

**Social workers' resistance: Praxes of subversion within daily social work practice  
A phenomenological mapping and critical analysis of strategies of opposition and dissent**

An Abstract of the Thesis by Rune Merlin Staudacher

Social justice has long been recognized as a core value of social work. Practitioners are, however, routinely confronted with systemic constraint, which prevents them from practicing ethically. As a response, some social workers engage in acts of resistance, meaning their daily conduct, reflections, and decisions that challenge systemic discrimination. This master- thesis sought to explore, phenomenologically map, and critically analyze these practices of resistance by conducting in - depth semi- structured interviews with self- identifying subversive social workers. The interviewed social workers identified a range of possibilities for action, including Individual Support as Resistance, Supporting Service- Users' Resistance, Activism, Networking and Campaigning a s Collective Resistance as well as Resistance as Questioning the World of Appearances. Conversely, the constraints of practicing within the neoliberal welfare state became also apparent. The thesis concludes with the suggestion that resistance could form part of a pedagogy of hope accentuating the agency of social workers on the front line.

Keywords: Resistance, Dissent, Opposition, Radical Social Work, Frontline Practice