

# Transforming Care

## TCN Newsletter

Spring 2024

**TCN Summer School and  
Members' Panel**



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## Editorial

Dear colleague,

we are pleased to announce that the **Call for sessions for the next TCN Conference** will be released in the coming weeks. Our biennial conference will take place in Helsinki, Finland, from June 25th to June 27th, 2025. The conference will be organized by Professor Teppo Kroger and a highly active group of researchers based at various universities across Finland. As you can read in this newsletter, the conference will address the complex theme of social rights and human rights, which has become increasingly important on the policy agenda and, we hope, in scientific research of care as well.

Concurrently, our network has introduced several new activities. In the newsletter you can read about the **TCN Spring School** in Milan, June 5th-7th, that has attracted a large participation of 29 Early career scholars from various European countries. This is an important opportunity for young researchers to connect, exchange ideas and research results, and initiate new collaborations.

We have also launched a **TCN Members' Panel** based on a meeting held last January. We now have a group of coordinators who launch a survey in this newsletter to gather input and prepare a program of activities and events. They ask also for the personal interest of any TCN member in this activity. Though independent from the TCN core activities, the Members' Panel presents a great opportunity for active member involvement. We are sure the activity of the Panel will enrich our network.

Finally, in this newsletter, we introduce a new section called the '**Scientific Corner**', where we invite you as a TCN member to write a short piece on theoretical and empirical contributions, developments in the field or book reviews. To initiate this activity, Teppo Kroger from the TCN Scientific Committee presents his research on care poverty.

Sincerely,

Costanzo Ranci and Tine Rostgaard, TCN chairs

Contact: [costanzo.ranci@polimi.it](mailto:costanzo.ranci@polimi.it) and [tiro@ruc.dk](mailto:tiro@ruc.dk)

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## The Transforming Care Conference 2025

The 7th Transforming Care Conference will be held in **Helsinki, Finland in June 2025**. The theme of the conference is '**Social and Human Rights in Care**' and it will discuss

different rights-based approaches and their potential contribution to care research, policy and practice.

The conference will take place from **Wednesday 25th June 2025 to Friday 27th June 2025** in the recently renovated Main Building of the University of Helsinki, in the very centre of Helsinki.

Keynote speakers for the conference will be announced in **June 2024, together with a call for thematic panels and symposia**. You will receive information about the call in your mailbox and you can also follow the conference at the [TCN website](#).

We will welcome a variety of panel and symposium proposals that explore the main theme of the conference from different perspectives. There will also be space for thematic panels and symposia that discuss care research from other perspectives.

As with previous Transforming Care conferences, the scope of the conference will include care and support for older persons and disabled people, as well as childcare. Critical and comparative approaches are especially welcome. Based on the accepted thematic panels, a **call for papers will be opened by November 2024**.

The vibrant city of Helsinki, nicknamed 'the Daughter of the Baltic', is at its best in the summer, with almost 24/7 daylight. The conference will offer a rich academic and social programme and will continue the tradition of the Transforming Care conference series of bringing together the global community of care researchers in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

The conference is organised by the Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care (CoE AgeCare), the University of Helsinki, the University of Jyväskylä and – of course – the Transforming Care Network. Welcome to Helsinki in June 2025!

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## Launching the TCN Members' Panel

One of the aims of the Transforming Care Network is to be an open and participatory network that can articulate and advance the needs and common participation of its members. We have therefore invited you to take part in the organisations of a TCN Members Panel.

The Panel is intended to provide space for collective activities of your interest, 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 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 intended to be member-based and member-driven.

In January 2024, a Teams-based workshop was held for those interested and it was agreed to launch the Members' Panel. Our colleagues [Gülçin Con Wright](#), Professor, TED University, Turkey, [Dr. Rosie Read](#), Bournemouth University, England

and [Ieva Stončikaitė](#), University de Lleida, have kindly agreed to head the Members' Panel and invite you to indicate your interests for being a member and the activities that should be organised in this [survey](#). For the Members' Panel to match your interests, this survey also aims to gather information about your research interests and areas of expertise. As far as possible please complete the survey by 30.05.2024:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeezIGK4Dye2kZYLuj88H1BWDJaBoOExjw8H\\_sU4baCaaPR3Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeezIGK4Dye2kZYLuj88H1BWDJaBoOExjw8H_sU4baCaaPR3Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Also, an online meeting will be held June 20th, where the responses from the survey will inform the planning of the Panel's work. The meeting is open for all TCN members, If you are interested in taking part in this meeting, please send an email to [gulcin.con@tedu.edu.tr](mailto:gulcin.con@tedu.edu.tr). Communication between the Members Panel and members of TCN will take place in our **TCN Mailing List**. So, this is another good reason to join the TCN Mailing list. See further below in the Newsletter section how to do so.

