In collaboration with the Open Society Foundation, he played a pivotal role in training several cohorts (1999-2014) of young social welfare and social work professionals from Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Georgia.

Dynamic Complexity of Technology and Society: Field Observations

The challenges faced by vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries are highly complex and multifaceted. The talk will focus on how to sustain technological solutions that create social transformation with real impact, requiring expertise from various scientific fields and professional disciplines to address intricate problems. Such transdisciplinary collaboration might encompass expertise in community development, data analytics, environmental sciences (including air, water, and forest management), child and maternal health, soil and plant sciences, systems science, ecology, agriculture, and climate science. Closer cooperation among these fields will lead to more advanced and comprehensive solutions to tackle real-world wicked problems. Many wicked problems, from the livelihoods of nomadic communities to the widespread lack of access to clean energy, seem like a moving target with feedback effects that increase the dependence of the energy poor on biomass fuels or nomadic populations on degrading ecosystems, worsening health due to household air pollution, or unproductive land that cannot support future generations. Cyclical relationships, a key feature of wicked problems, are likely to produce feedback effects from attempted interventions. The talk will explore the complex dynamics between technology and societal change, providing concrete examples to illustrate these concepts.

Dr. Sheng-Li Cheng

Cheng Sheng-Li, PhD, is a professor and doctoral supervisor at the Department of Social Work, School of Philosophy and Social Development, Shandong University, Chairman of The Family Social Work Professional Committee, Chinese Association of Social Work Education. He was the vice dean of the School of Philosophy and Social Development (April 2018-January 2022). He has been a visiting scholar at the School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley (2007.09-2008.08), and the University of British Columbia, Canada (2014.09-2015.08). He has lectured at the School of Social Work, University of Regina, Canada, and the Department of Social Work, Umeå University, Sweden. He is currently the Chinese director of the Confucius Institute at the National University of Mongolia. His main research areas are family social work, adolescent mental health, and social welfare for the elderly. He has published 7 monographs and translated or edited books, and more than 60 academic papers, including 19 English papers.

Josef Gohori, PhD
Professor
Graduate School of Integrated Human and Social Welfare, Shukutoku University, Japan
Anthropologist, focusing on medical care and social work. Head of the research project on Buddhist social work, exploring the religious and cultural background and context of social work practice.

Short Biography:
Josef Gohori, Ph.D. is Professor at the Graduate School of Integrated Human and Social Welfare, Shukutoku University, Japan. Born in Czechoslovakia in the 1970s, he specializes in the anthropology of welfare and medical anthropology, with a particular focus on thanatology, decision-making processes, and the social and cultural contexts of care and caring.

Since moving to Japan, Professor Gohori has conducted extensive field research in social and medical settings, emphasizing the intersections of care, culture, and spirituality. From 2015 to 2020, he served as project leader of an international joint research initiative on Buddhist social work, spanning more than twelve Asian countries and regions. His current work explores the role and potential of Buddhist philosophy in contemporary social work and medical care.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Japanese Association of Buddhist Nursing and Vihara Studies, the Japanese Association of Buddhist Social Welfare, among other professional organizations. He also serves as Chief Editor of the International Journal of Buddhist Social Work and was Editor-in-Chief of the 22-volume research series Exploring Buddhist Social Work (2017–2023). In recognition of his contributions to the study of death, dying, and care, Professor Gohori received the Research Award of the Japanese Association for Research on Death and Dying in 2024.

Cultural and Lifestyle Shifts in Urban and Rural Contexts: Challenges and Opportunities for Social Work Practice

Lifestyle and patterns of behavior are in constant motion, but the pace of change in the early 21st century is unprecedented. The rapid development of technologies—digital communication, automation, artificial intelligence, and global connectivity—has dramatically reshaped the ways people live, work, and interact. This acceleration has brought about challenges humanity has never before encountered: deepening inequalities between regions, disruptions to community ties, and a weakening of traditional support systems. Social work, as a discipline and profession, must respond with approaches that are not only technically competent but also culturally grounded and locally relevant.

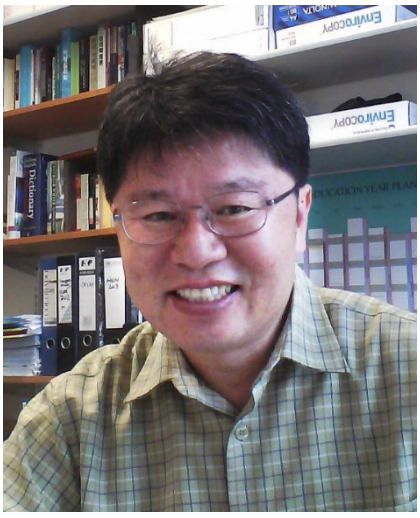
One of the most pressing needs is for social work to pay greater attention to cultural aspects and local contexts. Strategies that work in one setting may fail entirely in another if they disregard community values, traditions, and ways of living. Examples from New Zealand, Canada, and Buddhist social work illustrate how mainstream social work practice can be enriched by weaving in local knowledge and cultural interpretation. In New Zealand, the integration of Māori perspectives into social services has transformed approaches to family support, emphasizing whānau (extended family) and collective wellbeing. In Canada, Indigenous communities are reclaiming control over child welfare systems, incorporating traditional healing and language revitalization into their practice. Buddhist social work—particularly in Southeast and East Asia—offers another example of good practice, combining compassion-centered ethics with community-based action, often in settings where state welfare is limited.

Japan presents a striking case study of rapid cultural and lifestyle shifts. The transition to an urban-centered society has been both swift and profound. Rural populations are declining sharply; in some areas, schools have been abandoned because there are no children to attend them. The welfare of older adults has become a critical concern, with aging indices in some prefectures among the highest in the world. The shortage of caregivers and facilities is particularly severe in remote areas. In the field of dementia care, innovative approaches have emerged: Buddhist temples, once primarily spiritual centers, are being repurposed as hubs for providing care and fostering social connection, stepping in where other institutions can no longer operate.

Similar challenges are evident in Mongolia, where rapid urbanization has drawn large numbers of people from rural areas into cities, particularly Ulaanbaatar. The resulting pressures—overcrowding, environmental stress, and the erosion of traditional nomadic lifestyles—mirror some of the dynamics seen in Japan, but with their own cultural and social specificities. By comparing these cases, we can identify both common patterns and unique responses, enriching our understanding of how cultural and lifestyle shifts affect communities in different contexts.

This keynote will explore these trends and their implications for social work. It will argue that in an era of unprecedented change, effective social work must be adaptive, culturally informed, and locally embedded. By learning from diverse examples—Māori social services in New Zealand, Indigenous-led practice in Canada, Buddhist-inspired care in Japan, and community adaptations in Mongolia—we can better equip the profession to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Dr Hong-Jae Park



Dr Hong-Jae Park is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University, Australia. Originally from the Republic of Korea, Dr Park earned his Master of Social Work (Applied) and PhD degrees from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. In 2017, he joined Western Sydney University after his seven years' service at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He has held multiple governance roles to enhance curriculum and program development, and his teaching focus has been on the advancement of the Master of Social Work (Qualifying) program. Dr Park has maintained a long-standing interest in intergenerational sustainability (including future-oriented filial piety) and has conducted research projects on 'social lifespan' after death, elder abuse and neglect, and lonely death. He also has a distinct research agenda on later-life migration, addressing social isolation and loneliness among older people living in a foreign land, and leads this agenda within social work research and practice in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Eco-Intergenerational Sustainability in the Digital Era: Critically Weaving Technological Innovation and Ancestral Wisdom

While intergenerationality is ontological, technological changes are dramatically reshaping how individuals, families and communities maintain connections across generations. This presentation introduces the concept of Eco-Intergenerational Sustainability, a holistic framework for understanding how individuals and groups experience or navigate rapid digital transformation while sustaining core ancestral wisdom and legacy. Drawing on case studies of Māori whakapapa in Aotearoa New Zealand and Korean filial piety, this talk begins by recognizing that being connected across generations is part of what it means to be human; that is, we are born into it and live through it regardless of time, place, or online or offline space. Then, it critically discusses the multiple aspects of intergenerational sustainability affected by technological innovation across personal, cultural, social and environmental dimensions.

