Abstract
Social work has been acknowledged for its contributions from a practical, non-conceptual or theoretical approach to social problems. This may have its origins in a limited theoretical production on its own, which is due to an academical formation focused on professionalization rather than on research. This paper focuses on the developments in contemporary social work in order to identify which are the conceptions inherent to the discipline and their incidence in the formation and future performance of its practitioners.

Keywords
Contemporary social work, social research, formation for research, professional performance