

Report Back of “The 7th European Conference for Social Work Research”

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What is “European Conference for Social Work Research” (ECSWR)

- Annual conference which has been taken place in Europe since 2011
- Aims at:
 - Sharing and debating research findings and ideas
 - Networking
- Organizes by European Social Work Research Association and a local host committee



ECSWR 2017

- April 19-21, 2017 (3 days)
- Aalborg, Denmark



ECSWR 2017 (Cont'd)

- April 19-21, 2017 (3 days)
- Aalborg, Denmark



ECSWR 2017 (Cont'd)

- Theme: Challenges in Social Work Research – Conflicts, Barriers and Possibilities in relation to Social Work
- 4 keynote speeches and 7 parallel sessions, with some pre-conference activities



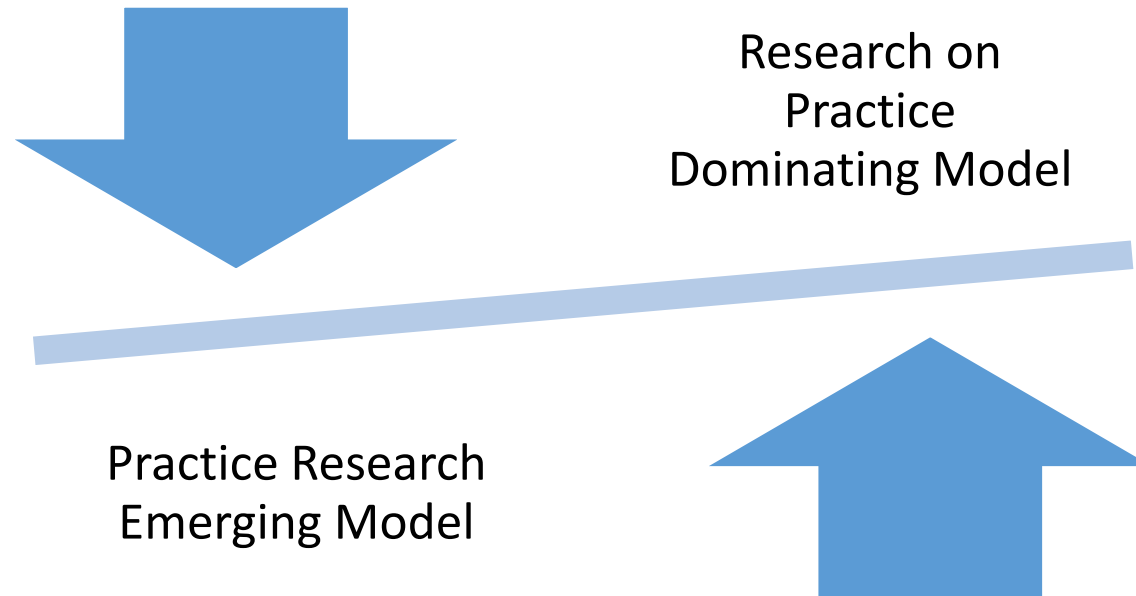
ECSWR 2017 (Cont'd)

- Keynote 1: Interviews and stories as descriptive events
- Keynote 2: Social work research and accountable practice – Challenging dogma in uncertain times
- Keynote 3: The productive human beings - or on the construction of alternatives in social work research
- Keynote 4 : Complexities and dynamics of trans-disciplinary discipline – Challenges for research and community building



Observation 1: Academia-dominated Social Work Research in Europe

- For the conference itself: 90% of the participants were scholars
- For the research being presented: Limited involvement of frontline social workers

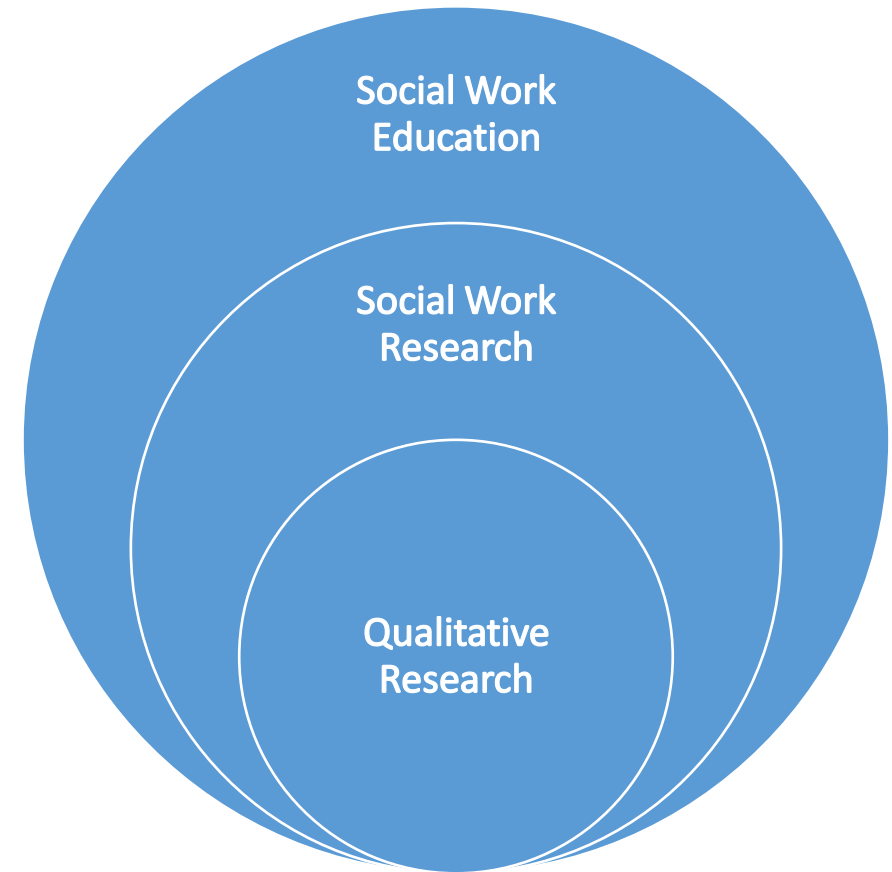


Observation 2: Lack of Evidence about Latest Development of Practice Research in HK

