

4TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Bozen/Bolzano 15 - 16 - 17 April 2014

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**Special interest group: Ageing, migration and care – Social Work Research
perspectives**

In the last two decades the interconnection of ageing and migration has become important in most of the European Countries.

This interconnection finds an expression in three research strands that are relevant for social work¹:

1. Migration and old age:

This topic spans over different target groups such as retired (1) migrants staying or returning, (2) international retirement migration, and (3) older people left behind while younger generations are leaving for work. It includes questions on life patterns, care provisions, and the relevance of the interrelation of migration, gender and welfare regimes.

2. Transnational family care and transnational social support:

Theoretically, different aspects of care and the transnational perspective are connected. Older people in this context are seen as care providers and receivers.

3. The provision of elder care by migrant care workers in domestic and institutional contexts.

This topic includes e.g. questions on the macro-level such as care drain and care chains, and on the micro-level, e.g. concerning the care interactions in institutional and family contexts.

¹ Cf. the first three points also: Horn, Vincent, Schweppe, Cornelia, & Um, Seong-gee (2013). Transnational Aging – A Young Field of Research, *Transnational Social Review – A Social Work Journal*, 3(1), 7–10

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All three topics include questions of how institutional, non-formal and family care arrangements are interdependent, and how care, welfare, gender and migration regimes have an impact on these arrangements.

The proposed SIG asks scholars who work on these three topics with different empirical and theoretical approaches on the micro-, meso- and macro-level to share their research experiences. The SIG has the following aims:

1. To make different network activities concerning these topics visible, interconnect them and give them a continuous presence in social work research.
2. Joint reflection on how the three topics can be discussed together. Questions within this aim could be:
 - Social work research: What is the role of social work research and what can different approaches highlight? How can social work research reflect upon its own involvement into social constructions of "ageing migrants"?
 - Social work practice: What can be reconstructed in empirical research at the intersection of formal and informal arrangements of care and what do we learn about social work as an actor who has an impact on the accessibility of social service provision and also exclusionary effects?
 - Social Policy: How does social policy and welfare state arrangements influence strategies and practices of different actors?
3. Exchange about possible joint research questions from a social work perspective that could be interesting to treat together in future research projects.