

ALESSANDRO SICORA – SHORT BIO



Alessandro Sicora was born in Trieste, Italy, on 13/11/1966. He is social worker and lecturer/assistant professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences – University of Calabria, Italy where he teaches Methods and Techniques of Social Work. He teaches also Theory of Social Work at the Università Ca'Foscari in Venice, Italy.

His main research interests include: methods of social work, reflexive practice, social policy, violence against social workers, international social work.

He has a BA in Social Work (1996 - 1989, Scuola Superiore di Servizio Sociale di Trieste, Italy), a MA in Political Sciences (1993 – 2000; University of Trieste, Italy) and a PhD in Sociology, Social Work and Sciences of Educations (2001 – 2004, University of Trieste, Italy; The thesis dealt with lifelong learning, reflexivity and professional skills in Social Work).

From 1990 to 1994 and from 2000 to 2007 he has been director of some small dimension foundations and charities whose statutory objectives are to provide grants to students (“Fondazione Ananian”) and to assist elderly people (“Pro Senectute”) and individuals and families in need (“Pia Fondazione Scaramangà”). From 1995 to 2007 he has been Head of the Training and Research Section of IRSSeS (Istituto regionale per gli studi di Servizio Sociale [Regional Institute for the Study of Social Work]).

With regard to international activities in Social Work education, the most relevant experiences are: the participation in the exchange program between the University of Trieste (IT), the Fachhochschule Braunschweig / Wolfenbüttel and the Institut Régional du Travail Social Poitou-Charentes (F) (1996 - 2001), the lectures at the master's degree in Social Services of the Graduate School of Human Sciences, Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan (2009), at the “International Post-Graduate Program on Family, Work and Social Policy” developed by ISCTE IUL (PT) and at the Italian-Americans seminars in the Rome Center of the Loyola University Chicago and at University of Calabria (2009 and 2013). He is Marie Curie Fellow and coordinates the Italian research groups of the two EU funded research “Civil Engagement in Social Work: Developing Global Models” and “The public health implications of neoliberal policy and management on professions and vulnerable populations” involving universities in Europe (Italy, UK, Finland, Spain, Portugal), Turkey and all the BRICS (Brasil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). From 2016 he is working in the research project “For a Better Tomorrow: Social Enterprises on the Move” (FAB-MOVE) funded by the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE). It brings together researchers and practitioners from 17 countries worldwide in order to explore the question of how social enterprises can grow and flourish.

He was also a member of the Steering Committee of the European conference "Social changes and social professions - social change and social professions" held in Parma in 2007 and organized by EASSW (European Association of Schools of Social Work), IFSW (International Federation of Social Workers) and FESET (European Social Educator Training). He coordinated the Steering

Committee and Program Committee of the European conference on Social Work Education “Social Work Education in Europe: toward 2025” (Milan, Italy – 29.96 – 02.07.15).

From 2011 to 2015 he had been a member of the Executive Committee of EASSW (European Association of Schools of Social Work).

From 2015 he has been President of the AIDOSS – Associazione Italiana dei Docenti di Servizio Sociale (Italian Association of Social Work Educators and Teachers)

Amongst his most recent publications on social work and social policy can be mentioned:

Books:

1. Kolar E. e Sicora A. (eds.), *Social Work Around The World: Colors and Shapes in a Complex Mosaic*, Quaderni del Csal - 3, Special issue of Visioni LatinoAmericane, Issn 2035-6633, http://www2.units.it/csal/home/visioni_latino_amicane_13_quaderno_3_social%20work%20around%20the%20world.pdf
2. Sicora A., Pignatti A., *Progettare sociale. Progettazione e finanziamenti europei per i servizi sociali ed educativi* [Social plan. Plan and European Funding in social and educational services], Maggioli, Santarcangei di Romagna (RM), 2015.
3. Sicora A. (ed.), *La violenza contro gli operatori dei servizi sociali e sanitari* [Violence against social and health workers], Roma, Carocci, 2013.
4. Sicora A., *Errore e apprendimento nelle professioni di aiuto* [Error and learning in helping professions], Rimini: Maggioli, 2010.
5. Sicora A., *L'assistente sociale riflessivo. Epistemologia del Servizio Sociale* [The reflexive social worker. Epistemology of Social Service], Lecce: Pensa Multimedia, 2005.

