

Dagmar Kováčiková
Pedagogical faculty
Matej Bel University
Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic

Theoretical and Methodological Aspects of the History of Social Work

Abstract

The history of social work examines the development of social-political theories and practice; they represent an internally differentiated entity which is partitioned based on both content direction and the attitude to the researched problems. The epistemological specifics of the historical research determine the historic heuristics focused on scholarly literature as well as historical sources that use both literary and heuristic source tools. The character of the historical research determines also the use of research methods, such as direct and indirect methods, perspective and retrospective, comparative, historic-demographic, historic-statistic and also methods employed in the research into other social sciences. The history of social work fulfills theoretical, formative-educational and pragmatic functions; it has interdisciplinary character and is closely linked to the history of related sciences.

Key words: *subject as well as periodization of the history of social work, historical sources, historical heuristics, methods of historical research, functions of social work history, attitude to other sciences.*