

**WHO CARES? SOCIAL WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CRISIS IN GERMANY: A PRELIMINARY EXPLORATION
OF PRACTITIONERS PERSPECTIVES**

An Abstract of the Thesis by Robert Blum

The climate crisis and the natural environment are only marginally addressed in research, practice and teaching in the context of social work in Germany. Therefore, this Master's thesis investigates how relevant the natural environment is for social work practitioners in Germany. A quantitative research design in the form of a questionnaire was developed, with data collected from N=300 social work practitioners. Using descriptive, bivariate, and thematic analysis, the exploration of practitioners' personal and professional perspectives shows that the natural environment is to a great extent already relevant to their practical work. Furthermore, the results conclude that the foundation of social work's professional third mandate needs to be expanded to include the natural environment, along with the development of an ecosocial framework to clarify its own role regarding climate crisis and to enable practitioners to effectively address the impacts of the climate crisis in their practice.

Keywords: Climate crisis, Ecosocial Work, practitioners perspective, social work practice, quantitative questionnaire