Articles and contributions to collective volumes

1. Engelbrecht, L.K., Spolander, G., Martin, L., Strydom, M., Adaikalam, F., Marjanen, P., Pervova, I., Sicora, A. & Tani, P. 2016. Reflections on a process model for international research collaboration in social work. *International Social Work*, 59(4): 438-451.
2. Frost, E., Hojer, S., Campanini, A., Sicora, A., & Kullberg, K. (2015). Outsiders and learners: Negotiating meaning in comparative European social work research practice. *Qualitative Social Work*. <http://doi.org/10.1177/1473325015621124>
3. Sicora A. (2015), Social work education and practice in Italy: emerging issues, challenges and concerns, in Kolar E. e Sicora A. (eds.), *Social Work Around The World: Colors and Shapes in a Complex Mosaic*, Quaderni del Csal - 3, Special issue of Visioni LatinoAmericane, Issn 2035-6633, http://www2.units.it/csal/home/visioni_latino_amicane_13_quaderno_3_social%20work%20around%20the%20world.pdf
4. SICORA A (2014). Diventare professionisti riflessivi. Le mille domande della pratica riflessiva nelle professioni di aiuto [Becoming reflective practitioners. Thousand questions of reflective practice in helping professions]. *ANIMAZIONE SOCIALE*, vol. 287, p. 89-98, ISSN: 0392-5870.
5. SICORA A (2014). Errore e apprendimento nel tirocinio: le potenzialità della scrittura riflessiva nella formazione dei futuri assistenti sociali [Mistake in the training and learning: using reflective writing in future social workers education]. *RASSEGNA DI SERVIZIO SOCIALE*, vol. 53/3-4, p. 78-89.
6. Sicora A. (2014) Aggression towards helping professions: violence as communication, listening as prevention? *ARGUMENTUM*, Vitória (ES), v. 6, n. 2, p. 154-165, jul./dez. 2014.
7. SICORA A (2014). Neoliberalismo e servizio sociale in Italia: spunti per una pratica riflessiva [Neoliberalism and social work in Italy: ideas for reflective practice]. *RASSEGNA DI SERVIZIO SOCIALE*, vol. 1-14, p. 51-63, ISSN: 0033-9601
8. Spolander G, Engelbrecht L, Martin L, M, Irina Pervova I, Marjanen P, P, Sicora A, Adaikalam A (2014). The implications of neoliberalism for social work: Reflections from a six-country

