

Transforming Care

TCN Newsletter
Summer 2025

**Welcome to the 2025
Transforming Care
Conference,
Helsinki, June 25-27th**



TCN Newsletter Summer 2025

Editorial

Dear colleague,

As summer approaches, so does one of our most anticipated events — the **Transforming Care Conference**. This year, we are pleased to welcome over **350 scholars from around the world**, promising a vibrant and engaging atmosphere. With an exciting lineup of keynote speakers, 14 Symposia and 35 Thematic Panel sessions, the conference is set to be a truly memorable occasion.

In this newsletter, you will find further details about the conference program and the many activities planned in Helsinki. This year introduces a new feature: the **first in-person meeting of the TCN Members' Panel**. The conference includes also some **“Meet the Authors” sessions**, providing opportunities for engaging discussions around newly published works.

We are proud to present in the newsletter **two new books in the Transforming Care Book series**: a book about care poverty, edited by Teppo Kröger, Nicola Brimblecombe, Ricardo Rodrigues and Kirstein Rummery; and a book about nursing homes during the pandemic, edited by Eloísa del Pino and Francisco Javier Moreno-Fuentes.

The newsletter also features the **Scientific Corner**, this time written by Professor Pfau-Effinger, who explores the need for considering cultural ideas in the explanation of welfare state developments.

We hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter and that we will see you in Helsinki.

Costanzo Ranci and Tine Rostgaard, TCN chairs
Contact: costanzo.ranci@polimi.it and tiro@ruc.dk

The 2025 Transforming Care Conference

The 7th Transforming Care Conference will be held from June 25-27th at the University of Helsinki, featuring 14 Symposia and 35 Thematic Panels.

The theme of this years is '**Social and Human Rights in Care**'. A number of distinguished **keynote speakers** will address this topic, including:

- Professor Tom Shakespeare, title: *Who cares? Disability rights and other rights*
- Professor Håkan Jönson & Associate Professor Tove Harnett, title: *The rights of older people in eldercare – a matter of comparisons*
- Professor Margarita León, title: *Children's rights and welfare paradigms?*

This year's **Round Table Discussion** will focus on “*Social and Human Rights in Long-Term Care and Disability Services in Finland.*” The discussion will focus on the case of Finland to give the conference participants opportunity to gain insight into the social policy debates and challenges in this country. Participants include Pirkko Mahlamäki (disability advocate), Päivi Topo (Ombudsman for Older People), Sanna Ahola (Expert, Finnish Human Rights Centre), and Professor Kirstein Rummery. The discussion will be chaired by Professor Teppo Kröger.

Over **350 scholars** have already registered for the conference. Attendees will have ample opportunities to connect, including at the **welcome reception**, the **conference dinner**, and a **special networking event for early-career researchers**.

Participants are also encouraged to attend the **TCN Members' Panel Meeting**, which offers an informal setting for sharing ideas about future activities and initiatives. Everyone interested in shaping the future direction of the TCN is welcome.

In addition, the conference will host several “**Meet the Authors**” sessions, where recently published books will be presented and discussed by their authors.

The conference will conclude with a **plenary wrap-up session**, providing a space to reflect on how to move forward the conference and the network.

