

New Tensions related to Care in European Welfare States

Research team

Care between Work and Welfare in European Societies

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Welfare State Change, the Strengthening of Economic Principles and New Tensions in Relation to Care

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WP02
Reconciling Work and Family Life

Research task coordinators

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Research questions

- Which are main new tensions that are related to childcare and elderly care in European welfare states?
- How is it possible to explain cross-national differences in this regard?
- Which particular tensions are the result of welfare state policies that have introduced marketization and consumerism in the field of care and care work?
- And why do the consequences of marketization and consumerism differ between different European welfare states?

The analyses include structures of care as well as welfare state policies towards care.

Constructing a common research framework

The cross-national analyses are framed by a multi level concept of 'tensions' that is based on historical institutionalism.

So far, the proponents of historical institutionalism did not develop an explicit theoretical concept of tensions.

The multi-dimensional approach to 'tensions' relates to the cultural, institutional and social levels of society.

Main research findings

In the field of care and care work, new tensions have developed that refer to the situation and social citizenship of those in need of care and those who provide care.

These include tensions at the cultural, institutional and social levels.

Particular tensions result from the strengthening of market principles and the introduction of consumerism.

These relate mainly also to

- the relationship between care giver and care receiver,
- the quality of care,
- the degree to which the care that people in need of care receive matches with their expectations.

However, the ways in which welfare states have introduced market principles and consumerism in the field of care differ strongly. This is a main reason why also the tensions differ in degree which result from such policies.

Publication outputs

Care between Work and Welfare in European Societies

Edited by Birgit Pfau-Effinger and Tine Rostgaard
Palgrave Macmillan, 2011 (Work and welfare in Europe series)

Tensions Related to Care in European Welfare States by Birgit Pfau-Effinger and Tine Rostgaard

Theorising Care and Care Work by Anneli Anttonen and Minna Zechner

Family Childcare in the Cultural and Institutional Context of European Societies by Birgit Pfau-Effinger

Tensions in Family Policies in Post-Communist Central Europe by Steven Saxonberg

Nordic Child Care: A Response to Old and New Tensions? by Guðný B. Eydal and Tine Rostgaard

Tensions Related to the Transition of Elderly Care from an Unpaid to a Paid Activity by Per H. Jensen and Rasmus Juul Møberg

Under Tension: Formal Care Work with Older People by Teppo Kröger

Tensions Related to Care Migration: The South-North Divide of Long-Term Care by Tine Rostgaard, Carlos Chiatti and Giovanni Lamura

Migrant Carers in Elder care Provision: Interaction of Policy Fields by Hildegard Theobald

Cash for Care Schemes and the Changing Role of Elderly People's Informal Caregivers in France and Italy by Barbara Da Roit and Blanche Le Bihan

Welfare State Change, the Strengthening of Economic Principles and New Tensions in Relation to Care

Edited by Birgit Pfau-Effinger and Tine Rostgaard
Special issue of the *Nordic Journal of Social Research*, to follow, 2011

Tensions between 'Consumerism' in Elder Care and the Social Rights of Family Carers: a German-Danish Comparison
by Birgit Pfau-Effinger, Per H. Jensen and Ralf Och

Strengthening of Economic Principles in Elderly Care in Denmark – Tensions between Central and Local Government
by Barbara Fersch and Per H. Jensen

Towards the Marketisation of Early Childhood Education and Care? Recent Developments in Sweden and the United Kingdom
by Ingela Naumann

Care as you like it: The Construction of a Consumer Approach in Home Care in Denmark by Tine Rostgaard

The Landing of Market-Based Practices within the Nordic Care Regime: Is Work Satisfaction of Care Workers at Risk? by Teppo Kröger