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## TCN Summer School in Milan June 2024

We are very happy to have received many applications for the [Summer School](#) and look forward to meeting you June 5-7<sup>th</sup> in Milan. The 29 participants will have the opportunity to learn from both senior scholars and their peers, while presenting and discussing their work in panel sessions, improving their understanding of the main issues and challenges for care and care policies in Europe.

The Summer School will include keynote addresses on care across different policy field:

**Kate Hamblin** (University of Sheffield, UK): *Digital Technology and Care: Roles, Risks, Realities and Rewards.*

**Ingela Naumann** (University of Fribourg, Switzerland), *Family life between choice, compromise and sacrifice: rethinking care regimes from a "lived experiences" perspective*

**Ricardo Rodrigues** (University of Lisbon, Portugal), *Inequalities and time, inequalities across time – adding a time dimension to the study of inequalities in care*

Also, a total of 27 presentations by participants will be discussed in 7 panel sessions focused on:

- Access to care in old age
- LTC systems: equity and generosity
- Work-life balance and the gendered division of care
- Care workers
- Care policies and care policy-making
- The challenges of informal caregiving
- Innovation in care and in research on care.

The Summer School is this year organised by the Polytechnic of Milan, and we hope to make this a recurrent event, so contact Costanzo and Tine with suggestions for organising a Summer School at your institution.

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## **NEW: Scientific Corner**

### ***Care poverty as a new approach in care research, by Professor Teppo Kröger***

In 2005, I published a book chapter in Finnish, analysing the care-work reconciliation strategies of lone parents in five European countries, based on our FP5 SOCCARE project. The conclusion of the paper was that several lone parents did not have adequate formal or informal childcare resources and, thus found themselves in a situation that I called 'care poverty', where neither the children's nor the parents' needs were being met. In 2010, these findings were published in [a journal article in English](#), and about ten years later, in 2019, I applied the same concept to care for older people, together with Lina Van Aerschoot and Jiby Mathew Puthempambal, in [an article published in the International Journal of Care and Caring](#).

That article linked the concept of care poverty to the literature on 'unmet needs', which had grown rapidly in Europe in the 2010s, following American gerontologists who had developed quantitative methods since the 1990s to analyse situations where older people's needs for support in their daily activities were not sufficiently met. US research had focused especially on the prevalence, determinants and consequences of unmet needs, and European research followed suit. While our SOCCARE project was primarily a social policy project, based on a qualitative comparison of five different welfare states and their service provisions for families, studies of unmet needs were usually based on local or national survey datasets and focused more on the individual level than on the structures of the society or the policies of the welfare state.

In 2022, I published the Open Access book [Care Poverty: When Older People's Needs Remain Unmet](#), in which I sought to develop the care poverty approach further. A particular inspiration for the book was poverty research and its links to discussions about social inequalities. Research on poverty has a long tradition and many interesting sub-concepts that might be useful in analysing care systems and so I ended up in formulating concepts such as 'absolute care poverty' and 'relative care poverty', the former referring to the total absence of any informal or formal care, despite of having care needs, and the latter referring to inadequate support even in situations where some support is available. The book also distinguishes three different domains of care poverty: personal care poverty (lack of adequate personal care), practical care poverty (lack of adequate support for practical care needs, i.e. for instrumental activities of daily living) and socio-emotional care poverty (lack of adequate social and emotional support). The book then summarises the findings of previous research on these three domains and on absolute and relative care poverty. It also aims to summarise what is known about the links between social



inequalities and care poverty, and to make comparisons between countries' long-term care systems, based on the limited comparable data that is available. The book argues that it is necessary for researchers and policy-makers alike to start focusing more on the outcomes of care policies – that is, whether or not they succeed in meeting the needs of older people – and to link this discussion to an understanding of social inequalities in our societies.

To support this discussion at an international level, I and Nic Brimblecombe from the LSE's Care Policy and Evaluation Centre (CPEC) organised an international workshop in January 2020. This led to the organisation of a research network, which the group called Unmet Needs, Inequalities and Care Poverty (UNICAP). The network is currently preparing a joint book on the subject, which is hoped to be published in early 2025. In 2024 UNICAP also plans to join the Global Observatory of Long-Term Care (GOLTC) as an Interest Group. When this happens, anyone interested will be welcome to join the network.



### **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](mailto:legr@vive.dk), or Tine Rostgaard, [tiro@ruc.dk](mailto:tiro@ruc.dk).