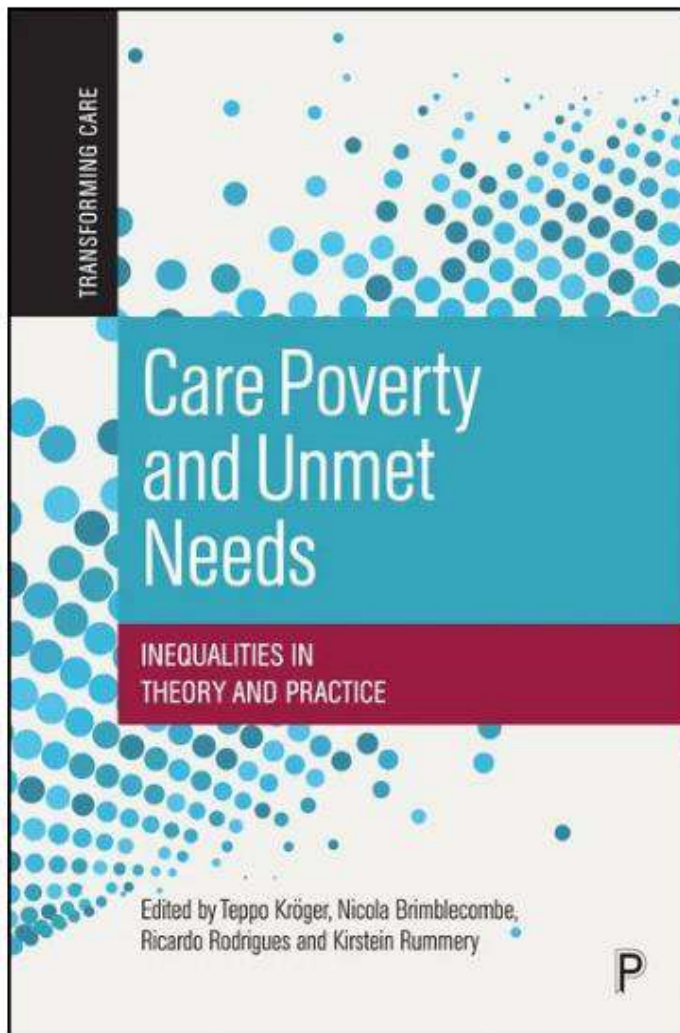
For further information about the conference and the full program, please visit the official website [here](#).

Special thanks to organisers **Teppo Kröger**, **Salla Era**, **Emilia Leinonen**, and colleagues **Sirpa Wrede** and **Lina Van Aerschot** for their efforts in creating what promises to be an outstanding academic gathering.

Out Now – Two new books in the Transforming Care Book series

We are pleased to announce the publication of **two new books in the Transforming Care Book Series**:

Care Poverty and Unmet Needs: Inequalities in Theory and Practice, edited by **Teppo Kröger, Nicola Brimblecombe, Ricardo Rodrigues and Kirstein Rummery**, Policy Press.



The book represents the first collective effort to apply the concept of care poverty to the analysis of unmet care needs and inequalities in care provision at the international level, from a social policy perspective.

It features pioneering empirical research alongside innovative theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of unmet needs and care poverty.

Its main contribution lies in developing an empirical and analytical perspective for examining the outcomes of care policies, integrating this approach with existing research on inequalities in care needs and access to care services. The book is structured into four parts.

Part I offers an introductory chapter that outlines the general concept of care poverty.

Part II includes chapters that introduce new conceptual frameworks and measurement strategies for studying unmet needs and care poverty. It features both theoretical contributions by leading scholars such as Rummery and Kelly, and methodological chapters by Hill et al. and Medgyesi et al.

Part III presents empirical analyses of care poverty and unmet needs across a variety of societal and cultural contexts, each chapter offering a unique perspective that expands our understanding of care poverty.

The national contexts covered include:

