

# Transforming Care

## TCN Newsletter

Winter 2021

Welcome to the  
Transforming Care Conference 2023,  
June 26-28<sup>th</sup> in Sheffield



# TCN Newsletter Winter 2021

Dear colleague,

We are now close to the end of the second year of pandemic and still in difficult times. Nothing will surely be as it was before. But still, we are much better equipped against COVID-19 than one year ago.

The Transforming Care Network has been very active in 2021 - and in spite of the pandemic. We were able to organize our bi-annual Conference, although on-line. We had to do without Venice but not without our paper presentations, keynotes and round table session. In the Newsletter, you will find a description of the conference, which involved more than 300 scholars from 35 countries. We once again want to thank the conference team in Venice, led by Barbara Da Roit, Cà Foscari University, who managed the online conference so well.

Now we are preparing for the upcoming 2023 Conference in Sheffield (you find news below), which hopefully will be in person and eventually complemented by online sessions. We are entering into a new world of communication and social networking, in which we want to keep the emotionally dense atmosphere of our in-person Transforming Care Conference, combining it with the new potentials offered by the information and communication technology.

As the Transforming Care Network is expanding its activity and membership, we want to involve young scholars in the organization and decision-making process of the network. See the call below! We hope those of you, who are in your early stages of your career, will consider getting involved in this international network, being in touch with the best experts in the fields and bringing their and your ideas and energy into the fore.

We are also happy to continue the collaboration with Policy Press. There is a great news here: the first book of the Transforming Care Book Series - edited by our colleagues Lise Lotte Hansen, Hanne Marlene Dahl and Laura Horn - has just come out (see below). Take the chance to get a discount as TCN member and consider proposing your book project to the Transforming Care Book series at Policy Press!

Finally, you find useful information about newly published reports as well as information on international conferences in the program for 2022. We hope to meet you at some of these events!

We wish you a happy and healthy 2022!

Tine Rostgaard and Costanzo Ranci, chairs of TCN

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## Transforming Care Conference 2023

We are happy to announce that the 2023 *Transforming Care Conference* will be held on June 26-28th, 2023, at Sheffield University, UK. The conference will be hosted by Professor [Sue Yeandle](#) and her team at [CIRCLE](#), the Centre for International Research on Care, Labour and Equalities, and home to the newly established [Centre for Care](#).

Sheffield is one of the UK's major cities and within easy reach by train of Manchester airport, London's Eurostar terminal and London's airports. It nestles between the superb Peak District National Park to the south and the Yorkshire Dales to the north.

CIRCLE's teams of professors, researchers, graduate students and support staff look forward to welcoming you to Sheffield to discuss and debate new research and ideas about transforming care in June 2023.

**So, note the date!** More information will follow on the Transforming Care Network [website](#) and in the Spring TCN Newsletter.

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## Report on the online Transforming Care Conference 2021

The 2021 Transforming Care Conference (TCC) was held online on June 24-26. As the pandemic did not allow an in-presence conference, we opted for an online event, still organized by Università Ca' Foscari, Venice, and led by Barbara Da Roit.

The theme of the conference was *Time in Care: The Temporality of Care Policy and Practices*. We focused on how time and temporality affect and are affected by care policy and care practice. Time is indeed 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. Time has become very crucial in emergency situations such as the Covid-19 outbreak, when decisions are to be taken timely and space limitations imply big constraints in care on the one hand, and greater need for care on the other.

Addressing these issues, three keynotes were given on different aspects of temporality. While Peter Moss (University College London, UK) spoke on "Time for a change. Rethinking time in education and care policy and practice", two speakers considered the impact of the pandemic on care policies: Margarita Estevez-Abe (Syracuse University, NYC, US) talked about "LTC System and Pandemic Preparedness: Lessons from the COVID19", and Daniela Del Boca about "Women's and Men's Work, Housework and Childcare, before and during COVID-19".

As usual, the conference was organized through parallel sessions: we had 21 thematic panels (in which 128 papers were presented and 15 ones were contributed), and 13 symposia (with 44 paper presentations). Finally, an attractive round table was focused on "Care at stake: post-pandemic research and policy" with three invited speakers; Claude Martin, Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique, Rennes; Stefania Sabatinelli, Polytechnic of Milan, and Mara Yerkes, Utrecht University.

In spite of the online format, the conference had participants from across the globe with 303 registered participants from 35 countries. We were especially happy to welcome also participants from the Global South. The plenary sessions had on average 107 participants online. The average participation to parallel sessions was 17 attendees. As in the previous conferences, TCC gathers scholars with different disciplinary backgrounds (sociology, social work, public policy, economics, etc.), in different academic positions and at different stages of their professional career (including many young scholars).

We are happy to have been able to organise the TC conference even in a difficult time, and we found the participation and interest in this conference very rewarding. We could enjoy again the warm, not-competitive, free atmosphere of our previous conferences. The Cà Foscari team led by Barbara Da Roit did a marvelous job in organising the online events and supporting all the participants in accessing the various conference virtual rooms. We only missed Venice, and we hope there will be a chance to meet there physically in the future.