Using an innovative eco-legacy weave framework, this session illustrates patterns ranging from positive technological adaptations to harmful fragmentation, and further interrogates the socio-technical, cultural, and ethical factors that determine whether innovation becomes a conduit for legacy capital (intergenerational resources and wisdom), or a catalyst for disconnection. This session is particularly relevant to Mongolia and Central/East Asia, where traditional ecological wisdom and values are disrupted by urban migration and digital immersion. It offers practical tools and policy implications to assist stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, and community leaders, with their work on eco-intergenerational continuity amid rapid digital and social changes.

Dr Le Van Cong
Vice Dean of Faculty of Social Work
University Social Sciences and Humanities
Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City

Dr. Le Van Cong (b. 1977, Dak Lak, Vietnam) is Vice Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Administrative Law, a Master's degree in Sociology from the Asian Social Institute (Philippines), a Master's degree in Teaching Methodology from Palawan State University, and a Ph.D. in Social Development from the University of the Philippines. His research interests include public policy, social policy, and community development, with a focus on social work, internal migration, and access to social services. Dr. Cong has authored and co-authored publications in both national and international journals and has guided graduate research in sociology and social work.

Service -learning as a way of transformation in the environment of education, training and information at the Faculty of Social Work in Viet Nam

Service-Learning is increasingly recognized as a transformative approach in higher education, especially in social work training. By combining classroom instruction with community engagement, it allows students to apply theoretical knowledge in addressing real-world social issues. This experiential learning process not only improves academic performance but also nurtures civic responsibility, professional competence, and personal growth.

This study explores the implementation of Service-Learning at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, the research pursues four objectives: (1) outline the theoretical foundations of Service-Learning in social work education; (2) analyze its integration into the undergraduate curriculum; (3) evaluate the outcomes from the perspectives of students, educators, beneficiaries, and community partners.

The findings highlight the potential of Service-Learning to enhance social work education in Vietnam and to prepare students as socially responsible professionals and engaged global citizens.

OPEN-MIND MONGOLIA 2025: “SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL ERA” INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ABSTRACTS

SUB SESSION I: CULTURAL AND LIFESTYLE SHIFTS IN URBAN AND RURAL CONTEXTS

Exploring the possibilities of maintaining and developing traditional nomadic culture using technological advancement

Munkhtur Dashzeveg & Nandintsetseg Battulga, National University of Mongolia

We are living in a time when Mongolia's traditional nomadic culture, herding practices, and way of life are undergoing profound changes under the cumulative influence of historical, social, and cultural factors.

Not long ago, the global development trajectory—from the 19th to the mid-20th century—was largely shaped by revolutionary discoveries in the natural sciences and the sweeping meta-narrative of modernization grounded in heavy industrialization. This trajectory prevailed across both socialist and capitalist systems. During this period, an evolutionist and Eurocentric worldview dominated the global discourse on development. As a result, distinctive, non-modernized cultures were generally not regarded positively—not only in national policies and ideologies but also within the realm of the social sciences.

Since the 1990s, when the socialist system collapsed, the ideological bipolar world order dissolved, and globalization along with postmodern conditions became the new global reality, Mongolia's nomadic herders experienced a parallel shift with the privatization of livestock. This led to significant changes in the lives of former cooperative members and rural communities. The cultural revival of traditional nomadic life that followed in the post-1990s era coincided with the rise of information technology, creating the potential to sustain and develop herding practices and cultural knowledge that have been passed down for over a millennium in a new, post-modern context.

Mongolia's traditional nomadic culture is rooted in a lifestyle closely intertwined with nature and enriched by intergenerational knowledge, skills, and practices. In recent years, however, technological advancements, particularly digital transformation—have begun to reach rural and remote areas, bringing both new opportunities and new challenges to the lives of herders.

While digital technology offers clear benefits—such as facilitating information exchange, improving market access, and providing timely weather information—it remains unclear whether these opportunities are equitably accessible to all herders or how such technologies are influencing traditional nomadic lifestyles.

This study, therefore, seeks to explore how the penetration of newly technological innovations intersects with herders' traditional culture, knowledge systems, and way of life. In addition to identifying the new opportunities made possible by technology, the research also aims to examine how herders are currently engaging with these tools and what strategies could enhance their effective and equitable use.

Critical Cases of Distance-Mothering Among Mongolian Women in South Korea

Dr. Sondra Cuban, Professor, Western Washington University

I focus on the complexities of communication, culture, and gender dynamics of Mongolian mothers in South Korea caring for their children in Mongolia through digital strategies and the subsequent changes that occur. The paper uses distance mothering and care theories within Asia (Yeoh, Lam, Somaiah & Acedera, 2023; Cabalquinto & Ahlin, 2021; Chan, 2020; Madianou, 2016; Peng, 2018) as well as literature on Mongolians in the diaspora (Tseden, 2014; Dovchin, 2019; Sottini, 2024; Author; Badrakh et al, 2023; Baasanjav, 2020) to highlight Mongolian women's transnational communication with children and other family members for emotional, economic, cultural, and social purposes. The paper is based on a 2022 study of 30 Mongolian migrant women who were living in and around Seoul and their relations with their families, both in Mongolia and in other places around the world. A major part of the study focused on the participants' social media and communication practices and this paper will highlight the ICT-based care communication and away-mothering. Seven of the participants had young children that lived in Mongolia with their grandparents. The communication and care they exchanged from afar are presented as case studies that focus on digital strategies of distance-mothering combined with social and cultural practices of Mongolians that build on care economy factors in the region. This paper will focus on an otherwise invisible topic of the care economy as it impacts Mongolian women in the diaspora. A major diaspora is South Korea, consisting of 50,000 migrants, women making up its majority (KOSIS). Mongolian women study and work, with mothers remitting home to Mongolia while accumulating social and human capital. Yet the problems they experience especially regarding living and working in a destination country and communicating back home with children have been less documented. The digital strategies that mothers engage in virtually is important for understanding how care in families is distributed across borders and within a region and the changes that occur.

Is "Living in Harmony with Foreign Residents" an Appropriate Perspective in Social Work Discussions? A Reflection on the Intersectionality of Social Work in Contemporary Japan

Kana Matsuo, Asian Research Institute for International Social Work,
Shukutok University, Japan

Summary: The concept of "*Tabunka-kyosei-shakai,*" or a multicultural community living in harmony, has emerged as a significant topic in contemporary Japan. This theme has been recurrent in governmental policy and social planning. However, xenophobic sentiments become more pronounced, particularly during election periods. This presentation examines trends in social work research and proposes a novel perspective on the internationalization of social work in Japan.

Methodology: A review of articles on social work research was conducted using the J-Stage database. This presentation was developed through dialogues with practitioners and academics between April 10 and July 6, 2025.

Results and Discussion: Since the 1970s, social work activists in Japan have been advocating for social change concerning disabilities. Despite these efforts, discussions on social work with foreign residents especially remained largely inactive until 1979, with a significant shift occurring in the 1990s. The focus has since expanded to include foreign residents in the community, addressing issues related to social security, aging, community development, and public health. The notion of a multicultural community living in harmony has been featured in social work journals since the 2000s.

Conclusions: Cultural shift in Japanese social work is at a critical juncture, necessitating reflection. Transnational individuals in Japan have predominantly been viewed as a labor force rather than as migrants, limiting their access to social work institutions under current Japanese policies. In this era of globalization, social work education must embrace internationalization and foster a commitment to social change among practitioners.