– the United Kingdom (Vlachantoni et al.),

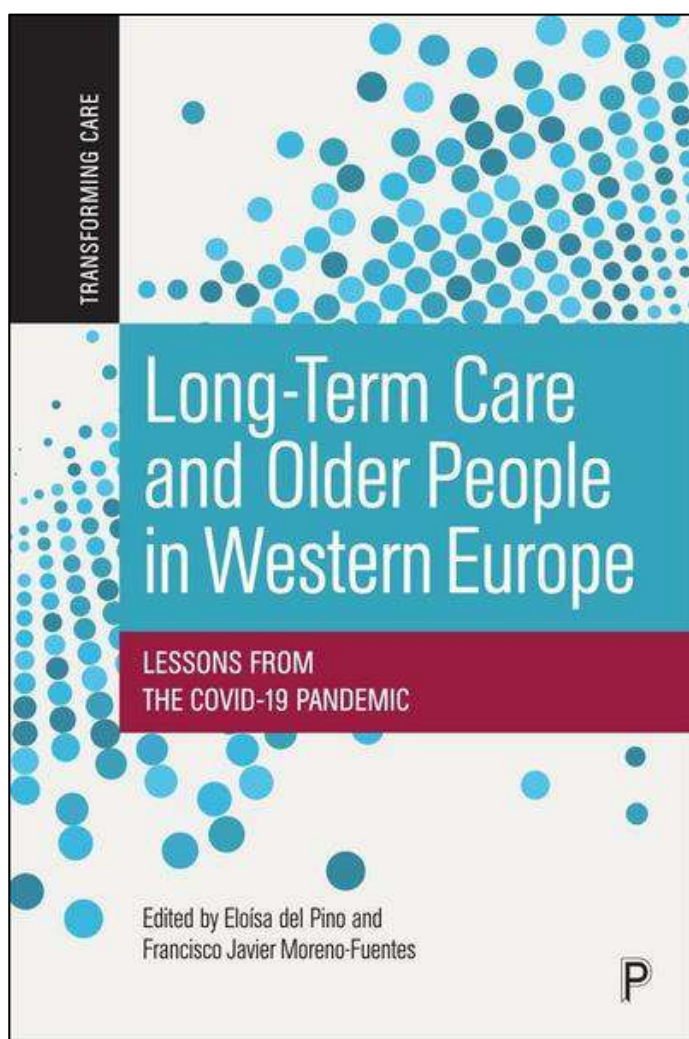
- Finland (Puthenparambil et al. and Aaltonen et al.),
- Denmark (Rostgaard),
- Slovenia (Potočnik et al.),
- Germany (Leiber and Bröker), and
- Sweden (Ulmanen).

Part IV concludes the volume with a closing chapter by the editors, summarizing key insights and suggesting directions for future research.



Long-Term Care and Older People in Western Europe.

Edited by Eloísa del Pino and Francisco Javier Moreno-Fuentes, Policy Press



The book will be out in late June. This edited volume examines the responses of long-term care homes for older people to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is based on a comparative study covering 15 Western European countries.

It analyses the preparedness of governments and homes and the structural weaknesses revealed and exacerbated by the crisis, such as staff shortages, the precariousness of employment in the sector, and the deficient coordination between the health and caring sectors.

By examining the governance structures of the care home sector and their performance before and during the crisis the book highlights the institutional, organisational and management challenges facing care homes, both in services to an increasingly ageing population and in the event of future public health crises.

The book includes 16 chapters, with three cross-cutting chapters and 13 national case studies. The national contexts covered include Austria, England, Finland,

France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden.

The book can be pre-ordered [here](#)

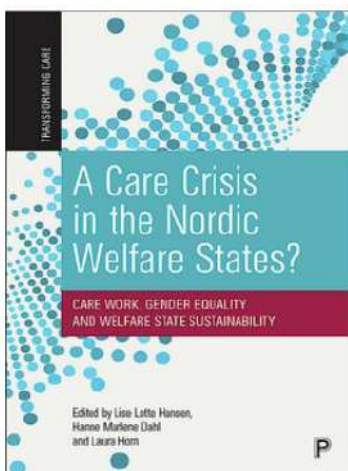
As a member of TCN, you can claim a **discount of 50%** when ordering books. Use the [CODE DSC50](#)

Book series editors: The series is edited by Costanzo Ranci and Tine Rostgaard with Policy Press.

