

Starting from the distinction between occupation and discipline, we state that Social Work is born as a discipline in the USA forming part of a Social Sciences global project in the historical context. In touch with the Sociology Department of Chicago, it was shaped because of the Pragmatism and Symbolic Interactionism influence.

The beginnings of different disciplines (Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Social Psychology and Medicine) are studied and their relationship with Social Work in the industrialization period frame when the “social issue” arises.

The first contact with Science is described: The State Boards of Charities, the COS and Settlements Houses evolution and its more outstanding representatives.

The academical institutions, the publications and the associations involved in the profesionalitation and social legitimation are described .

How Pragmatism and Interacctionism affect Social Work through Dewey and Mead is explained too, mentioning the sociological remake of Pragmatism which is no other than the well-known Chicago School, and its more important representatives, their works and their relationships with Social-Work.

Finally, a chapter on Europe is given. In this respect we establish that there was a profession but not the discipline, recuperating a significant author in Alice Salomon.

We finish with a reference to the Spanish case market by Franquism.