

The Peace Institute organizes an international symposium

MEN, EQUALITY, CARE PRACTICES

on 5th September 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

in Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova, Maistrova 3, Ljubljana

Though the low level of men's care giving has appeared to be remarkably resistant to a wide range of demographic, political and economic changes and has remained the central source of patriarchal dividends, European research evidence provides some insights on the increase in participation of men in private and professional care. Men's equal share of care challenges traditional gender ideologies and opens up a space for rethinking concepts of masculinity and femininity as well as relations between public and private, politics and intimacy, and production and reproduction, as set-up in capitalism. There is a lot of complexity in men's caring involvement, nevertheless, it might represent an alternative to the hegemonic masculinity and populist re-traditionalization of gender regime and it might have transformative potentials for not only the overcoming of care deficit in the ageing societies, but also for more (gender) equal and caring society.

These issues will be debated at the international symposium MEN, EQUALITY, CARE PRACTICES within the following **program**:

9:00–9:15 Opening. Majda Hrženjak, Peace Institute, Slovenia

9:15–10:45 First session: Being a Primary Carer in the Family.

Moderated by Daniel Holtermann, Dissens, Berlin

Men's Experiences of Gender (In)equality as a Single Parent. Živa Humer, Peace Institute, Ljubljana

ABSTRACT: This paper points to ambivalent discourses about contemporary fatherhood, where feminist and gender equality discourse stand for equality in parenting, while fathers' rights groups claim for essentialist understanding of gender roles. Despite gender-neutral legislation in Slovenia the institutions follow the essentialist discourse, when granting fathers with child custody. The analysis of 12 interviews with fathers as primary parents reveals the specific situations of marginalized (unemployed, poor) masculinities in their relation to the complicit masculinity (middle class) (Connell, 2005), and draws attention to structural

inequalities experienced by the interviewed men, when pursuing their parenting rights.

Challenges for Men in Informal Care for People with Dementia. Mojca Frelih, Peace Institute, Ljubljana

ABSTRACT: The paper emphasises how men care for older people with dementia and what are the main challenges they face during the entire care process. Using Van Gennep's rites of passage model that distinguishes between three stages (separation, liminality, and reconnection), the author analyses six in-depth individual interviews with informal carers, searching for the experiences that care responsibilities bring into the informal carers' everyday lives and how they adapt to the needs of people with dementia. The focus of the contribution is on transition and changing of life situations, statuses and roles, as experienced by men informal carers who have to adapt to the disease's development.

The Archetype of Maternal Love, Fatherhood and Masculinity. Iztok Šori, Peace Institute, Ljubljana

ABSTRACT: The paper analyses the embodiment of the archetype of maternal love in individual narrations of fathers who are leading a single-parent household (micro level) and in institutions when these act and decide on family matters (mezzo level). Theoretically, the paper critically reflects on Fromm's and Parson's conceptions of the family and gender roles. Empirical part is based on nine interviews with fathers who take care of their children within a single-parent family and live in Slovenia. The analysis shows that on the individual and institutional level the archetype of maternal love represents a powerful mechanism, which defines the boundaries of fatherhood and masculinity in fathers who are main caregivers for their children and men in general.

10:45–11:15 Coffee Break

11:15–12:45 Second session: Complexity of Factors Which Attract Men in Professional Care Work.

Moderated by Elli Scambor, Institute for Masculinity Research and Gender Studies, Graz

The Impact of Gender and Skin-Color in the Everyday Life of Nursing Home: the Impact of Organizational Conditions. Palle Storm, Stockholm University - Department of Social Work

ABSTRACT: Canada and Sweden are seeing increasing numbers of migrant male care workers in long-term care settings. However, research exploring their

everyday experiences within this context is scarce. We draw on interview data of migrant men to compare how they come to be in nursing home care work, how they negotiate their social role, and how they reconcile and challenge norms about masculinity. The study finds that migrant men work to find balance and manage tensions related to working in a women-coded field. They attempt to maintain their masculinity without losing their caring approach in both their work and social interactions.

The Interplay of Structural and Identity Factors in Men's Professional Care. Majda Hrženjak, Peace Institute, Ljubljana

ABSTRACT: Based on individual interviews this paper aims to develop a nuanced view of structural and identity factors that deter men from professional hand-on care work in childcare, eldercare and care of the disabled. It points that relatively good working conditions along with accentuation of hegemonic aspects of masculinity attract more men to care for the disabled than to other areas of care. The share of men in eldercare remains extremely low due to the deterring effect of both poor working conditions and gender connotations of intimate care and household work. In childcare, connotations of femininity through motherhood seem to be so strong that despite good working conditions this area of care remains with the lowest share of men.