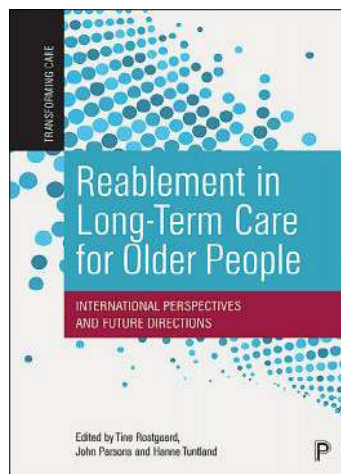


See the other books in the Transforming Care book series

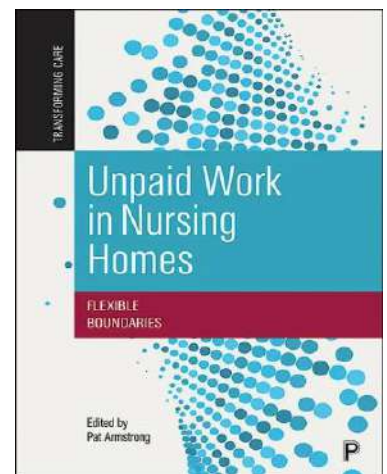
[A Care Crisis in the Nordic Welfare States? Care Work, Gender Equality and Welfare State Sustainability](#)
Eds. [Lise Lotte Hansen](#),
[Hanne Marlene Dahl](#) and
[Laura Horn](#)



[Reablement in Long-Term Care for Older People – International Perspectives and Future Directions](#)
Eds. [Tine Rostgaard](#),
[Hanne Tuntland](#) and [John Parsons](#)



[Unpaid Work in Nursing Homes. Flexible Boundaries](#)
Ed. [Pat Armstrong](#)



Call for new book proposals in the Transforming Care Book series

The Transforming Care book series forms a collection of the best research on social care globally. We welcome expressions of interest in all areas of care research and would particularly encourage scholars working on social care for children, adults with disabilities and/or older people. Contributions can be empirical or theoretical,

and come from disciplines of social policy studies, political science, economics, sociology, social work, anthropology and ethnography.

We invite early career, mid-career and experienced academics to submit expressions of interest in the publishing of monographs and edited volumes to its editorial team. The editors will consider and provide feedback on all expressions of interest.

Follow the link for more information on the [Transforming Care book series](#). 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 willing to submit a proposal can find the Policy Press instructions here: <https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/author-hub/submitting-your-proposal>



The Transforming Care book series seminars

We have held three well-attended online book seminars to date, where authors of books published in the Transforming Care book series have presented and discussed their works.

The book seminars offer a unique chance to hear directly from editors and authors, engage with their latest works, and participate in discussions with esteemed experts. **Slides and video recordings** from the previous book seminar are available from the TCN website, <http://www.transforming-care.net/book-seminars/>

We are delighted to confirm that the **next online book series event** will take place on 10 September 2025 14.00 CET, where Professor Teppo Kröger, Nicola Brimblecombe, Ricardo Rodrigues, and Kirstein Rummery will present and discuss their book 'Care Poverty and Unmet Needs: Inequalities in Theory and Practice.' Further details on how to register will be sent to all TCN members.



The TCN Members' Panel

TCN Members' panel is intended to give space for collective activities of TCN members' interests, such as discussing new theoretical advances, recent books, or the public implications of our research with policymakers, civil society associations, interest groups and citizens. The Panel also provides input on how to advance the Transforming Care Network and improve the quality and organisation of the conference. The panel has been active since April 2024 and organised [Research seminars](#) featuring TCN members' scholarly work and several [Writing workshops](#).

At this year's Transforming Care Conference in Helsinki, we would like to offer all TCN members the opportunity to meet informally in person. We welcome everyone who wants to be involved in the panel to come along. We are eager to exchange ideas about future events and activities of interest to TCN members.

Also, please send us your suggestions for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 research seminars. You can also join us in the [TCN mailing list](#) to receive specific communications on these and further seminars and send your comments and work to the rest of the members.

The Members' Panel is coordinated by **Dr. Gülçin Con Wright** (gulcin.con@tedu.edu.tr) and **Dr. Rosie Read** (rread@bournemouth.ac.uk).

