

CONTENTS

Lists of Tables

Foreword

Acknowledgements

1 Introduction

Introduction

Overview of this book

Conclusion

2 Theory and Practice

Introduction

What is theorising and what is theory?

Thinking critically about theory

Making sense of theories for social work

Conclusion

Critical thinking questions

Exercises

Further reading

Links and online resources

3 Risk

Introduction

Social work and risky business

Background to the risk paradigm

Implications for social work

Theories of risk

Risk and social service organisation

Resilience and protective factors

Conclusion

Critical thinking questions

Exercises

Further reading

Links and online resources

4 Power

Introduction

Power and why it matters

Social work, critical theory and power

Social work, post-structural theory and power

Power and resistance	59
Conclusion	62
Critical thinking questions	63
Exercises	63
Further reading	63
Links and online resources	64
5 Poverty and Disadvantage	65
Introduction	65
The meaning of poverty	66
The scope and extent of poverty	68
Income and wealth inequality	69
Theories of poverty	70
Disadvantage: what is it and what should be done?	73
Social work's engagement with poverty and disadvantage	76
Conclusion	78
Critical thinking questions	79
Exercises	79
Further reading	79
Links and online resources	80
6 Difference	81
Introduction	81
Social inequality, oppression and difference	83
Interlocking oppressions and intersectionality	90
Conclusion	98
Critical thinking questions	98
Exercises	98
Further reading	99
Links and online resources	99
7 Respect and Dignity	100
Introduction	100
Respect	101
Who is owed respect and on what basis?	104
Social work practice and dignity and respect	110
Conclusion	111
Critical thinking questions	112
Exercises	112
Further reading	112
Links and online resources	113
8 Social Justice and Fairness	114
Introduction	114
Social justice in social work	114
Social work theory and knowledge	116
Social justice theories	118
Fairness, reciprocity and well-being	126

Conclusion	128
Critical thinking questions	129
Exercises	129
Further reading	129
Links and online resources	130
9 Human Rights	131
Introduction	131
Human rights globally	131
Social work as a human rights profession	134
Social work practice and human rights	140
Conclusion	142
Critical thinking questions	142
Exercises	142
Further reading	142
Links and online resources	143
10 Spirituality and Hope	144
Introduction	144
Spirituality	144
Conceptual distinctions	148
Critiques and limits	149
Spiritually sensitive practice	151
Hope, optimism and positive emotions	154
Conclusion	158
Critical thinking questions	160
Exercises	160
Further reading	160
Links and online resources	160
11 Organisational Contexts	161
Introduction	161
The context of social work practice and human service organisations	162
Everything is connected – a systems conception of organisations	166
Individual factors that support thriving in HSOs	171
Strategies for navigating organisational systems and ourselves	173
Conclusion	175
Critical thinking questions	175
Exercises	176
Further reading	176
Links and online resources	176
12 Empathy	177
Introduction	177
Defining empathy and its related terminology	178
Empathy in social work	182
Critiques and limits to empathy	184
Learning empathy: the skills dimension	186

Conclusion	190
Critical thinking questions	190
Exercises	190
Further reading	191
Links and online resources	191
13 Professional Judgement and Decision-Making	192
Introduction	192
Social work and decision-making: what's at stake?	193
Judgement and decision-making defined	193
The use of evidence in judgement and decision-making	194
Cognition and judgement	198
Emotion and judgement and decision-making	201
Conclusion	205
Critical thinking questions	205
Exercises	206
Further reading	206
Links and online resources	206
14 Assessment	207
Introduction	207
Assessment and its many forms	207
Defining assessment	208
Stages of assessment	209
Theory in assessment	211
Hypothesis building	221
Critical thinking and assessment	223
Conclusion	225
Critical thinking questions	225
Exercises	226
Further reading	226
Links and online resources	227
15 Reflexivity, Reflective Practice and Critical Reflection	228
Introduction	228
Background to reflective practice in social work	229
The emergence of reflective practice and critical reflection in social work	232
Critical reflection: forms of systematic reflection	236
Conclusion	240
Critical thinking questions	241
Exercises	241
Further reading	241
Links and online resources	242
<i>References</i>	243
<i>Index</i>	278