

Transforming Care

TCN Newsletter
Winter 2024

**Transforming Care
Conference 2025:
Call for Papers**



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Editorial

Here at the end of 2024, we bid farewell for the year with some concerns. This year has been marked by the intensification of a number of conflicts and wars, and with profound global implications.

In light of these impactful events, social care policies might seem relatively minor, or even inconsequential at first glance. While this perspective is understandable, we firmly believe that such policies play a crucial role in sustaining a sense of social solidarity, both within nations and on a global scale. It is with this commitment to promoting solidarity that we present this newsletter, which outlines the activities undertaken in the **Transforming Care Network (TCN)** over the past six months and shares our plans for the future.

The network has grown significantly in both scope and membership, leading to the necessary expansion of our **TCN Management team**. We are delighted to welcome Ester Gubert and Maria Cheshire-Allen to the team. Both participated in the Spring School in Milan this past June, an event that brought together a diverse group of participants, including early-career scholars and established researchers.

You have recently received the Call for papers for the **2025 TCC conference**, which will take place in Helsinki in June 25-27, 2025. Teppo Kröger and his team are doing exceptional work preparing for this event, and we owe them our sincere thanks. The deadline for submitting your abstract is End-January, and the extensive list of sessions reflects the broad range of interests and research topics within the field. Our biennial conference continues to grow in both scale and quality, solidifying its status as a pivotal event for scholars engaged in the study of care policies and practices.

This newsletter also highlights several other initiatives, including the recent establishment of **TCN Members' Panel**, which has already launched various promising activities, and the organization of online seminars showcasing books soon to be published in the **Transforming Care book series** at Policy Press. We are also proud to present to you a contribution to the **Scientific Corner** by Dr. Jana Javornik.

The network thrives on the contributions of its members. We encourage you to make use of our **TCN mailing list** to share your activities and research outputs.

With warm regards,
Costanzo Ranci and Tine Rostgaard, TCN chairs

Contact: costanzo.ranci@polimi.it and tiro@ruc.dk

Transforming Care Conference (TCC) 2025: Call for Papers is out

The Call for Papers for the 7th Transforming Care Conference is now open. The conference will take place in Helsinki on 25-27th June 2025 with Professor Teppo Kröger as the chair of the organizing committee of the conference, together with Tine Rostgaard and Costanzo Ranci as chairs of the Transforming Care Network.

We have a great line-up of Thematic Panels for you to submit your abstract to. These cover the fields of childcare, long-term care and disability policy from many different perspectives. In addition to these 27 Thematic Panels the conference will also feature 15 Symposia showcasing cutting-edge work from many innovative research projects and networks.

The theme of the 7th Transforming Care Conference is '*Social and Human Rights in Care*'. The Transforming Care Conference series has become a major global meeting place for the international research community focused on the study of informal and formal care and support for people throughout their life course.

We are also proud of the keynote speakers for the 2025 conference:

- Professor Tom Shakespeare, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK
- Professor Håkan Jönson & Associate Professor Tove Harnett, Lund University, Sweden
- Professor Margarita León, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

You are very welcome to submit an abstract for the 7th Transforming Care Conference! The Call for Papers is available [here](#).

Join the Transforming Care Network Mailing list

Did you know that as a member of TCN, you can exchange ideas and opportunities through the TCN Network Mailing List? The Network is a dedicated space for members involved in research on early childhood education and care, care for adults with disabilities and long-term care for frail older people. It is a great way to share, hear about, and exchange information with colleagues and make connections in the field.

Sign up now to receive specific information on social care and care policy research through this new easy-to-use means of communication.

Send an empty e-mail to: transformingcarenet+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

Automatically, you will receive an e-mail confirming your subscription.

If you're already a member of the TCN Mailing list, please ensure your e-mail address is up-to-date to continue receiving all communications. You can either sign up again with your new mail address or send an email to the Mailing list support, David Palomera, David.Palomera@uab.cat

You will find instructions on the use of the mailing list and general information about our privacy policy [here](#).

