

# Transforming Care

## TCN Newsletter

Winter 2020/21



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Dear colleague,

This has been a year like no other, but just as the two penguins on the front pager (taken by award winning photographer Tobias Baumgaertner), we must stand together - even though this for the time being is by standing apart. We hope that you and your families have come through 2020 and that we can now all look forward to an efficient vaccine program being rolled out. That COVID-19 also affects our research is clearly reflected in the newsletter, including in the news section where we refer your attention to several new reports.

During all this, it has been comforting that so many of you have supported the Transforming Care Network (TCN) by joining as members. We now have more than 250 members from around the world with a good mix of disciplines and ages.

In this newsletter, we want to flag up that the call for papers for the 2021 Transforming Care Conference is closing today (Feb 15th). For more information on the conference, read on.

We had hoped that we could meet in person in Venice. However, with the pandemic still on-going, we have instead with the local organizer, Prof. Barbara da Roit, decided to turn this into an on-line conference. So, we hope to see as many of you on the screen instead. We have planned a number of social events during the conference and will also organize a members' meet up, so that we can develop and strengthen the network.

We are also happy to continue the collaboration with Policy Press and you can read more in the newsletter about the discount on the purchase of books for TCN members.

For now, we wish you a happy and healthy 2021,

Tine Rostgaard and Costanzo Ranci, TCN chairs

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**Call for papers: 5th Transforming Care Conference 2021, June 24-26<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
DEADLINE: February 15th**

**Conference theme:**

Time is a key dimension that structures the social organization of care, care relations and interactions, and care experiences. Time is also inherent to the institutionalization

and change of care regimes. As such, the analysis of care policies and practices cannot do without the incorporation of a temporal perspective. Care may take different meanings and forms in “normal” and “disruptive” times as in the case of critical events, such as the Corona pandemic.

Following previous editions (2017 and 2019), the Transforming Care Conference series is to be held every two years. Focus is on early child education and care, care for adults with disabilities and long-term care for older people in the same broad perspective, as components of a more general policy field.

The Conference Series is now supported by the creation of a **Transforming Care Network** (<http://www.transforming-care.net>) through which scholars can continuously interact and exchange information and research results.

The Transforming Care Conference 2021 will investigate in a global setting:

- How policies consider and shape time for care?
- How care professionals, caregivers and care receivers perceive time in care relationships?
- How the regulation of time influences formal and informal care work?
- How time for care is being negotiated within care arrangements?
- How care practices and policies change across historical time?
- How is care affected in times of emergency and profound crisis?

**Call for papers:** We now invite scholars to submit abstract to one or more of the Thematic Panels of the conference. *The Call for Paper closes today Feb 15th, 2021.*

**Five main dimensions** of transforming care are addressed in the conference through parallel Thematic Panels and Symposia sessions:

- Changes in the institutional setting of care systems and in care policy
- The impact and dilemmas of social and policy innovation in care services
- Changes in care arrangements and informal care practices
- Transformations affecting formal and informal care work
- The impact of COVID-19 on care practices and policies.

**Confirmed keynote speakers:**

Prof. Margarita Estevez-Ave (Syracuse University, US), Prof. Peter Moss (University College London, England), Prof. Daniela Del Boca (University of Torino, Italy).

**Important dates:**

Nov 1st-Feb 15th: Call for Papers

Mar 15th: Notification about accepted papers

Mar 15th - June 20th: Registration

For **more information**, see [here](#) **To contact the local organisers:** [tcc2021@unive.it](mailto:tcc2021@unive.it)

**Organized by** Prof. Barbara Da Roit, Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Italy  
Prof. Costanzo Ranci, Social Policy Lab, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy

Prof. Tine Rostgaard, Department of Social Work, Stockholm University, Sweden, and Department of Social Sciences and Business, Roskilde University, Denmark

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## Discount on Policy Press books for TCN members

TCN members can now make the most of a 30% discount on all Policy Press books. Use code *POTCMD20* at the checkout.

Policy Press publishes work that seeks to understand social problems, promote social change and inform policy and practice.

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## The Transforming Care book series

Among the book series published by Policy Press, you will find the Transforming Care book series which was established in 2020. The series is edited by Prof. Costanzo Ranci and Prof. Tine Rostgaard.

Our ambition is that the book series will form a collection of the best research on social care globally. It provides a publication outlet for scholars in the field of research into social care for children, adults with disabilities and/or frail older people. It has an empirical, theoretical as well as methodological scope. The book series cover four main dimensions of social care and in a global perspective:

- The **institutional setting of care systems and care policy** (in terms of social rights to care, public regulation, public/private arrangements involving non-profit and/or for-profit organizations, marketization trends, inclusion/selection criteria, affordability, quality, etc.)
- **Care arrangements and practices**, organized through formal and/or informal channels (caregiving and distribution of paid and unpaid care work, organization and adequacy of care services and cash for care programs, etc.)
- Social and **policy innovation on care services and care arrangements**, and its impact and dilemmas
- **Formal and informal care work**, including involvement of informal carers as well as working conditions of formal care providers.

The book series is aimed at academics and practitioners who are active in the field of doing research of social care for children, adults with disabilities and/or frail older people.

It will publish empirical and theoretical contributions from disciplines of social policy studies, political science, economics, sociology, social work, anthropology and ethnography.

The book series includes research edited volumes and monographs, aimed at the academic community and practitioners. One or more chapters can be published as open access. For more information, see [here](#).

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## International Journal on Care and Caring

The Transforming Care Network collaborates with the International Journal of Care and Caring (IJCC) and we encourage you to consider publishing in the journal.

