Minor

Capability Approach

share your talent.
move the world.
When your only tool is a hammer, all problems look like a nail (Zeevat).

Individuals can differ greatly in their capabilities to convert the same resources into valuable matters. For example, those with physical disabilities may need specific goods to achieve mobility, and pregnant women have specific nutritional requirements to achieve good health. Therefore, evaluation that focuses only on means, without considering what particular people can do with them, is insufficient. These issues (and many others) are being addressed by means of The Capability Approach.
What is The Capability Approach

The capability approach is a theoretical framework that has caused two main claims: first of all, the claim that the freedom to achieve well-being is of moral importance, and second, that freedom to achieve well-being is to be understood in terms of people’s capabilities, that is, their real opportunities to do and be what they have reason to value.

The Capability Approach has been developed in a variety of more specific normative theories, such as theories of social justice or accounts of development ethics. Furthermore it has led to a new and highly interdisciplinary literature in the social sciences resulting in new statistics and social indicators, and since then also to more practical interventions that can be of use to social workers and counsellors from all over the world.

The Capability Approach minor at the Hanze University

The international Capability Approach minor focusses on getting to know different methods and models which are of use to any type of Social Worker. The development of new insights on both the assessment as well as the actual fostering of happiness and wellbeing, will be discussed in many ways. For certain this study programme also is about resilience, realising one’s own potential and self-reliance. Not surprisingly the key concepts behind this semester are sure to appeal to Psychology as well as Social Work students.

An international classroom = an intercultural classroom

Students will for sure be challenged in working together with people from different cultural backgrounds. We actively will explore, train and reflect on:

- Intercultural sensitivity: Recognizing multiple perspectives on an event or behaviour, Recognizing one’s own cultural values and those of others, picking up verbal and non-verbal signals.
- Intercultural communication: Adjusting one’s communication style to the communicative needs of people from other cultures.
- Managing uncertainty: Managing possible uncertainties in intercultural situations.

You will need to work in an international multidisciplinary team and master the English language (graduation level secondary school). Useful additional personal characteristics for participation in such a team are: an open mind, the ability to listen actively, tolerance, flexibility, transparency in motives, interests and values.

Throughout the course of this minor, students will get a hands-on learning experience in ways to help clients be empowered to navigate the pathway (back) to greater inclusion. Whether this means finding employment, better health or participating in society in non-salaried activities.

The modules will stimulate students to explore new techniques and methods in social work and psychology. There are four main modules and one integrated Journal project:

1. Frameworks of The Capability Approach
2. Positive Psychology
3. Intercultural competencies
4. English for writing and English for speaking and debating.

It is important that policymakers do NOT use economics, but HUMAN WELL-BEING as a starting point for development. Resulting in the expansion of the freedom that people have to enjoy valuable beings and doings (Amartya Sen)

Why do we need to talk about equality and human rights in school?
Offered
Once a year:
• Semester 1 (September - January)

Deadline entry
For semester 1 (1st September – 31st January):
15th of May

Duration
One semester (5 months)

Location:
Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen,
the Netherlands

Credits
30 European Credits (ECTS).
Go to www.hanzegroningen.eu for more information
on the grading system.

Admission requirements
• You are a second-, third- or fourth year student
  (Bachelor level)
• You have preferably a background in Social Work,
  social studies, allied health care studies but no
  specific knowledge is required
• You have completed your first year of your
  education and have obtained at least 30 ECTS in
  the main phase (year 2, 3 or 4)

Indication of language requirements
for international students
• Internet based TOEFL 550, or
• Dialang level B2

Please note that the programme is subject to
cancellation if the minimum number of registered
students has not been achieved.

Contact person
Jelco Caro
International coordinator School of Social Work
E-mail: j.e.caro@pl.hanze.nl

You can find more detailed information and
register online:
https://www.hanze.nl/eng/study-at-hanze/
programme-information/exchange-courses