TCN Members' Panel

One of the goals of Transforming Care Network is to foster an open and participatory environment that effectively articulates and advances the needs and engagement of its members. With this purpose in mind, the TCN Members' Panel was initiated earlier this year.

The Members' Panel aims to provide a platform for TCN members to exchange ideas and experiences about research and publishing, as well as share their work with others. The Panel can also provide input on how to advance the Transforming Care Network and improve the quality and organisation of the conferences. The Panel activities are member-based and member-driven, and are mainly announced via the **TCN Mailing list**, so do sign up for this, see further below.

We are very happy that **Dr. Gülçin Con Wright and Dr. Rosie Read** have agreed to act as coordinators of the TCN Members' Panel. They can be reached here: gulcin.con@tedu.edu.tr and rread@bournemouth.ac.uk.

One of the first activities has been the organisation of the **TCN Members' Panel Writing Workshop** which will continue with two upcoming sessions in the Fall term.

The workshops provide a friendly space and protected time for writing. This activity is designed for established researchers and PhD students who are conducting their research in social care or related topics and are producing written outputs of any type (journal articles, PhD thesis, posters, grant applications, ethics approval, CVs, etc.).

During the workshop, participants may: share experiences and knowledge around their topics, discuss challenges around the writing, provide and receive critical feedback on their written output, build relationships potentially leading to future collaborations. In the next months, the sessions may also represent for the participants a supportive and informed environment to progress towards the submission of the conference papers for the 2025 Transforming Care Conference (June 25-27, Helsinki).

The workshops will be held online and last 3 hours. The schedule is the following:

10.00-10.15 | Greeting and introductions. Share goals for the workshop

10.15-11.30 | Work on individual projects: writing, editing, reading, making citations, etc.

11.30-11.45 | Comfort break. Participants can socialise, connect and informally discuss their work between them

11.45-12.45 | Work on individual projects

12.45-13.00 | Reflections how the session went. Optionally, participants may share what the next step in their process is

There are only a limited number of seats available on a first come, first served basis. We plan to hold additional writing workshops based on demand from TCN members.

Session 2 on December 17, 10.00-13.00 (GMT). Please register in advance by clicking [here](#).

Session 3 on January 14, 10.00-13.00 (GMT). Please register in advance by clicking [here](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. We look forward to your participation!

Scientific Corner

Who cares: The future of care (research), by Dr. Jana Javornik, University of Leeds, England.

In the 1920s, an electrical engineering company in the Chicago suburb of Hawthorne undertook a series of experiments to establish whether and how workplace conditions affected productivity. Known as the Hawthorne Effect, this study suggested a direct relationship between one's productivity and their working conditions. This was the first time the industry was asked to consider business efficiency from an employee's point of view as well as a revolutionary hypothesis that improvements in the work environment benefit the employer and the employee, with further societal effects. Yet here we are, a century later, still deep in the particulars of this very subject, with a key plank of some governments' legislative agendas, from the UK to Slovenia, starting to consider measures to rebalance power in the workplace. These include workers' rights to flexible working, a shorter working week, the right to disconnect, sick leave, parental leave, childcare. Governments and citizens are starting to rethink the ways that time is used and what work means in their lives, looking for other ways to have more time with families, in their

communities. These are the essential social rights at the intersection of work and private sphere for which many in our field have advocated, campaigned, and, importantly, offered evidence for decades.

Scholarship on care has long provided robust evidence that societies can and must do things differently, better. Inter- and multidisciplinary research I have contributed to over two decades has assessed policy designs, welfare state and employment regimes, covid-19 interventions, and evaluated their potential to serve as an effective resource for different social groups. Recently, we have highlighted that policymakers must improve evidence use to deliver better policies that work for diverse social groups, offering flexible conceptual and analytical tools such as a [capability approach](#), policy-related [indicator development](#), ways to capture [intra-country policy](#) variations, and [intervention plans using artificial-intelligence](#).

