

**6th Transforming Care Conference 2023**  
**Boundaries, Transitions and Crisis Contexts**  
**26th - 28th June 2023**  
**University of Sheffield, UK**

Around the world, care in all its forms – of children, of adults with disabilities and of frail older people – is becoming increasingly challenging, visible and important. In focusing on *boundaries, transitions and crisis contexts*, we hope the 2023 Transforming Care Conference will bring together recent research evidence and new thinking on how critical contemporary changes are affecting *who* provides care, of what kinds, and at which stages in their life; the *circumstances* in which care is provided and experienced; and the *outcomes and consequences* of that care for different social actors.

**Boundaries:** How people experience care is affected by boundaries of multiple kinds.

*Geographical* boundaries include national borders, subject to increasingly complex immigration controls, and local boundaries that shape eligibility or access to support or services. *Social divisions* can create boundaries too: between paid and unpaid carers; between those who provide and who need/receive care; and between those deemed eligible for publicly-funded support or able, or expected, to pay privately for the care they need. Such boundaries influence who provides and who receives care of different kinds, with unequal and potentially enduring effects on financial, subjective and relational wellbeing.

**Transitions:** Across their lives, people experience care as something they need, experience and provide in many different and evolving ways. Transitions in how the experience of care is shaped and experienced reflect natural processes of growth and ageing; differences in how services and supports are administered and arranged; and decisions or choices made about care, often in constrained or urgent situations. Here we hope research and ideas about the life course effects of care and caring, and decisions about when, and to whom, support is offered or denied can be discussed, problematised and debated.

**Crisis contexts:** In the 2000s the world has been shaken by major crises of public health and of the global financial system and international relations; and by conflict and war affecting many millions of people.

- Responses to the *global Covid-19 pandemic* have included: restrictions on in-person contact and gatherings; closure of nurseries, schools and care services; confinement of people to their homes; and bans on travel and visiting isolated, dying or suffering loved ones. This forced people with care needs, and in paid and unpaid caring roles, into new and challenging situations with many and varied effects. We aim to debate these, and how they have been affected by economic, housing and employment circumstances and by family situation, gender, disability and ethnicity, as well as to explore altered ways of providing and enacting care that emerged during, and as a response to, the pandemic.
- In many global contexts – including in Syria, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Ukraine – ongoing *conflict, war and civil unrest* have forced people into new forms of reliance upon one another, including the care and support of strangers. People have been separated from caring relations

or support arrangements on which they have long relied. Many families, friends and loved ones have been dispersed or separated, while others have had to rely upon and to care for each other in unprecedented ways and circumstances.

- Even in countries less affected by conflict, or that are attempting to ‘return to normal’ following the early waves of the Covid-19 pandemic, arrangements for care and caring are often under longstanding or growing pressures: increased demand; rising costs, affecting public spending or budgets allocated to care, with uneven effects on individuals; systems of support stretched to their limits, or inadequately connected to other forms of support or welfare. We hope the conference will also debate the deep roots of these issues, considering solutions and remedies for them at different levels – familial; local, national; and international – and from different conceptual, theoretical and disciplinary perspectives.

The Transforming Care conference series is held every two years, with a focus 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 supported by the [Transforming Care Network](#), through which scholars can continuously interact and exchange information and research results.

#### **Keynote addresses will be given by:**

*Professor Claude Martin*, Research Director CNRS, University of Rennes, France

*Professor Rianne Mahon*, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University, Canada

*Emeritus Professor Fiona Williams OBE*, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds, UK.

## **Call for papers**

We encourage paper contributions that investigate the conference themes. Papers may address priority-setting on a macro-, meso- as well as micro-level, and therefore involving the politics and policy level, but also organisational/provider and individual level decisions. We encourage contributions from different continents in order to exemplify how priority setting is made and perhaps differ in e.g. European, Asian and South-American countries.

You are invited to submit a paper abstract for one or more of the conference Thematic Panels. A list of these, with information about the themes and conveners is [here](#).

We specifically welcome papers that deal with the overarching theme of boundaries, transitions and crisis contexts, but also papers that look into care from other theoretical and empirical perspectives, within the following thematic dimensions:

- **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 organisations, marketization trends, inclusion/selection criteria, affordability, quality, etc..)
- **Care arrangements and practices**, organised through formal and/or informal channels (caregiving and distribution of paid and unpaid care work, organisation 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.

As always, the Transforming Care Conference offers the opportunity to submit papers outside the selected conference theme. The open stream is for new thinking and research outside the *Boundaries, Transitions and Crisis Contexts* theme, for the presentation of new ideas, theories and methods that take forward international debate and scholarship on care in all its human forms.

### **Abstract submission**

Abstract submission to our [Thematic Panels](#) is open from **17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 until 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Abstracts should be submitted via email to [transformingcare2023@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:transformingcare2023@sheffield.ac.uk) and must include:

- Title of paper
- The Thematic Panel you are submitting to
- Name(s), affiliation(s) and contact details of author(s)
- Abstract (maximum 250 words).

Please note that if your abstract is accepted you must submit your full paper to the conference by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023. The paper will be available to conference delegates only. For further information: <http://www.transforming-care.net> or contact the organisers [transformingcare2023@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:transformingcare2023@sheffield.ac.uk).

### **Important dates**

17<sup>th</sup> November 2022: Call for papers opens

30<sup>th</sup> January 2023: Deadline for call for papers

28<sup>th</sup> February 2023: Information about accepted papers

1<sup>st</sup> March 2023: Early bird registration opens

15<sup>th</sup> April 2023: Deadline for Early bird registration

1<sup>st</sup> June 2023: Deadline for upload of papers; registration closes.

### **The Transforming Care Network (TCN)**

The conference is an activity of the Transforming Care Network (<http://www.transforming-care.net/>)

### **The conference is organised by**

Prof. Sue Yeandle, University of Sheffield, UK

Dr Kelly Davidge, University of Sheffield, UK

Prof. Costanzo Ranci, Polytechnic of Milan (TCN chair)

Prof. Tine Rostgaard, Roskilde University and Stockholm University (TCN chair)

### **Scientific Committee**

Prof. Karina Batthyany Dighiero, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

Prof. Yueh-Ching Chou, National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan

Adelina Comas-Herrera, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

Prof. Barbara Da Roit, University Cà Foscari of Venice, Italy

Associate Prof., Jana Javornik, University of East London, United Kingdom

Prof. Teppo Kröger, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Dr Blanche LeBihan, Ecole des hautes études en santé publique, Rennes, France

Prof. Margarita Leon, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Ingela Naumann, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Prof. August Oesterle, Vienna University of Business, Austria

Prof. Birgit Pfau-Effinger, Hamburg University, Germany

Prof. Marta Szebehely, Stockholm University, Sweden

Prof. Hildegard Theobald, Vechta University, Germany.