The IJCC is a multidisciplinary journal designed to advance scholarship and debate in the important and expanding field of care and caring. Multidisciplinary and international in scope, it publishes high quality contributions on care, caring and carers from all regions of the world. IJCC has a broad focus, covering care and caring for people of any age who have long-term conditions, disabilities or frailties, or who are seriously ill or near the end of life. It explores the economic, organisational, political, social, legal, familial, transnational and ethical settings in which this care occurs.

Subscribe to the journal in order to read the articles or access through your institution. The 'Debates and Issues' section is permanently free to access in every issue of the journal.

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## The TCN web site

(If you haven't done so already) Visit the [TCN website](#) where you will find all relevant information about the network, book series, past conferences, and news about the upcoming events (including the next conference).

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## NEWS

### Swedish COVID-19 Commission report published

TCN member **Prof. Marta Szebehely** has contributed to the Swedish Corona Commission with a report on the international experiences of the pandemic for the care homes, and here presents the main findings from the newly published commission report:

Sweden has been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic during both the first and the second wave. By end Dec, more than 8,000 individuals have died of/with COVID-19, corresponding to more than 800 deaths per million inhabitants. Of these, 47 per cent were care home residents, corresponding to 4.5 per cent of all residents in care homes. In June, the high death rates forced the Swedish government to appoint a Commission to evaluate the country's COVID-19 strategy.

The Commission report was published Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, concluding that: "Apart from the general spread of the virus in society, the factor that has had the greatest impact on the number of cases of illness and deaths from COVID-19 in Swedish residential care is structural shortcomings that have been well-known for a long time. These shortcomings have led to residential care being unprepared and ill-equipped to handle a pandemic. Staff employed in the elderly care sector were largely left by themselves to tackle the crisis."

As I argue in my report, besides the much higher general spread of the virus in Sweden, compared to neighboring countries Swedish authorities have had much less focus on eldercare services during the beginning of the pandemic, resulting in much later provision of testing capacity and personal protective equipment in Sweden. The poor working- and employment conditions in eldercare seems to have exacerbated the situation with relatively higher rates of zero-hours contracts, more staff without formal training and less contact with a manager than in the other Nordic countries.

In the report the Commission stressed the responsibility of central government agencies and local municipalities for ensuring provision of PPE and guidance, but more overall for also address structural deficiencies and improve staffing ratios, formal training of staff, access to medical doctors and Registered Nurses and for reducing the number of employees per manager. Read the full report in Swedish and the English summary [here](#).



**Updated international report on COVID-19 related mortality in care homes,** By Adelina Comas-Herrera et al. The authors report on the methodological problems of comparing mortality rates and give an updated account of the impact of COVID-19 in nursing homes around the world. Find the full report [here](#). For further information on the impact of COVID-19 on LTC systems, see [LTCcovid](#).



### **Conference: European Social Policy Network (Espanet) online conference 2021. August 31 – September 3.**

The 2021 Espanet conference asks whether the European welfare states are up for the future? Given worldwide changes in economic structures and balances, the acceleration of technological developments, substantial environmental risks and globally disruptive events as, for example, the COVID-19 pandemic, will they be able to uphold, and where necessary even extend, the range of social objectives they are known for in the world? Will their social policies succeed in effectively promoting sufficiently high living standards of their citizenry?

Call for papers is open now. See [here](#) for further information.





**Report on parental leave around the world:** The 2020 edition of the International Review on Leave Policies is now available, and can be downloaded from the website of the *International network on leave policies and research* [here](#).

The 2020 review includes 45 countries, with detailed country notes on each country covering: details of maternity, paternity, parental and other forms of leave; the relationship between early childhood education and care services and leave provision; recent policy developments; and take-up of different types of leave. There are also a number of comparative tables. This year there is also a special supplement on policy responses to the Covid-19 pandemic for parents and other carers.



**New Eurofound report:** *The employment and working conditions for the long-term care workforce*, by Hans Dubois et al.

The long-term care (LTC) sector employs a growing share of workers in the EU and is experiencing increasing staff shortages. The LTC workforce is mainly female and a relatively large and increasing proportion is aged 50 years or older. Migrants are often concentrated in certain LTC jobs. This report maps the LTC workforce's working conditions and the nature of employment and role of collective bargaining in the sector. It also discusses policies to make the sector more attractive, combat undeclared work and improve the situation of a particularly vulnerable group of LTC workers: live-in carers. The report ends with a discussion and policy pointers on addressing expected staff shortages and the challenges around working conditions. For more information, see [here](#).



**Oxford Super Tracker Policy brief:** *Tracking Policy Responses to COVID-19: Opportunities, Challenges and Solutions*, by Daly et al.

Governments have responded to the Covid-19 pandemic by adopting a wide range of policy measures with different effects on infection rates and deaths, but also varying socio-economic consequences. The Oxford Supertracker aims to provide a global online directory of relevant policy trackers that have been developed to monitor policies and individual preferences in respect to Covid-19 across countries. This paper presents the tool and give suggestions as how to apply it. Download the paper [here](#).

New PhD dissertation: Congratulations to our TCN colleague Emilia Leinonen from the Finnish CoE AgeCare project.

Emilia defended her doctoral dissertation, 'Locating adult foster care: Adult foster care for older people in between of formal and informal' in 2020 She is now

working as a post.doc researcher at the centre and is currently conducting a new project on Covid-19 and the experiences of people aged 70 and over.

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### **Contributions to the next issue of the TCN Newsletter**

Feel free to send in information that you would like to see in the next TCN Newsletter. **Deadline:** June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Send to [transformingcarenet@gmail.com](mailto:transformingcarenet@gmail.com)