Everyday Practices of Local Communities in Urban-Type Settlements: The Case of the Russian Far East

Dr. Anna Vinokurova, Far Eastern Federal University, Russia

The study examines the everyday practices of residents in urban-type settlements (UTS) through the lens of their social identity. It places particular emphasis on key aspects of daily life: labor, household, and leisure activities, which reflect the adaptation of populations in Far Eastern UTS to conditions of limited resources, harsh climate, and remoteness from major urban centers. The selected research cases are urban-type settlements in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Republic of Buryatia. The primary objective was to identify how the boundaries between urban and rural lifestyles blend under conditions of social and infrastructural instability.

The research relies on regional statistical data and qualitative sociological methods, such as expert and focused interviews. Findings demonstrate that the socio-demographic structure of the studied settlements was shaped historically and is now evolving under the influence of common socio-economic trends. At the same time, notable differences exist due to geographic location, industrial infrastructure, and predominant employment sectors.

Urban-type settlements maintain social resilience through the adaptation of key local enterprises to changing conditions, the development of entrepreneurial activities, and commuting and shift-based labor migration. These factors significantly influence the character of everyday labor practices. Leisure activities in UTS play an important role in maintaining social connections, strengthening the local community, and merging urban and rural lifestyles. They balance an aspiration toward modern activities with the preservation of traditional daily-life forms. Household practices in these settlements combine elements of self-sufficiency with features of urban comfort.

In conclusion, we argue that these local communities maintain robust social ties, acknowledge their unique settlement status, and cultivate a hybrid self-perception as being "neither entirely urban nor entirely rural." This insight opens new avenues for further research into local identities under conditions of peripheral urbanization.

Cultural and Lifestyle Shifts in Urban and Rural Sri Lanka: A Comparative Analysis of Tradition, Modernity, and Social Transformation

Sahan Premarathna, National Institute of Social Development, Sri Lanka

The ongoing processes of globalization, technological advancement, and urbanization have significantly reshaped cultural norms and lifestyle patterns in both urban and rural contexts. This study investigates the evolving cultural values, social behaviors, and daily life practices in these contrasting environments. Urban areas demonstrate a shift toward multiculturalism, digital reliance, and individualism, reflecting global trends and modernization. In contrast, rural regions reveal a complex interplay between tradition and transformation, as younger generations migrate, media access expands, and local economies diversify. Using a comparative qualitative methodology, the research employs semi-structured interviews, ethnographic observation, and secondary data analysis to examine these patterns in selected urban and rural communities. The study highlights the drivers of cultural and lifestyle change, such as economic mobility, education, and technological diffusion and assesses their impact on community cohesion, identity, and well-being. The findings emphasize the importance of culturally responsive policy-making that balances innovation with heritage preservation across spatial divides.

Digital detox implementation in different social groups

Dr. Oyunkhand Shagdar, National University of Mongolia

The phrase "digital detoxing" has caused a lot of social worry because of how quickly technology is evolving these days. In their thorough analysis titled "A Comprehensive Review on Digital Detox: A Newer Health and Wellness Trend in the Current Era," Anandpara et al. (2023) state that in order to improve mental health and general well-being, digital detox entails reducing short- and long-term use of screens, social media, and other digital devices. Given that different age groups typically have distinct inclinations and capacities to follow digital detox techniques, social groupings are quite important in this context.
For example, older generations may be more receptive to using digital detox techniques, whereas younger people who have grown up surrounded by technology may find it harder to unplug. This emphasizes the necessity for customized treatments and the significance of comprehending the variations in the effects of digital detox on different social groups. Furthermore, the global experiences with digital detox programs offer insightful information about the advantages and difficulties of this practice that could be modified for the Mongolian cultural setting. The importance of social support networks in promoting and sustaining digital detox practices across various cultures is highlighted by acknowledging these varied viewpoints.

Research on the Construction of Transportation Infrastructure and the Reorganization of the Spatial Structure in Nomadic Societies: A Case Study of Wulaite Qianqi, Inner Mongolia

Long Mei, National University of Mongolia, Dr. Munkhbaatar Sengedorj & Dr. Tumennast Gelenkhuu, National University of Mongolia

In today's society, transportation is regarded as an essential component of human society, serving as a means for people to interact with each other across spatial boundaries and as the foundation for the existence and development of society. However, from the perspective of sustainable development, traditional transportation modes are facing new challenges in terms of meeting demand, resource utilization efficiency, and sustainability, given the finite nature of land and energy resources, as well as the rising public expectations for environmental quality and living standards. This study, based on the case of Wulat Qianqi in Inner Mongolia, explores the impact of transportation development and land acquisition along transportation routes on the social space of local residents. Such impacts have not only altered their livelihood patterns but also brought profound changes to the ecological environment and traditional culture. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct in-depth analysis of the rational utilization of social space along transportation routes to promote sustainable development, which should be an important topic in future transportation strategic planning and has significant practical implications.

Community-based adaptation for socio-ecological harmony in times of climate change: Cases from Australia, the Philippines and Mongolia

Dr. Amanda Howard, University of Sydney; Dr. Dan Jezreel Orendain, Ghent University; Dr. Margot Rawsthorne, University of Sydney & Dr. Terbish Bayartsetseg, National University of Mongolia

In an unprecedented change taking place due to climate change around the globe, communities in urban and rural places have been taking measures to adapt and stay resilient. In academia and in key policy documents, there is a strong mantra to respect and include local knowledge and practices in climate adaption strategies. Nevertheless, such proclamations lack a sound financial, operational and practice-related approaches to explicitly engage with communities. Tackling this knowledge and practice gaps, this presentation introduces cases of community-based ground-up initiatives from water consumption and recycling in Australia, socio-ecological harmony creation rural Mongolia to adaptation efforts by local communities in the Philippines.

Cases from three countries reflect inclusivity of people with special needs, sustainability of eco-friendly enterprising and recognition to knowledge and practices carried within rural communities and displaced people. The paper contributes to the discussion of socio-ecological systems approach by emphasizing, respecting, recognizing and integrating local practices in climate adaptation efforts. It also aims to provoke discussions on how culture and lifestyle change in urban and rural contexts due to climate change.

SUB SESSION II: "TRENDS IN CHANGES IN FAMILY STRUCTURES, GENDER RELATIONS, AND INTERGENERATIONAL DYNAMICS"

Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders in the Digital Era: Assessment, Intervention, and the Importance of Concrete Learning

Mieko Ikehata, Developmental Clinical Research Center, Shukutoku University, Japan

In developmental support for children with neurodevelopmental disorders, we aim to broaden sensory reception and promote social interaction through object-mediated perceptual learning. In today's digital era, where children are often immersed in virtual and screen-based environments, concrete and experiential learning opportunities are particularly crucial. This presentation introduces assessment and intervention practices carried out at the Developmental Clinical Research Center of Shukutoku University, emphasizing the importance of hands-on experiences in supporting children's development.

Online and technology-facilitated human trafficking and sexual exploitation (In case Mongolia)

Dr. Boldmaa Naran, National University of Mongola; Tsogzolmaa Tumur, LL.M; Jargalmaa Ganzorig, MA., Senior researcher of IRIM

Although human trafficking and sexual exploitation are not new social phenomena, over the past decade such activities have undergone a significant surge due to the continued development and proliferation of digital technologies and networked environments. For human traffickers, digitalization has expanded the range of tools available, further deepening the realm of human trafficking crimes. In recent years, dating apps and social media have been exploited by human traffickers who use deceptive tactics to lure victims with false job offers, posting misleading online advertisements and making empty promises of a better life. A review of the statistics on crimes by the Mongolian Criminal Police Agency related to human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the last 10 years shows that the number of such crimes increased. Girls and young women constitute a vast majority of the 391 victims of trafficking identified from 2012 to 2023 (CPA, 2023). According to a survey of household and individual information, communication and technology 80 percent of all households use the internet and 84.7 percent of all citizens use smartphones (MDDIC, NSO, 2022).

