

2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: The Agenda
Pre- and Post- Conference Skills Training Workshop –

Loss of Parent(s) during childhood: Social Workers help clients who suffer from UBS, the Unfinished Business Syndrome

Time: 14:30 – 17:30
Date: 9 June, 2010 (Wednesday)
Fee: US\$50 / HK\$400
Venue: Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong
Trainer: Herman de Mönnink
Private Practice & Lecturer School of Social Work, Hanze University Groningen, The Netherlands
Target Audience: Social work professionals and students in clinical practice settings
Maximum Capacity: 45

Workshop Description:

The loss of a parent during childhood is a profound life-event that influences a child forever. The long-term effects of grieving children have often been ignored and underestimated. The statistics of parental-loss would justify more attention from social workers for the **Unfinished Business Syndrome** (UBS), which is often a result of unresolved parental-loss: how many children are suffering from unresolved losses and traumas from parental-loss through death, through divorce, through absence, through abuse, through adoption, through missing parents, etcetera? And: how can social workers help grieving clients come to terms with this parental-loss with Multi-Method-Grief Counseling (MM-GC)?

In this workshop, social workers are supported to identify the needs of grieving clients following the loss of parent(s). UBS is presented as a Syndrome frequently seen but not acknowledged as such in the Social Work Practice. The workshop helps social workers to work with UBS in children who have lost a parent but also UBS in adults who still suffer from parental-loss as a child: help them to reflect on their unique experience, understand its impact and help them to heal. Which resources do social workers have to help children and adults who have lost their parents?

MM-GC will be presented as an effective approach to parental loss in the early years; insights will be offered in the assessment and approach to different levels of Unfinished Business: existential, practical, cognitive, physical, behavioural, expressive, traumatic, ritual and systemic level. Also **the UBS-screening-list** will be presented consisted of 4 characteristics: unexplained complaints (biopsychosocial), trigger-effect, unresolved life-events, multiplier-effect.

In this workshop, the MM-GC-model will be presented in a case-study-format and audio-visual material. With the Multi-Method-practice toolkit, Social Workers are supported to help clients cope with Losing a parent at a young age and empower the supporting network around the client. In the workshop also the Dutch prevention project will be explained 'Remember Me When I Am Gone' for families with dying parent(s).

*) Mönnink, H.J. de (2010) The social workers toolbox. The Client Centered Multi Method Social Work. Publisher.

Herman de Mönnink



'You cannot stop the birds of sorrow from landing on your shoulder, but you can prevent them nesting in your hair.' - Chinese proverb.

Drs. Herman de Mönnink is a trauma therapist, grief therapist and health-psychologist. Herman J. de Mönnink (1951) has been a social work lecturer for over 30 years and works as a trauma psychologist within a private practice. His practice specialisation-areas are grief counselling, psycho-traumatology and burnout. He also has solid and substantial expertise as a trainer in the field of multi-method social work.

He published several articles in the area of social work about the study of loss, burnout-prevention and social work methods. In 1996, his first book was published, titled *'The Study of Loss & Grief'* (supporting clients with lifecycle-losses). Recently in 2009, Herman published his newest book titled, *'The social workers' toolbox. Guide of the Multi-method Social Work Practice Model'*. In this book, he proposes a revolutionary model for positioning social work as a profession and social workers as professionals. This model articulates the profession of social work as a distress & empowerment profession and offers tools to work with clients not from one method, but a multi-method (a combination of well-described methods). Herman has lectured in several countries across the world: USA, Canada, Norway, France, Colombia, Belgium, and Boston. Since 1990, he has been a member of the IWG, the International Workgroup of Death Dying and Bereavement. He is officially a registered member under Dutch law as a health psychologist *). Recent clients have been people affected by murder, car/train/industrial accidents, sexual abuse, divorce and tsunami. Herman delivers training for and was consulted by police workers, fire fighters, ambulance workers and industrial organisations. From 1980 onwards, he has organized postgraduate courses in the study of loss, and from 2001, he has been successfully training social workers in the new multi-method practice model. Finally, he collaborates with NMVW, the Dutch organisation of social workers.

Herman is the author of *'Study of Loss and Grief'* (ISBN-no. 978-90352- 2993-8). He developed the client centered multi-method social work-model: *'The social workers toolbox'*. (ISBN: 90-352-2694-1). More info: www.mmsocialwork.com

*) BIG-registrationnumber: 190.55.834.025