Social Work in 40 objects

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I’m a child of Seebohm – I qualified just as those recommendations were being put into practice, so I was ‘generic’, working with the whole community ‘from the cradle to the grave’ in a geographical patch. Apart from spells in Suffolk (where I first found out I wanted to be a social worker), Wigan (head of a day centre) and Philadelphia (a weird, totalitarian regime) all my practice has been in Sheffield, a city I love. Currently I am Emeritus Professor of Social Work at Sheffield Hallam University.

I’ve occupied many spaces – as well as knocking on doors, I’ve supervised students, taught and learned with them in class, been an academic manager (a challenging role made joyous by a wonderful team of people), project manager (again, lots of lovely colleagues) and a researcher. Apart from writing, some of my most fulfilling work is leading training workshops, especially for practice educators and groupworkers. I enjoy my international work, particularly in Georgia and eastern Europe and also as Vice President of the International Association of Social Work with Groups (IASWG).

My next book will be out in the summer – Rights and Wrongs in Social Work: Ethical and Practice Dilemmas (Palgrave) and my current project is Social Work in 40 Objects which is designed to help social work define itself via a set of Objects proposed by a wide variety of people involved in social work – practising it, learning it, experiencing it, teaching it, managing it, researching it <…>