The purpose of the research is to describe how human trafficking is carried out in Mongolia through the use of the Internet (websites, facebook, etc.), and to develop recommendations to prevent victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The study is based on quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. As part of the research, we reviewed 15 domestic and 12 international research reports on human trafficking, combating human trafficking and its prevention. And reviewed the materials of 7 court ruling cases with 15 victims between 2018-2024, and the causes and circumstances of these cases were analyzed. Looking at the increase in the number of crimes specified in the Criminal Code in 2024 compared to 2020, there has been an increase in the number of crimes recorded under the following offences:

promoting and inducing child pornography, intentionally causing serious harm to human health, sexual exploitation, and sexual misconduct. To clarify the current situation and trends of human trafficking in Mongolia, data was collected through semi-structured interviews with victims of trafficking and key stakeholders. By result research human trafficking cases often involve sexual exploitation as prostitutes for locals and foreigners in karaoke, saunas, and massage parlors by debt bondage, deception, abuse of a position of vulnerability, and by giving alcohol and tobacco. Especially in recent years, the situation has shifted to more secretive methods of prostitution on the streets and in public places, as well as through the Internet or through the services of certain service providers to find clients, broker victims, and prostitute them on call.

Language Development in Young Children with the Autism Spectrum Disorder: Individualized Support in the Context of Digital Transformation

Kotono Soeda, Shukutoku University Graduate School, Japan

In this presentation, we examine the process of language development in a toddler with autism through a three-year case study and the progress of individualized therapeutic support. While digital transformation provides new opportunities for education and communication, it also underscores the importance of concrete and interactive experiences for children on the autism spectrum. We present practices which include instruction using educational materials and interaction with therapists based on the higher-order theory of sensation and movement, illustrating how such approaches contribute to meaningful language development in young children.

Emerging need to use innovative techniques and technology in social work services for children and families.

Dr. Batkhishig Adilbish, Social Work Innovation, Experiment and Research Center,
National University of Mongolia

The amendments of the Mongolian Child Protection Law was adopted in 2024, and Article 4.1.14 of the Law states that “child protection services mean services provided by service providers in the child protection system in the form of immediate response, protection, rehabilitation, and prevention to ensure the rights of children to protection.” The Mongolian Law on Child Protection” garanteed that social workers play a leadership roles in the delivery of child protection services.

Social workers use traditional case management methods to coordinate services provided in collaboration with other professionals, in additing to meeting face-to-face with children and their families, to provide a variety of services to ensure child safety, protect children, and prevent re-exposure to violence. Mongolia has broad tele communication opportunities to communicate for social workers to work with children and their families individually and in groups.

In addition, there is a growing need to apply innovative new techniques to social work practice. For example, social workers can now use advances in communications to regularly conduct face-to-face video meetings with clients in remote districts, soums, and communities to provide counseling, training, and support.

In addition, the Primero platform, which has been used and proven effective in child protection practices in many countries around the world, is being discussed between UNICEF and the Government of Mongolia regarding the potential use of the platform in child protection and development activities, and initial steps are being taken to introduce it into practice. Primero is an open software for storing, sharing, tracking, and managing digital information for social services. By using Primero in child protection practices, social workers working in child protection will be able to manage child protection and gender-based violence case management, monitor child abuse cases, and support and re-unify families. These tell that there is an urgent need to thoroughly study innovative techniques being introduced into child and family oriented social work services, apply them in social work education and practice, and evaluate their effectiveness.

Digital influence on gender role expectations among young working couples in Thrissur District, Kerala.

Pousy Poulose & Dr. J.M.Arul Kamaraj, Loyola College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

This study investigated the effect of the latest digital innovations on the gender norms within young working couples in Thrissur district, Kerala, a state from Indian known for its high social indicators, yet one which offers a stubborn adherence to traditional patriarchal values. As digital technologies become more integrated into daily life, they are both contesting and upholding traditional gender roles within the family unit. The study employed a qualitative case study approach using purposive sampling to select ten young working couples. Thematic analysis was utilized in data analysis. The findings affirmed the broad access to technology, especially among women, has resulted in enhanced participation in decision making, career opportunities, and civic engagement in Kerala, reflecting the state's advancement in women's education and empowerment. The study explored how online spaces can encourage mutuality among partners and thus foster greater role negotiation at home. This has led to some cooperative household participation with couples demonstrating greater collaboration in homemaking and caregiving tasks. There remains well-established gendered structures: family members monitor or control one's online activities, and the online realm continues to be shaped by normative standards of modesty. The study emphasized the digital media's dual function, both to initiate balanced role negotiations and to reinforce existing hierarchies and stereotypes. The socio-cultural setting of Thrissur, which blends modernity with tradition, underscores the complex intersections of technology, gender, and home life. These insights are crucial for social policy and teaching initiatives aiming to address gender disparity within the rapidly digitizing society of Kerala.

Abortion in Mongolia

Dr. Hilary Schwandt, Western Washington University; Dr. Oyuntsetseg Dugarsuren & Dr. Batbaatar Monkhooroi, and Dr. Burenjargal Tegshee, National University of Mongolia

Introduction

Of all unintended pregnancies in Mongolia, 66% result in abortion. In one study, 30% of women reported a history of abortion. In one facility, 62% of those aborting had more than one abortion, while 25% had two or more abortions. This suggests women use abortion as a method of family planning. In addition, providers are financially incentivized to provide abortions as they are compensated for them as they are not covered by the health insurance scheme. There are often no contraceptives available in the post abortion care facilities, only counseling. Those who have had an abortion are less likely to have used contraception, specifically less likely to have used IUD and injectables and more likely to have used abstinence for pregnancy prevention.

Methods

The goal of this proposed research project is to better understand the abortion and post abortion experience for abortion service providers as well as clients, with a particular focus on post abortion contraception counseling, provision, and uptake. This qualitative study will include a series of in-depth interviews of abortion care providers as well as clients in June/July 2025. There will be 2 IDIs with abortion providers, 3 IDIs with post abortion clients, and 3 IDIs with male partners each in a private clinic and a public clinic in Ulaanbaatar as well as in one rural area – for a total of 24 IDIs.

Summary

The literature review revealed knowledge about the reproductive health landscape in Mongolia, but gaps in that knowledge remain, particularly around post abortion care, which begs to be more intimately examined and studied, which this study will do.

A Research Overview on the Transformation of Traditional Elderly Care Models in Rural China

Bao Tonglaga, National University of Mongolia

In 2023, China officially entered a moderately aging society. Under the dual impacts of the urban-rural dual structure and the transformation of the social population (such as the decline in birth rates and population mobility), the aging situation in rural areas is particularly severe, and the risks and predicaments faced by the elderly are more prominent, which has become a core challenge restricting the implementation of the national strategy for effectively addressing population aging. This paper focuses on the evolution of traditional rural pension systems, clarifies the core concepts of these systems, systematically summarizes the types, influencing factors, and relevant academic research progress of the current main pension systems in rural areas. Against the backdrop of China's social transformation, the paper particularly highlights the foundational role of the home-based pension concept and the practical value of the rural mutual pension system. Based on the comprehensive review analysis, the paper finally proposes a framework for a rural

pension system that meets the requirements of the new era: placing family-based pension as the foundation, strengthening the bottom-up support function of social pension insurance, advancing the construction of rural community-based pension systems, integrating the efforts of multiple stakeholders, and forming a comprehensive pension framework supported by multiple channels and stages. This model aims to provide theoretical references and practical paths for resolving rural pension issues and improving the quality of pension services.

Family Status and Challenges of Female Civil Servants in the People's Republic of China in the Digital Era

Sarengaowa Degejirihu

This article examines the family roles and decision-making power of female civil servants in the People's Republic of China from a sociological theoretical perspective. The findings reveal that although women in China's civil service have made progress in their professional careers, they continue to face gender inequality in the distribution of family resources and decision-making power. The study analyzes how social structures and policy environments influence this phenomenon and highlights that traditional cultural norms and gender role divisions are major obstacles.

