Chapter 1 : SCIE: Good practice in social care for refugees and asylum seekers

Implications for refugee policy-making relating to the former Vietnamese political prisoners and social work practice with this population were drawn for future policymaking and practice. Psychological well-being of refugee children.

Theories Used in Social Work Practice

For people who want to dedicate their life to helping others in a practical way, social work can be a fulfilling career. Direct social services usually address the problems of individuals, helping them enhance their capacity to meet social obligations. Social development work is aimed at correcting long-term problems in communities. In short, social work is about empowering people. A theory is a logical system of concepts that helps to explain why something happens in a particular way and to predict outcomes. By grounding their practice in theory, social workers can better understand his or her own task, orient goal setting, and anticipate outcomes. Describe and explain behavior, particularly when it comes to how problems develop. A particular way of viewing and thinking about the practice of social work. Provide guidance and expectations for improving outcomes for children, youth, and families.

Orienting Theories

Orienting theories describe and explain behavior, particularly when it comes to how problems develop. Various theories draw from other disciplines, including biology, psychology, and economics, and are related to all aspects of social work, including human development, personality, family systems, and political power. Orienting theories also attempt to explain large-scale societal problems such as poverty, mental illness, crime, and racial discrimination. Psychodynamic theory is informed by ego psychology and focuses on how inner energies interact with external forces to impact emotional development. That is, this theory assumes that emotions play a key role in human behavior and is thus concerned with how these internal needs, drives, and emotions motivate human behavior. It assumes that both conscious and unconscious mental activity motivate human behavior, and that internalized experiences shape personality development and functioning. This theory is what social workers usually employ when dealing with a client who has suffered past trauma or abuse. Social learning theory, also called behaviorism or behavior theory, is based on the psychology of learning. By focusing on how individuals develop cognitive functioning, social workers can understand how those cognitive structures enable adaptation and organization. So in dealing with problem behavior, social workers who employ this theory focus on changing the reinforcement that perpetuates that behavior. Power is unequally divided in every society, and all societies perpetuate various forms of oppression and injustice through structural inequality from the wealth gap to racial discrimination. In short, groups and individuals advance their own interest over the interests of others. Dominant groups maintain social order through manipulation and control. But social change can be achieved through conflict that is, interrupting periods of stability. In this theory, life is characterized by conflict either open or through exploitation instead of consensus. By addressing these asymmetric power relationships, social workers therefore aim to even the scales and reduce grievances between persons or groups.

Practice Perspectives

Practice perspectives are a particular way of viewing and thinking about the practice of social work. By offering a conceptual lens of social functioning, these frameworks focus on particular, recognizable features of a situation in order to offer guidance on what might be important considerations. Two in particular are noteworthy in their common use to assess relationships between people and their environment: Just as ecology seeks to explain the reciprocal relationship between organisms, the ecosystems perspective assumes that human needs and problems are generated by the transactions between people and their environments. The individual exists within families, Families exist within communities and neighborhoods, Individuals, families, and neighborhoods exist in a political, economic, and cultural environment, and it follows that The environment impacts the actions, beliefs, and choices of the individual. Unlike systems theory, which takes a broad perspective on equilibrium within a system, this model emphasizes active participation with the environment. The second primary perspective, the strengths perspective assumes that every individual, family, group, organization, and community has
identifiable strengths. By focusing on these strengths, clients can grow and overcome difficulties. Given the internal nature of strength, clients are usually the best experts about what types of helping strategies will be effective or ineffective; as such, the social worker in this situation is more of a facilitator. The third primary perspective, the feminist perspective takes into account the role of gender and the historical lack of power experienced by women in society. Social workers who employ a feminist perspective emphasize the need for equality and empowerment of women in our society.

Practice models While theories help explain why a problem is occurring, dozens of social work practice models are used to address the problems themselves. Based on these theories and others, these models are step-by-step guides for client sessions, much like a recipe or a blueprint for how to effect change. A few common practice models include: The social worker helps the client understand the problem, brainstorm possible solutions, pick a solution, try it out, and evaluate effectiveness. The social worker helps the client break down the problem into achievable tasks, using rehearsals, deadlines, and contracts to maintain drive and motivation. The social worker and client first identify the solution—the desired future—then work together to establish the steps that will lead to the solution. The social worker and client work to reduce the impact of an immediate crisis, learn to more effectively respond to the impact of a stressful event by employing both internal and external resources, and restore the individual to a pre-crisis level of functioning.

What are the educational requirements for a social worker? Is the program accredited? Will the program prepare you for licensure and other exams? Does the program offer online or hybrid courses for working and non-traditional students?
Global Social Work and Practice with Immigrants and Refugees (GSWPIR), as a Field of Practice (FOP) specialization, is defined by its mission to incorporate indigenous social work perspectives from around the globe - to inform learning and practice with families and communities wherever they are located, globally or in the US urban.

