

## Presentation

The presentation of each edition of our journal certainly bears a unique personality. Like any academic production, it takes from (and also reflects) the current events. This is, without a doubt, a difficult time for most of the world, and especially for our country. As we were still sifting through the lessons learned and challenges brought about by “October 18th,” we were suddenly faced with the effects of a ferocious pandemic.

Within this context, the challenges are, in some cases, to ensure our livelihood and even life itself. This crude dilemma only serves to further reflect the fragility of a profoundly unequal and unjust system. The response of social politics reveals the rationality of a model where the value of human beings is postponed before the imperious need to keep the market economy running. Neoliberal government interventions are focalized, minimal and limited in scope, and clearly inefficient to address the profound crisis we are experiencing and where the poorest and most vulnerable sectors are the hardest hit. Therefore, bottom-up self-managed intervention strategies arise as testimony to the memory of a population that has stood up for itself and raised its legitimate demands.

In this context, we ask ourselves about the value of academic production in these times, when everything indicates that our priorities should be others. Of course, there may be multiple and diverse responses. For us, it is about contributing to the historical understanding of social intervention, reflecting those who are witness to this point in time and, even still, recognize the possibility of social transformation. We are aware that our work is not neutral, and in the publication of this edition, we are part of the main and certainty that affects so many people. We offer up each of the articles presented today with the conviction that they will contribute to the reflection and intervention of

current social phenomena, continuing the work our school has been doing for the past twenty-five years since we founded this journal.

To begin the section on “Research Results,” the article “Violence as a Response to Exclusion: Production of Youth Subjectivities in Low-Income Sectors (Cordoba, Argentina)” by authors Francisco Ghisiglieri and Griselda Cardozo, addresses the complex interrelation that exists between young people from low-income sectors and violence, from the perspective of the subject in relationship to his or her social context. To this end, it presents the results of a qualitative research study carried out with young people from a low-income neighborhood in the city of Cordoba (Argentina). Based on observation records and secondary source analysis, this analysis shows how violence is articulated in a social context in which inequality, discrimination and exclusion are combined. In addition, it highlights the relationship between violence and the processes of subjectification at play. In a context of dissolving social ties and lack of opportunities, young people find in violence a last resort to become subjects.

Then, author Alejandro Castro affirms, in his paper “The Psychic Suffering of People with a Psychiatric Diagnosis. The Pain of Madness,” that the experience of madness today comes in contact with a range of social phenomena that condition the lives of people affected by a psychiatric diagnosis. In this context, the experiences of those who have diagnoses such as schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and depression reveal the profound pain and suffering they experience daily. The author’s objective is to visualize and try to understand the experience of suffering in people with psychiatric problems, and for this purpose carries out a narrative doctoral study with active users of the Chilean mental health system, of different ages and who have undergone psychiatric hospitalizations. The main results show first-hand how psychic and physical suffering is impregnated in the experiences of people affected by psychiatric treatment, and in that sense, the responsibility of mental health in that context..

In the “Analysis and Reflection on Social Intervention” section, we can find the article “Social inequality and precarious working conditions in Costa Rica,” by Marta Isabel Valverde Brene, who presents the exercise of the human right to work, which constitutes a struggle and social conquest produced in divergent socio-historical contexts, with

changing regulations that are subject to the demands of the political and economic models of a particular time. The foregoing entails manifestations of social inequality in the various working-class populations, where a variety of individual, collective and structural aspects converge to generate precarious working conditions. Therefore, it is necessary to rethink those transcending affirmative actions in order to move towards equity and social justice. This article is aimed at reflecting on the reality of the workforce in Costa Rica and its perception worldwide.

At the beginning of the section on “Social Work Analysis: transformations and challenges,” we find paper entitled “Fatphobia, a Reading from (and for) Social Work,” by Ignacio Allende. The author’s premise to be developed in this paper is that fatness is a problematic social phenomenon and, therefore, a challenge for social work. From this starting point, it attempts to understand fatphobia as a series of logics internalized within society, with implications at the psychosocial level and leading to the configuration of exclusion and violence. Secondly, Allende looks to start a discussion that urges social work to rethink itself, evaluating its own intervention patterns and considering fatphobia as a phenomenon that must be addressed.

Then, Carolina Álvarez gives us her article “The Role of the Social Workers as an Organic Intellectual in the Implementation of Social Policies,” with the purpose of reflecting on the professional actions of social workers, by virtue of the different historical processes seen by the discipline and which have been shaping its practice. As coordinators of government resources assigned to certain sectors of civil society, it can be said that they have become supporters and replicators of the ideology of the ruling class, a neoliberal hegemony with a marked bias characteristic of coloniality. In this way, there needs to be analysis based on critical thinking that allows professionals to question their work as agents of change.

To close out this section, Mariana Patricia Acevedo and María Inés Peralta offer “Synergies between Research and Intervention in Social Work,” an article that collects and orders a set of analyses and proposals elaborated from our university practice in teaching, research and outreach. This synthesis includes input from the teaching practice in the undergraduate and postgraduate programs linked to research and outreach/social intervention practices, social work thesis advisory and

the dialogues and daily exchanges with colleagues and students. This article is a fundamental contribution for those interested in learning more about the ongoing tension between research and intervention.

In the “Book Review” section, Dr. Nélida Ramírez Naranjo, professor at the Catholic University of Maule, provides a personal reflection on her encounter with Rodrigo Salcedo, a renowned Chilean sociologist whose work is reflected in the book *Salcedo*. Ramírez provides an enthusiastic and pointed synthesis of each of its chapters.

To conclude this edition, and to commemorate twenty-five years of uninterrupted publication of *Revista Perspectivas: Notas sobre intervención y acción social*, we have included an interview with the journal’s current director, Ruth Lizana. This conversation borders along the intimate and significant landscapes in the history of this publication and analyzes its projections and aspirations.