Family, Kinship, and Buddhist Ethics: Sustaining Interpersonal Relationships in the Digital Age

Dr. Indra Chandramali, Nagananda International Institute for Buddhist Studies, Sri Lanka

With the rapid technological change, the digital age has reshaped the fabric of interpersonal relationships, particularly within the spheres of family and kinship. This study investigates the relevance and applicability of Buddhist ethical principles in sustaining and enhance better interrelationships with family members and kinship amidst these social transformations. Research problem is how can Buddhist ethics contribute to sustaining and strengthening family and kinship relationships in the face of the relational disruptions caused by the digital age? The prominent aim is to introduce a particular Buddhist ethical model for sustaining harmonious family relationships. Because this is qualitative research, the Buddhist primary and secondary sources are used to collect relevant data. The fundamental teachings of Buddhism can address challenges posed by digital communication, generational disconnection, and the erosion of traditional social bonds. Among them, *sīla* (ethical conduct) is the best core teaching (right speech, right action, and right livelihood of the Noble Eightfold Path), and it can be applied to improve communication and ethical conduct in familial interactions. Especially the *Sigālovāda Sutta* of the Dīgha Nikāya, analyzing contemporary practices in how lay Buddhists navigate family responsibilities, caregiving, gender roles, and elder-young relationships. Furthermore, developing the social behavioral approaches such as *mettā*, *karuṇā*, and *muditā* as a framework promotes mindfulness, empathy, and responsibility in digital spaces, fostering deeper and

more harmonious relationships. Therefore, this is research will be a remarkable study that provides practical guidance in cultivating resilient and compassionate family dynamics in the digital era.

SUB SESSION III: TRANSFORMATIONS IN ENVIRONMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION

Collaborative Research Experiences for Cross-Cultural Learners

Dr. Seth Feinberg, Chair and Professor of Sociology, Western Washington University, USA

The objective is to provide social science students an applied research experience alongside Mongolian and U.S. colleagues. The emphasis is to train the next generation of National University of Mongolian and Western Washington University students through a start to finish research-training project. A secondary objective is to mentor students as global citizens who are prepared to confidently engage in the collaborative exchange of ideas across cultures. The proposed activities include training in applied research, exposure to international cultures, and networking with Mongolian and U.S. faculty and students. The challenges of social problems do not fit into narrow academic fields, so pathways and innovations must include the full complement of scholarly voices. This proposal is designed to help NUM and WWU students initiate their contributions. Training students to foster cultural exchanges would be a valuable contribution to bilateral collaboration as future scholars must speak a common language of science and share sets of data. The opportunity to work with foreign partners is an enormous benefit for students, providing self-confidence, cross-cultural learning, and the establishment of networks through which they will build future international contacts. Faculty will help guide students through every phase of project design and implementation, reviews of relevant literature, assessment of theoretical links and empirical concepts, human subject protocols, and ethical data collection, storage, and dissemination. The focus is to guide and mentor young scholars to enhance their research skills and to cultivate their inquiry and innovation. The project will be considered successful if students demonstrate their research projects to audiences at their home universities, professional conferences, and to academic journals. Both nations need globally engaged and confident students entering career paths. We want to prepare graduates who will carry their new skills with them during future academic and professional careers, at home and abroad.

Reimagining Assignments in the Age of AI: An Exploratory Study in Teacher Education

Dr. David Yang, Western Washington University, USA

As artificial intelligence (AI) technologies rapidly evolve, teacher preparation programs face growing pressure to integrate these tools meaningfully into curriculum and pedagogy. This exploratory study investigates how teacher educators in North American university-based teacher preparation programs are incorporating AI tools into assignment design, and how pre-service teachers experience and respond to these integrations. Drawing from an interdisciplinary lens on educational transformation, the study addresses a timely need to examine the pedagogical shifts prompted by AI in teacher preparation programs. Our research employs a qualitative methodology, with the goal of recruiting 10 faculty members actively involved in designing AI-integrated assignments and 10 pre-service teachers who have engaged with such

assignments. Data will include one-on-one semi-structured interviews with both faculty and preservice teachers to capture their perspectives, rationales, and experiences. We will also conduct an in-depth analysis of relevant artifacts, such as designed assignments and submitted student work, to provide tangible evidence of AI tool integration and student output. Currently in its data collection phase, this study is positioned to offer timely insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by AI adoption in teacher education. We anticipate sharing preliminary findings at this conference, which we expect will illuminate emerging pedagogical strategies, identify key faculty and student perceptions regarding AI utility and ethical considerations, and inform future teacher preparation programs. Our presentation will invite dialogue around the policy, pedagogical, and equity implications of AI in teacher education and seek to foster a collaborative understanding of how teacher preparation programs can respond to technological change in informed and ethical ways.

Environmental Journalism and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL): A Mongolia-United States Case Study

Dr. Derek Moscato, Western Washington University; Bayarmaa Boldbaatar PhD and Ariunzaya Noruvsuren PhD, National University of Mongolia

This presentation examines lessons learned, and opportunities embraced, from a student learning exchange between environmental journalism students from Mongolia and the United States. Opportunities for collaboration between professors and students, particularly with different national and cultural contexts, represent a particularly helpful approach for the environmental journalism classroom but also practitioners. As nations grapple with a wide range of ecological issues, including pollution, weather events, and ecological protection, environmental communicators find themselves grappling with issues that are cross-border, multinational, or broadly global.

This paper examines the authors' immersion in the Collaborative Online International Learning program, centered on key learning objectives of curricular innovation, global citizenship, and the development of student skillsets. A key goal of this program, conducted for the first time in the spring of 2024 between the environmental journalism classes of National University of Mongolia and Western Washington University, was to draw from international learning opportunities to give students the confidence to create scholarly and career pathways that engage with the world. A truism of many scholarly and professional disciplines—including environmental journalism, mass media, advocacy, and public relations—is that practitioners need to be prepared for an increasingly globalized workplace and economy. This requires enhanced knowledge of country-specific contexts, but also skillsets related to culture, language, national customs, and global modes of intellectual, political, economic, and ecological exchange.

Scholarly implications for media and communication studies

Collaborative Online International Learning has been relatively well studied in nation-specific contexts, including Japan (Shoji & Okura, 2024), Mexico (Goto & Gutierrez-Gomez, 2024), Norway (Jenssen et al., 2024), South Africa (Naicker, 2024), and the Middle East (Fulco & Goldsmith, 2024). Yet much less is known about how COIL can be used within the fields of environmental journalism, mass communication

and media. To this end, our winter 2024 program was interested in how the COIL program aligns with environmental journalism and mass media practice; but also how we might learn from our experience and share this learning out with colleagues in our departments and both scholarly and professional fields.

Realizing the importance of eating in the digital era: Practicing through a mindful eating program

Chiharu Mimura, Tomomi Nakao, Takuro Nakatsubo, Yusuke Kojima, Yasuyuki Hyodo,
Dr. Josef Gohori, Shukutoku University

Interventions targeting eating behavior have traditionally focused on nutritional perspectives. However, in recent years, mindfulness-based eating (ME) has emerged as a psychological approach that supports healthier and more satisfying eating habits. While “nutritional guidance” and “enjoyable eating” may appear incompatible, integrating these perspectives enables a holistic program that promotes both mental and physical well-being through daily eating practices.

This study reports the development and practical implementation of a new intervention program co-designed by a dietitian and a psychologist. A three-session workshop was conducted in Ehime Prefecture, held once a month for one hour. The program consisted of three main components: (1) mindfulness-based eating exercises (led by the psychologist), (2) nutrition guidance and physical activity (led by the dietitian), and (3) a reflection session. Homework assignments were also provided throughout the program.

In the ME component, participants learned about ME principles and engaged in mindful eating exercises using three different foods per session. The nutrition component involved reconstructing meals with food cards, learning to balance staple, main, and side dishes, and creating meal plans for both relaxed and busy days. Participants were also encouraged to practice ME at home weekly and record their reflections in a journal.

