

NEW FORMS OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY: THE SOCIOLOGY OF EXCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

The study of social stratification, that is, of the inequalities among the various groups that make up societies, constitutes one of the keys to the sociological analysis of reality. These social inequalities are not constant over time, but rather are affected by processes of social change, which impact on the structure of human societies. This subject has the fundamental aim of clarifying the nature of such changes, as well as their consequences for the structure and dynamic of inequalities in contemporary societies.

Concepts such as globalization, technological development and the Welfare State have become unavoidable realities in social analysis, and there is a clear need for social work students to examine the meanings and implications of these terms in depth for their future professional activities. As such, this subject seeks to develop in-depth theoretical and applied competencies allowing students to understand and effectively intervene in social contexts notable for inequality, exclusion and social risk.

COMPETENCIES

- Know the main social processes generating social exclusion.
- Diagnose the different situations of vulnerability in contemporary social environments.
- Objectively analyse the main current debates on the different causes of poverty, its effects and possible ways to overcome it.
- Use the main research methods and techniques with regard to poverty.

CONTENT

1. The concept of social exclusion. Differentiation of social exclusion from other concepts related to social inequality: social class, poverty, marginalization, divergence.
2. Description and analysis of contemporary societies. Dynamic and factors of social inequality in complex societies: processes of social change and transformation since the 1980s. Globalization and social exclusion.
3. Social factors and processes related to exclusion: technological revolution, transformation of systems of production and the Welfare State.
4. Transformation of the labour markets and social exclusion: temporary employment, precariousness and casual work.
5. Social exclusion and social groups. Interethnic relations and social exclusion. Gender and social exclusion. The labour market as a context for the development of social exclusion.