We have demonstrated that not all policy solutions are created equal. For example, our argument that a [four-day working week](#) does [not represent a universal solution](#) because it [ignores gender and class](#) has gained significant media attention. Research demonstrating that [shared parental leave](#) and [childcare](#) are neither [accessible](#) nor [affordable](#), nor do they serve all [groups of parents](#) equally, has informed numerous policy forums internationally. We offer a missing insiders' perspective on central-local tensions in policy delivery, focusing on the front-line [street-level bureaucrats](#), the [community](#), and [practitioners](#) involved in implementing and delivering policies on the ground. With the new generation of scholars, we raise important questions on flexible working, challenging mainstream economic thinking that overlooks issues of gender, social justice, inclusion and equity. We argue that while there may be more than [300 ways to work flexibly](#), the [flexible working accessibility](#) remains limited and availability conditional, hence reducing accessibility and reinforcing gender and class inequities and exclusions. All in all, we find that perfect policy implementation is hardly achievable locally, with practitioners facing normative dilemmas that often go unnoticed.

As a policy scholar who frequently moves between academia and policymaking, I have been a tireless advocate of evidence use. I share interest in knowledge mobilisation and evidence production and have identified the need to create an organised and funded system to improve evidence use (i.e. to put evidence into the hands of policymakers). Wearing two hats, I am also becoming increasingly frustrated with the narrowness of the academic understanding of research impact, often (mis)informed by research funding institutions and impact agendas. The approach to measure this often distorts what is considered valuable beyond academia; focusing on individual project's impact on societies suggests a basic misunderstanding of the way the world works and in which our research has an impact. In thinking new ways to effectively communicate evidence, transform research, and build an international evidence architecture for greater good, we launched a podcast series [The Business of Policymaking](#). In conversation with policymakers we aim to demystify the world of policymaking, debunk some myths about the evidence-based policymaking, and shine a light on the impact research

can have. My [guests explain](#) that it is collective body of knowledge that leads to impact rather than individual studies, suggesting how our dominant approach to measuring impact may obscure the understanding of the relations between scientific knowledge and society.

I have always found our field having significant real-life impact, not only through our research foci but through our community, networks, exchanges and engagements, as demonstrated by this newsletter. Contemplating the Zeitgeist and the future of our (still highly feminised) field, I think it is time for us to reimagine our research and to reassert our focus on the communal creation and sharing of knowledge that we contribute to the world.



Interested in contributing to the Scientific Corner?

We invite all TCN members to contribute to the Scientific Corner in the form of writing a short piece on e.g. theoretical and empirical contributions, developments in the field or book reviews.

If you are interested in proposing a topic, please contact Lea Graff, legr@vive.dk, or Maria Cheshire-Allen, M.Cheshire-Allen@Swansea.ac.uk

TCN Management Team: New members

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the TCN Management Team – Ester Gubert and Maria Cheshire-Allen. Recruited via an open application process at the Milan Summer School, Maria and Ester will support the Team in its activities including coordination of the newsletter, TCN book seminars, summer school, and communications.

Read below for a short introduction to Ester and Maria's work and research:

Ester Gubert is a PhD candidate in Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento, Italy, focusing on long-term care policies for older adults. She has two years of research experience at the European Research Institute of Social Economy and one year as a research fellow at the University of Trento. Ester holds a bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Ferrara and a master's in Methodology, Organization, and Evaluation of Social Services from the University of Trento. Her research interests include care and caring trajectories within formal public care, inequalities in access to public policies, local policy implementation, and social inclusion policies.