To eat both healthily and happily, it is important to engage mindfully with meals, maintain appropriate dietary attention, and aim for balance within practical constraints. Future plans include expanding the participant base and conducting further evaluations of the program’s effectiveness.

The interaction between educational tradition and reform in the digital environment

Zol Narantsatsralt & Dr. Otgonbayar Yadamjav, National University of Mongolia

As digital technology continues to advance rapidly, traditional classroom-based teaching methods in higher education are being confronted by new innovations such as online learning (for example, massive open online courses or MOOCs) and blended learning, leading to an accelerated pace of change. Digital transformation has made educational processes more flexible and accessible; however, these changes within traditional institutional settings have also introduced new challenges and have begun to affect core academic values.

This study examines how educational tradition and digital innovation interact in Mongolian universities in the era of artificial intelligence, with a focus on identifying changes in instructional structures, the roles of

participants, and academic values. Grounded in the theoretical perspectives of functionalism, symbolic interactionism, institutional sociology, and neoliberalism, the research employs document analysis and comparative methods on international research articles and policy documents from the Mongolian Ministry of Education and Science, supplemented by a qualitative case study comparing external and internal conditions.

The findings indicate that face-to-face instruction remains the primary mode of knowledge dissemination and is largely **teacher-centered**, while online and blended learning formats are emerging and initiating positive shifts in instructional methods (for instance, the National University of Mongolia launched its first MOOC course on an international platform in 2024). Faculty and students generally welcome digital transformation, but they encounter technical and organizational challenges during implementation.

The introduction of AI tools is noticeably reshaping the structure of teaching and the roles of instructors and students: instructors are shifting from traditional disseminators of knowledge to guides in the learning process, and students must use AI tools while concurrently developing critical thinking skills. On the other hand, the use of AI has raised concerns about academic integrity and the authenticity of knowledge, signaling a need for universities to update their ethics policies. In conclusion, Mongolian higher education shows a tendency for tradition and digital innovation to coexist and mutually influence one another; the research notes that preserving the strengths of traditional education while integrating new technological opportunities is fundamental to improving the quality and accessibility of education.

Developing online collaboration in social work education: Lessons learned from Collaborative Online International Learning project

Oyut-Erdene Namdaldagva, MSW, Social Work Department, Mongolian National University of Education, Mongolia, & Dr. Eunice Kim, California State University, Los Angeles, USA.

The collaboration at a teacher, department, school, university levels is important and has a significant impact in developing social work education. The collaboration takes many forms and modes. Especially last 5 years online collaboration has been developed and broadened at a faster pace. In Mongolia, social work teachers, departments, schools, and universities have implemented many successful collaborative projects nationwide as well as with the international social work institutions and colleagues through consecutive summer schools, thematic workshops, research conferences, and seminars, and forums.

In this presentation, we share lessons learned from participating in the innovative project called Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) initiative offered and administered by University of Minnesota, USA. The COIL initiative declares, “The COIL integrates *virtual international collaboration* into courses, enabling students to connect with peers worldwide, develop intercultural competencies, and enhance curriculum internationalization”. Two social work teachers from Mongolian National University of Education, Mongolia, and California State University, Los Angeles, USA, engaged in the online teaching and learning collaborative project with the aim to enrich our teaching and provide students with a global learning experience. We gained knowledge and skills completing online The COIL design and facilitation essentials workshop. Through active participation and dedication over the several weeks, we designed and developed collaboratively the COIL module plan, which contains interactive classes such as online discussion groups, video conferences, group projects, and embraces the use of digital

technology in teaching and learning. Both teachers received micro-credential from the University of Minnesota. Digital technology served as a bridge in this distance education eliminating a sense of separation between countries and partners. Online collaboration provided opportunity for professional development and growth. Challenges include the time difference between USA and Mongolia, insufficient language proficiency of social work students to engage in online classes, knowledge and skills of use of technology of teachers and students, and the internet. Nevertheless, online collaboration experience is enriching and inspiring and is important to integrate internationalization into curriculum and helping students understand today's interconnected world.

SUB SESSION IV: EMERGING TRENDS IN THE FIELDS OF WORK, OCCUPATIONS, AND LABOR

Relationality in the workplace - new directions

Dr. Judy Taylor, James Cook University, Australia

Our research with Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues finds that a key factor in achieving excellence in research with Indigenous Australians is relationality. Sound, trusting and continuous relationships that are slowly built over time are fundamental to mitigating power dynamics involved between team members. It is relationality that produces partnerships. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues have taught us that relational approaches are honest, humble, open to different cultures and ways.

In the past we have formed these relationships through face to face contact, getting to know one another through visits to country or holding central face-to-face meetings where a participatory learning community is built with the team. In the digital age our learning community meetings are held via digital platforms joining people together from all over Australia. It is now common practice to conduct work with colleagues through platforms such as zoom or microsoft teams. This is the case with the Australian Volunteers program who have developed remote placements where volunteers and host organisations form partnerships and engage in work using communication platforms such as zoom.

How has the experience of meeting and getting to know each other remotely, rather than face-to face affected relationality? Our evaluation of action research finds that an initial face-to-face meeting of partners is essential. Initial familiarity is built from this contact and it is far easier to then to move to building relationships virtually. Allowing time for the process of relationship building is just as important as the task orientation, and sometimes more so. The skills required to nurture relationality while meeting work objectives are at a very high level and sometimes underestimated.

Motivations and Role Conceptions of Journalism Students in Mongolia

Brian J. Bowe, Chair of the Department of Journalism, Western Washington University, Ariunzaya Norovsuren, Iderjargal Dashdondog, Tuvshintur Bayarsaikhan, National University of Mongolia

The field of journalism continues to evolve as the digital era transforms the way reporters conduct their work and the way audiences consume news. Given these changes, what drives university students to pursue journalism? This study explores the motivations of Mongolian journalism students to pursue that field of study, and how they understand the role of journalism in society. Since Mongolia's democratic transition in 1990, the media landscape has experienced significant change. Journalism has shifted from a tightly controlled institution to one that aspires to uphold democratic values, public accountability, and ethical reporting. In this evolving environment, journalism education plays a critical role in shaping the next generation of media professionals.

Mongolian universities, particularly the National University of Mongolia, have reformed their journalism curricula over the past three decades. Programs have moved from Soviet-style training toward liberal arts models based on international standards, including those developed by UNESCO. These changes emphasize critical thinking, ethics, and practical experience. However, despite these developments, relatively little research has examined why students choose journalism and how they perceive its social function.

This study addresses that gap by surveying journalism students from several Mongolian universities. It focuses on two key research questions:

- What motivates students to pursue a journalism degree?
- How do they conceptualize journalism's role in Mongolian society?

Prior studies suggest that students are primarily motivated by personal interest, creativity, and a desire to contribute to positive social change. However, many also report shifting perspectives as they progress through their studies.

GIG Economy in flux: Social changes and labour dynamics among the marginalized communities in the north Chennai digitalised workforce

Jayasurya. K, & Dr. J.M. Arul Kamaraj, Loyola College, India

The technological development of the digital era has crucially reconfigured the world of work, giving rise to new forms of employment and labour dynamics, particularly evident in the burgeoning gig economy. Though they work under a company, based on their nature of work and working conditions, they are classified as the unorganised workers in India, and the government of Tamil Nadu also ensures the classification. This paper proposes a study that explores the profound social changes impacting the lives and livelihoods of workers from marginalised communities engaged in digital platform-based occupations (i.e., Swiggy, Rapido, etc.) in North Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Using a qualitative research design, the case study will explore the emerging trends in work organisation, the shifting nature of employer-employee relationships, and the socio-economic implications for these specific gig workers, including issues of income stability, welfare provisions, and worker rights. This study will critically examine how digital platforms, while offering flexibility and income opportunities, also present exacerbated challenges such as precarity, lack of social security, and difficulties in collective bargaining, which are often amplified for already vulnerable populations within this urban context. The anticipated results would demonstrate the need for policy interventions, the issues of implementations, and social protection policies that adequately manage the new vulnerabilities and opportunities of this changing digitalised workforce. This study will come up with the attention on the future of work, providing an understanding of how digital changes are transforming local labour markets and calling for new, inclusive strategies to guarantee inclusive and sustainable livelihoods for an increasing section of the urban population.

