

German Jordanian University

GJU-Network „Social Work“

Network Meeting 2019

University of Applied Sciences Frankfurt 27th – 28th June 2019

Minutes

Attendees:

Dr. Jochen Pleines	GJU, Network Head
Prof. Dr. Alaaldeen Al-Halhoul	GJU, Dean School of Applied Humanities & Languages
Dr. Rawan C. Ibrahim	GJU, Department Social Work, Exchange Coordinator
Stefanie Kirsch	GJU, Network Coordinator
Khalida Radaideh	GJU, School of Applied Humanities & Languages
Prof. Dr. Sigrid James	U Kassel
Prof. Dr. Rahim Hajji	UAS Magdeburg-Stendal
Prof. Dr. Robert Northoff	UAS Neubrandenburg
Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf	UAS Würzburg-Schweinfurt
Prof. Dr. Vathsala Aithal	UAS Würzburg-Schweinfurt
Prof. Dr. Ute Straub	UAS Frankfurt/Main
Prof. Dr. Angelika Groterath	UAS Darmstadt
Mr. Magnus Frampton	U Vechta

Apologized:

Prof. Dr. Carola Bauschke-Urban	UAS Fulda
Prof. Dr. Steffi Kraehmer Erlangen	UAS Neubrandenburg
Prof. Dr. Petra Bendel	U

Guest:

Prof. Dr. Gero Lipsmeier	Dean of Social Work Department at UAS Frankfurt
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Minutes:

Stefanie Kirsch

Thursday 27th June 2019

Opening and Introduction

- Professor Dr. Ute Straub, UAS Frankfurt, Department of Social Work and member of International Association of Schools of Social Work welcomed the participants of the Network meeting 2019 and highlighted the cross-networking character of Social Work in Germany helping the members to exchange critical ideas and extend their network.
- All 13 participants introduced themselves.
- Professor Dr. Gero Lipsmeier, Dean of the Department of Social Work introduced his faculty as one of the biggest at UAS Frankfurt with 340 beginner students each semester offering a huge variety of arts, music and theater in Social Work with 4 full professors and the highest number of third party funding. UAS Frankfurt has also the right to award PhD degrees like two other universities in Hesse HS Fulda and HSRM Wiesbaden. His Department also offers a Master degree for research in Social Work and performative arts, diversity and inclusion, counseling and social law (social justice law) for supervision. 80% of the graduates have a stake track (Anerkennungsjahr) and find jobs later in the national security sector. Teaching is mostly in German, 2 English courses are open but not compulsory. German language is needed because they are employed in Germany later.
- Professor Dr. Alaaldeen Al-Halhouli, Dean at School of Applied Humanities & Languages (SAHL) at GJU gave thank you words and mentioned that he is evaluating the Department Social Work at SAHL and planning the next 5 years. The main challenge is that there is currently not enough staff due to the fact that there are not enough students (7 at Professional Diploma and 16 at Master program) but Dr. Rawan Ibrahim as Exchange Coordinator, Prof. Dr. Christine Hildebrand as Head of Department and Khalida Radaideh as assistant are very important. For accreditation the study plans are modified and in terms of research he highlighted first access to data, defining a solid project and focus on joint publications is important. The MA program will be recognized more internationally with the number and quality of publications.
- Dr. Jochen Pleines, GJU, Network Head welcomed everybody to the 3rd Network meeting Social Work and mentioned that three network members were also present at the conference in Rome organized by Prof. Angelika Groterath and DAAD, internationally well recognized. He suggested to improve the communication between the German and the Jordanian partners and GJU to make more use of the network. Prof. Sigrid James said that a PhD student from University Kassel is coming to GJU (3-6 months), who could give a guest lecture as research assistant at SAHL. Dr. Ala stressed the part of joint publications.

