

Uniqueness of practice research in relation to other types of research

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Practice research is...

- Practice research arises from social work practice and informs social work practice
- Questions are generated from issues, problems or observations originating in practice
- A wide range of methods are used
- Often conducted by practitioners, or at least usually involves practitioners
- Often involves service users or carers as more than just participants
- Findings of practice research are fed back into practice

Practice research is not...

- Literature or desk-based research if...
 - There is no method involved
 - It is purely conducted in relation to ideas or theories
 - It is directed by the researcher with no reference to social work practice or practitioners
- But it may be practice research if ...
 - It is a scoping review or systematic review answering a practice-based question and feeds directly into practice
 - It is a systematic conceptual review of a practice-related concept and the need for the review arises from practice and the findings feed back into practice


Practice research is not...

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A historical perspective on social work education in Thailand

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the historical context of social work education in Thailand, emphasising the interaction between modern Western welfare systems and the foundations of this relationship in the charitable approach of traditional Thai culture. This article utilises a historical perspective and various sources of documents. The United Nations agencies offered technical assistance by establishing a Social Work Training Institute programme at the National Institute of Culture in the 1950s. The government of Thailand thereby integrated social work into the national development agenda. Seven decades ago, the Faculty of Social Administration at Thammasat University was founded as the first university-level institution in Thailand. Although Thailand's religious and cultural context significantly influences social work education, it is crucial to understand its welfare regimes through a political and historical lens. This highlights the diversity of welfare regimes as opposed to a single universal framework for professional standards.

本文探讨了泰国社会工作教育的历史脉络，强调了现代西方福利制度及其与传统泰国文化中慈善取向关系基础之间的互动。本文采用了历史视角和各种来源的文献。20世纪50年代，联合国机构提供技术援助，在国家文化学院（the National Institute of Culture）设立了社会工作培训学院课程。泰国政府由此将社会工作纳入了国家发展议程。七十年前，泰国国立法政大学社会行政学院（the Faculty of Social Administration at Thammasat University）成立，这是泰国境内第一所大学级别的机构。虽然泰国的宗教和文化背景对社会工作教育产生了重大影响，但从政治和历史的角来理解泰国的福利制度也是至关重要的。它强调福利体制的多样性，而非单一普遍专业标准框架。

KEYWORDS

Social work education in Thailand; historical context of social work education; Faculty of Social Administration at Thammasat University; History of Social Work; Social Work

Practice research is not...

- Sociological research about ideas or theories if...
 - It involves interviews or other qualitative methods which do not address questions arising from practice
 - It is purely conducted in relation to ideas or theories
 - It is directed by the researcher with no reference to social work practice or practitioners
- But it may be practice research if ...
 - It seeks to answer a practice-based question and feeds directly into practice

Practice research is not...



School for Business
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Article

Pricing the bridewealth: On moral embedding in the mechanism of rural betrothal gifts negotiation—case analysis based on L County, Gansu Province

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Abstract

Bridewealth is both a monetary as well as a cultural component of Chinese marriage. Existing research employs two major frames to examine this phenomenon: marriage market theory and gift flow theory. However, neither of them ably facilitates the study of bridewealth as a social process, namely, the negotiations that take place between senior family members representing the engaged parties to decide the appropriate monetary value of the bridewealth. This article focuses on how the negotiations are initiated and progress until both families settle on a “decent” bridewealth amount. The ultimate ethical code in relation to marriage-making lies not so much in the mutual understanding of the two families as in their strategies to follow the moral sanctions of the *dahang* while negotiating a price that deviates from it. The necessity of adhering to the *dahang* and the strategic efforts to morally legitimize a price that fluctuates from it are central to theorizing the normative embeddedness of bridewealth in the moral fabric of the community.

Practice research is not...

- Policy research about social policies if...
 - It does not address questions arising from social work practice
 - It is descriptive or takes a longitudinal view about policy developments
 - It analyses trends or compares different policy frameworks
 - It is directed by the researcher with no reference to social work practice or practitioners
- But practice research can have an impact on policy if findings suggest that policies should change

Practice research is not...



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The political economy of social security development in Macao

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It has been generally acknowledged that the development of East Asian social policy is driven by the imperatives of economic growth and political legitimization of authoritarian regimes. Drawing on the political economy perspective, this article seeks to account for the development of social security in Macao during the period 1998–2008. It has been found that the making of the social security policy over this period was marked by three regulatory roles of social policy with respect to promotion of economic development and restoration of the government's legitimacy: legitimization, reproduction and disciplinization. These regulatory roles were determined by the interplay of contingent political and economic forces at different historical moments. The paper provides empirical support for the political-economic account of East Asian social policy and, in turn, adds to the understanding of the nature of social policy in the region.

摘要

根据一些文献的分析，促进经济增长及维持政治认受性是影响东亚地区的社会政策发展的两项主要因素。从这个观点出发，本文尝试采用政治经济学的分析架构，解释由1998年至2008年期间澳门社会保障政策的发展。分析结果显示，澳门的社会保障政策在不同时期分别发挥了三种调控功能：维持认受性、劳动力再生产及规训劳工；而不同时段内的政治及经济因素的互动，就决定了当时社会保障政策所发挥的调控功能。本文的分析结果一方面再次证实了政治经济学的价值，另一方面丰富了有关东亚社会政策性质的讨论。

Keywords: Macao; East Asian social policy; social security policy; political economy; regulation theory

关键词：澳门，东亚社会政策，社会保障政策，政治经济，调控理论

Practice research is not...

- A survey or longitudinal panel study if...
 - It does not address questions arising from social work practice
 - The analysis of variables is conducted with no relation to social work practice
 - The research is conducted by researchers with no reference to social work practice or practitioners
- But practice research can include surveys or longitudinal studies if it seeks to answer a practice-based question and feeds directly into practice

Practice research is not...



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Article

A dynamic relationship between discrimination and psychological distress among rural migrant workers in China

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Abstract

Using two waves of China Family Panel Studies data, this study examines the dynamic relationship between discrimination and psychological distress among rural migrant workers, as well as exploring their association over time. Based on latent difference score analysis, we found that discrimination was a risk factor for high levels of psychological distress among rural migrant workers. A significant intra-individual decrease in experience of discrimination and a significant intra-individual increase in psychological distress were identified among rural migrant workers from 2010 to 2014. Finally, discrimination assessed in the baseline data wave (2010) predicted subsequent change in psychological distress, and psychological distress measured in the baseline wave also predicted subsequent change in discrimination. We also found that discrimination is more likely to affect psychological well-being than vice versa. These findings suggest that the government needs to further eliminate social–structural barriers and reduce the negative impact of discrimination on the psychological well-being of rural migrant workers in cities.

Thank you!

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