

TRANSNATIONALISATION OF CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN (SEMI)PERIPHERY AND CORE

23th April, 2024, City Hotel, Ljubljana

European studies of care migration consider the Eastern European and Balkan countries primarily as source countries of female care work for Western Europe. However, neoliberal care policies established conditions for marketization and transnationalisation of care in these countries too. Care migration within these regions are still under-researched, but rare studies point out that many states started to accept migrants in households and formal care services (Kindler 2008; Hrženjak 2019; Gábel 2022; Uhde and Ezzeddine 2021). Whether care migration in Eastern European countries – countries of the global semi-periphery (Wallerstein 1976; Viera 2018; Blagojević 2015) – has some structural characteristics that determine its specificity compared to the core European contexts has yet to be answered. Also, the involvement of migrant care workers from Western Balkan states as “third countries” in the European geopolitical economy of care remains (with a few emerging exceptions; Višić 2021) invisible on the European research agenda.

At this symposium we aim to discuss care migration in care for older people in Central and Eastern Europe and Western Balkan through the lenses of historical connections within the regions and their geopolitical location at the European (semi)periphery understood as a hybrid position between the core and the periphery. Studies (Morales Ruvalcaba 2020) point to the complexity of labour migration in (semi)peripheral countries, which are both destination and transit countries for periphery-to-core migration, as well as source countries to core countries. While more research is needed about the interdependences between sending, transit and receiving countries, diverse patterns of care mobilities and institutional settings, our tentative starting point would be that care for older people in Europe has been transformed not only in a scarce commodity, but also in a geo-strategical resource. Maintaining care costs low (as a structural condition of capitalism), semi-peripheral countries are competing with core countries in systematic extraction of care work from periphery, which brings new dimensions to transnational gender and care inequalities.

The symposium will open space for discussing transnationalisation of care for older people from the perspectives of (semi)peripheral countries constructed in the mainstream research as primarily sending countries. It will reflect potential alternative epistemologies of researching care mobilities from the European margin. It will provide space for exchange, networking and developing potential collaborations between the care researchers in both regions.

PROGRAM

9:00 – 9:45

KEYNOTE SPEECH (Moderation: Majda Hrženjak)

Zuzana Uhde: Extraction and Exploitation of Care in Europe: Production of East–West Inequalities.

9:45 – 10:00

BREAK

10:00 – 11:30

**EPISTEMOLOGY OF LOCATION IN CARE MIGRATION RESEARCH
(Moderation: Veronika Bajt)**

Danijela Majstorović: Our Migrating Laboring Bodies: When Periphery Moves to the Center.

Tanja Višić: Promises and Pitfalls of “Care Work Migration Research”: Power -(of) Knowledge and Re-contextualization of Epistemological Locations.

Maja Breznik: Uneven and Combined Development of Elderly Care in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

11:30 – 11:45

BREAK

11:45 – 13:15

**GOVERNMENTALITY OF CARE LABOUR MOBILITY IN
RESIDENTIAL CARE (Moderation: Leja Markelj)**

Marijana Bađun: Long-Term Care Workforce in Croatia: The Potential Role of Immigration.

Antonija Todić: The Intersections and Disjunctions of Migration and Elderly Care in Slovenia.

Majda Hrženjak: Tacit Strategies of Labour Migration Management in Senior Care Homes at the European (Semi)Periphery.

13:15 – 14:30

LUNCH

PROGRAM

14:30 – 16:00

SPATIAL DISTANCING OF SENIOR CARE AND ITS SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES (Moderation: Maja Breznik)

Ewa Palenga-Möllenbeck & Roxana Fiebig-Spindler: Emerging Home Care Markets in Central and Eastern Europe: Transformations of Senior Care, Labour Mobility, and Housing.

Svenja Fischbach & Slađana Jeremić: The Social Consequences of Care Mobility to Western Europe for Individuals, Families, and Communities in Northern Serbia.

Ljiljana Pantović, Bojana Radovanović, and Milica Sekulović: Elder Care in Serbia during the Pandemic: A Care Diamond Analysis.

16:00 – 16:15

BREAK

16:15 – 17:15

ETHNOGRAPHY OF IM/MOBILE CARING WOMEN (Moderation: Antonija Todić)

Nejra Nuna Čengić: Being a Part of the European Family: Perspectives of Female Informal Paid Domestic Care Workers from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Marija Šarić: Navigating Precarity: Older Caregivers in Circular Migration Cycles.

17:15 – 17:30

CONCLUSION

19:00

SOCIAL DINNER