Why Do or Do Not Boys Choose a Social, Educational or Nursing Occupation? Daniel Holtermann, Dissens, Berlin

ABSTRACT: EHW professions (education, health and welfare) are highly segregated and mainly staffed by women. The question arises why this is so: Theoretically, traditional masculinity and the professional habitus of EHW professions do not support boys orienting towards EHW vocations. Some nevertheless choose EHW careers. What leads them there? The empirical evidence from a survey in Germany with over 3000 pupils shows that if care and social activities are part of the common lives of male pupils, they are much more likely to choose a career in EHW.

12:45–14:00 Lunch break

14:00–16:00 Third session: Contesting Transformation Potentials of Caring Masculinities

Moderated by Iztok Šori, Peace Institute, Ljubljana

Millennial Men, Gender Equality and Care: The Dawn of a Revolution? Elisabetta Ruspini, University of Milano-Bicocca

ABSTRACT: The aim of this paper is to discuss some selected aspects of the relationship between the generational turnover, gender equality, masculinity and care, with particular attention to the Millennial Generation, a group of young people whose birth years roughly range from 1982 to late 1990s. Our analysis, based on a literature review and a secondary analysis of available survey data, shows contradictory results. On the one hand, a number of studies show that Millennials women and men are challenging traditional gender roles. On the other hand, contrary to common expectations (we often think that each generation becomes more modern, egalitarian, and tolerant than the last), some studies show that Millennials seems to be characterized by less egalitarian gender ideologies when compared to older generations.

Caring Man and Masculinities at the Balkan Semi Periphery: Transformation through Hybridizations and Contradictions. Marina Hughson Blagojević, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade

ABSTRACT: The aim of this paper is to present wider theoretical framework for understanding the processes of transformation of men and masculinities in contemporary Balkans (and beyond) especially in regard to their practices and discourses related to care. Theoretical framework is situated within the intersection of masculinity studies and critical studies on men and masculinities with the theory of semiperipherality. It is used to describe and explain the major trends in transformation of gender regimes, including fatherhood, in the Balkans from the end of 1980s until today. To examine some of those changes I revisit a number of my empirical research projects in the region, from the 1988 to 2018. While in the beginning of that period inclusion of men into caring was something seen as a part of achieving gender equality within the overall progressive change, at the end of this period, care is becoming appropriated as a „tool“ for change of men to become more adapted to the neoliberal conditions of life, including the change of their subjectivities and identities.

Embracing a Caring Identity within Capitalist Division of Labour. Branko Bembič, University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Social Sciences

ABSTRACT: The paper critically evaluates the notion of caring masculinity that hypothesizes a link between men's involvement in care work and a corresponding identity change from which emancipatory effects are expected to follow. First, we confront the caring masculinity hypothesis with the theory of social reproduction and then we check for the evidence of the hypothesized link in empirical data on gender segregation in care work and in a case study of two nursing homes. In our case study, we do find evidence of values associated with caring masculinities, but their political effects seem repressive rather than emancipatory.



Freedom of Choice? Barriers and Supportive Conditions for Caring Masculinities.
Elli Scambor and Dr. Marc Gärtner, Institute for Masculinity Research and Gender Studies, Graz

ABSTRACT: The paper discusses factors that promote a gender equal share of care and family work as well as work-life-balance. It is based on a study in which conditions for 'freedom of choice' in terms of work and gender inequality were critically examined. The paper outlines results of a secondary analysis of national data and studies in Austria, with a comparative angle to results from international studies. Moreover, the authors discuss basic conditions for caring masculinities.

16:00–16:30 Coffee Break

16:30–17:30 Keynote speech:

Moderated by Majda Hrženjak, Peace Institute, Ljubljana.

Caring Masculinities and Affective Equality; the Role of Caring in Gender Justice and Transforming Masculinities. Niall Hanlon, School of Languages, Law, and Social Sciences at the Technological University of Dublin; School of Social Work, Social Policy and Social Justice at University College Dublin

ABSTRACT: The unequal distribution caring has long been recognised by feminists as an impediment to gender equality. Gender equality requires affective equality; the equal sharing of both the burdens and benefits of care. Studies of men and masculinities, while also interested in caring, having a traditional emphasis on issues such as fathering, the socialisation of boys, male role models, and men's wellbeing, have now also begun to address caring and equality more specifically. Critical studies of men and masculinities are crucial in highlighting the ways men are responding to, or lagging, greater expectations for caring. How are masculinities being negotiated, transformed, and transforming gender relations through caring, or how are they resisting and reproducing inequality by evading it? Can caring transform masculinities and are caring masculinities a threat or challenge to hegemonic masculinities? This presentation reflects upon some of the central themes and debates in discussions of caring masculinities.



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*The international symposium is organized within the framework of the fundamental research project **Men, Equality, Care Practices** (<http://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/masculinities-equality-care-practices-mesp/>) coordinated by the Peace Institute in partnership with the University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Social Sciences and funded by the Slovenian Research Agency.*



YEARS OF ASPIRATIONS
FOR EQUALITY



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