

Reconceptualizing social care: Contrasting classical and contested care policies and their gendered implications

By Prof. Dr. Agnes Blome (FU Berlin) and Dr. Eva-Maria Euchner (LMU Munich / FFH Düsseldorf)

Outline:

Much of the current comparative literature on social care is concerned with “classical” care policies such as elderly care and early childhood care. **Gender** plays a central role both in (paid) caregiving and entitlement to receive care as well as for political agency. Though indisputably a significant research area, it offers a narrow account that fails to examine important aspects of the field. Not least the COVID19-pandemic has re-directed the attention towards other groups of beneficiaries and forms of social care, called here “**contested care policies.**” This includes, for instance, palliative care for terminally ill people, care for migrants, disadvantaged families, or victims of domestic violence. Moreover, the pandemic has shifted our attention back to the relationship between paid and unpaid care provided by family, close relatives, friends, and neighbors. In many countries, the state withdrew from being a provider of social care and initiated a process of economization, which brought new **profit- and non-profit-oriented actors** on the agenda and promoted **informal care arrangements.** Seen in relation to contested care policies, these shifts draw the attention to different gender-related challenges, conflicts and inequalities, as well as new forms of governance and causes of policy change. For example, while an expansion of publicly provided child and elderly care is generally welcomed from a perspective of social investments in children and female employment, contested care policies such as assisted dying or palliative care receive less societal support and mobilize antagonistic political dynamics. Furthermore, contrasting classical and contested care policies opens up possibilities to advance an intersectional understanding of social care politics and implementation, e.g. by considering migrants not only as (informal) care-providers but as a group of care-receivers with own needs.

Explored from an internationally comparative perspective, this change of focus will substantially complement existing research on “classical” care policies and their **gendered implications** with new empirical, analytical, and theoretical insights. It is ultimately of vital importance for understanding inequalities in outcomes, coping strategies and cross-national differences in support for care policies today.

***Proposal is accepted to be published as Special Issue in the **European Journal of Gender & Politics**

Preliminary Program Workshop

Hybrid event:

- **Date:** Wednesday- Friday, **11-13 August 2021**
- **Location:** Akademie für Politische Bildung, Buchensee 1, De-82327 Tutzing, Tel.: +49-8158 256-0
- **Zoom-Link:** will follow soon

Program (CEST):

Wednesday, 11th of August 2021

- 16:00-16:30 *Welcome & Meet*
- 16:30-17:15 **Ledoux** (Université de Nantes): The power of for-profit providers in the politics and policies of home-based care in France
Discussant: Willers
- 17:30-18:15 **Benoit** (LMU Munich) /**Ciornei** (IBEI Barcelona) /**Euchner** (LMU Munich/ FFH Düsseldorf): Unpacking the religious factor in social care in a secularized age: confronting religion and attitudes towards classical and contentious care activities for elderly in Europe
Discussant: Mos (University of Amsterdam)
- 18:30 **Dinner**

Thursday, 12th of August 2021

- 8:15-9:00 **Breakfast**
- 9:15-10:00 **Reiss** (University of Zurich): Child Protection Policies – Analysis of a Paradigm Shift in Child Placement Policies
Discussant: Zechner
- 10:15-11:00 **Blum** (Fern Universität Hagen) /**Dobrotic** (University of Oxford): Pandemic childcare-policy responses in 28 European countries: A fuzzy-set ideal type analysis
Discussant: Sundsbø/Førland
- 11:00-11:15 *Coffee Break*
- 11:15-12:00 **Zechner** (University of Lapland): End of life care: At the boundary of social and health care
Discussant: Blum/Dobrotic
- 12:00-14:00 *Lunch Break (Lunch is at 12.45)*
- 14:00-14:45 **Sundsbø/Førland** (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences): Prioritization in Norwegian Municipal Health Care Services: Practices and Dilemmas in Defining WHICH Needs and Groups To Support, and WHERE to Place Responsibilities
Discussant: Reiss

15:00-15:45 **Mos** (University of Amsterdam): Digital platforms as a response to a fragmented social landscape
Discussant: Göcmen (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne)

16:00-16:30 *Coffee Break*

From 16:30 Free time

18:30-19:30 **Dinner**

Friday, 13th of August 2021

8:15-9:00 *Breakfast*

9:15-10:00 **Willers** (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México): Social care arrangements and experiences of care deficits of migrant families during lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic
Discussant: Ledoux

10:15-11:00 **Blome/Euchner**: Introduction Special Issue & brainstorming

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-12:30 General feedback to Special Issue and debate

12:45 *Lunch*

13:30 **End of Workshop**