

# SOCIAL WORK INNOVATION AND HOMELESS DISAFFILIATION

## STUDY OBJECT:

Evolution of the homelessness disaffiliation associated to the innovation in the Social Work intervention in Lisbon, in order to respond to the challenges of urbanization.

## MAIN OBJECTIVE:

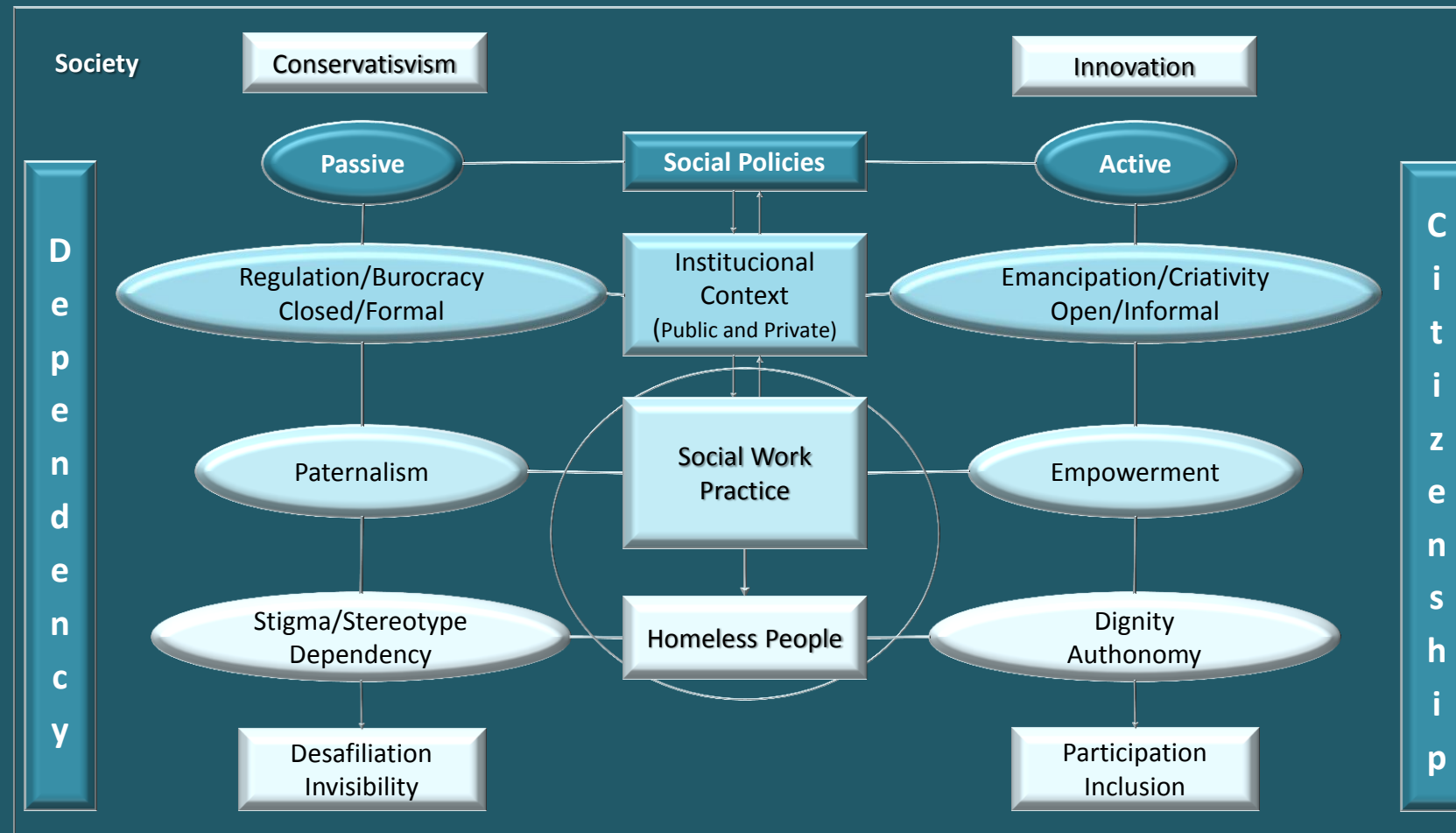
To describe and understand the social worker's intervention in homelessness disaffiliation, identifying and interpreting the intervention cultures, the homeless survival strategies and the political-institutional mechanisms, that embarrass or facilitate the need of innovation in the professional action.

## MAIN RESULTS:

Social workers and Homeless people showed a negative view of the political-institutional context, identifying paternalistic cultures. Despite the contextual constraints there was a significant evolution in the interventional relationship, and in the structures and organizational projects.

New Entrepreneurial and empowering professional culture has emerged on the social workers profile in relation to the homelessness fighting. Social workers are represented either by professionals or by the homeless respondents with a prototype of 'specific technical for social intervention' and 'Proximity Professional' in relation to the Homeless people that they care.

The constraints to the innovative practices in Social Work are more in the political and institutional context than in the homelessness lifestyles or in the Social Work professional culture.



## METHODOLOGY:

Phenomenological paradigm.

Qualitative and inductive method.

Semi-directive interviews applied to 4 homeless individuals and to 11 social workers.

Focus group interview applied to 5 homeless individuals.

Categorical content analysis.

## CONCLUSION:

Presence of innovation, both in professional practices, political and institutional action contexts as a result of the mutations of homelessness. The innovation is emerging in a not consolidated way, appearing in small and growing examples of good practice.