The TCN Scientific Corner

A theoretical approach to the role of culture, welfare state institutions and social and economic structures in the work–family behaviour

by Professor Birgit Pfau-Effinger, University of Hamburg

Scholars have often argued that only welfare state policies that support public daycare for children lead to high employment rates of women with children under school age and high rates of children in public daycare (e.g. Esping-Andersen 1999). Undoubtedly, differences in family policies towards childcare contribute substantially to the explanation of cross-national differences in employment rates of mothers of children under age three. However, this argument neglects other factors, such as cultural, social and economic differences that could contribute to a more complete explanation.

I have developed and elaborated on a complex theoretical approach and introduced it into the international debate to try to explain why societies differ in the main ways parents behave in relation to their labour force participation, part-time work and organization of childcare when they are parents and how this differs from a gender perspective (Pfau-Effinger 1993; 1998; 2004a; 2023). This theoretical

approach emphasizes the mutual and partly incoherent and contradictory interrelations and dynamics acting between culture, welfare state institutions and social and economic structures at the macro level of a society in which women's and men's behaviour towards childcare and employment is embedded. It also highlights the importance of the profile of this societal context for the explanation of cross-national differences. I conceptualize this approach as a 'work-family arrangement' (Pfau-Effinger 2023) if the focus is more on work-family behaviour, as a 'gender arrangement' if the main focus is on the gender dimension of work-family behaviour (Pfau-Effinger 1998; 2004a) and as a 'care arrangement' if the focus is more on the care dimension (Pfau-Effinger 2005).

I argue that including culture in the explanatory approach can improve our understanding of cross-national and historical differences in people's behaviour towards childcare and the work-family relationship. My chosen definition of culture is the collective set of cultural values and models (together, 'cultural ideas') prescribing the 'ideal' behaviour of people in a society (Pfau-Effinger 2004a). According to my concept of culture, cultural ideas can be contradictory and contested, they can differ between regions and social groups within a society, and they are changeable.

I have also developed a theoretical ideal-typical classification approach for comparative and historical research that distinguishes different types of cultural family ideals, based on a multi-dimensional approach. It comprises the following criteria: (1) cultural ideas about the 'ideal' gendered division of labour between parents (e.g. with both parents acting as full-time employed breadwinners or women working part-time after childbirth or remaining temporarily at home, with men then acting as the full-time employed breadwinners); (2) cultural ideas about the 'adequate' relationship between women and men (hierarchical versus equal); and (3) cultural ideas about the 'ideal' form of childcare (parental care, care provided by the extended family or extra-familial care). These three dimensions are combined in different ways in the various ideal-typical cultural family ideals in my classification approach (Pfau-Effinger 2004a).

In various empirical studies, I have evaluated the potential of my theoretical approach to explain historical development paths and cross-national differences regarding the main forms of childcare and the degree and forms of the integration of women and men with care-dependent children into the labour market (e.g. Eggers et al. 2024; Jensen et al. 2017; Pfau-Effinger 1998; 2004a; 2005; Pfau-Effinger & Smidt 2011;).

Wanting also to explain why the strength of the cultural model of the male breadwinner family differed in European societies in the mid-20th century, I have shown that, historically, the positioning and power of the urban bourgeoisie in these different societies contributed to this explanation, since this class was the 'social carrier' of this cultural family model (Pfau-Effinger 2004b).

More recently, I have revisited my theoretical approach and started more in-depth work on some parts of it. The focus has mainly been on the ways in which coherent and incoherent relations between culture and family policy frame gendered work-family behaviour and theorize the causal mechanisms and processes on which women's and men's work-childcare behaviour in coherent and incoherent interactions between culture and family policy is based (Pfau-Effinger 2023).

Currently, I plan to connect this theoretical approach with an intersectional perspective that combines the gender, social class and ethnicity dimensions of social inequality. I am also working on further developments to explain cross-national differences between family care and extra-familial care in the behaviour of older people in need of care. Moreover, my research focuses on new trends in which more egalitarian cultural ideas about gender are contested by conservative and extreme-right actors in contemporary gender arrangements.

