The understandings of social pedagogy

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Social pedagogy as

- a profession or a field of professional activities
- an academic discipline or rather a study subject
- a research field
The state of social pedagogy in Sweden today

- in practice - increasing interest
- In education (in universities, social work) – less visible and explicit
- in education (folk high schools) – growing and today big interest
- in research – a core of researchers with interest in SP
Swedish research related to social pedgogy

- Sp as a concept
- Sp in different contexts
- Normality, inclusion, exclusion
- Adult education
- Elderly people
- Community
“Social pedagogues without boarders – social pedagogical meanings”
- interview study
- Denmark, Finland, Norway, Germany and Sweden
- 9 interviews, 7 men and 2 women
Two discourses:
the universalistic and the particularistic

The discourses are intertwined and presuppose each other.
The discourses are a theoretical construction but based on empirical data
The universalistic discourse

1. **Historical roots:**
   - German social philosophy
   - Latin American pedagogy
   - American social work
   - Nordic psychiatry
2. Theories with relevance for SP
   - methodical theories
   - explanatory theories
   - theories as point of reference

3. Important concepts:
   - bildung
   - community
4. Social pedagogical knowledge objects.

The temporary prevailing conceptions of the phenomena and the relationships that are central in the field
The particularistic discourse

Different categories were constructed:

SP as a goal
- socialisation
- mobilization – integration
- citizenship dimension

SP as an approach
- empathetic
- pragmatic
- fronesis
- awareness of the world around
SP as a method
- creative methods
- community work or community development

Social pedagogical tools
- relations
- dialogue
- action
Professional SP roles
- external or internal

Target groups
- from the children and young people to all vulnerable or marginalized
- from the individual to the whole family or network

SP arenas
- new arenas
## Social pedagogical models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adaptive</th>
<th>Mobilizing</th>
<th>Democratic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tools</strong></td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>action</td>
<td>dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methods</strong></td>
<td>treating methods target to the individual</td>
<td>structural method target to the society</td>
<td>animation target to the group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attitudes/ approaches</strong></td>
<td>individua-listic</td>
<td>collective, change</td>
<td>practical wisdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concepts</strong></td>
<td>community</td>
<td>empowerment, emancipation</td>
<td>bildung citizenship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>