

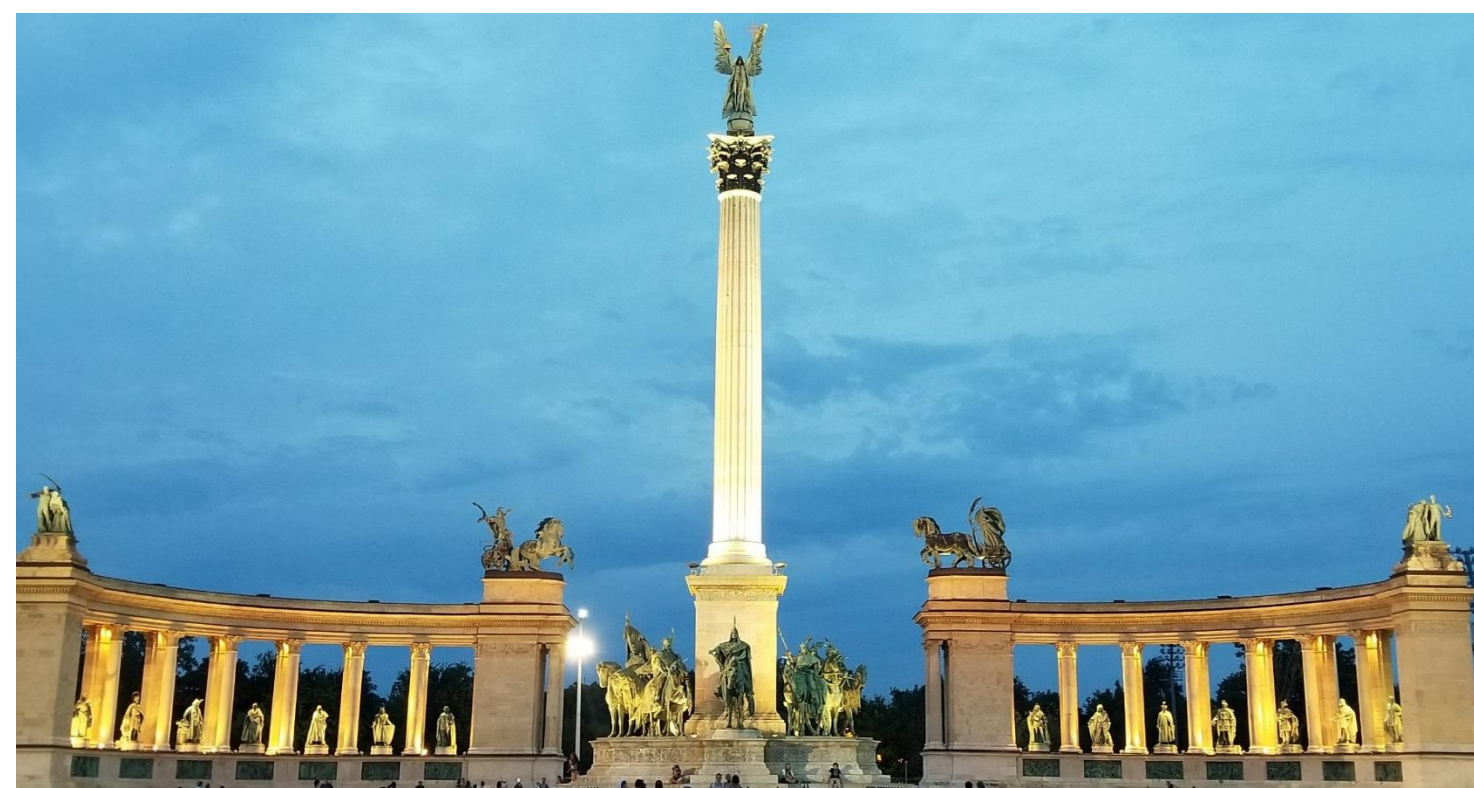
Exploring Social Justice in Budapest, Hungary

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Budapest, Hungary

With a population of nearly 1.75 million people, Budapest serves not only as the capital of Hungary, but also represented the largest city in the country. Formerly operating as two separate cities, Buda and Pest were first officially connected in 1849 after the construction of the Széchenyi Chain Bridge and officially merged as one city, Budapest, in 1873. Having experienced the totality of both World Wars, as well as the Communist occupation of the Soviet Union following the conclusion of World War II, Budapest is a melting pot of world history, cultural identities, and social crossroads. Given current events both in Hungary and domestically in the United States, Budapest was an ideal choice for an exploration in social justice.



Social Justice

“Social justice is amorphous and multitudinous... The idea, both conceptually and in practice, is both vastly complex and tremendously simple. It [social justice] works to shape, form, and define cultural and sub-cultural contexts while being shaped, formed, and defined by the same. Social justice is organic, it lives and dies in cycles reflecting the very constructs that have worked to define, shape, and influence it throughout time. It is contextually dependent, and as such, extremely diverse in its existence. Social justice is found through embracing diversity; accepting the reality that we are stronger together than we ever could be apart. Social justice is realizing there is strength in our differences, and it is through these differences that society is provided a true opportunity to grow. In short, social justice is both a dream and a reality, and as such, presents one of the greatest opportunities, and challenges, of our time” (Quillen, 2018).

Acknowledgements / References

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Quillen, J. R. (2018) *Social Justice and Diversity Capstone*. Paper submitted towards partial fulfillment of course objectives in Social Work 504, Diversity and Social Justice in Social Work; at the University of Michigan School of Social Work.

Connection to Course Work

SW 504: Diversity and Social Justice in Social... Continued to develop knowledge and skills geared toward working for justice while enhancing critical consciousness. Additionally, was provided an opportunity to explore issues of power and diversity.

SW 530: Intro to Social Welfare Policies and ... Applied critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgements while engaging in diversity and difference in practice. Work towards advancing human rights and social economic justice through analyzing policy.

SW 560: Introduction to Community Org... Applied critical thinking in order to assemble qualitative data collected during the experience resembling a quasi community assessment.

Next Steps

For those who are exploring the possibility of engaging in a global experience, I highly encourage it. The faculty and staff available to you are wonderful and given the right connection, a faculty sponsor is not hard to secure.

Additional Offerings

For those looking to gather more information; please feel free to explore my website which was constructed following my global experience. Additionally, feel free to email me with any questions.

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