References

- Eggers, T.; Grages, C.; Pfau-Effinger, B. (2024). Informalizing childcare during the COVID-19 pandemic: Policy responses to childcare and their implications for working parents in Denmark, England and Germany, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 162, online first.
- Esping-Andersen, G. (1999). *Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jensen, P. H., Och, R.; Pfau-Effinger, B. Moberg, R. J. (2017). Explaining differences in women's working time in European cities, *European Societies*, 19, 2: 138-156.
- Pfau-Effinger, B. (1993). Modernisation, Culture and Part-time Employment - The Example of Finland and Germany, in: *Work, Employment and Society*. 7, 3, 383-410. (*The British Sociological Association, the Editors of Work, Employment and Society and SAGE have 2012 appointed this article as "favorite Work, Employment and Society article from the last 25 years"*)
- Pfau-Effinger, B. (1998). Gender cultures and the gender arrangement - a theoretical framework for cross-national comparisons on gender. *Innovation: the European Journal of Social Sciences*, 11, 2, 147-166.
- Pfau-Effinger, B. (2004a). *Development of Culture, Welfare States and Women's Employment in Europe: Theoretical Framework and Analysis of Development Paths*. New York: Routledge (e-book version 2017; Taylor & Francis)
- Pfau-Effinger, B. (2004b). Socio-historical paths of the male breadwinner model – an explanation of cross-national differences. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 55: 377–399.
- Pfau-Effinger, B. (2005). "Welfare State Policies and the Development of Care Arrangements." *European Societies* 7, 2, 321–347; reprint in Leira, A.; Lewis, J.; Saraceno, C. (eds.) (2012) *Families and Family Policies*, Cheltenham/UK; Northampton/ MA, USA: Edward Elgar.
- Pfau-Effinger, B. (2023). Theorizing the Role of Culture and Family Policy for Women's Employment Behavior, in Daly, M.; Pfau-Effinger, B.; Gilbert, N.; Besharov, D. (eds.). *The Oxford International Handbook of Family Policy*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Pfau-Effinger, B.; Smidt, M. (2011). "Differences in Women's Employment Patterns and Family Policies: Eastern and Western Germany", *Community, Work & Family* 14, 2: 217-232.

News from the Global Observatory of Long-Term Care (GOLTC)

Changing the Narrative on Long-Term Care and an update on the GOLTC, by Adelina Comas-Herrera, Director of GOLTC

The [Global Observatory of Long-Term Care \(GOLTC\)](#) is currently planning an all-day online event to mark the [International Day of Care and Support on the 29th of October](#), with the theme of "Changing the Narrative on Long-Term Care". The event will explore how new approaches to advocacy, new models of care, international collaborations and the use of evidence can help bring about policy change in Long-Term Care and make care more human. If you are interested in getting involved in the planning or would like to give a presentation, please email ilp-network@lse.ac.uk.

We are also delighted to announce that, as of May 2024, GOLTC has [565 members](#), with expertise on over 40 countries and a wide range of topics. We have now published [Long-Term Care system profiles for 15 countries](#), [4 method guides](#) (covering [Critical Discourse Analysis](#), [Theory of Change](#), [Difference-Differences](#) and [Propensity Score Matching](#)) and [9 blog posts](#). We are preparing topic guides, short publications that aim to give an overview of the state of knowledge on key LTC topics. We also have a growing searchable database

of [research projects](#), organised by country, topic and methods so you can find out about ongoing research in your countries, or on the topics you are working on.

The real motor of GOLTC continues to be the [Interest Groups](#), there are now 23 groups covering topics ranging from Ageing and Place, to Care and Social Protection in Southern Africa, Continence care and LTC, Integrated Long-Term Care, Migration Mobility and Care Workers, Unmet Needs and Workforce. The interest groups organise their series of webinars to share knowledge on their topic, you can see the videos of all the [GOLTC webinars so far here](#).

