Call for Papers: Structural Competence in Social Work

*The Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare (JSSW)* announces a special issue dedicated to structural competence, an emerging conceptual framework. Structural competence suggests doctors and nurses be trained to understand how physical and social structures affect the health and welfare of individuals, groups, and communities. The framework focuses on the way in which these structures contribute to differential outcomes across race, class, and gender, as well as influence provider-client interactions. Ultimately, structural competence seeks to equip providers to intervene at multiple levels of influence, micro and macro, to mitigate the impact of deleterious sociostructural forces and promote wellbeing.

With its foci on promoting equity and intervention situated in social context, values and techniques foundational to social work appear to have taken on new life in structural competence. To date, however, social work scholarship has been neglected in the conceptualization of the framework. Meanwhile, within social work an explicitly structural approach has fallen out of vogue. In response, this special issue provides a venue for interdisciplinary contribution to the development of structural competence, and an opportunity to re-center and operationalize the structural approach in social work. Given current political efforts to dismantle societal structures that enhance equity and wellbeing, while promoting structures that may undermine equity and wellbeing, tools like structural competence are imminently necessary.

**Scope and Topics**

Papers in this issue will investigate structural competence, including: i) relevant lessons from contemporary and past structural approaches to social work; ii) application across social work settings and social outcomes; and iii) its potential to reinvigorate and refine social work’s core educational and practice elements. Guest editors seek contributions from scholars across disciplines and will consider a variety of topics, including manuscripts that:

- explore the philosophical, theoretical, and practical connections between structural competence and social work;
- apply structural competence to social work intervention and education;
- draw from theoretical and applied work on structural competence in other disciplines;
- discuss the similarities and differences of cultural and structural competence; and
- evaluate contemporary or past approaches to structural approaches in social work, including the conditions that promote or inhibit its use.

Articles that rely on empirical research and articles that are theoretically or historically oriented will be given equal consideration. All articles should follow formatting guidelines set by *JSSW* (instructions can be found here [JSSW policies](https://journal.frontiersin.org)). Submissions should be submitted to structuralcompetence@gmail.com by June 1, 2018. Questions may be directed to leahjacobs@pitt.edu.

**Guest Editors:**
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