Jobs Live Inform Research: Good practice when working with refugee and asylum-seeking children Community Care and Community Care Inform examine findings that can be used to support good practice in the field. By academic Dr Ala Sirriyeh The United Kingdom Border Agency UKBA defines an unaccompanied refugee or asylum seeking young person as someone who is under the age of 18, is claiming asylum in their own right and who has no adult relative or guardian in the UK to provide care Home Office In there were 3, unaccompanied minors who were looked after by local authorities in England DCSF, A key challenge for local authorities is to provide suitable placements for these young people. Social workers also need to facilitate their access to key services such as education and health services and to support them through the immigration process. Finally, as most unaccompanied minors are over the age of 14, and many are year olds, a key task for social workers is also to prepare these young people for transitions to adulthood in the context of the uncertainty of their immigration status. Studies on the placement of unaccompanied minors indicate that andyear olds are most likely to be placed in independent or semi-independent accommodation. This encompasses a range of accommodation options including: Foster care is usually used as a placement for children under the age of 16 Wade ; Chase et al  Hek writes that where unaccompanied young people have been asked for their views on foster placements they have identified various factors as helping them settle, including: However, others in foster care felt uncared for, isolated and that they were treated differently. Chase also found that children described positive experiences of foster care if they had felt a sense of belonging and inclusion in their foster family. Overall, most unaccompanied children are placed trans-culturally so there are issues here for fostering teams and social workers to consider in terms of matching, preparation, planning, comfort and belonging. Young people will have had a range of education experience prior to their arrival in the UK. Some may have regularly attended schools in their countries of origin and received a high standard of education. Others may have had limited education in their countries of origin or interrupted education due to conflict and journeys. Therefore, it is important that once they are in the UK, assessments are conducted that ensure they are placed in a suitable education placement with the appropriate form of support. Wade found that young people in foster or residential care or living with relatives or friends were more likely to be engaged with education and strong networks of social support. When controlling for age, this was lower for young people living with family and for unaccompanied young people living in foster care compared to those living in group homes or independently Hodes The majority of unaccompanied minors are aged 14 and over when they arrive in the UK, with the largest numbers in the year old age group. Therefore, transitions to adulthood and leaving care provisions are a key issue for these young people. Wade notes that many young people reach the age of 18 without having received a final decision on their asylum case. Government guidance advises that social workers need to engage in multi-dimensional or parallel planning with young people to help them consider and prepare for different potential outcomes of the asylum process DCSF Many young people have identified anxieties associated with their immigration cases as being the most difficult aspect of their lives and having negative effects on their mental health Chase ; Hodes It is therefore also vital that young people receive high quality legal representation and support during this process. Where young people have strong networks of informal supports they tended to do better in education. A Literature Review, London: Department for Education and Skills. Brownlees and Smith Lives in the Balance: The quality of immigration legal advice given to separated children seeking asylum, London: Department for Children, Schools and Families. Issues for policy and practice.
A theory may explain human behavior, for example, by describing how humans interact or how humans react to certain stimuli. Social work practice models describe how social workers can implement theories. Practice models provide social workers with a blueprint of how to help others based on the underlying social work theory. While a theory explains why something happens, a practice model shows how to use a theory to create change. Social Work Theories There are many social work theories that guide social work practice. Here are some of the major theories that are generally accepted in the field of social work: It is premised on the idea that an effective system is based on individual needs, rewards, expectations, and attributes of the people living in the system. According to this theory, families, couples, and organization members are directly involved in resolving a problem even if it is an individual issue. New behavior will continue if it is reinforced. According to this theory, rather than simply hearing a new concept and applying it, the learning process is made more efficient if the new behavior is modeled as well. Erikson believed everyone must pass through eight stages of development over the life cycle: Each stage is divided into age ranges from infancy to older adults. This social work theory describes the personality as consisting of the id responsible for following basic instincts, the superego attempts to follow rules and behave morally, and the ego mediates between the id and the ego. In healthy individuals, these stages contribute to creativity, wisdom, and altruism. In people lacking healthy ego development, experiences can lead to psychosis. Social Work Practice Models There are many different practice models that influence the way social workers choose to help people meet their goals. Here are some of the major social work practice models used in various roles, such as case managers and therapists: Rather than tell clients what to do, social workers teach clients how to apply a problem solving method so they can develop their own solutions. Social workers and clients collaborate together and create specific strategies and steps to begin reaching those goals. In the story, the client is not defined by the problem, and the problem exists as a separate entity. Social workers assist clients in identifying patterns of irrational and self-destructive thoughts and behaviors that influence emotions. The model includes seven stages: This social work practice model is commonly used with clients who are expressing suicidal ideation.
It may not reflect current policy but still provides valuable practice guidance. At a glance Good practice in social care for refugees and asylum seekers Published: June
Key messages social care services should use a rights-based approach, considering the person as an individual and assessing their need thoroughly, rather than viewing them solely through the lens of status and eligibility some groups may be less visible for example older refugees, asylum seeking children and young people in families, asylum seekers with disabilities and women who are victims of domestic violence it is important to develop specialist expertise and capacity within the workforce and build strong multi-agency partnerships for working with refugees and asylum seekers social care services need to develop, sustain and engage with refugee and community organisations, involving refugees and asylum seekers in the design and delivery of services social care services should provide access to culturally sensitive advocacy and to a robust sensitive culturally interpreting service equalities monitoring systems need to include refugees and asylum seekers. This At a glance summary looks at good practice in social care for refugees and asylum seekers. It will also be of interest to asylum seeker and refugee organisations and voluntary organisations. The messages contained in the summary come from: Good practice in social care for refugees and asylum seekers. Much more detailed guidance and pointers for good practice, the legal and policy framework, practice examples, useful contacts and resources can be found in: Introduction Refugees and asylum seekers face adversity before, during and after arrival in the UK. They have complex interwoven needs and are likely to require a wide range of social care services. Many may be unclear about how to access services and their entitlement. These pointers for good practice have been developed from a review of the literature and a survey which included the views of refugees and asylum seekers, social care providers and refugee and community organisations. A refugee is an individual to whom the UK government has offered protection in accordance with the Refugee Convention and granted leave to stay. An asylum seeker is a person who has asked for protection but has not received a decision on their application to become a refugee, or is waiting for the outcome of an appeal. Good practice in social care rests on a foundation of principles and organisational commitment, particularly: A rights-based approach Refugees and asylum seekers can make a positive contribution to society, given the right circumstances. It is important to set a response to their social care needs in a context of human rights. Most important are the right to be treated with respect and the rights set out in international conventions and treaties to which the UK is committed. Adopting a rights-based approach to social care is the best way of ensuring that asylum seekers and refugees are treated with dignity, equality and respect. Organisational commitment Securing organisational commitment to promoting the wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers, as an integral element of mainstream social care policies, is an important first step. Development of strong multi-agency partnerships Multi-agency partnerships with a clear focus on refugees and asylum seekers, at both strategic and operational levels, will facilitate the development of access to appropriate social care provision. A strategic approach The development of a local strategy using the joint strategic needs assessment framework will enable local authorities to plan and develop services for current and future populations of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as other migrant populations. Involving refugees and asylum seekers We rely on each other. I feel safe to ask someone from my own community. Female asylum seeker Involving refugee and community organisations and refugees and asylum seekers in the design and delivery of services is good practice and the outcome will be more appropriate service provision. Local refugee and community organisations are a vital resource which needs to be nurtured and sustained. Such groups have a crucial role to play in the design and delivery of local services and fostering social inclusion. Workforce development Workforce development is needed to ensure a focus on, and expertise in relation to, refugees and asylum seekers. Training and
supervision for social care providers and practitioners should be available. Monitoring and Review Equalities monitoring is an essential component of performance monitoring and is required by equalities legislation. Commissioners and social care providers need to ensure that current monitoring systems include refugees and asylum seekers. Building on these foundations, suggested good practice includes: Providing accessible information There are many opportunities through the asylum process to provide information to asylum seekers about their rights and the responsibilities of local authorities in relation to social care. Information needs to be made available in appropriate formats. Refugee and community organisations can play an invaluable role in terms of providing information about rights and signposting and supporting refugees and asylum seekers to access appropriate services. Advocacy We need lots of help, we need advice on what is available for us, we need courage to continue with life, and we need motivation. Female asylum seeker Advocacy is needed at both an individual level and a community level to empower individuals and facilitate participation in decision-making processes. Gateways and signposting As individuals we do not access social care services, because we do not know what is available for us. Female, status unclear Refugees and asylum seekers often have low awareness and take up of social care services. Therefore imaginative gateways to social care and smart signposting are invaluable. Primary care and asylum seeker and refugee organisations can be useful ways to signpost social care services. Generic and specific community organisations and services can also be helpful in sign posting people to social care services. Clear and appropriate eligibility criteria for services Local authorities have a duty to assess all individuals including refused asylum seekers if they appear to be in need of care services under section 47 of the NHS and Community Care Act. If asylum seekers are not eligible for social care services they should be assessed under the Human Rights Act to establish whether not to provide appropriate services would be a breach of their human rights. For refused asylum seekers, detailed practice guidance on assessing and supporting children, families and adults is available from the No Recourse to Public Funds NPRF Network website. Refugee community organisation respondent In order to provide services to the highest standards, commissioners and providers need to ensure that services are culturally competent. This will include enabling refugees and asylum seekers to access culturally specific forms of support, including faith-based approaches. A robust system of interpreting is essential to ensuring that communication with refugees and asylum seekers is effective. To ensure that services promote independence and wellbeing, direct payments and personal budgets should be considered. Access to counselling and culturally appropriate mental health interventions should be available. This should include access to specialist psychological help for victims of torture. Promoting social inclusion, integration and independence Recognising and building on the strengths of refugees and asylum seekers should be the focus for social care providers. Community and refugee organisations have a particular contribution to make in relation to empowering people. These organisations often facilitate peer support networks as well as providing activities, such as English language classes that will contribute towards promoting both inclusion and wellbeing. Good practice for children and young people Social care practice with asylum seekers is not different to good practice with any other client group. The key factors are to carry out thorough assessments to clarify needs, consider all options and bear in mind that they are children first, then asylum seekers. In addition, pointers specific to children and young people are: For those children and young people in families, good practice in meeting their needs will be intertwined with the quality of response to their parents, as necessary.
Meeting a crucial need for social workers and other practitioners, as well as students, this authoritative text covers the breadth of issues involved in working with immigrant and refugee children and families.