- international research collaboration. INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK, vol. 57, p. 301-312, ISSN: 0020-8728, doi: 10.1177/0020872814524964
9. SICORA A (2012). Nel terzo fuoco: l'organizzazione dei servizi, crucialità della disciplina. RASSEGNA DI SERVIZIO SOCIALE, p. 63-76, ISSN: 0033-9601
 10. SICORA A (2012). Práctica reflexiva y profesiones de ayuda. ALTERNATIVAS, p. 43-56, ISSN: 1133-0473
 11. SICORA A (2012). Servizio sociale e ricerca: un incontro per l'innovazione. RASSEGNA DI SERVIZIO SOCIALE, vol. anno 51, p. 10-22, ISSN: 0033-9601
 12. SICORA A (2012). Strumenti per riflettere, imparare e migliorare nei servizi. WELFARE OGGI, p. 116-119, ISSN: 2240-3590
 13. SICORA A (2012). Un intreccio lungo il tempo: politiche sociali, formazione e sviluppo del Servizio Sociale in Italia. LA RIVISTA DI SERVIZIO SOCIALE, p. 44-52, ISSN: 0035-6522
 14. Sicora A. , "Multidimensionalità" [*Multidimensionality*] & "Errore (professionale)" [(Professional) error]. In *Nuovo dizionario di servizio sociale [New Dictionary of Social Work]*. Campanini A. (ed): Carocci, 2013, pp. 398-401 and pp. 247-249.
 15. Sicora A. , "Práctica reflexiva y profesiones de ayuda". Alternativas. Quadernos de Trabajo Social, 2012, n. 19, pp. 43-56.
 16. Sicora A., "Il contributo degli operatori sociali nel promuovere i diritti dei rom in Italia" [The contribution of social workers in promoting the rights of Roma in Italy], in Baldin S., Zago M. (a cura di), *Il mosaico rom. Specificità e governance multilivello*, Milano, FrancoAngeli, 2011, pp. 232 - 243.
 17. Sicora A., "Cittadinanza attiva e conflittualità sociale nell'Italia d'inizio millennio" [Active citizenship and social conflict in Italy at the beginning of the millennium]. In *Contro o dentro? Innovazioni possibili dai laboratori di cittadinanza responsabile [Against or inside? Possible innovations from laboratories of responsible citizenship]*, Colmegna V., Palmonari A., Vecchiato T. (eds.), Padova: Fondazione Emanuela Zancan, 2010, pp. 61-67.
 18. Sicora A., "Self-evaluation of social work practice through reflection on professional mistakes. Practice makes "perfect"?" In *Revista de Asistență Socială*, 4, 2010.
 19. Sicora A., *Organizzazione e servizio sociale [Organization and social work]*. Gui L. (ed.), Cap. 5, "Il servizio sociale e le organizzazioni" [Social work and organizations], Roma: Carocci. 2009. pp. 109-124.
 20. Sicora A., "Le responsabilità direzionali in organizzazioni di piccole dimensioni del terzo settore" [Executive responsibilities in small organizations of the third sector]. *Studi Zancan. Politiche e servizi alle persone*, 2009, n. 2, pp. 156-161.
 21. Sicora A., "Il valore conoscitivo delle cose "andate storte" [The cognitive value of things gone wrong]. *Animazione sociale*, 2009, n. 1, pp. 89-90.
 22. Chicco S., Sicora A., "Processi di rimodulazione organizzativa degli enti" [Processes reshaping the organizational entities]. In *Servizio Sociale trifocale. Le azioni e gli attori delle nuove politiche sociali [Multifocal Social Work. The actions and actors of the new social policies]*, Lazzari F. (ed.), Milano: FrancoAngeli, 2008, pp. 97-117.
 23. Sicora A., "Motivazione e finalità della valutazione nel servizio sociale" [Motivation and purpose of evaluation in social work]. *Studi Zancan. Politiche e servizi alle persone*, 2008, Vol. 1, pp. 20-27.
 24. Sicora A., "Riforma delle politiche sociali e svolte nei sistemi formativi di base" [Reform of social policies and systems carried out in basic training]. In *Nuove solidarietà nell'allargamento dell'Unione Europea [New forms of solidarity in the enlargement of the European Union]*, Corsi Di Studio In Servizio Sociale Università Di Trieste (ed.), Milano: Angeli, 2006, pp. 224-226.
 25. Sicora A., *La valutazione nel servizio sociale [Evaluation in Social Work]*. Campanini A. (ed.), Cap. 3, "Riflessività e autovalutazione nel Servizio Sociale" [Self-evaluation and reflexivity in social work], Roma: Carocci. 2006. pp. 59-92.

26. Sicora A., "Percorsi di valutazione della formazione permanente per il personale dei servizi sociali ed educativi"[Evaluation of training for staff of social and educational services]. In *Scritture d'amore*, Mapelli B. (ed.), Milano: Guerini e Associati, 2005, *Adulità* pp. 271-277.

