

## BOOK REVIEW / RESEÑA DE LIBRO

**López Peláez, A. y Raya Diez, E. (coords.) (2017). *Social work research and practice. Contributing to a science of social work*. Cizur Menor, Navarra: Editorial Aranzadi.**

190 págs. / ISBN 978-84-9177-267-5

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Antonio López Peláez and Esther Raya Díez, as coordinators of this book, together with the rest of authors, are creating with it a great opportunity to make social work visible as the scientific discipline that actually is, thus going beyond its well-known assistant role. As a social science, social work needs to innovate, as well as create a good line of research that allows it to move forwards, thus answering the questions that the discipline has always had, along with all the new ones that would arise.

The book consists of 190 pages, divided into 8 different chapters, ranging from the positioning social work is taking in this world full of concerns, to the challenge that the profession itself faces in such a globalized world as the one we live in. Furthermore, it deals with more practical parts showing us how to perform a correct search in different databases.

As the book itself mentions, *progress needs collaboration*; a simple idea often forgotten in science. Therefore, social work can use the collaboration of other sciences in order to improve its investigation, and vice versa, thus, achieving a multidisciplinary vision on the topic in question. So as to achieve it, it is necessary to take into account two premises: on the one hand, as many chapters of this book show (Palkins; Caparrós Civera; López Peláez; Luis Díaz; Raya Díez; Kemp), innovation in research must be a priority. On the other hand, it must be present that research in social work should have a practical application, since social work itself is an eminently practical profession.

Therefore, what this book tries to show throughout its pages, is that not only can it be said that social work intervenes with people, but, being treated as a science, it conducts researches that allow progress in the different existing fields, consequently giving the discipline a vision of progress that has achieved a sound research basis.

In addition, the knowledge, both of the existing databases (Web of Science, Scopus or dialnet, among others), as well as of the best tips to perform a useful search using them is fundamental so as to get all the information available thus being able to carry out innovative works without assigning originality to something that does not really have it.

In summary, this book responds to the need to understand social work as a science as well as the necessity to invest in good researches emphasizing at the same time the important of systematization and the evaluation of results. It is fundamental to point out the significant role social work has always had and still does in relation to this.

Undoubtedly, this book comes at the best possible moment since we live in a globalized world in constant changes and with great challenges, thus demanding people conscious of all these changes that happen in this discipline.

I personally consider this book to be helpful not only for consolidated professionals willing to research in this field, but also for new social work graduates and undergraduate students so as to improve their knowledge in researching thus realizing how important it is and at the same time offering good pillars to support a good investigation. The language chosen in this book has been English, thus allowing to expand the information beyond our frontiers and consequently offering itself as a fundamental tool for researching.

As a social worker interested in research, I do believe this book can solve all those questions that would arise at the beginning of any investigation. Besides, it may offer tips for using databases and it would help confirm that this discipline still has much to contribute to sciences in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Finally, research needs new answers together with innovation and the capacity for change. Nowadays, it is undeniable the social work discipline is considered as a fundamental element in all these necessary changes.