Human-made disasters Seasonal workers Persons in any of these categories may have legal or illegal status. This is a guiding framework only. Categorical distinctions are not always clear cut in reality. Persons may move from one cell to another over time. Voluntary, permanent international migrants include immigrants and international adoptees. Immigrants are persons who leave their countries of their own will, usually in search of better economic opportunities. Forced migrants are those who have left their homelands because they had no other choice. In the permanent category, these include victims of atrocities, such as refugees who are victims of war and other human rights violations and cannot return to their countries because of fear of persecution. Temporary voluntary migrants include students, tourists, and so forth, who intend to stay in the country a limited period of time and then return to their homelands. Temporary forced migrants include asylum seekers; these are persons making a claim for refugee status, for whom a decision is pending. This status is temporary because ultimately they are either granted refugee status or they are ordered to return to their homeland. Victims of natural and human-made disasters are also usually temporary migrants, as they typically return to their homelands after the disaster has abated. Persons in any of these conceptual categories may have legal or illegal status. Legal migrants are those who are authorized to live in the country; illegal migrants are those who entered the country either without authorization or with fraudulent passports, or overstayed their visas. People may also move from one cell to another. For example, students or tourists who stay in the country after their visas have expired become illegal, permanent immigrants. Regions of Origin Among the foreign born in , Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics Table 2 provides a composite profile of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the foreign born. It should be noted, however, that the foreign born are a very heterogeneous population, and there is great variability in these characteristics. California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Georgia, Virginia, and Washington in descending order of the percentage of the foreign-born population that resides in the state. Age In , Among the foreign born, The percentage of the foreign born that was aged 65 years and over differed slightly from that of the native population. The small proportion of foreign born in the youngest age group occurred because most of the children of foreign-born parents were born in the United States and thus are natives. Year of entry Among the foreign born in , Family household size and composition In , the average household size with a foreign-born householder was 3. Among the population 15 years and older, the foreign born were more likely than natives to be currently married. Educational attainment The foreign born aged 25 years and over were less likely to have graduated from high school than were natives the same age. Economic characteristics Labor force participation In , Occupation In , the foreign born were more likely than the native-born to work in jobs in service. The foreign born were less likely to work in management, business, science, and arts occupations. Poverty In , Health Insurance In , Census Bureau, The foreign-born population in the United States, Challenges in Social and Cultural Adaptation International migrants are likely to encounter challenges in numerous areas of adaptation, including health; mental health; family dynamics; language, education, and economic well-being; and interethnic relations. Health International migrants often face inadequate health care access due to structural barriers, financial barriers, and personal and cultural barriers. In general, the health status of ethnic minorities, including many immigrants and refugees, tends to be worse than that of White Americans. These disparities are due to a complex combination of socioeconomic, physiological, psychological, societal, and cultural factors. Relevant cultural factors include health beliefs and health practices, which encompass cultural concepts of health and illness, folk illness, traditional therapeutic practices, and the integration of traditional and conventional healing systems. Psychosocial issues are also related to the health and health care of immigrants and refugees, including treatment adherence, somatization,
and family involvement Potocky-Tripodi. Mental Health International migrants are at risk of developing mental health problems due to stressors experienced during the migration process. These stressors may include loss of family members, friends, home, and the familiar environment; traumatic experiences such as war, famine, violence, rape, enslavement, imprisonment, and torture; a hasty and dangerous departure; dangerous transit experiences; loss of status; language problems; employment problems; legal problems; social isolation; family conflict; role changes; discrimination, racism, and xenophobia; and acculturative stress. Some of these experiences are common to almost all international migrants, whereas others, such as traumatic experiences, are experienced only by some, particularly by forced migrants. Additionally, the mental health of international migrants is influenced by cultural factors. These include conceptualizations of mental health, diagnosis and symptom expression, communication styles, and service utilization. The most commonly observed mental health problems of international migrants include grief, alienation and loneliness, decreased self-esteem, depression, anxiety, somatization, paranoia, guilt, posttraumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse Potocky-Tripodi.