- Challenges of the information society
 - How do we come from data to information
 - From information to knowledge
 - From knowledge to meaning
 - From meaning to prediction
- How shall we talk about meaning and prediction if we don't even have data about the current situation of practice research in HK, e.g. percentage of social service agencies who conducts research

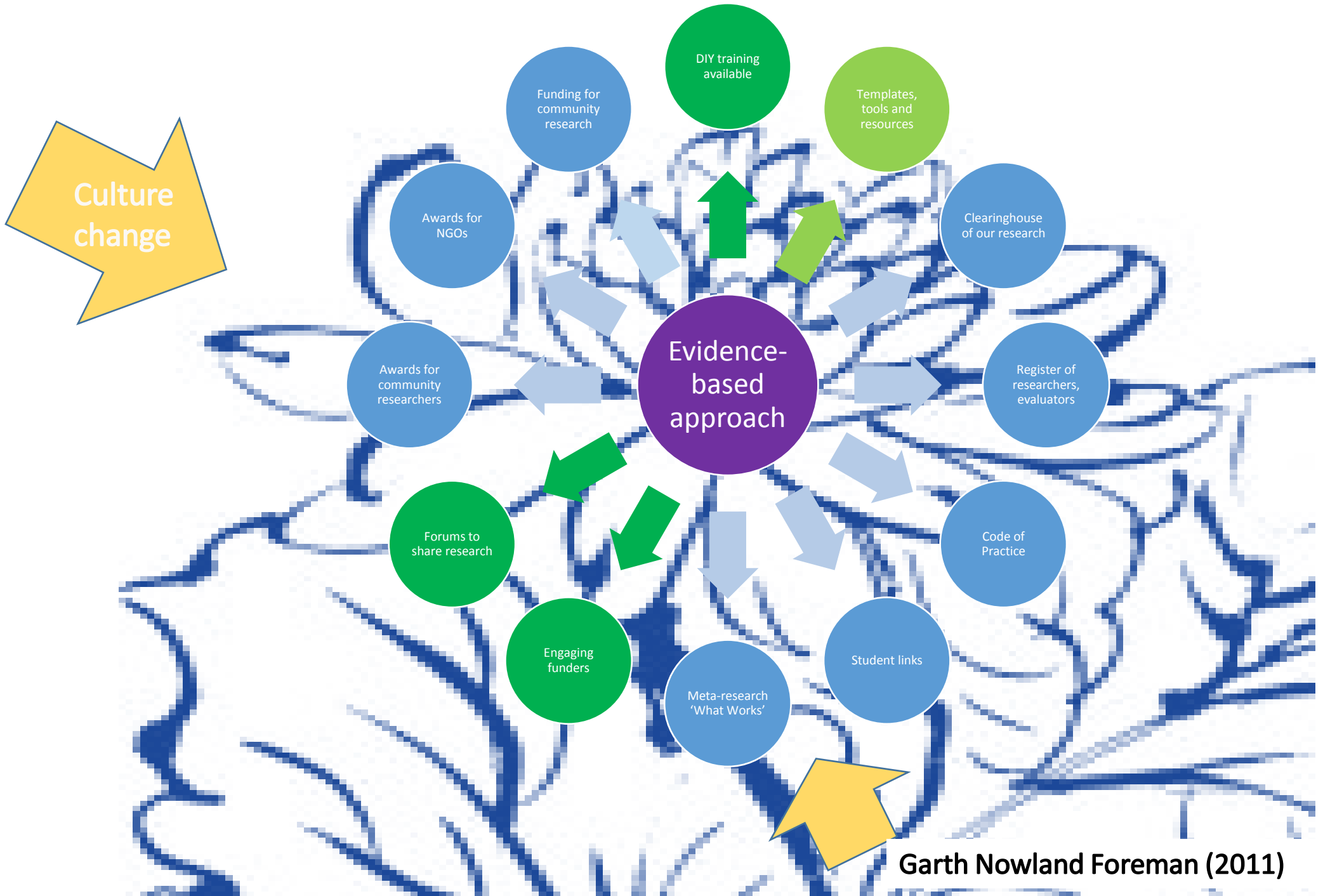
Observation 3: Importance of Qualitative Research being Realized in Europe and other Asian countries

- Presentation of scholars from Taiwan: Qualitative research is very valuable which every student should learn it before becoming frontline social workers
- Reflection on social work education in HK: To what extent efforts are made in teaching social work research and specifically qualitative research?



Ways forward

What coming next?



Garth Nowland Foreman (2011)

Walk together and walk far

- Salons
 - Showroom of good research
 - Knowledge and experience exchange
 - Welcome agencies to contact us direct
- Agency visits
 - Government Departments
 - Universities
 - Other potential parties, e.g. Google, Microsoft
- 8th Conference cum Workshop



Thank you!