Workshops and lectures in Italy

(omissis)

Workshops and lectures abroad

1. workshops "Reflective practice and learning from mistakes in social work" at the Erasmus Mundus Family master at ISCTE-IUL in Lisbon (Portugal), 30 April 2016
2. lecture on "Social Work in Italy and Reflective Practice" to Social Work students at the Department of Sociology of the Guangdong University of Finance and Economics (1.30 pm) on January 14th, 2016;
3. lecture on "Social Work in Italy and Reflective Practice" to Social Work students at the Sun Yat-sen University on January 14th, 2016;
4. lecture on "Social Work and community in Italy. Principles and experiences" to Social Work students and their professors at the School of Politics and Public Administration of the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (Guangzhou, China) on January 22, 2016;
5. lecture on-line on "Social work and social services for the elderly in Italy" at the Social Work BA program at the School of Politics and Public Administration at the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (Guangzhou, China), 18 May 2015
6. workshop "Reflective Practice and Learning from Mistakes in Social Work" organised by Making Research Count, University of Bedfordshire and King's College London, United Kingdom, 8 May 2015
7. lecture on "Social work and local social plans in Italy: experiences and theory" to the students of the Social Work BA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 11 March 2015
8. lecture on "Social work and research in Europe: an introduction" to the students of the Social Work BA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 5 March 2015
9. lecture on "Social policy and social work in Italy in the new century" at the conference "Social Policy and Social Work in the Modern World: Problems and Strategies", Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 27 February 2015
10. lecture on "Families, community, markets and social policy in front of social problems in Europe and the BRICS" to the students of the Social Work MA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 25 February 2015
11. lecture on-line on "Social Work Education and Practice in Italy" in the course "'Human rights, social rights and Social Work" to the students of the Social Work MA of the Fakultät Soziale Arbeit und Gesundheit, HAWK Hochschule Hildesheim/Holzminen/Göttingen in Germany, 15 January 2015
12. lecture on "Social work and social services for the elderly in Italy" to social and health workers at the Haizuqu District Mr. He Guirong Welfare Institute e Haizu District Elderly Integrated Services Center (Guangzhou, China), 13 June 2014
13. lecture on "Italy as a case study: a brief history of SW and volunteering" to the volunteers of the NGO QuiQuan at the Aba Teachers College in Shui Mo (Sichuan, China), 11 June 2014
14. lecture on "Social work in Italy. Experiences and main features" to the social workers of NGO QuiQuan in Shui Mo (Sichuan, China), 10 June 2014
15. lecture on "Reflective practice in Social Work" (Salon of Social Work) to social workers and teachers of the School of Politics and Public Administration of the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (Guangzhou, China), 7 June 2014
16. lecture on "Social Work in Italy: introduction and systemic-relational model" at the Social Work BA of the School of Politics and Public Administration at the Guangdong University of