Family Dynamics The stressors of the migration process typically lead to changes in family roles and dynamics. In addition to family conflicts, family members, particularly adolescents and the elderly, experience unique life cycle issues that are affected by migration. These issues center on identity, meaning, and family expectations Potocky-Tripodi. For most migrants, English ability improves with length of residence. However, the rate of language acquisition depends on many factors, including age, education, time available for language learning, level of literacy in the native language, opportunities to interact with native English speakers, and the value that the individual places on being bilingual. Across generations, the level of English language acquisition appears to be increasing, and immigrant and refugee children acquire English much faster than their parents. It is generally accepted that bilingualism is the desired outcome for both children and adults. However, it is important to recognize that being bilingual does not necessarily mean equal proficiency in both languages. This has implications for the level of written and oral translation in reaching those who speak another language. The educational attainment of adult international migrants is clustered at the low and high ends of the educational spectrum. While many children in immigrant and refugee families perform well in school, many are also disadvantaged by low family socioeconomic status, limited English proficiency, late entry into the U. The economic well-being of immigrants and refugees varies widely and is influenced by numerous factors, including financial capital, human capital, social capital, household composition, and community contexts Potocky-Tripodi. Interethnic Relations Anti-immigrant sentiments and policies rise and fall in cycles that are linked to changing economic and political conditions. Anti-immigrant sentiments are also linked to prejudice, racism, and discrimination. This is an era when the anti-immigrant sentiment is high. These attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors have multiple causes, including economic, psychological, social, and power-conflict factors. Relations between the foreign-born and the native-born population tend to be characterized by separation, conflict, and competition in some communities Potocky-Tripodi.