We are very happy to hear from people who would like to use the GOLTC platform to share their knowledge and experience on Long-Term Care, if you aren't a member yet you can become one by [filling in this form](#), and you are very welcome to get in touch with the team to discuss potential collaborations or how to showcase your work by emailing ilp-network@lse.ac.uk.

Join the Transforming Care Network Mailing list

We would like to remind all members of the Transforming Care Network (TCN) about our mailing list. **The mailing list offers an easy and effective way to share and receive information related to social care and care policy research.** It supports ongoing communication and knowledge exchange within our network, specifically for scholars engaged in research on early childhood education and care, care for adults with disabilities, and long-term care for older people.

To join the mailing list, just send an empty e-mail to:

transformingcarenet+subscribe@googlegroups.com. You will receive an automatic confirmation message. If you are already a member, please ensure your email address is current. If needed, you may re-subscribe with a new address or contact our mailing list support: David Palomera – David.Palomera@uab.cat. Instructions for using the mailing list and information on our privacy policy can be found [here](#).

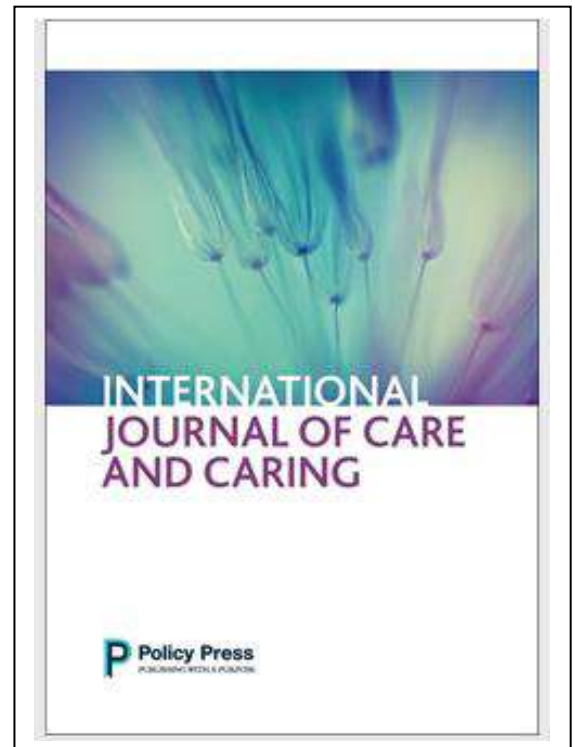
News from the International Journal of Care and Caring

The TCN is affiliated with the **International Journal of Care and Caring (IJCC)**.

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 is now indexed in Web of Science and Scopus.

Founded by Sue Yeandle, the journal is currently co-edited by a group of scholars: **Yueh-Ching Chou**, Michael Fine, Birgit Pfau-Effinger, Costanzo Ranci and Ricardo Rodrigues.

If you think the journal would be a valuable resource for teaching or research, consider asking your academic library to subscribe. This is also a way to support the dissemination of scientific knowledge about care and caring issues.



Volume 9, 2 (May 2025) includes (among other articles):

Family care in Germany and its gender-(un)specific patterns: an analysis using novel data from the German Socio-Economic Panel Innovation Sample, by Nadiya Kelle and Ulrike Ehrlich

Variety in carers' views regarding care responsibilities from an intersectional perspective, by Yvette Wittenberg, Rick Kwekkeboom, Alice H. de Boer, and Arnoud P. Verhoeff.

In the **Early View Section**, you find (among many others):

Carers of persons with dementia and the social consequences of caring, by Lina Van Aerschot, Ulla Halonen, Emilia Leinonen, and Teppo Kröger

How experts envision policy change for long-term care: a comparative review of dissemination pieces in Italy and England, by Ester Gubert

Reform policies and distribution struggles in the eldercare sector in Germany, by Hildegard Theobald

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: September 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.
