

**Proposal of dissertation topics in the study programme social work
for the admission procedure for doctoral studies
in the academic year 2025/2026**

Supervisor: doc. PhDr. Markéta Rusnáková, PhD.

1. The role of social work in reconciling collective historical traumas: Approaches, challenges and perspectives

Annotation: The content of the suggested thesis explores the role of social work in addressing the long-term effects of collective historical trauma and fostering intergenerational dialogue in post-communist European societies. Focusing on Slovakia and Lithuania, the project investigates how memories of totalitarian regimes and social injustices continue to shape intergenerational relationships and social cohesion. It aims to identify how social workers can support communities in navigating historical burdens and promoting mutual understanding between generations. A mixed-methods research design will be applied, combining qualitative semi-structured interviews with quantitative data collection through standardized questionnaires. The survey component will provide measurable insights into how collective memory and historical trauma influence values, attitudes, and social perceptions across generations. The qualitative part will offer contextual depth and understanding of social work approaches and practices. The outcomes will include a comparative analysis of approaches in both countries, evidence-based recommendations for social work interventions, and a participatory model for cultivating historical memory and reconciliation.

Supervisor: doc. PhDr. Angela Almašiová, PhD.

1. Peer norms and their impact on adolescent sexting: Challenges for social work and possibilities for preventive interventions

Annotation: The dissertation will focus on examining peer norms and their impact on adolescent sexting behaviour through digital technologies. The work will analyse the mechanisms through which peer groups shape young people's attitudes towards sexting, including group pressure, normalization of this risky behaviour and the search for social recognition.

In the empirical part, research will be conducted using both qualitative and quantitative strategies with the aim of:

1. examining the impact of peer norms on adolescents' decisions about sexting
2. identifying factors that lead to involvement in sexting

The variables examined will include: the occurrence of sexting, perceived peer pressure, attitudes towards sexting in the group and individually, self-esteem, perception of risk. The research tools will be a questionnaire, interview, or focus groups.

2. Level of mental health literacy of social work students

Annotation: The dissertation will focus on examining mental health literacy (MHL) among social work students. It will also focus on identifying the strengths and weaknesses of social work students in this area and on proposing recommendations for possible improvement of training in this area within their university studies. The dissertation will use a quantitative and qualitative research strategy using a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews or focus groups.

Supervisor: Mgr. Daniel Markovič, PhD.

1. Digital transformation in social work

Annotation: This doctoral thesis will focus on the process of digital transformation in the field of social work, with a particular emphasis on analysing the changes in the provision of social services and in the conceptual and practical approaches to social work influenced by modern digital technologies. The main objective is to identify and critically evaluate how digitalisation is reshaping the practice of social workers, the structure and quality of delivered services, and the nature of interactions between professionals and clients.

The research will concentrate on two key areas:

1. Innovations and technological trends – an analysis of emerging digital tools and platforms that have the potential to improve the accessibility, efficiency, and overall quality of social work interventions.
2. Impact on work processes – an examination of how digitalisation affects the roles, competencies, and professional practices of social workers, including changes in communication, documentation, decision-making, and ethical considerations.

The empirical component of the thesis could be based on a mixed-methods research design, combining quantitative (questionnaires) and qualitative (semi-structured interviews and case studies) approaches. This methodology will allow for a comprehensive and critical understanding of the current state of digital transformation in social work and social services. It will also explore the challenges and opportunities that this transformation presents for social work theory, research, education, and practice. The location of the research is to be decided by the doctoral student.