Best Practices Social work best practices for working with international migrants have the following fundamental features: it is essential that social workers combat this attitude and its resultant policies and practices. Therefore, a human rights base is essential to practice with this population Ife. The social worker should find out what coping strategies and problem resolution strategies the client has successfully used in the past. These strengths should then be built upon for addressing the current problem. Evidence Base This author defines evidence-based practitioners as those who use interventions that have evidence of effectiveness based on published evaluations, whenever available, and b systematically evaluate their effectiveness through practice or program evaluation methods, or both. Thus, evidence-based social workers must know what interventions have been demonstrated to be effective in resolving particular problems among particular clients. However, many interventions have not been specifically evaluated for international migrant clients. Thus, workers must be able to determine what interventions, or modifications of interventions, appear most promising for these clients based on demonstrated effectiveness for other populations. In many cases, social workers will adapt existing interventions or programs to make them culturally compatible for
international migrants. Holistic Practice As described earlier, international migrants usually are confronted with a multitude of challenges. Thus, effective social workers must identify, assess, and intervene with the totality of the problems that clients are facing. For this reason, case management is an essential underpinning of best practices with these populations. Multilevel Practice Problems that are the target of social work practice may be located at three possible levels: For international migrants, problems often lie in the meso or macro levels in the form of societal discrimination as manifested in factors such as lack of access to health care or employment. In such cases, meso- and macro-level interventions are required, since working only with the client is highly unlikely to resolve the problem. Summary of Best Practices Table 3 summarizes the best practices that meet the aforementioned criteria and that address each of the areas of challenge described earlier Potocky-Tripodi,
Two special journal issues addressed refugee issues, including some research: The following abstracts are selected from refugee-related articles listed in recent Social Work Abstracts. Of articles relating to refugees, only one-third were reports of research on services or policy. Many of these were single case studies of intervention models or refugee populations. The articles are grouped by categories; and although several may have relevance to multiple categories, each is only listed once. Trauma and Mental Health “These articles focus on psychosocial stress, adjustment, and mental health issues. Systemic Issues “These articles focus on demographic, social, economic, and related social issues. Research Methodology “These articles focus on the research process itself. Community Development Journal, 40 2, April, This special issue set out to identify examples of the community development approach to help with the rising number of armed conflicts spawning Diaspora refugee populations into numerous other countries. Journal of Social Work. The behavioral and emotional problems of former unaccompanied refugee children years after their return to Vietnam. Child Abuse and Neglect. The former refugee children had significantly lower. Externalizing scores and failed marginally to report significantly higher. Internalizing scores than the local children. War traumas and community violence: Research Insights, Altadena, CA Journal of Multicultural Social Work. Child psychological maltreatment in Palestinian families. The sample consisted of 1, school-age children who ranged in age from 12 to 16 years. Two school counselors carried the interviews with children at school, and with the available parent at home. Child psychological maltreatment occurred concurrently with other forms of maltreatment such as physical abuse and child labor. Parental psychological maltreatment proved to be weakened with high traditional family values. A significant proportion of the sample could be considered psychologically maltreated. Intervention and prevention efforts should be focused on child welfare, educational programs aimed at high-risk parents, and mobilization of the community and social services agencies. Psychological well-being of the former Vietnamese political prisoner in the United States. Four hundred questionnaires were provided in Vietnamese and mailed to the former political prisoners in those localities in January. The path model was constructed by six exogenous variables also known as background variables: Four variables were found to significantly predict psychological well-being directly: The psychological distress of the sample was at the clinical cutoff level, suggesting that the former Vietnamese political prisoners might be at risk for mental health problems. Overall, the final path model explained 42 percent of variance in psychological well-being of the former Vietnamese political prisoners in this study. Implications for refugee policy-making relating to the former Vietnamese political prisoners and social work practice with this population were drawn for future policymaking and practice. Psychological well-being of refugee children. Data about the family situation and the psychosocial adaptation of refugee children to displacement was gathered during detailed structured interviews with the mothers, while the study families were accommodated either in a shelter or with host families. A considerable range of stress-related reactions among displaced children were identified e. Refugee children exhibited a significantly higher incidence of stress reactions if their mothers had difficulty coping with the stress of displacement. Psychosocial functioning of Central American refugee children. In a qualitative study of the functioning of Central American refugee children in Los Angeles, special attention was given to two questions: Findings indicated that the combination of variables was significant for the development of posttraumatic stress disorder. The impact of social support and psychological distress on the acculturation adjustment of Cambodian refugees. The data indicated that 50 percent of the variance in acculturation adjustment was explained by the combination of education, length of time in the country, and psychological distress. In addition, there was a strong relationship between acculturation adjustment and lack of psychological distress,
and a weak relationship between perceived social support and acculturation adjustment. Finally, perceived social support was not significantly related to psychological distress. The psychological status of Vietnamese Chinese women in refugee camps. School of Social Work, Univ. Journal of Women and Social Work. Implications for social work services and social policy are presented. Mental health needs of Vietnamese refugees. School of Nursing, Univ. Hospital and Community Psychiatry. A two-part study of the mental health problems of Vietnamese refugees surveyed the records of two mental health centers in Los Angeles and interviewed key informants. The records survey found that over 64 percent of the sample of 81 Vietnamese patients, as compared with 28 percent of other center patients, had diagnoses of depression or adjustment disorders. The presenting complaints of the Vietnamese reflected a tendency to somatize and included symptoms of anger, depression, and anxiety. The informants cited major needs of the Vietnamese in three areas: Evaluating effects of the employment of Vietnamese refugee wives on their family roles and mental health. Although working wives could count on their husbands to help around the house more often than could nonworking wives, housework generally remained the domain of the wife regardless of her employment status. The employment of wives was not directly related to poor mental health. A large percentage of wives reported experiencing loneliness, a general sense of isolation, unworthiness, and loss. For Vietnamese wives who have healthy families, few children, higher levels of education, good English skills, and a husband in a white-collar job, employment may be viewed as a way of opening new avenues for assimilating a new culture, establishing contacts, developing additional skills, and enhancing the quality of life. Culture Towards culturally competent practice in child and adolescent mental health. This article evaluates evidence from studies designed to address this omission, and describes a contemporary culturally competent model based on holistic, psychosocial principles of social work practice. Journal abstract Physical activity programs for refugee Somali women: Refugees are primarily women and children, so it is important that women be in their best health because they usually bear the responsibility of caring for each other and children, often in very difficult situations. Maintaining or obtaining good levels of physical activity contributes to good health: Social work with African refugee children and their families. Child and Family Social Work. This article explores the issues and dilemmas that arise when social workers attempt to work with African refugee and asylum seeking children and their families. By initially setting the context of mass movement of peoples from situations of danger in their countries of origin, the discussion highlights the key issues and shows the tensions of practice intervention in this area. Drawing on a small-scale research study with social workers and discussions with immigration officers and workers in voluntary agencies working with refugees and asylum seekers, the article draws some conclusions about the lessons that can be learned in order to improve practice. Offending patterns among Southeast Asians in the State of California. Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice. To avoid selection bias, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans were also included in the analysis. Logistic regression models were fitted to the MACR data. Consistent with theoretical hypotheses, the authors found that Southeast Asians, in particular Vietnamese, were over-represented in every arrest category, while non-refugee Asian groups were considerably underrepresented in arrests. Cambodians, Laotians, and Vietnamese were at significantly higher odds of arrest for crimes that tended to produce financial gain, such as theft, car theft, and petty theft. The authors suggest that their findings on Southeast Asians may in part reflect the unique nature of the immigration of members of this group to the U. Results suggest the need for more programs aimed at assisting Southeast Asian refugee immigrants with their transition into American society. Ethnic enclaves and the economic success of immigrants’ evidence from a natural experiment. The Quarterly Journal of Economics. The economic consequence of living in such enclaves is still an unresolved issue. We use data from an immigrant policy initiative in Sweden, when government authorities distributed refugee immigrants across locales in a way that we argue is exogenous. This policy initiative provides a unique natural experiment, which allows us to estimate the causal effect on labor market outcomes of living in enclaves. We find substantive evidence of sorting across locations. When sorting is taken into account, living in enclaves improves labor market outcomes for less skilled immigrants: Furthermore, the quality of the
enclave seems to matter. Members of high-income ethnic groups gain more from living in an enclave than members of low-income ethnic groups. Its professional values and beliefs, shaped by many decades of knowledge and critical analysis, have embraced the concerns and needs of people in society who, for one reason or another, experience discrimination and subordination where they live. One significant contribution is through ongoing research concerning refugee issues. In summer, the author was involved in a four-month qualitative research at Buduburam Refugee Camp, Ghana. The value of this type of research cannot be underestimated as few camp reports center on the voices of the refugees themselves Camus-Jacques, ; Harrell-Bond. Critical assumptions in providing aid to forced and voluntary migrants in Managua, Nicaragua. Journal of Social Work Research and Evaluation. These assumptions are addressed using data collected in a random sample of heads of household whose lives had been disrupted by the civil war in Nicaragua and had since resettled in a Managuian barrio. Undifferentiated and gender-specific regression equations were calculated to disclose which, if any, predictors of stress and receipt of material and emotional aid are subject to control by would-be providers of aid. There was partial support for the assumed lack of differences between forced and voluntary migrants but no support for statistically significant gender differences in explaining either stress levels or the receipt of aid. This is one of 15 articles in this special issue on refugees and immigrants. The challenges of resettlement among male, government-assisted Iraqi refugees in Canada. This study examined the challenges faced by Iraqi refugees during their first year of resettlement in Canada. The degree to which Iraqi refugees adjusted successfully was linked to their access to informal support systems and the Iraqi community rather than as a result of their experiences with an integrated, responsive settlement service delivery system.
Social Work with Immigrants and Refugees: We talk about why they thought it was important to have legal and social work perspectives in a book on working with immigrants and refugees. We also talk about the interface between social services and legal system, how social workers and lawyers can work together when helping immigrants and refugees, and some of the ways that professionals can advocate for immigrants and refugees at a policy level. Listen to Elaine Congress talk about using her visual assessment tool, the Culturagram, when working with immigrants and refugees. Why have legal and social work perspectives as opposed to legal and public health, or education and social work? In your text, you have chapters on needs of immigrants and refugees, including issues of physical and mental health, children and families, education, issues of sexual orientation and gender preference, aging, and legal advocacy. Can you talk about one or two things that social workers need to know to help immigrants and refugees? I know that this book is geared towards working with immigrants and refugees in the United States of America, but immigration and working with refugees is not an issue that is unique to the USA. He also lectures on immigration and social work, and on organizational effectiveness, at the Graduate School of Social Policy and Practice, Executive Education Program, with a focus on strategic planning, board governance, and resource development. Drawing upon his experience in law, refugee camp administration, and philanthropy, Fernando also provides independent consulting, coaching, and training to government agencies, local and national philanthropic institutions, social service agencies, and cultural organizations. His specific areas of expertise that help to strengthen the effectiveness of organizations include: He is a former program officer at the Philadelphia Foundation, and past coordinator of the Emma Lazarus Collaborative, a funding collaborative that, through matching grants from the Open Society Institute, supported nonprofit organizations providing service and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. He has also served as start-up founding director of the Liberty Center for Survivors of Torture, a federally funded project that provides services and advocacy for survivors of torture. From to, he served as legal officer with two United Nations UN agencies: Before joining the UN, he was a staff attorney at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia where he served as director of the Southeast Asian Refugee Project, managing the provision of free legal aid to low-income people in Philadelphia. Martin Luther King, Jr. Congress has many publications on cultural diversity and ethics in social work. She is the author of six books including the recently published Social work with immigrants and refugees: Legal issues, clinical skills, and advocacy. Congress began in the social work field, she first worked with immigrants as a direct practitioner, as a supervisor, and as an administrator in a community mental health clinic in Brooklyn. Her experience with diverse Latino clients led her to develop the culturagram that helps practitioners individualize families from diverse cultural backgrounds. Although the culturagram is most commonly discussed and applied within the context of working with immigrants and refugees, it can be used to great effect with people from the majority culture who are often mistakenly thought to be "culture-free. This definition makes immigration seem pretty boring. If you believe the popular press in the United States, most immigrants sneak into the country at night, in Texas or California, have something to do with an unscrupulous character called a coyote, and take jobs from legal residents and use taxpayer dollars to educate their children and pay for their health care. This image of the immigrant as villain sells papers and plays into an age old theme in the United States that the stranger cannot be trusted. In fact, the majority of immigrants living in the United States are classified as legal permanent residentsâ€”that is, people who are authorized to live here permanently. The United States would not be the country it is today without immigrants. A refugee is someone who flees a country or power to avoid persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Wyclef Jean, the founder and lead singer of the Washington, D. The social
work profession in the United States believes that immigration and refugee policies should simultaneously uphold and support equity and human rights, and protect national security. Immigration policies must promote social justice and avoid racism and discrimination or profiling on the basis of race, religion, country of origin, gender, or other grounds. NASW has a special interest in the impact of refugee and immigration policies on families and children. NASW supports policies that encourage family reunification and ensure that children do not grow up unduly disadvantaged by the immigration status of their parents. A quick note before we start the interview â€” I used Skype to record the interview; Elaine was in New York and Fernando was in Philadelphia. So how did you come to co-author a text on immigrants and refugees? Very interesting question, I will tell you that our editor, Jennifer Parillo, really was a matchmaker. Uh, Fernando knows a lot about social workers, I mean he has taught at social work school, as well as law school. And, in fact, he had been interviewed for an article on social work with immigrants and Jennifer had approached him about doing a book on social work practice and issues with immigrants. Also I knew Jennifer because I had published with Springer, and I had a book, two editions of a book: Multicultural perspectives on working with families. So Jennifer approached me if I would like to meet Fernando and work with on social work with immigrants and refugees. This is something I have been very interested