Maria Cheshire-Allen is a Senior Research Fellow at Swansea Centre for Health Care Economics and the Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research, at Swansea University. Her research experience is focused on unpaid care, adult social care, ageing, and social care markets. Her most recent work is focused on the role of

voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in the social care sector. She has published research in leading care and social policy journals and book chapters and has disseminated her research findings via podcasts and blogs. She established and currently chairs the Care Research Interest Group in Wales (CRIG) - a multidisciplinary cross-sector research group from across Wales including policymakers, practitioners, and unpaid carers.

TCN Spring/Summer schools

The **Spring School on Researching Care and Care Policy in Europe: Challenges for Care Resilience in Turbulent Times** was held from June 5th to 7th, 2024, at Politecnico di Milano, Italy. The event was supported by the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies and the Social Policy Lab (SPL).

The program featured keynote addresses exploring care across various policy fields, including:

- Kate Hamblin (University of Sheffield), who examined the challenges and opportunities presented by digitalization processes in care;
- Ingela Naumann (University of Fribourg), who encouraged a discussion on rethinking care regimes through the lived experiences of families;
- Ricardo Rodrigues (University of Lisbon), who addressed theoretical and methodological considerations of the time dimension in care inequalities.

In addition to the keynotes, the School hosted 27 participant presentations from diverse countries, discussed across seven panel sessions. These sessions focused on:

1. Access to care in old age
2. Equity and generosity in long-term care systems
3. Work-life balance and the gendered division of care
4. Care workers
5. Care policies and policy-making
6. Challenges of informal caregiving
7. Innovation in care and research on care

Participants highlighted the School's welcoming and open atmosphere, valuing the numerous opportunities to learn and share insights with both senior scholars and peers. Many expressed interest in seeing similar initiatives organised by the TCN, emphasising their importance for both professional development and networking.

Two participants shared their experiences of the Summer School below:

“The TCN School has been an exciting learning opportunity for the keynotes and the various participants' presentations. I liked the format because it gave all

participants a dedicated time to discuss their work with senior academics and our peers, which only sometimes happens in bigger conferences. Also, it worked very well in network building, as I have already had the chance to see some of the participants in other conferences and reach out to them about their research.”

“The TCN School 2024 provided a great opportunity to hear from leading scholars in the field as well as PhD students and ECRs all working to address critical gaps in understanding and responding to some of the key LTC across Europe. The program facilitated a sharing and supportive environment where emerging scholars could share ideas, methodologies, preliminary findings, and challenges. Discussions were encouraged, and the diverse perspectives of participants highlighted the complex landscape of long-term care across different European contexts. As always, the informal discussions during breaks and the social activities provided were particularly valuable and helped to nurture professional networks and friendships.”

Watch out for details of our upcoming TCN School in our next edition and in your inbox.

Got an idea for a book? Don't look for a publisher, you already have one!

[The Transforming Care Book series](#) is edited by Costanzo Ranci and Tine Rostgaard and published by Policy Press. The series editors welcome proposals for books that represent empirical and theoretical contributions on social care at a global level. The call for proposals can be found here:

policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/transforming-care

if you are interested in publishing in the series, contact series editors Costanzo Ranci, costanzo.ranci@polimi.it and Tine Rostgaard, tiro@ruc.dk. Authors and editors planning to submit a proposal can find the Policy Press instructions here:

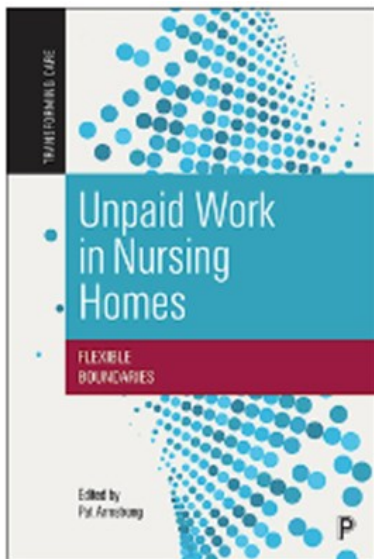
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There are now three books published in the series and more are on their way!