Work Session I – Update on the Needs

Dr. Rawan Ibrahim gave a presentation (see attached PPP) and encouraged network members to teach at SAHL via DAAD Higher Education Dialogue (HED), via Flying Faculty (FF) program or Erasmus Plus. Prof. Sigrid James was successful with two Flying faculty

professors and an Erasmus Plus project running until 2023 together with Prof. Ingo Bode facilitating that more students will be exchanged. Dr. Rawan Ibrahim and Prof. Sigrid James are working on a project with University Kassel and University Oxford about foster care. The PhD student from Kassel will do data collection that can also be provided to other students for MA projects.

When accreditation was discussed Dr. Jochen Pleines encouraged SAHL to make use of the network and get feedback. Useful information to be found at International Association of Schools of Social Work <https://www.iassw-aiets.org/>

Dr. Rawan Ibrahim focusses on regional needs, child protection and persons with disabilities. The immanent needs at SAHL are funding for German Year for Social Work students (Erasmus Plus, etc.), external funding for e.g. skill training scientific writing. Dr. Alaaldeen Al-Halhouli mentioned TU Dresden website OPAL (Online Platform for Academic Learning and Teaching) – a central learning platform of Saxonian universities that can be used by students, employees and lecturers of TU Dresden with a valid ZIH-Login or also by guests. He also mentioned to get in touch with the Erasmus Coordinator in Jordan or make use of the initiative by Queen Rania called Edraak-Program to acquire funding.

Prof. Ralf Roskopf suggested to screen DAAD and Erasmus websites identifying potential calls and then asking the German partners to apply with a proposal and GJU participation. University Kassel, UAS Wuerzburg-Schweinfurt and UAS Darmstadt would accept students from SAHL and offer/upgrade BA-courses in English flexible. SAHL will review the study plan with a pool of elective courses to modify it before official approval. Then students can easily select. → Suggestion: Jochen starts an excel list with all English taught courses from the Network partners. Khalida Radaideh will share it with Christine Hildebrand (HoD) as she is reviewing the study plan.

Work Session II – MoUs and quick revision on status

Dr. Jochen Pleines stated that all current Memoranda of Understanding can remain, only FHWS should be updated until July 2019. UAS Jena and UAS Nuremberg-Erlangen are out of the network.

New partners will not be accepted now because the accreditation needs to be finished first and there is not enough Flying Faculty funding to cover all, especially new partners at the moment. But there is a possibility to include European partners from Greece or Italy (Palermo) in the future and co-organize a Summer School on Labour Migration. The GJU network of Social Work would not only focus on refugees but SAHL wants to include more new pillars with regard to accreditation. Dr. Rawan Ibrahim emphasized that SAHL needs a complete research study for the Jordan Ministry of Higher Education where to expand and which market needs to target, especially include adults from the field work that are ambitious to join the master program rather than low GPA students.

Prof. Angelika Groterath will retire 2020 with so far no successor nominated by HS Darmstadt yet for the GJU network participation but she will share her recent publication “Global patterns – Local Migration Contexts” within the network <https://novapublishers.com/shop/migration-and-refugees-global-patterns-and-local-contexts/>

Jochen Pleines presented a paper listing the usage data of the U of Vechta Server for the Handbook English for Social Work, Arabic-English (see attachment).

Magnus Frampton and Jochen Pleines asked Dr. Rawan Ibrahim for a list of Social Work Departments in the Arab World. → Dr. Rawan Ibrahim will ask the Ministry of Social Development.

Work Session III – Field training

Dr. Rawan Ibrahim gave a presentation (see attached PPP) about field training at the GJU. With Erasmus Plus cooperation with UAS Würzburg-Schweinfurt and University Kassel she wants to make use of the German Year for further student exchange. International students at SAHL are lacking Arabic language skills, therefore it will be important to mix and match them with local students. Students who work part-time can rotate in their organization for internships.

Prof. Dr. Vathsala Aithal from UAS Würzburg-Schweinfurt gave a presentation (see attached PPP) about field training in the Master Program “International Social Work with Refugees and Migrants” at FHWS. She gave insights about the first batch of students that underwent the new module “Practice” with the elements internship, practice reflection and internship report. Field training must be more structured with defined learning objectives as it is the heart of Social Work. The participants agreed that reflection is very important and also the duration of time for the field training should be minimum 3 months, UAS Frankfurt offers a 6 months internship. Based on the first year’s experience modifications will be made in order to develop further the format.