**We present below the welcome address to the Conference of Prof. Giuseppe Barbieri, Professor of History of Modern Art, Head of the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Ca' Foscari University of Venice:**

*"In 1934, a French historian of the arts, Henri Focillon, wrote a small important book, 'La Vie des Formes'. What he was reflecting upon was the genesis of the artistic activity, a compelling issue at the time (seven years earlier Martin Heidegger had published his book 'Being and Time'). The concluding chapter of that little book is entitled 'Forms in Time', and an American student of Focillon, George Kubler, took up the idea in his book 'The Shape of Time' (1962). Focillon speaks of becoming and eternal, of delays and anticipations, of an isochronous and non-isochronous time, of transformations. In the last two centuries, scientists, philosophers, historians of the art, and social scientists have investigated time. This appointment articulates those questions in a complex and intertwined way.*

*Until the eve of the pandemic in Venice, people hoped to receive new stimuli as time went by ("May You Live in Interesting Times" was the title of the 2019 Biennale). Shortly afterwards the stimuli, not only in Venice, became challenges, demanding and dramatic: the whole world has perceived the variety of times (in hospitals, in care facilities, in the impossibility of meeting in person for long months), millions of people, often isolated, in silence, have unfortunately had to experiment the end of their time.*

*Without further stealing your time, I offer you my greetings and I truly hope you can reach important conclusions. I would like to thank my colleagues Da Roit, Busacca, Della Puppa, and Matutini for the time they have put in organizing these three days, which our Department truly considers of extraordinary importance. Three days that take place at least virtually in Venice, the form of which – according to a sociologist like Simmel and to writers like Proust and Mann - is precisely time and the end of time."*

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## **Join the TCN management team!**

We invite early career colleagues to join us in the management of the [Transforming Care Network](#) (TCN). The call is open to scholars active in childcare, long-term care and/or disability research and interested in national and international perspectives on care policies and practices.

The persons will be collaborating with the TCN chairs Tine Rostgaard and Costanzo Ranci in the following tasks:

- preparing and editing the TCN newsletter to be published every 6 months, including information about network activities, research and scientific events of interest for scholars in the field.
- managing and updating the TCN website (this task does not include the technical management of the software)
- cooperating with the TCN chairs and local hosts in the preparation of the bi-annual Transforming Care Conference.
- participating in the activities and annual meeting of the TCN Scientific Board.

This is a good opportunity for early career scholars to be involved in the scientific community of TCN, now involving more than 300 scholars from more than 40 countries all around the world, and organising an important international conference every two years. We estimate an average commitment of ½-1 day per month.

Candidates are invited to send their CV and a short presentation letter to Tine Rostgaard, [tiro@ruc.dk](mailto:tiro@ruc.dk), and Costanzo Ranci, [costanzo.ranci@polimi.it](mailto:costanzo.ranci@polimi.it)

**Deadline: Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.**

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## **Transforming Care Book Series: New book**

The very first book in our [Transforming Care book series](#) was published in December:

[A Care Crisis in the Nordic Welfare States?: Care Work, Gender Equality and Welfare State Sustainability](#) edited by Lise Lotte Hansen, Hanne Marlene Dahl and Laura Horn.

In the book, Nordic experts consider the impact of neoliberal policies and ideology on the status of care work in Nordic countries. They assess challenges for care work including technology, management and policymaking and provide insights into what the Nordic experience can tell us about wider international issues in care. Congratulations to authors and editors!

**[Claim your TCN discount on 30% using code POTCMD20](#)**

For information on how to publish in the series, contact series editors Costanzo Ranci [costanzo.ranci@polimi.it](mailto:costanzo.ranci@polimi.it) and Tine Rostgaard, [tiro@ruc.dk](mailto:tiro@ruc.dk)

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## Project news



### Launch of the International Living Report on COVID-19 and Long-Term Care

Spearheaded by [Adelina Comas-Herrera](#), Assistant Professorial Research Fellow at LSE, LSECOVID has recently launched a live and dynamic Wiki-style report on the learnings from COVID-19 and its impact on people who use and provide long-term care (LTC) globally.

The live report, which is continuously being updated and completed by experts in LTC all over the world, builds on a project to support Social Care COVID Recovery and Resilience in England funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is a collaboration between LSE's Care Policy and Evaluation Centre's (CPEC) and the Nuffield Trust.

The report is being launched by [LTCcovid](#), a collaborative platform supported by the International Long-Term Care Policy Network at LSE, which was developed to facilitate sharing of international experiences to mitigate the impact of the pandemic in the LTC sector.

The report is available [here](#). It was presented at a very informative two-day international seminar Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2021. Videos and slides from the seminar are found [here](#).



