



# 136102 Migration and Social Work: Challenges in Italy and in the USA

Teacher in charge: prof. Alessandro Sicora

Date	Schedule	Topics	Room
27/05/2025	09.00 am – 10.30 am	Introduction of participants and overview of seminar format and content	Meeting room 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
	10.30 am – 11.00 am	Team building	
	11.00 am – 11.45 am	Social Work in Italy (prof. Alessandro Sicora, Università di Trento)	
	11.45 am – 12.30 pm	Social Work in the USA (prof. Shauna Acquavita, University of Cincinnati, Università di Trento)	
	01.30 pm – 04.00 pm	Field visit – SOS Villaggio del Fanciullo (via Hermann Gmeiner 25)	
28/05/2025	09.00 am – 12.30 pm	Field visit – Provincia di Trento (c/o Dipartimento Istruzione Via Gilli n.3 conference room/sala conferenze ground floor)	Meeting room 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
	02.00 pm – 04.00 pm	Social Work and Migration (Paolo Boccagni, University of Trento)	
	04.00 pm – 06.00 pm	Ethnoclinic and social work. Building interventions with cultural diversity (prof. Davide Galesi, Università di Trento)	
29/05/2025	09.00 am – 11.00 am	Family migration in times of enforced borders (prof. Francesca Decimo, University of Trento)	Meeting room 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
	11.00 am – 01.00 pm	Continuities and Change in Immigration to Italy (prof. Giuseppe Sciortino, University of Trento)	
	02.00 pm – 04.00 pm	Migration from a child welfare perspective in the USA (prof. Xan Boone, University of Cincinnati)	
	04.00 pm – 06.00 pm	Migration in South and Central America: Definitions, Challenges, and Collaboration with UNHCR (Carrie McCracken, founder and director of UNHCR Center in Costa Rica - online)	
30/05/2025	09.00 am – 11.00 am	Parenthood, forced migration and social work (prof. Alessandro Sicora University of Trento)	Meeting room 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor To be defined
	11.00 am – 01.00 pm	Small Group Discussion	
	02.00 pm – 06.00 pm	Student group work to finalize group project and prepare presentation	
31/05/2025	09.00 am – 10.30 am	Presentation and discussion of student group projects Group 1 and 2	Meeting room 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
	10.30 am – 12.00 am	Presentation and discussion of student group projects Group 3 and 4	
	12.00 am – 01.00 pm	General discussion and final evaluation	

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

The “School” aims to develop students’ cross-cultural empathy, critical thinking, and understanding of social work policies and practices in addressing migration challenges. With the participation of students and faculty from the University of Cincinnati, it also seeks to foster an open-minded approach to internationalization.

## TARGET STUDENT

Students enrolled in the Laurea in Servizio Sociale and the Laurea Magistrale in Metodologia, Organizzazione e Valutazione dei Servizi Sociali are the primary target group for the seminar. Secondly, and subject to availability, applications from students enrolled in other Master’s programmes within the Department of Sociology and Social Research may also be considered, provided they have a specific academic background or have undertaken studies related to migration.

## REGISTRATION

Registration is obligatory and must be done online at <http://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito> by 17/05/2025 (maximum number of enrollees: 10) Please take note of the SANCTIONS PROVIDED for those who do not show up for the first and/or next meeting without having given proper notice. See <http://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito>

## ACTIVITY

Upon successful completion of this seminar, the student will be able to demonstrate the following:

### Knowledge (learning outcomes)

- Demonstrate cross-cultural empathy and respect for other cultures.
- Understand how social policies practices are defined and implemented in the USA and Italy in the field of migration and how this facilitates or impedes the action of Social Work.
- Demonstrate the ability to collaborate with social workers of different countries.
- Compare and contrast the roles of social workers in the USA and Italy.
- Articulate how Social Work is committed to helping migrants and how these are defined in different countries.

### Values

- Develop an appreciation of how social work addresses migration.
- Develop an appreciation of how diversity and mutual learning at both the micro and macro levels can help in implementing better Social Work interventions in the field of migration.
- Strengthen one’s value commitment to social and economic justice as the core social work value.

### Skills

- Ability to recognize the effects of major social dynamics affecting migration on both a micro and macro level in the USA and Italy
- Ability to critically evaluate cross-cultural Social Work policy, practice and research.
- Ability to collaborate with social workers of different countries.

Fifteen students and two professors from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio (USA), are expected to participate in this Minimester (seminario di credito). Four or five groups will be formed, each comprising both Italian and American students. For the group project, participants will address a central question related to the seminar topic, which includes an ethical dilemma as well as concrete social, material, and policy challenges. On May 30, groups will reflect on the question through the lens of their professional social work values and understanding of social welfare.

On the final day of the seminar (May 31), each group will have 25 minutes to present their ideas, followed by a 10-minute question-and-discussion session. Additionally, each group will prepare a four-page summary (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1” margins) of their ideas for distribution to all participants. The questions to be addressed will be shared during the seminar.

Successful completion of the activity will grant students 6 elective credits.

**For more details write to: [alessandro.sicora@unitn.it](mailto:alessandro.sicora@unitn.it)**