Political Connection and Effectiveness of Civil Social Work Agencies: A Moderated Mediation Model

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To analyze the mediating and moderating effects of organizational autonomy and institutional support on the relationship between political affiliation and organizational effectiveness. Method: A questionnaire survey was conducted on 62 private social work institutions using the Political Association Scale, Organizational Autonomy Scale, Institutional Support Scale, and Organizational Effectiveness Scale. Result: Political affiliation positively predicted the effectiveness of private social work institutions (β=0.778, t=19.511, p<0.001) and also positively predicted organizational autonomy (β=0.629, t=8.655, p<0.001); Organizational autonomy positively predicts organizational effectiveness (β=0.023, t=12.549, p<0.001); The interaction term between political affiliation and institutional support has a significant predictive effect on organizational autonomy (β=0.017, t=5.395, p<0.001). Conclusion: Political affiliation and organizational autonomy enhance the organizational effectiveness tendency of private social work institutions; Institutional support positively regulates the organizational autonomy of private social work institutions.

Employment and consumption of the population of Belarus in the post-industrial conditions

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Social strategies in the field of labor, employment, demography, and public administration are influenced by information trends and the emergence of a digital society. In this regard, such problematic discourses as trends in economic growth, the number and quality of jobs, post-covid measures, and environmental issues are defined.

In these conditions, the digitalization of public communication leads to the possibility of social control, civil and state transparency, and the end of all kinds of privacy. In general, this historical period can be called the "post-scarcity economy." The development of a post-industrial society gives rise to a post-labor economy, when human participation is becoming less and less, and in the near future, not only the production of robots, but also production for robots.

The information and network content of a post-industrial society significantly transforms the understanding of communication, sociality, connections, the level of subjectivity and well-being. It is not enough for a person to have food, he is social and needs not just a job, but a job that is socially approved.

The factor of economic creativity is extremely popular as an incentive for employment. R. Florida wrote that the main thing in the modern post-labor economy is the service economy, what people can provide to others in terms of entertainment, service, education, etc. culture. States that are able to make a service economy and corresponding employment necessary get the opportunity to become drivers of economic growth. The work of the service economy and the creative industry involves communication, interaction, personal participation, which especially attracts young people. The factor of labor migration is also

growing, which is carried out both within the country and beyond its borders. But even external migration (emigration) has ceased to be a one-way ticket and has acquired a pendulum character. People travel back and forth with great intensity. This is facilitated by information communication, various services, new adaptation opportunities, technologies that allow overcoming the language barrier, etc. Goods, people, money - everything is becoming more liquid, mobile, flowing.

Well-being of the population and social policy in the digital era: Mongolia and Belarus

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In the digital age, the transformation of social policy is both an opportunity and a challenge for ensuring population well-being, particularly in countries navigating post-socialist transitions and rapid technological change. This article examines how Mongolia and Belarus are adapting their social policy frameworks to address the evolving needs of their populations amid accelerating digitalization. By analyzing national policies, digital welfare programs, statistical data, and academic literature, the study explores the extent to which digital tools and governance reforms have enhanced—or limited—social protection, access to services, and inclusive development in the two countries.

Both Mongolia and Belarus have experienced significant shifts in the way social policies are designed and delivered, driven by increasing internet penetration, mobile technology use, and digital government initiatives. In Mongolia, digital innovation has been championed through programs such as the e-Mongolia platform, which aims to centralize and streamline public services. While this has improved administrative efficiency and access in urban areas, challenges remain in bridging the digital divide, especially for rural and marginalized populations. Belarus, on the other hand, has pursued a more centralized and state-led approach to digital governance, integrating digital systems into labor markets, education, and health services, albeit within a more controlled political environment.

The article argues that while digitalization has the potential to improve population well-being by increasing access to information, reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies, and personalizing services, its impact is uneven. In both countries, digital social policy has not fully addressed disparities in digital literacy, connectivity, and trust in government institutions. Furthermore, the use of digital tools in social welfare raises questions about data privacy, surveillance, and the risks of excluding populations who are not digitally connected or proficient.

Using a comparative lens, the study identifies key enablers and barriers to effective digital-era social policy. These include institutional capacity, political will, infrastructure development, and the degree of civic participation in digital transformation processes. The article highlights that while both Mongolia and Belarus have made strides in digital service delivery, true gains in population well-being require inclusive policy design, investments in human capital, and protections against digital exclusion.
In conclusion, the article calls for a recalibration of social policy in the digital age—one that combines technological innovation with equity, transparency, and citizen-centered governance. The cases of Mongolia and Belarus offer valuable insights into the complex interplay between digital transformation and

social development, emphasizing that digital tools must serve as a means—not an end—in advancing population well-being.

Emerging Trends in the Fields of Labour Work in Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka's labour market is undergoing significant transformations driven by globalization, technological advancements, demographic shifts, and evolving socio-economic dynamics. This research explores emerging trends in the fields of work in Sri Lanka, analysing how these changes are reshaping employment patterns, job roles, and workforce expectations. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines labour market data, government policy reviews, and interviews with industry professionals, the study identifies four dominant trends: the rise of the gig economy, digitalization of services, green and sustainable employment, and the increasing importance of soft skills across sectors. The gig economy, facilitated by digital platforms and mobile technology, has created new opportunities for flexible employment, particularly among youth and urban populations. However, it also introduces challenges in terms of job security, labour rights, and income stability. Digitalization, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has rapidly transformed traditional sectors such as education, healthcare, and retail, leading to a surge in demand for digital literacy and IT-related skills. Moreover, global climate goals and local environmental challenges have catalysed growth in green jobs, particularly in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism. These sectors are fostering innovation while contributing to long-term ecological resilience. In parallel, the importance of soft skills such as communication, adaptability, and problem-solving has intensified across all industries, as employers increasingly prioritize competencies that support collaboration and change management. Despite these advancements, the study also highlights persistent challenges, including mismatches between education outputs and market demands, regional disparities in employment access, and the need for stronger policy frameworks to support inclusive labour development. The findings emphasize the urgency for strategic workforce planning, investment in skills development, and adaptive labour policies to harness the potential of emerging work trends while ensuring equitable and sustainable employment in Sri Lanka. Future research should explore sector-specific responses and the long-term socio-economic implications of these labour shifts.

Social Engineering and Systems Transformation: Theorizing Child Protection in the Digital Emergency Era

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The accelerating digitalization of the 21st century has significantly altered the structures and functioning of social protection systems, particularly in times of crisis. In this paper, we explore how child protection

systems operate during emergencies—such as pandemics and climate-induced disasters—through the lens of social engineering theory. This theoretical approach reframes digital transformation not simply as a technological evolution, but as a strategic opportunity to reconstruct institutional mechanisms, service ecosystems, and protective environments that are more responsive, inclusive, and resilient.

Our analysis draws from empirical data gathered between 2020 and 2022 on child protection responses during the COVID-19 pandemic in Mongolia, complemented by ongoing challenges posed by climate change impacts such as dzud (harsh winters), air pollution, and environmental displacement. We investigate the role of algorithmic tools, virtual communication systems, and platform-based governance in shaping service access, resource coordination, and accountability in emergency contexts. Furthermore, the research critically engages with emerging risks in the digital domain—such as data surveillance, digital exclusion, and ethical dilemmas related to privacy and equity in service delivery.

