



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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*UBC School of Social Work Professional Development Program presents*

## **Everyday Ethics in Professional Life: Social Work as Ethics Work** **Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**

Hurlburt Auditorium at St. Paul's Hospital (Providence Level 2),  
1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC



**Presenter: Sarah Banks, Professor, School of Applied Social Sciences and Co-director of the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action, Durham University, UK**

Dr. Banks has a particular interest in professional ethics, community development and community-based participatory research. Her recent books on social work ethics include: *Ethics and Values in Social Work*, 2012, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (Palgrave Macmillan) and *Practising Social Work Ethics Around the World: Cases and Commentaries*, 2012, edited with Kirsten Nørh (Routledge).

Social work practice is in a constant state of change, as it is deeply embedded in welfare systems that are subject to political, economic, social and cultural shifts and crises. Notable trends in the last few decades include the growing technicisation, managerialisation and marketization of public service professions. This is resulting in less personal engagement between social workers and service users, reduced professional autonomy, increased public accountability and greater influence of private profit. At the same time, there has been a 'turn to ethics' in both the academic literature and in the field of public policy. This presentation will examine the nature of the 'turn to ethics' and the implications for social work practice.

In the academic literature, we find a renewed focus on respect for service users and promotion of human rights within a *traditional professional ethics* framework; but we also find the emergence of what might be called *everyday professional ethics* (or 'ethics in professional life') emphasising the embeddedness of ethics in everyday practice, the role of moral character, emotion, caring relationships and social justice. Further, in the field of policy, we can discern what might be called a *new managerialist ethics*, with a stress on regulation, conformity to rules and fairness.

This presentation will examine these three versions of professional ethics, focusing in particular on *everyday professional ethics* through introducing the concept of 'ethics work'. 'Ethics work' refers to the effort social workers put into seeing ethically salient aspects of situations, developing themselves as good practitioners, working out the right course of action and justifying who they are and what they have done.

**This presentation will qualify for 2 hours of CPD hours for Registered Social Workers.**

**There is no cost to attend, but please register at:**

**<https://sowkforms.sites.olt.ubc.ca/everyday-ethics-in-professional-life-social-work-as-ethics-work/>**

**A recording of the presentation will be available at [www.socialwork.ubc.ca](http://www.socialwork.ubc.ca) after June 1, 2015**