Foreign Studies (Guangzhou, China), 6 June 2014

17. lecture on "Social Work in Italy" at the Social Work MA, Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou, China), 3 June 2014
18. lecture on "Social Work in Italy" at the Social Work MA, Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou, China), 30 May 2014
19. lecture on "Reflective practice, professional error and Gibb's reflective cycle" to the students of the Social Work BA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 26 March 2014
20. lecture on "Social work in Italy" to the students of the Social Work MA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 21 March 2014
21. lecture on "Social work and social work models in Italy" to the faculty the Social Work MA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 18 March 2014
22. lecture on "Reflective practice, professional error and Gibb's reflective cycle" to the students of the Social Work BA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 13 March 2014
23. lecture on "Models on Social policy and social services. A comparative perspective" to the students of the Social Work MA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 12 March 2014
24. lecture on "Development of a Model on Social Policy. A global view on social policy in Finland, India, Italy, Russia, South Africa, United Kingdom" at the "International Symposium on Social Policy and Social Protection on Vulnerable population" at the Loyola College Chennai, India, 24 January 2014
25. lecture on Social Policy Framework" al workshop "Realizing rights, duties, citizenship through social policy and professional social work practice" at the Loyola College Chennai, India, 10 January 2014
26. lecture in streaming internet on "Comparing the "incomparable". A global view on social policy and the implication for social work" at the Loyola College di Chennai, India, 9 January 2014
27. course "Reflective practice on Social Work" for social work students and teachers at the Loyola College Chennai in India, 4, 18 e 25 January 2014
28. lecture on "Reflective practice in social work. Efficiency vs. effectiveness?" to the social workers of APD - Western Cape Association for Persons with Disabilities branch in Milnerton in South Africa, 25 March 2013
29. workshops on "Visual data analysis: ideas and methodological bases" at the Stellenbosch University in South Africa, 20 March 2013
30. two abstracts al convegno ENSACT Joint European Conference, Istanbul (Turkey), 16 - 19 April 2013: Sicora A. , Frost E. , Kullberg K. , Campanini A. , Hojer S. , "Supporting continuity in child and family social work: a study of resilient workers in three European countries." and Sicora A. , " Violence against social workers: dilemmas between help and control".
31. workshops on "Managerialism and reflective practice" to the students of the Social Work BA of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 8 November 2012
32. workshops "Social work in Italy between social services and reflective practice" at the BA in Sociology of the State University of Novosibirsk, Novosibirsk (Russia), 6 November 2012
33. workshops "Emerging social problems in Italy today within the European context" at the Department of Social Problems of the Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering of the Siberian Seat of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk (Russia), 2 November 2012
34. workshops "Social services and social policy in Italy" at the Faculty of Sociology of the Saint Petersburg State, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 25 October 2012
35. lecture "Reflective practice and learning by mistakes", at the International workshops FIRST Russian – Finnish International Program organised by the Herten Russian State Pedagogical University, Saint Petersburg (Russia), 22 October 2012
36. lecture "Ethical and reflective methods at work" at the conference "Ethical approach in social and health care leadership and management II" organized by FUAS, Federation of Universities

of Applied Sciences, , Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Hyvinkää (Finland), 5 October 2012

37. "Intuition, learning and social work: reflections, strategies and experiences", paper presented at the conference "2012 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: Action and Impact" organised by International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), Stockholm (Sweden), 8 - 12 July 2012
38. round table "The Europeanisation in Education of Social Workers" at the conference "Challenges and Trends in Education in Social Work" at the University of Prešov, Prešov (Slovak Republic), 26 April 2012
39. Erasmus visiting professor (5 hours) on "Leadership and management of care services in Italy" at the Department of Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies della Coventry University (U.K.), 26 - 27 March 2012
40. "Intuition, learning and social work: reflections, strategies and experiences", paper presented at the conference "Sustainable Social Development and Economic Challenges" organised by Esnaact - European Network for Social Action) and EASSW (European Association of School of Social Work), Bruxelles (Belgium), 10 - 13 April 2011
41. course "Learning from mistakes in health and social services. theories and strategies" at the School of Sociology and Public Policy, ISCTE-Lisbon University Institute, Lisbon (Portugal), 15 - 16 February 2011
42. lectures on "Social Policy" at the post-graduate programme "Family Social Work and Social Policy" of the School of Sociology and Public Policy at the ISCTE-Lisbon University Institute, Lisbon (Portugal), 11 - 14 October 2010
43. "Columbus and the "wrong" route. Learning by making mistakes in social work", poster at the conference "2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: The Agenda" organised by the International Federation of Social Workers – IFSW and the International Association of School of Social Work – IASSW, Hong Kong, 10 – 14 June 2010
44. lecture "Italian Mental Health and Welfare (Comparison with Japanese case)", at the course of Mental Health and Welfare tenuto dal prof. Fujii Tatsuya at the MA program in Social Services of the Graduate School of Human Sciences, Sophia University di Tokyo, Japan, 24 June 2009