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### **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:

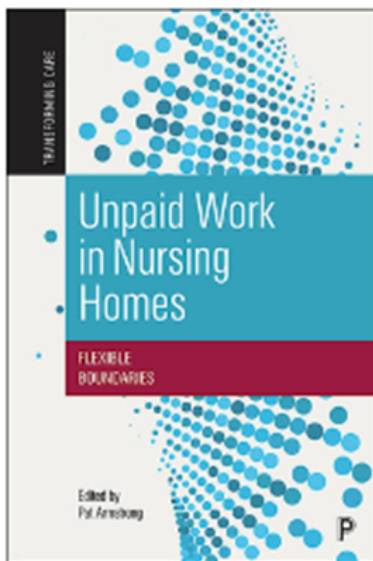
[policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/transforming-care](https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/transforming-care)

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

[bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/author-hub/submitting-your-proposal](https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/author-hub/submitting-your-proposal)

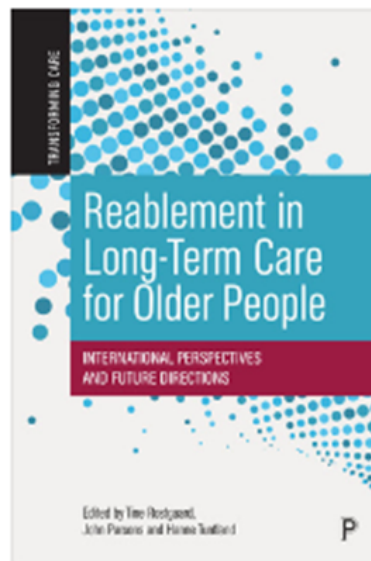
There are now three books published in the series and more are on their way! See more [here](#) for the latest book, *Unpaid Work in Nursing Homes - Flexible Boundaries*, edited by Pat Armstrong.

Three books in the book series are now available from [Policy Press' website](#):



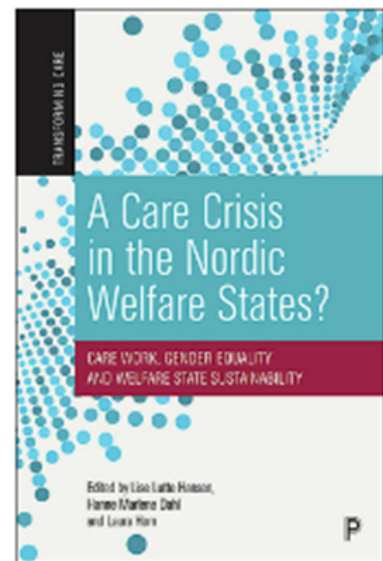
### **Unpaid Work in Nursing Homes**

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**

We have until now 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.

Dec 4th Pat Armstrong and her colleagues held a well-attended seminar presenting their book *Unpaid Work in Nursing Homes - Flexible Boundaries*. Slides from the book seminar are available from the TCN website, <http://www.transforming-care.net/book-seminars/>

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## **Short news**

The [Global Observatory of Long-Term Care \(GOLTC\)](#) is a new platform to facilitate cross-national learning to improve and strengthen care systems. It aims to identify shared challenges in relation to Long-Term Care and showcase how different countries and localities are addressing them, as well as sharing research evidence

and supporting collaborations. The Observatory is part of the [International Long-Term Care Policy Network \(ILPN\)](#) and builds on the [LTCcovid.org](#) collaboration.

GOLTC is organised around key topics in Long-Term Care, research tools and methods to address these topics, and geographical areas, and for each of these you can find [experts](#) interested in those topics, [research projects](#), [interest groups](#), [publications](#) and [events](#). To join the GOLTC all you need to do is to create a profile using this [link](#). The main motor of GOLTC are the [interest groups](#), we have 13 so far and are keen to hear from people interested in forming new ones, each interest group has its own webpage and webinar series. We are also growing a library of [methods guides](#) and [LTC system profiles](#).

If you would like to find out more about how to engage with GOLTC, please email [ilp-network@lse.ac.uk](mailto:ilp-network@lse.ac.uk) .

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## **Missing out? Join the Transforming Care Network Mailing list**

We would like to remind everyone of our TCN Mailing list, created to facilitate the continuous exchange of information, ideas, and opportunities within our network and dedicated to the members of TCN. We invite all of you to communicate with TCN members through this easy-to-use means of communication.

### **Content:**

You can use the mailing list to share information on social care and care policy research. This may include information about academic conferences and events, publications, working papers, calls for papers, invitations to seminars and workshops, information about courses or schools focused on care policy, opportunities for early career scholars, policy documents or developments you may want to inform about.

### **How to post via the TCN mailing list:**

Posting and sending messages via the group is easy. Send an email to the group address [transformingcarenet@googlegroups.com](mailto:transformingcarenet@googlegroups.com), and all subscribers will receive your message in their email boxes. All messages sent via the group will be marked with [TransformingCare] in the heading of the mail. Note that you can reply to the sender of the email only (reply function) or to the whole group.

### **Where to find the TCN mailing list in your browser:**

You can always see the conversations and change your subscription settings in the following link: <https://groups.google.com/g/transformingcarenet>

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

[transformingcarenet+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](mailto:David.Palomera@uab.cat)

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

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### **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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Send to [transformingcarenet@gmail.com](mailto:transformingcarenet@gmail.com)

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### **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.