

# (DE-)LIMITATIONS AND BORDERS

## Discourses, Practices and Challenges in Social Work

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference of the ÖFEB Section for Social Pedagogy  
25/26 September 2025, University of Salzburg (Austria)

Pre-Conference for researchers in the qualification phase: 24 September 2025

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In the field of Social Work and Social Pedagogy, **boundaries** or **borders** are encountered in many ways. They are evident in the specific fields of action – in the sense of spatial, temporal or social dimensions – as well as in the scientific processing of the subject regarding the reflexive processing of boundaries. At the same time the **setting and (de-)limitation of boundaries** are not to be seen as set, but in the context of negotiation and tension, they should be seen as 'becoming'.

The title '(de-)limitations and borders' in Social Work suggests a social diagnosis that has previously been examined in several publications. However, this conference plans not only to put the diverse requirements and current processes of change in social work into a framework, but also to identify the potential of metaphors of 'boundaries' and 'boundary or border work' based on a wide range of contributions.

In the last 20 years, the terms or metaphors of boundaries and border work have emerged to become important methodological approaches in the analysis and critique of social pedagogical thought and action – including social conditions and socio-political frameworks. Boundaries and border work refer to certain spatial, temporal and social arrangements in which social work operates, and in doing so must constantly re-articulate and reflect on the limits, conditions and possibilities. This can be seen in past and current reconstructions, for example in the areas of conflict between child and youth welfare and other professions or institutions – or in the debate about inclusion.

The Conference of the ÖFEB Section for Social Pedagogy 2025 thematizes questions regarding the limitation and delimitation of borders through discourses, practices and challenges in the context of Social Work and Social Pedagogy. We invite you to submit contributions such as:

- **Creation of boundaries:** past and present mechanisms, practices, materializations and normative aspects of the (re-)production of boundaries
- **(De-)limitation and shifting borders:** (de-)limitation of social and political boundaries, transformation of boundaries such as in the public /private sphere or regarding productive/reproductive work
- **(Re-)producing and processing borders:** in line with social differences (for example: gender, generation, class, migration, religion, physical or mental disability/impairment) and their intersections
- **Boundaries and borderless spaces:** social spaces and relationships, geographical borders (also in the context of war and peace), medial, digital and analogue spaces (also regarding technological artefacts and artificial intelligence)
- **Time as a boundary:** temporal structures, ritualizations, attributions of phases and epochs (e.g. pandemic), time as a (limited) resource in the field of social work
- **Practices of boundary violations:** thematization of institutional and personal boundary violation, various forms of violence
- **Border-work and the challenges of professional arrangements:** the implementation and maintenance of professional services within the tension of openness and boundaries as well as help and support, promoting accessibility and inclusion
- **Professional Boundaries:** boundary-work practices within and in relation to other professions, defining relationships between professions, multi-, inter- and trans-professional collaborative practices
- **Research and boundaries:** methodical and methodological setting of and elimination of boundaries, examining boundaries in the context of research ethics

Content suggestions are also possible. They are welcome as long as they resonate with the themes of the conference.

This call invites to submit individual contributions. A group contribution consisting of coordinated presentations in a panel is also possible. We ask for a max. one page abstract in German or English, incl. name and contact details of all participants to be submitted until **15 January 2025** via e-mail to [sozialpaedagogik@plus.ac.at](mailto:sozialpaedagogik@plus.ac.at)

The conference program and information on registration will be announced in spring 2025. The conference is planned in presence at the University of Salzburg (Austria). Information and the call for the pre-conference for researchers in the qualifying phase (24 September 2025) is provided separately.