International conferences – abstracts presented

1. Sicora A. (2016). Social work and social policy: the debate in the professional communities in Europe and the BIRCS. Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016, June 27 – 30, 2016 COEX, Seoul, Korea.
2. Sicora A. (2016). Aggression Towards Helping Professions: Violence As Communication, Listening As Prevention?. Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016, June 27 – 30, 2016 COEX, Seoul, Korea.
3. Ornellas, A., Sicora, A., Citroni, G., Spolander, G., Engelbrecht, L. (2016) The Role of Best Practice in Social Work: International Collaboration and Lessons Learnt. In: Abstract book - ECSWR 2016 Conference "Reflective social work practices in contemporary societies: crossed dialogues and new pathways between praxis and research". Lisbon, Portugal, 30 March – 1 April 2016;
4. Sicora A. (2015). Reflective Framework and Learning from Mistakes in Social Work Internship. In Abstract book - Conference "Social Work Education in Europe: toward 2015". p. 256, Milano, Italy, 29 June - 2 July 2015. Available on-line at: http://www.eassw.org/userfiles/file/EASSW%20BOOK_final.pdf
5. Sicora A, Citroni G. (2015). From Social Work "Best practice" in and outside Europe to Critical Reflection and Teaching. In Abstract book - Conference "Social Work Education in Europe: toward 2015". p. 249, Milano, Italy, 29 June - 2 July 2015. Available on-line at: http://www.eassw.org/userfiles/file/EASSW%20BOOK_final.pdf

6. Sicora A, Citroni G. (2015). What do social workers say about social policy and reforms in Europe and the BRICS?. In: Abstract book - ECSWR 2015 Conference "Re-visioning social work with individuals, collectives and communities: social work research". Ljubljana, Slovenia, 22-23-14 April 2015. Available on-line at: <http://indosow.info/exordo2/book1.pdf>
7. Frost E, Campanini A, Hojer S, Kullberg K, Sicora A (2014). Managing local pressures: creative adaptability as prerequisite of resilient child protection social work in 3 European contexts. In: Abstract book - 4th European Conference for Social Work Research "Private troubles or public issues? Challenges for social work research. Free University of Bozen-Bolano, Italy, 15 - 17 April 2014. Available on-line at: http://ecswr-2014.unibz.it/en/programme/Documents/abstractbook_070414.pdf
8. Sicora A (2014). Social policy, social interactions and welfare diamonds in six countries: implication for social work. In: Abstract book - 4th European Conference for Social Work Research "Private troubles or public issues? Challenges for social work research. Free University of Bozen-Bolano, Italy, 15 - 17 April 2014. Available on-line at: http://ecswr-2014.unibz.it/en/programme/Documents/abstractbook_070414.pdf
9. Sicora A, Adaikalam F (2013). Defending, transforming, building: welfare systems in Europe and in the BRICS. In: Abstract book - 3rd ENSACT Joint European Conference. Istanbul, Turkey, 16 - 19 April 2013
10. Frost E, Kullberg K., Campanini A, Hojer S, Sicora A (2013). Supporting continuity in child and family social work: a study of resilient workers in three European countries. In: Abstract book - 3rd ENSACT Joint European Conference. Istanbul, Turkey, 16 - 19 April 2013
11. Sicora A (2013). Three directions for welfare state today in and outside Europe. In: Abstract book - ESA European Sociology Association conference "Crisis, Critique and Change". Torino, 28 - 31 August 2013
12. Sicora A (2013). Violence against social workers: dilemmas between help and control. In: Abstract book - 3rd ENSACT Joint European Conference. Istanbul, Turkey, 16 - 19 April 2013
13. SICORA A (2012). Critical incidents and mistakes as stimuli for reflective practice in social services. In: 2012 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: Action and Impact - Abstract book. p. 283, Stockholm (Sweden), 8 - 12 July 2012
14. SICORA A (2011). Intuition, learning and social work: reflections, strategies and experiences. In: Sustainable Social Development and Economic Challenges - Abstract book. Bruxelles (Belgio), 10 - 13 April 2011

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