Friday 28th June 2019

Working Session IV – Agreements on Exchange

Network coordinator Stefanie Kirsch gave a presentation (see attached PPP) about the mobility programs available with GJU, mentioning the details of Flying Faculty, Staff mobility program, Erasmus Plus, Study group mobility and GJU Summer School. Prof. Dr. Rahim Hajji from UAS Magdeburg-Stendal and Prof. Dr. Angelika Groterath UAS Darmstadt expressed their interest to come and teach in the Master program at SAHL. Prof. Dr. Vathsala Aithal from UAS Würzburg-Schweinfurt and Prof. Sigrid James from University Kassel plan to come with Erasmus Plus funding. On a regular basis Dr. Rawan Ibrahim needs a professor to teach quantitative methods at SAHL. Due to the fact that Dr. Rawan Ibrahim and Prof. Dr. Christine Hildebrand have a full teaching load at SAHL and the Department of Social Work is still small with 16 students, Dr. Ala suggested to finish the first cohort before sending more teaching staff. Nevertheless Dr. Rawan Ibrahim will provide a set of courses based on Master study plan on the website <http://www.gju.edu.jo/content/programs-6505> inviting network members also to come for a seminar and match the offer of the part-timers at the GJU Department of Social Work.

Prof. Dr. Robert Northoff from UAS Neubrandenburg (see attached PPP) presented his participation at GJU’s Topic of the Year “Entrepreneurship” with a Winter School in Amman from 12th till 18th of November 2019. Jointly with 10 German and 10 Jordanian students a

comparative analysis on Empowerment through Social Entrepreneurship in Germany and Jordan will be done.

Prof. Dr. Rahim Hajji from UAS Magdeburg-Stendal is interested in joining the next call of Study Group Mobility 2020 with Dr. Rawan Ibrahim at GJU.

Working Session VI – Future planning: Topic of the Year Conference 2020

Prof. Dr. Rahim Hajji from UAS Magdeburg-Stendal moderated the brain storming session about the planned Conference 2020 when the next Topic of the Year will be “Refugees and Migrants”.

- Schools/Interdisciplinary projects/ Talks
- Coordination:
 - Steering committee: Prof. Ralf Roskopf (Head), Christine Hildebrand, Rawan Ibrahim, Khalida Radaideh, Dr. Jochen Pleines plus two German partners.
 - Scientific committee: All active partners, Al Balqa University, Yarmouk University
- Activities: Talks, Conferences, Network meeting, PR, Master thesis, Interesting key note speakers from practice field and from research
- Budget → Monica Heitz to be asked
- Dates: Two options 1) 20-24 September 2020 or 2) **18 -22 October 2020** (preferred date!) Decided.
- Contact person: Khalida Radaideh (GJU), Prof. Rahim Hajji (in Germany)
- Proposal to Prof. Christine Hildebrand and Project office Magdeburg (maybe with added funding – DAAD Kurzmassnahmen)
- Publication as result of the conference and proceeding conference

LIST OF POTENTIAL TOPICS

- Unattended (F) Children
- Early Marriage
- Education & continuing Education
- Gender & Elderly
- Mental Health & Trauma
- Disabilities
- Inclusion/ Integration and Return
- Labour Market Integration
- Social Work practice with refugees and effects on refugee’s situation on social work
- Intercultural communication prejudice
- Comparative perspective & political economy
- Role of NGOs and advocacy

Working Session V – Summarizing Discussion

Prof. Dr. Ralf Roskopf will become the next Vice-president for International Affairs at GJU when the Ministry in Germany will have approved.

