**IASWG Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education**

**Bi-Annual Report, November 2021**

**Co-Chairs: Carol S. Cohen (**[**cohen5@adelphi.edu**](mailto:cohen5@adelphi.edu)**) and Mark Macgowan (**[**macgowan@fiu.edu**](mailto:macgowan@fiu.edu)**)Members:** Jen Currin-McCulloch; Linda Ducca; Charles Garvin; Kyle McGee; Olga Molina; Barbara Muskat; Joan Pittman; Mark Smith (We welcome additional IASWG members to join, especially those located outside of North America – please contact the co-chairs to serve, and to provide feedback or ask for additional information about any of the content below). The Commission has had 3 meetings since the June 2021 Board Meeting, and has a number of active projects, as enumerated below.

**IASWG Commission Mission:** *To integrate and support group work education, generate knowledge and strategies for teaching, and strengthening teaching of group work within social work, and the dissemination of information for practitioners and teachers.*

**Development and Dissemination Activities:**

**Outreach to Educators:** We are currently finalizing emails to social work education program directors and faculty, which will be going out soon, focusing on IASWG resources and promote the advancement of group work in education. It is particularly difficult to identify educational programs and leaders outside of the US, and we seek everyone’s cooperation in this effort. All IASWG members will receive this outreach letter, in hopes that they will share it, and let us know who to include in future mailings. We are also planning for a Commission sponsored Webinar early this spring for teachers of group work, focused on incorporating the IASWG Standards in Teaching, Practice and Research. Newly emerging ideas include extending engagement of PhD students focusing on group work, and the possibility of a Dissertation Award Program.

**Web Resources at** [**www.iaswg/teaching**](http://www.iaswg/teaching)**:** We have continued to build on the progress last year, and have made structural revisions and added new content to our well-used web page. The page also includes links to other, related IASWG pages. Please continue to visit, contribute, and publicize the site. Let us know how it could be of greater value to you and your colleagues.

**Professional Conferences and Events:** During the pandemic, IASWG members have continued to be active at national and international conferences, including the International Association of Schools of Social Work, IASWG members participating in international Special Interest Groups and IASWG-focused events at the 2021 IASSW Conference include: Andrés Arias Astray, Carol Cohen, Mark Doel, Linda Ducca, Alexis Howard, Mark Macgowan, and Roshini Pillay. The US CSWE Group Work Track is ongoing, and is coordinated by Brian Kelly and Carol Cohen. A small group of members are working on a proposal to launch a standing Special Interest Group on Group Work Research as part of the Society for Social Work Research Conference (SSWR). Please let us know if you are interested in this. We continue to circulate calls for presentations and encourage members to share them for posting, and are happy to share out model Special Interest Group abstracts/handouts. Many IASWG members also presented contemporary research, practice and education focused sessions around the world. Any IASWG members that have presented at conferences (besides the IASWG Symposium) during 2021 are asked to please send the full reference with contact information (required) and attach an abstract (optional), and we will work on a new listing of these activities on our web pages.

**Publications:** IASWG Symposium Proceedings are moving forward with our publisher, Whiting and Birch Ltd. The efforts of volume editors and proceedings advisers are greatly appreciated. An edited compilation of 16 previously published proceedings chapters (with new prefaces), *Group Work Applications across the Social Work Curriculum*, was published by Whiting and Birch, edited by the Commission co-chairs. Other compilations are under consideration. While not a formal IASWG project, the Routledge International Handbook on Social Work with Groups is proceeding (with some delays) towards publication in 2022-23. The editors are working with an esteemed International Advisory Group (many are active IASWG leaders). There have been many valuable books and articles published by IASWG members in the past few years. There is a publications page on the website (search members’ publications), but it is not up to date – Please let us know if you are interested in updating this format and sharing material!

**IASWG SPARC:**  Accepted articles that will be published in the *Special Issue of Social Work with Groups focusing on IASWG SPARC Projects* are now available online at: https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wswg20. The editorial team (Brian Kelly/leader, Carol Cohen, Maria Gurrola, Helene Onserud, Barb Muskat and Greg Tully) are working on the Introduction, and the Issue will be published in 2022. A separate bi-annual IASWG SPARC report will be brought to the November Board Meeting: This report will include recommendations for endorsement and funding of proposals for the 18th bi-annual cycle of review and awards.