in for many years, ever since I first started in practice in social work, I worked with many immigrants from Latin American countries, and I know Fernando also has been very interested and worked with immigrants for many years. Clearly you both have interests in this area, but why have legal and social work perspectives as opposed to legal and public health or education and social work? It will be the lawyers who will not see this text and hopefully if an immigrant first approaches a social worker, the social worker then might approach the lawyer and try to have the two industries or the two sectors work together. Well I am reminded of whatever culture you are from whether you are Jewish, or Muslim or Christian or Buddhist, there are always these principles of welcome the stranger, so I am reminded of the Torah. It says welcome the stranger. I am reminded of in the Muslim tradition there is a statement that says even if there is a stranger, a non-Muslim among you, you should help that person and convey them to safety. There is the golden rule of Buddhism; there is the treat others as you would be treated in Christianity. So cultures have these similar patterns in thinking of welcoming people who are not like us. There are two assumptions in your text, one is that immigrants and refugees need help and the other is that social workers should help. So in your text you have chapters on the needs of immigrants and refugees including issues of: Well, immigrants often have difficulties accessing social services, health care, they may not know where to go, know how to work with these systems and social workers can really help them access these services and systems that they really need. Also, many immigrants have issues about their legal status and certainly social workers can and should refer to lawyers who can help them with their status. I think an important lesson for all social workers that we learn in social work to really begin with where the client is and in order to do that social workers really have to understand the client. I have a culturagram, a family assessment tool that I developed that really helps a social worker look at a client in terms of ten different aspects and this could be very helpful. You and I did a podcast on the culturagram and listeners can access that on the Social Work Podcast website, so you are saying that using this culturagram is one of the tools that social workers can use when working with immigrants and refugees? Right, and that can be really helpful because you have to really assess the person that you are working with and see where they are and where they come from, after this assessment then you are ready to move on to planned treatment and intervention. I would like to add, Jonathan that one of the things and this is to underscore what Elaine just said, one of the things that social workers need to know help immigrants and refugees is the legal issues. Whether we like it or not the demographics of the US are changing and social workers need to stay in tune with changing demographics, and also with the law. So this is especially important in the southern states, Florida, California, Arizona, Texas, but all over, even North Carolina, has seen an explosion of immigrants. The other thing, Jonathan, you said that the text talks about how immigrants and refugees need help, throughout the text though, not only do our authors talk about how immigrants and refugees need help, but they also talk about the strengths and assets that the immigrant
and refugee community brings. Yeah I appreciate you pointing that out because I think that does too often get lost in the mix. We start thinking about our clients as simply people who have problems as opposed to people who have a lifetime worth of resources, and unless we are able to tap into those then we are really doing our clients and ourselves a disservice, so I appreciate you bringing that up. Is there something in particular that you can think of maybe that was addressed in one of these chapters about issues of physical and mental health, children and families, that could be a challenge on one hand and then an example of something that these families bring as resources or these immigrants bring as resources and strengths. The strength or asset is actually the child itself. Look at the winners of the Westinghouse Science Contest, look at winners of spelling bees, look at the talent that has been developed here of either children born, US citizen children born of immigrants, or immigrant children coming here and eventually becoming lawful permanent residents and US citizens. So the challenge is not with the newcomers the challenge is with the system that prevents access to services, in this case public education. And the success is the children themselves, the children of immigrants, or those children who were born abroad are bringing great resources to this country. So in opening doors we help people, but those of us who are already here help ourselves by accepting these brains who are coming in either at the very high level, as well as the low, blue-collar level, the picking mushrooms, the working in the chicken factory, doing the landscaping, all of that is done by immigrant labor. And you are talking about helping, helping folks and one of my other questions is how can social workers and lawyers work together to help immigrants and refugees, and specifically how do the legal and social work perspectives on helping immigrants and refugees differ and maybe complement each other? In social work you always have much more of a family approach, and this is a different way of kinda doing business if you will, but it would really work out well if there was referral back and forth and I would want collaboration. You know it sounds like setting up mixers with lawyers and social workers and lawyers who work with immigrants and refugees might not be a bad idea. We spoke a little while before about education and some of the issues in terms of education. Apparently his father belonged to a dissonant political group in his country and was taken away in the middle of the night probably to be killed. His uncle had smuggled him and his mother out of the country and they came through Mexico entered as undocumented people and it was a very difficult transit. So it was really helpful for us to understand the first part of his history and how, and you can imagine how traumatic it was for him to have to leave his home in the middle of the night to completely leave behind his familiar environment and also such a difficult time traveling across the border and then up to New York. Yeah I would agree and especially the refugee context as opposed to the immigration context. A refugee in their country of origin may have suffered torture, maybe even someone in the medical profession may have done the torture, and then secondly in the transit is raped, and now they are here and so the triple trauma, it helps to know what happened in the country of origin, and what happened in the transit, so that for example a doctor does not suddenly shine a light in the persons eye which is the way that they may have been tortured in their country of origin. A male doctor may want to recuse himself and not see the patient because the patient was raped in transit to this country. You have to tell what happened in your country of origin and why are you afraid of being persecuted. Whereas a practitioner or a social worker in a hospital or a mental health social service agency might get to that as well, but others may not. So this is where the two can work together. Jonathan I want to go back to your other question about social workers and lawyers working together, and I know that what you did in Texas is really great, there are more models like that happening around the country. And how can social workers best advocate on a policy level for their immigrant and refugee clients? Sure, the answer to that question is going to depend on where the listeners are. But city councils, state governments, often try to pass laws that might have an impact on immigrants. So for example, in the city of Hazelton, a city in Pennsylvania, there was discussion of turning landlords into the agents of the immigration service. In other situations there have been proposed legislations saying only US citizens, or lawful permanent residents, can apply for a marriage license. And so these are all city and state laws that impact immigrants, so the first thing of course is just to know what is going on. In this case it could be city laws, state laws, or federal laws that impact immigrants. So what is the
difference between educating and lobbying, just briefly? Well first let me just say that migration is occurring all over the world. Also, I just want to mention the phenomenon of transnationalism. So this is another reason why this book is applicable, not only to US social workers, but really social workers all over the world. And there are probably about 8 million social workers around the world. And again although the laws, the word, the terminology might be different, the issues, the strengths, and challenges that people face are the same. An abused woman in the US is still an abused woman in England. To bring it right back around to the beginning when we talked about the welcoming the stranger, it really sounds like the text that you wrote is really meant as a way of both educating social workers about legal perspectives, but as kind of a bridge building book between the professions and ultimately is a way of addressing social justice from a strengths perspective around this population of immigrants and refugees. Just to follow-up on what you said, we are trying to get the book in legal clinics for example, and there are many law schools around the country, which have a legal immigration clinic.
Chapter 8: Theories Used in Social Work Practice & Practice Models