See more [here](#) for the upcoming book in the series, *Care Poverty and Unmet Needs – Inequalities in Theory and Practice*, edited by Teppo Kröger, Nicola Brimblecombe, Ricardo Rodrigues and Kirstein Rummery. The book, which will be Open Access, will be published in May 2025.

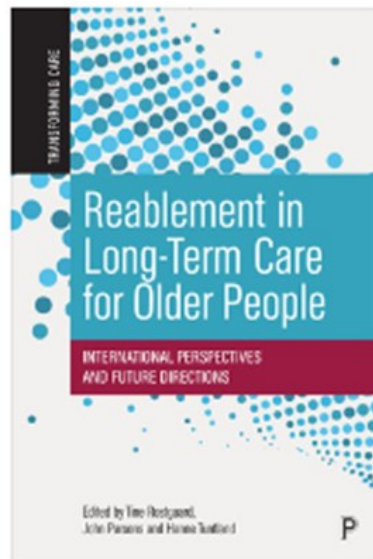
Shortly after, in June 2025, the fifth book in the series, *Long-Term Care and Older People in Western Europe – Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic*, edited by Eloísa del Pino and Francisco Javier Moreno-Fuentes, will be published. See more [here](#).

The first three books in the book series are already available from [Policy Press'](https://www.policypress.com/) [website](https://www.policypress.com/):



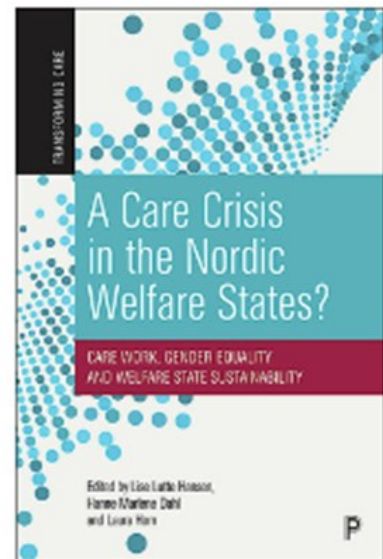
Unpaid Work in Nursing Homes

Edited by Pat Armstrong



Reablement in Long-Term Care for Older People

Edited by Tine Rostgaard, John Parsons and Hanne Tuntland



A Care Crisis in the Nordic Welfare States?

Edited by Lise Lotte Hansen, Hanne Marlene Dahl and Laura Horn



The Transforming Care book series seminars

So far, we have held three well-attended online book seminars where the authors of the books published in the Transforming Care book series have presented and discussed their books.

In the next online book seminar, the editors of the upcoming *Care Poverty and Unmet Needs* will present their book. The seminar is scheduled in summer 2025.

Slides from the book seminar are available from the TCN website, <http://www.transforming-care.net/book-seminars/>

Short news

The recently established Global Observatory on Long Term Care (GOLT) is a platform to facilitate cross-national learning to improve and strengthen care systems. The Observatory is part of the [International Long-term Care Policy Network \(ILPN\)](#) and was launched at the [ILPN Conference](#), in Bilbao in September 2024.

Find out more about GOLT by visiting the website <https://goltc.org/>

The International Journal of Care and Caring

TCN are pleased to collaborate with the [International Journal of Care and Caring](#), a multi-disciplinary and international journal publishing contributions covering care, caring and carers for people of any age and from all regions of the world.

The journal has a well-earned impact factor of 1,2 (2023) and a 2023 Scopus CiteScore of 2,6.



Contributions to the next issue of the TCN Newsletter

Share your news! Send in information that you would like to see in the next TCN Newsletter. **Deadline:** February 30th, 2025.

Send to transformingcarenet@gmail.com

The TCN web site

If you haven't visited already: come meet us at the [TCN website](#) where you will find all relevant information about the network, book series and seminars, and past and future conferences.
