

Temporalities of Inequality in Times of the Pandemic: Transnational Care Arrangements between Mobility and Immobility

Accepted Workshop at the IMISCOE Annual Conference, June 29 – July 1 2022

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The proposed workshop seeks to explore linkages between transnational migration, care arrangements and the production of social inequality in the constantly changing context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Transnational care arrangements (composed of networks, families, kinship groups, organizations and labour markets) have been suspected of being co-generators of unequal social relations for many decades. Indeed, the pandemic has contributed to a reconfiguration of power relations between the carer and the subjects of care in the context of institutional and non-institutional care settings. This development is accompanied by a (re-)formation of inequality patterns in terms of gender, ethnicity/race and class, exacerbating the living and health conditions of vulnerable (i.e. young, ill or old-aged) populations.

The aim of this workshop is to bring together migration scholars from different disciplines to discuss contributions to a Special Issue in one of the leading international journals. In particular, it aims to explore how changing (im)mobility patterns and unequal life chances do mutually shape each other in the context of transnational care arrangements. It also intends to analyse complex and ambivalent welfare politics employed during the pandemic as well as ongoing efforts of individuals, networks and institutions to adapt to constantly shifting conditions. In addition, the workshop considers the recently emerging biopolitical strategies of state and non-state actors (including regular testing, vaccination and use of QR codes) that become incorporated into (im)mobility regimes both within and outside Europe. In order to provide the most current overview of the constantly changing landscape of transnational care in these times of the pandemic, we invite presentations that address the following questions:

- How did transnational care arrangements including networks, families, organization, institutions and labour markets) adapt to the changing pandemic context?
- What new inequalities can be observed at different temporal and spatial levels in the individual and family life-courses of migranticized groups?

- What novel types of exploitation do migranticized care workers experience in institutional settings like hospitals, retirements homes, day care centres in the receiving countries?
- How did Covid-related regulations affect precarity and insecurity of transnational care settings?
- What old and new types of exploitation do migrant care workers experience in the context of informal care arrangements in private households in the receiving countries?
- What challenges do transnational families face in the context of the pandemic and of related (im)mobility regulations? What strategies do members of the transnational families develop to cope with these challenges?
- What implications do these biopolitical strategies of Covid governance including constant testing, vaccination, and use of QR codes have for the transnational circulation of digital and/or non-digital care resources?

Confirmed workshop participants include:

Scarcities of Care as a Tragedy of the Commons?

Lise Widding Isaksen, University of Bergen, Norway and Lena Näre, University of Helsinki, Finland

Care and Well-being in Older Age: National and International Perspectives

Martina Brandt, Miriam Grates, Claudius Garten, Nekehia Quashie, Judith Kaschowitz, Alina Schmitz, Melanie Wagner, TU Dortmund, Germany)

Title: TBA

Loretta Baldassar, University of Western Australia, Australia

Deservingness and Care Work in Immigration Policies: The Case of Regularizations in Italy through the Pandemic

Maurizio Ambrosini, University of Milan, Italy

Polish Migrants' Informal Care – are Families Immobilised by Brexit and COVID-19?

Weronika Kloc-Nowak, CMR, University of Warsaw, Poland

Louise Ryan, London Metropolitan University, UK

Caring from a Distance: Young European Migrants Negotiating Family Obligations Transnationally During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Daniela Sime, University of Strathclyde, UK

Shifting Socio-Legal Power Dynamics – Elders and Migrant Care Workers in Israel during the Covis-19 Crisis

Daphna Hacker, Tel Aviv University, Israel

“This Fear to Carry the Virus into the Nursing Home”: The Experiences of Transnational Care Workers in Institutional Care Settings in Germany

Kristin Noack, University of Bremen, Germany
Başak Bilecen, University of Groningen, the Netherlands

Caregiving Across the Life-Course: COVID-19, Ageing and Dying: Elderly Filipina Women in Canada

Jenna Blower, York University, Canada

Transformation of Care Arrangements in Transnational Thai Families in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Lisa Bonfert and Karolina Bargłowski (both TU Dortmund)

The Importance of Live-In Childcare for the American Families During the Pandemic: The Case of Au-Pairs in Massachusetts

Nihal Celik-Lynch, University of Massachusetts at Lowell, USA

Transnational Social Support Networks of Intra-EU Migrants in Germany in the Context of the Covid-19 Crisis

Rosa Brandhorst, University of Bielefeld, Germany

Title: TBA

Anna Amelina, Cottbus University, Germany