Social work practice models describe how social workers can implement theories. Practice models provide social workers with a blueprint of how to help others based on the underlying social work theory.

Over 13 percent of the total US population is foreign born, but this total is much higher in urban areas, with numbers approaching 40 percent. These immigrants come from many countries, with the following eight countries in descending order the primary origin for immigrants in the United States: Although undocumented immigrants have received the most media attention, the number of legal naturalized immigrants is much larger. There are different legal definitions of naturalized immigrants, undocumented immigrants, and refugees. Under definitions provided by the International Organization for Migration cited under Governmental and Nongovernmental Organizations, immigrants are those who move to a nation of which they are not nationals, with the intention of permanent settlement. Migrant is a broader term that applies to those who freely choose to move from one country to another for various reasons, often for improved economic opportunities and not necessarily for permanent residency. Undocumented immigrants or irregular migrants are those who have entered a country without the documentation required for legal status. According to the UN High Commission for Refugees cited under United Nations, an individual is a refugee once he or she has fulfilled the following requirements, as laid out under the Convention: In working with immigrants, it is important to look at macro policy and legal issues in regard to immigrants and refugees and micro issues relating to direct service to immigrant individuals, families, and communities. Often, an analysis of premigration, transit, and postmigration experiences is helpful in social work practice with immigrants and refugees see Pine and Drachman, cited under Women, Families, and Children. Engstrom and Okamura calls for the development of a specialization in social work specifically on immigrant and refugee populations, while Healy proposes that a focus on immigrant study, especially transnationalism, enhances practice. Silka looks at community challenges and opportunities in working with immigrant populations. A nation of immigrants: A call for a specialization in immigrant well-being. Important topics are differing world views, values, beliefs, lifestyles, and languages as well as theories of assimilation and acculturation, immigration laws, partnerships, and advocacy efforts that protect immigrants. Available online for purchase or by subscription. Social work with immigrants and refugees and international social work. In Immigrants and social work: Thinking beyond the borders of the United States. Edited by Diane Drachman and Ana Paulino, 49â€” The current phenomenon of transnationalism receives special attention. International migration and social work: A review of the literature. The number of publications has increased since Articles have focused on demographics, service delivery, health and mental health needs, and macrosystemic issues. Implications for research and social work practice are discussed. Immigrants in the community: New opportunities, new struggles. Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy 7. The author looks at social issues and problems from a multidisciplinary perspective. Issues such as gangs, domestic violence, housing, small businesses, health care, elders, schools, faith-based organizations, environmental issues, and arts and culture are included. Users without a subscription are not able to see the full content on this page. Please subscribe or login. How to Subscribe Oxford Bibliographies Online is available by subscription and perpetual access to institutions. For more information or to contact an Oxford Sales Representative click here.
trauma on refugee children and their families that are compounded by forced uprooting, massive losses and the myriad changes brought about by migration. Debate in the arena of refugee mental health has polarised into two camps.