

The logo for Social Work Journal, featuring the text "Social Work Journal" in a white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a white rectangular border. The background of the entire page is a dark teal color with abstract, glowing blue and white wave-like patterns.

**Social  
Work  
Journal**

# **CALL FOR PAPERS** **Pandemics, Economics, Systems, and the Future of Social Work**

*Special Issue Editors: Anna Scheyett,  
PhD, and Laura Nissen, PhD*

The COVID-19 pandemic and resultant concatenated economic crises have changed the world dramatically; going back to “how it used to be” is impossible. These events have revealed the incredible frailty of our safety nets; our health care system; our food production infrastructure; and the deep-rooted toxicity of racism, discrimination, and disparities. These crises demand that the social work profession interrogate the present rigorously, envision the future boldly, and make meaningful change happen.

What should social work look like in the future—how can it be relevant, proactive, ethical, and play a role in creating a better future? How will or should our current crisis expand, enhance, and evolve social work as we know it? What should be a “new normal” for our profession?

You are invited to submit original articles exploring the future of social work for possible inclusion in this

special issue. We welcome manuscripts that explore what we have learned from the current global crisis and (a) analyze existing data to understand the underlying weaknesses in our societal systems revealed by the pandemic and make recommendations for change; (b) evaluate innovative projects in response to the pandemic and its sequelae that move beyond traditional social work responses to disasters; (c) describe and evaluate changes in social work education needed if we are to be relevant change-makers in the future; (d) propose policy solutions that could change the trajectory of the future for the individuals, groups, organizations, and communities with whom we ally and work; (e) identify key research questions in social work of the future and innovations in research collaborations, methods, dissemination, and utilization; and (f) explore the possible roles that social work could play in the future, if we are to work toward ensuring

justice, preventing harm, and promoting a thriving world.

**The deadline for submission is January 29, 2021.** The journal encourages submission of full-length articles (no more than 20 double-spaced pages), practice updates, and commentary. To prepare your manuscript in proper format for submission, see Information for Authors: Social Work on our Web site at <http://naswpress.org/publications/journals/sw-info.html>. Please submit manuscripts through the online submission portal at <http://swj.msubmit.net> (initial, onetime registration is required) and indicate that your submission is intended for the Pandemics, Economics, Systems, and the Future of Social Work special issue.