By reconceptualizing child protection systems as dynamic, adaptive, and socially engineered constructs, we propose a novel framework for digital resilience and protection. This model integrates systems theory, technological innovation, and child rights-based principles, offering actionable insights into how digital tools can enhance crisis preparedness and response in child protection.

The findings contribute to the interdisciplinary dialogue on digital governance, social vulnerability, and the ethical design of technology-driven social systems. They also raise important questions about how social work, policy, and digital infrastructure can be aligned to protect children more effectively in future emergencies.

How do AI-driven job demands influence the Job performance of Medical social workers?- A dual Mediation Model Based on Job Crafting and Burnout

Jia Bo, The National University of Mongolia

Amid the rapid advancement of AI technology, technological progress drives productivity growth as machines assume material and procedural labor, highlighting the rising prominence of 'immaterial labor' centered on creativity, emotional interaction, and complex problem-solving. Medical social work serves as a prime exemplar, with its core mission being the provision of emotional support, resource linkage, psychological counseling, and ethical decision-making assistance to patients and families—delivering irreplaceable dual value through creativity and emotionality. However, the AI era has reconfigured work environments, compelling medical social workers to adapt to intelligent tools, process complex information, and reposition their professional value within human-machine collaboration. Consequently, effectively addressing these emerging job demands while mitigating burnout risks and enhancing job performance has become a critical challenge requiring urgent resolution. Grounded in job crafting theory and the Job Demands-Resources Model (JD-R), this study investigated the impact mechanisms of AI-driven job demands on job performance through structured surveys of 202 medical social workers across multi-tiered medical institutions in China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, with particular focus on the mediating roles of job crafting and burnout. Empirical findings reveal: (1) AI-driven demands exhibit a significant positive effect on job performance, yet this effect diminishes via burnout's negative mediation; (2) Job crafting (cognitive, relational, task crafting) and burnout form a chained mediation pathway that alleviates burnout induction by demands, thereby enhancing job performance. To reduce burnout and strengthen

outcomes, we recommend: Medical institutions should develop AI support systems, establish institutionalized job-crafting platforms, and implement emotional labor compensation; Practitioners should pursue cognitive restructuring training, cultivate human-machine collaboration networks, and systematically redesign non-routine service tasks.

Technological Advancement in the 21st Century: Impacts on Social Work Trends and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

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The rapid evolution of technology in the 21st century has profoundly influenced all sectors of society, including the field of social work. With the increasing integration of smart technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), information systems, and digital platforms, the methodologies, communication practices,and overall effectiveness of service delivery within the profession are undergoing transformative changes. Innovations such as online counseling, remote service provision, data analytics, and predictive modeling for at-risk populations exemplify how technology is reshaping the practice of social work.

Technological advancements have significantly enhanced service accessibility, creating new opportunities to reach populations that have historically faced barriers—such as individuals in rural areas and persons with disabilities. Integrated information systems now enable social workers to collaborate efficiently with professionals from other disciplines, including medical practitioners, educators, law enforcement, and psychologists. In child protection cases, for example, such interdisciplinary collaboration improves both responsiveness and outcomes.

Models like "One-Stop Service Centers," enabled by technological integration, reduce the need for clients to interact with multiple agencies, thereby improving the speed and accessibility of services. Additionally, digital platforms facilitate cross-sector collaboration, enabling joint case management and multidisciplinary consultation. In high-risk family situations, effective coordination among education, health, law enforcement, and non-governmental organizations is vital.

The capacity to collect and analyze interdisciplinary data has also expanded the potential for evidence-based policymaking. For instance, analyzing the relationship between academic performance and mental health can inform the development of more targeted and effective interventions.

Despite these benefits, new challenges have emerged, including concerns about data privacy, ethical implications, and the digital divide. These are critical considerations that must be addressed within the professional framework of social work.

In summary, while technological advancements are transforming social work into a more data- driven, accessible, and digitally enhanced profession, they also demand renewed attention to ethics, human rights, and updated professional practices.

Research Objective: This study aims to examine the influence of technological advancements on the methods and services of social work. It seeks to identify opportunities, challenges, and practical solutions associated with the implementation of smart technologies, artificial intelligence, and digital platforms in social work practice. The research also explores emerging issues such as data security, ethics, and the digital divide, and proposes strategies for creating a more effective and ethically sound technology-based professional environment.

Research Scope

1. Overview of current technological trends and their implications for the social work profession.
2. Analysis of technology usage in service delivery, communication, and case management.
3. Identification of best practices, outcomes, and opportunities involving smart technologies, AI, and information systems.
4. Evaluation of key challenges, including data privacy, ethical dilemmas, and the digital divide.
5. Development of strategic recommendations for integrating technology into professional social work practices.

Methodology

- Document Analysis: Review of scholarly articles, research publications, and case studies on technological development.
- Interviews: In-depth qualitative interviews with social workers, administrative personnel, and technology professionals.
- Case Studies: Examination of tech-driven service models such as "One-Stop Service Centers."
- Data Analysis: Quantitative and qualitative analysis of data collected from fieldwork and secondary sources.

Needs Assessment

- The profession is experiencing rapid technological transformation, necessitating service innovation and adaptive strategies.
- There is a growing need to optimize the use of smart technology and AI to improve service quality,
- efficiency, and accessibility.
- Ethical concerns, data security, and human rights must be addressed through informed research and
- practice.
- Enhanced information sharing and inter-sectoral collaboration are essential for effective service delivery.

Expected Outcomes

- A theoretical and practical framework for understanding how technology is shaping social work.
- Identification of specific challenges and ethical issues in the digitalization of social services.
- Development of innovative service delivery models supported by technology.
- Recommendations for policy and practice aimed at ensuring data protection, promoting ethical standards, and safeguarding human rights in digital environments.

Social Work Interventions to Enhance Emotional Intelligence for Organizational Effectiveness in the Digital Era

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The study examined the role of Social Work interventions to improve emotional intelligence (EI) and organizational effectiveness at FoodHub, located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, in the context of the digital era. With the shift towards utilizing technology and remote collaboration in the workplace, fostering emotional intelligence through Social Work techniques became critical in building self-awareness, empathy, and social skills. The study focused on the impact of Social Work in modern EI on employee productivity, decision making, and relationships in the workplace. This study used a Descriptive Research design and a structured questionnaire for data collection with 100 participants from FoodHub's IT and related departments who were chosen using Stratified Random Sampling. Major outcomes showed that participants had strong self-awareness of emotions, had some understanding of their values and goals, and demonstrated flexibility concerning workplace events. Despite these EI competencies, there was no relationship found between demographic variables (age, gender, marital status) and EI factors like monthly salary or ethical conduct. The research proposed that Social Work practices, such as engagement alongside team-building activities, improved emotional intelligence (EI), mitigated workplace stress and nurtured a cooperative culture, thus enhancing organizational effectiveness in the digital era.

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POSTER PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

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The Role of Professional Social Workers in Juvenile Crime Prevention and Child Protection: The Case of China

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In recent years, the growing incidence of crimes involving children has become a matter of serious concern across various sectors of society. The lack of adequate child protection and safeguards necessitates the urgent expansion and strengthening of child protection services. Numerous policy documents highlight the need for active promotion and development of social work as a key instrument in safeguarding minors. Moreover, the prevention of juvenile delinquency remains one of the core issues within national governance frameworks. In this regard, social work plays a crucial role in protecting minors and preventing them from engaging in criminal activities.

This paper explores both community-based and online social work interventions aimed at supporting juveniles who have come into conflict with the law. Such interventions help to establish comprehensive social support services for these children, thereby reducing the risk of reoffending. Grounded in the broader context of national parental rights perspectives, the study conceptualizes social work intervention on three interrelated levels: individual support, family support, and community support. Drawing on current practices within China, the paper analyzes the stakeholders, beneficiaries, and mediators involved in the delivery of social support services. It further examines the processes and challenges encountered in practice and proposes targeted measures and recommendations to strengthen the role of professional social workers in juvenile crime prevention and child protection.

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