## Decent Care Work?

Transnational Home Care Arrangements



### **Decent Care Work? Transnational Home Care Arrangements (2017-2021)**

Over the course of four years, this project investigated the transnational recruitment of workers for live-in senior care in private households in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. Similar to other regions around the globe, transnational care arrangements have become important in the provision of long-term care. Commercial agencies recruit (predominantly female) care workers from Central and Eastern Europe and place them in the homes of (middle and upper class) people in need of care. During their assignment, the workers' duties include assistance with everyday life, housekeeping, keeping company and, at least in the Austrian case, professional nursing tasks.

By means of regime and policy analyses as well as interviews with relevant stakeholders, the study explored how live-in care is embedded in the Austrian, German, and Swiss care regime. We followed the brokering agencies' practices from the advertisement of their services to the recruitment and placement of care workers. Furthermore, the project investigated the expectations and claims of all actors involved and asked which power relations and social inequalities, contradictions and conflicts emerge and influence the promise and practice of home care from the perspective of all participants. We also give insights into care workers' unionizing efforts and self-organized initiatives and reflect on alternative forms of care provision. Finally, the project investigated the effects of the COVID-19-pandemic on live-in care and discussed policies and strategies to deal with this situation.

The project is funded by the DFG/Project LU 630/14 1, the FWF/Project I 3145 G 29 and the SNF/Project 170353. It is hosted by the Goethe University Frankfurt/Germany (Aranka Vanessa Benazha, Helma Lutz, Ewa Palenga-Möllenbeck), the Johannes Kepler University Linz/Austria (Brigitte Aulenbacher, Michael Leiblfinger, Veronika Prieler) and the University of Zurich/Switzerland (Karin Schwiter, Jennifer Steiner, Anahi Villalba). Publications and further project information can be found <http://decent-care-work.net/en/home/here>



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## New reports

**UN's Human Rights office** has developed a series of tools to support identifying and addressing challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 pandemic. Find them [here](#).



### **Eurofound report: Long-term care workforce: Employment and working conditions**

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. Find the report [here](#).



### **The European Commission: The 2021 Long-term care in the EU report**

The 2021 Long-term care report, jointly prepared by the European Commission and the Social Protection Committee, provides a state of art of long-term care provision and key challenges across the EU. It provides also a first analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Find it [here](#).



**The World Bank Group** has published a report giving the evidence on why childcare matters for building human capital, look at the current status of childcare provision worldwide, including an estimate of the global gaps in access, and present specific actions countries can take to expand access to quality, affordable childcare for all families that need it, especially the most vulnerable. Find the report [here](#).



In a similar new report, the **UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti** ranks countries across the OECD and the European Union (EU), based on national childcare and parental leave policies. The report considers the accessibility, affordability, and quality of childcare for children between birth and school age. Access the report [here](#).



### **The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on social protection and inclusion policy in European countries**

The European Social Policy Network (ESPN) published country-based *Thematic Reports on Social protection and inclusion policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis* in July 2021. You find the reports [here](#).



### **Early childhood education and care and the Covid-19 pandemic**

The European Commission has published a [report](#) looking into “understanding and managing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the early childhood education and care

sector". The report identifies the impact of the pandemic on very young children and their families, and on early childhood education and care services and professionals.

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## Conferences

While you wait for the next Transforming Care Conference in 2023, here are some other conferences to consider:

The [30<sup>th</sup> Nordic Sociological Association Conference](#) will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 10-12 Aug 2022. The theme of the conference is 'Myths and Realities of the Nordic Welfare State'.



The Twenty-[Eighth International Conference of Europeanists](#), organized by the Council for European Studies (CES) will be held in Lisbon on June 20-22 (virtual session) and June 29-July 1 (in-person sessions).



In Sept 14-16th 2022, Vienna, Austria, will be hosting the [20th Annual ESPAnet conference](#), under the theme 'Social Policy Change between Path Dependency and Innovation'.



The 2022 Annual Meeting of the [ISA RC19 "Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy"](#) will be hosted by the Institute of Sociology at the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences on: 24-26 August 2022.



The [26th Nordic Congress of Gerontology](#) will be held in Odense, Denmark, June 8–10, 2022, under the theme 'Change and Continuity'.



The [5th International Conference on Aging & Technology Fair](#) will focus on Active Ageing through Innovation: Learning from the COVID-19 Pandemic, in June 8–9, 2022, Prague & ONLINE.



[The Work and Family Researchers Network](#) annual conference will take place in NyW York, US, June 23-25: 'Work-Family Justice: Practices, Partnerships & Possibilities'.

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## Short news

Congratulations to *Duncan U Fisher*, Teesside University School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law, who in 2021 successfully defended his PhD thesis on paid care work. His PhD is titled: *"You never know what you could walk into": the perceptions and experiences of adult social care work for young adults in Teesside, north-east England*.

Duncan is now working on a research study of young people's experiences of the coronavirus pandemic and looking for opportunities to continue researching care work. Hope to see you also at the next Transforming Care Conference, Duncan!

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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: Mar 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Send to [transformingcarenet@gmail.com](mailto:transformingcarenet@gmail.com)