

Editorial

The Editorial Board of the *Social Work Journal* (RTS)

You have in front of you a very special issue of RTS. As you are perfectly aware, this year we are commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Official Association of Social Work of Catalonia, a major date that conjures up memories of the inception of this institution that brings us social workers together.

Those of us on today's Editorial Board thought that the best way to celebrate this would be to dedicate an entire special edition of RTS (issue 225) to highlight a number of articles published over the course of its history. Accordingly, in this issue we are publishing again contributions that have been prominent and symbolic over all these years of the journal's history: articles that have marked an era owing to their innovative or critical nature; articles that have signalled a change in era or trend of the profession; articles that have been highly significant in our history, meaning that for many reasons it would prove interesting to bring them together in a special issue like this.

It is worth mentioning that RTS predates the establishment of the professional association. Indeed, in 1965 the erstwhile newsletter of the Association of Social Workers of Barcelona became a printed journal to continue disseminating the professional work of social workers.

The job of compiling the articles you will read in this issue has been the result of the involvement of all the directors who have been responsible for RTS over this period of nigh on sixty years. We asked them to choose some significant articles from their tenure. We believe it was a wise decision to do this because the selection has enabled us to achieve a broad depiction of all the periods the journal has been testimony to, representative of its entire history.

We are extremely grateful for the endeavours they have made in their selection. It has been highly challenging to make a selection from so many beneficial articles. We should state right away that they represent just a small sample of the entire legacy built up by RTS over the years. The meticulousness applied in the compilation delivered by both the directors and the Editorial Board has been thorough. Indeed, many articles of undeniable quality inevitably had to be excluded.

It is inspiring to see that certain concerns – which have encouraged authors to pen their ideas over all these years – are cyclical; they constitute those contextual events that challenge us (time and time again) as professionals committed to social transformation.

The collection evidently illustrates the key issues that have encouraged reflection over these sixty years of history: the main theoretical, epistemological and methodological questions crucial to forging social

work as a discipline. This compilation also examines the development of the profession, its growth and specialisation, the emergence of a new language and, in conjunction with colleagues from the social field, the collaborative shaping of new responses to inequalities from a transformative standpoint. All of these aspects and many others appear in all the articles in a cross-disciplinary manner. Therefore, this historical reading allows us to identify the process behind the strengthening of the theoretical foundations of the profession and it also lays testimony to the emergence and growth of new models for social intervention and assessment.

Similarly in this respect, we would also like to underline the importance of RTS as a major component in building professional identity and as a tool for knowledge transfer in the Catalan language. Ever since its inception, RTS has maintained a clear commitment to the dissemination of our profession in Catalan.

Moreover, RTS has been a highly suitable instrument for the dissemination of social work on various international forums. At present, new technologies allow the journal to be available in digital format and to be translated into Spanish and English, exponentially boosting its readership.

In addition, in this issue we are reviving a section that RTS featured for many years; namely, the "Interview". For this edition, we begin with the Rt. Hon. Mr Carles Campuzano i Canadés, Catalan minister for social rights, who has welcomed us into the ministry and given us the chance to speak with him about strategic matters in public welfare policies.

Once more, we would like to express our gratitude to all the individuals who have made this issue possible, to the directors and contributors who have selected the articles, to the Association of Social Work for earnestly supporting the publication of this issue and, indeed, to all the association members for reading it, consulting it, sharing it but, above all, for contributing to it through your writing because working together is how we make this possible.

Finally, we would like to encourage you to become involved with the journal, submit your papers and share with us your reflections, your research and your professional practice. This is how we can ensure it will remain active and continue to bear witness to the future of social work.

RTS belongs to each and every one of you.