Descent or dissent? A future of social work education in the UK post-Brexit

Professor Dr Jonathan Parker
*Contemporary Social Work Practice*, SocNet98
16th April 2018
Aims

• What is Brexit?

• Implications for welfare and care

• Social work education

• Two scenarios: descent or dissent
WHAT IS BREXIT?

DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS
The Electoral Commission

Leave: 51.9%
Remain: 48.1%

Electorate: 46,500,001
Valid Vote: 33,551,983
Turnout: 72.2%
## How Britain voted

Older people with fewer formal qualifications most likely to have voted Leave

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 vote</th>
<th>Remain</th>
<th>Leave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservatives</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Democrat</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKIP</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Remain</th>
<th>Leave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-49</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Remain</th>
<th>Leave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCSE or lower</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A level</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher below degree</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UK net migration by citizenship, years ending December 2007 to June 2017

Source: Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates, ONS
Forecasted long-term effects of the Brexit on GBP per household in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2030, by scenario

This statistic shows the predicted effect of the "Brexit" on GBP per household in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2030, the results are sorted by scenario. The data suggests that the Brexit will have a negative impact on each household by an minimum of 1,500 pounds sterling (GBP) by 2030.
WHAT IS BREXIT?

POLARISATION IN SOCIETY & WHY DID THE UK VOTE FOR BREXIT?
• Seidler (2018) – shock: anger, rage and resistance to neoliberal globalisation

• Conditions for the rise of right-wing ethno-nationalism

• Rising hate crime post-referendum
• Austerity
• Right-wing populism
• Working class ‘howl of anger’
• Bhambra (2017) – more nuanced
• Education levels also important
EU market vs. social Europe
BREXIT

IMPLICATIONS FOR WELFARE AND CARE
• $3 trillion wiped off value of financial markets after vote

• Welfare supported by competitive markets

• Low cost markets of EU lost or in conflict

• Upset in markets has caused problems in welfare
• Health and social care staff warned of dangers

• 209,000 staff 4.5% of NHS; 5% of social care and social work for EU

• Reduction in numbers migrating to work

• Diminishing workers’ rights/conditions???
BREXIT

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
• Risk to higher education

• Social work education: context of austerity, the neoliberal project and globalisation

• 2003 degree – 4 nations
  • 1970s CQSW
  • 1989 DipSW

• 2009 Baby Peter, Reform Board
Influences on social work education

- Political
  - Populist opinion/tragedies
- Instrumental
  - Employer needs
- ‘Professional’
  - Regulation/standardisation/convergence
- Service user/carer voice
- Shared global outlook
- Human rights and social justice principles
Continued and increasing regulation and prescription

- Social Work Reform Board
- Professional Capabilities Framework
- GSCC to Health and Care Professions Council to Social Work England (other 3 nations maintained Care Councils)
- Narey & Croisdale-Appleby reviews 2014
- Knowledge and Skills Statements
- Green paper on adult social care summer 2018
TWO SCENARIOS: DESCENT OF DISSENT?
Social work education???
• Bologna, Erasmus and internationalising the student experience

• Austerity and residualism

• Deprofessionalisation, control and the New Public Management

• A new radicalism
In summary

• What Brexit is, how it happened and its consequences

• The impact on welfare and social work

• Changes to social work education

• Dialectic praxis for the future of social work education
Thank You!