

Call for Papers: Special Edition of *Social Work and Christianity* Towards A Christian Critique of Evidence-based Practice in Social Work



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Evidence-based Practice (EBP) is now entering its second decade in social work scholarship and practice. This approach has made progress in advancing the social work profession toward the use of evidence and empirically-supported interventions (Franklin & Kelly, 2009). This special issue seeks to add a Christian perspective to the literature on the implementation of EBP in social work practice, policy, and education.

Many scholars and practitioners hail EBP's impact on client outcomes and argue that it represents a deepening of our ethical commitment to empowering practitioners with a process and tools that lead to the best possible client care, while other scholars point out the limitations of the EBP approach. To date, debates about EBP have largely involved epistemological battles pitting post-modern theorists criticizing the positivism of EBP against EBP advocates complaining that social work has for too long ignored the need to use empirical evidence to improve client outcomes.

This special issue of *Social Work & Christianity* seeks to expand the epistemological and practical discussions about EBP to add a further (and we believe, necessary) complication to the debate over EBP in social work: namely, how can EBP be practiced in the multitude of Christian social work contexts we see around the world? Whether it is related to the faith of the client, the faith of the social work practitioner, the organization they work in, or some combination of all three, EBP offers both possibilities and challenges to Christians seeking to access services or deliver services effectively. This special issue seeks to further debate the pros and cons of using EBP in social work by asking simply, "How can Christian social workers incorporate EBP into their work?"

Papers for this special issue are encouraged to look at EBP as a process that integrates clinical expertise, client circumstances, research evidence, and client values and to formulate a paper discussing one or all of those dimension from a Christian perspective. Papers can employ a variety of methodologies, though special emphasis will be given to papers that use a conceptual lens to build a foundation to either critique or defend EBP from a Christian social work perspective. Papers can be up to 20 pages, double-spaced and in APA style (6th Ed.) and are **due by September 1st, 2012**. **Contact mkell17@luc.edu with any questions and to submit papers as email attachments.**

Reference

Franklin, C. & Kelly, M. S. (2009). Becoming evidence-informed in the real world of school social work practice. *Children & Schools, 31* (1), 46-58.