FEES: Following questions and misunderstandings that had arisen after the network meeting 2018, the President of the GJU established confirmed the following regulations for students of Social Work:

Local and international students are charged the regular fees as mentioned below. Erasmus students only pay 50,00 JOD for Health insurance due to Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and the Inter-institutional agreements (IIA) signed by GJU and its partner universities.

Programme	fees
Professional Training	900 JDs for regular students
	230 + 25 registration fees for partner university students (exchange)
	Others- based on agreements
Masters	120 JDs per CH + semester registration fees (regular and International students from non-partner universities)
	230 + 25 registration fees for partner university students (exchange for one semester)
Internship	500 JDs (with the CTC)
Erasmus+	Only 50 JOD for health insurance

NETWORK NAME: The name has been changed to “GJU-Network Social Work” (no add-on “with Refugee & Migrants” any more). Each member should make use of his or her own network also.

COMMUNICATION: An email group (Verteiler) will be opened for every day communication of the network members. Khalida Radaideh will be included with two email addresses social-work@gju.edu.jo and khalida.radaideh@gju.edu.jo

Prof. Christine Hildebrand and Dr. Rawan Ibrahim will forward important emails to the Dean.

NEEDS & PLANS: SAHL is a small department looking for solid collaboration. The MA program has a low number of students therefore more exchange with German partners is needed. More Erasmus Plus projects and jointly organized conferences are targeted. The staff problem will be mitigated by Prof. Ralf Roskopf as new VP, Christine Hildebrand for general contact, Rawan Ibrahim for exchange questions, and supported by Khalida Radaideh and Lena Orbeidat (new Exchange Officer). By end of the 1st student cohort the study plans will be evaluated. New study plans can be scheduled for next semester together with the German partners.

➔ Dr. Jochen Pleines will prepare a list out of the information sent from each Network partner by email about their courses taught in English and their field of specialization (for FF).

Stefanie Kirsch will provide the Network members with a fixed mailing list to install for daily use.

MOU: The MOU with UAS Wuerzburg-Schweinfurt will have to be updated in order to allow FHWS students to join the Master-programm at GJU starting in 2020 in compliance with regulations for fees as outlined above.

A new MoU with UAS Wuerzburg-Schweinfurt will be drawn up including the basic information and resetting the older attachments so students can be exchanged free of charge next year.

HANDBOOK: Magnus Frampton and Dr. Jochen Pleines will send an information flyer in English and Arabic in order to advertise the publication “English for Social Work: A bilingual terminology handbook”. Dr. Rawan Ibrahim will provide them with a list of Social Work Departments at other universities of the Arab world.

FIELD TRAINING: Internship should be reviewed, there is not enough theoretical background for Professional Diploma and Master program. Diploma certificate is good for short study and people with less money. If a Bachelor program is established at SAHL, Professional Diploma could be offered after one year as certificate course. Master program needs to restructure the field internship and a solid evaluation of the first cohort. → Rawan asked for further literature and input to share.

As internships of SAHL Social Work students in Germany are not easy to achieve, job shadowing might be an alternative. Dr. Rawan Ibrahim and Prof. Vathsala will continue to be in dialogue with each other on improving field training and internships. Also Prof. Christine Hildebrand and Khalida Radaideh revise the total work load of the field training because of the upcoming accreditation.

Network head Dr. Jochen Pleines and SAHL Dean Prof. Dr. Alaaldeen Al-Halhouli summarized the Network meeting by advising to make the program more attractive, include German students, open the window to Germany for the local students and match them with PhD students. The network members emphasized to be ready to join the efforts of their GJU colleagues at SAHL when Prof. Dr. Alaaldeen Al-Halhouli stressed on the need of help from the German partners towards SAHL to establish projects in order to pay the teaching assistance to work on solid projects. He also invited everybody to come to Jordan when the evaluation and the German accreditation will have been done by next year.

Topics for the next network meeting will be job perspectives, acceptance in society and internationalization.

The next network meeting will be held at GJU in October 2020 in combination with the conference as part of the 15th years anniversary of GJU and the Topic of the Year “Migration and Refugees”.