

Acknowledgements

The idea to write this book originally emerged nearly immediately after our article on the ‘The “why” and the “how” of policy practice: an eight-country comparison’ was published in the *British Journal of Social Work* in 2015 (Gal and Weiss-Gal, 2015). Our sense then, as it is now, was that a better understanding of why and how social workers seek to influence policy requires a much longer and more empirically and theoretically based discussion. In the years since, we have been thrilled to see how the discourse on the engagement of social workers in policy has billowed and generated ever-better analyses and thinking on the part of colleagues across the world. Hopefully, this book succeeds in presenting a useful take on the subject that incorporates not only our own thinking and work, but also that of all the scholars, social workers and students who have contributed to this discourse and, indirectly, to a greater social work role in social policy formulation and change.

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We very much hope that this book will contribute to a better understanding of the role of social workers as policy actors and perhaps encourage more social workers to take the first steps along one of the various routes to policy engagement. In doing so, we and they will contribute to a more just, equal, inclusive and caring society that can indeed create a greater sense of well-being and further human rights.