

Geneva, 7-10 September 2011  
**ESA 10th Conference**  
Social Relations in Turbulent Times

# Abstract Book



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FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES  
ÉCONOMIQUES ET SOCIALES  
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## **Abstract Book**

European Sociological Association (ESA)  
University of Geneva & Swiss Sociological Association

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more, elderly care is a process which needs seven days and 24 hours demands foreign nationality care givers. In our research, this "care triangle" was studied with 32 families living in Ankara and in Istanbul. In this study, it was made interviews with 32 elderly people, 32 care givers all are foreign nationality women, and 43 close relatives of elders. The study will be concluded by presenting positive and negative effects for each side in elderly care process. This presentation mainly focused on problems or negative effects for each three sides.

### THE MANY LIVES OF WOMEN CARING FOR AN ELDERLY PARENT WITH ALZHEIMER IN PORTUGAL

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*Abstract:* Portugal like other European countries is facing an increasing number of elderly persons suffering from chronic disease, and Alzheimer's disease (AD) in particular.

Focusing more specifically on daughters, the paper explores how, in a context of a high rate of female employment and low availability of services, women do experience and face the situation, both at the practical and symbolic levels.

Drawing on qualitative interviews with daughters providing care to one of their parent with AD while working, we investigate what are the main care arrangements set up by families.

Adopting a work-life balance perspective, the analysis highlights different patterns of caregiving, according to how the child faces this new situation and defines new ways of being together in a situation of loss of references. Those patterns are also linked to various attitudes toward formal care services. We examine the main difficulties carers have to face, the coping strategies they develop, as well as the different patterns of reconciling work and care.

We will show how, in order to face the caring needs of persons suffering from AD, complex care arrangements are required. Moreover, in order to reconcile work and care, both demanding tasks, daughters rely upon various kind of support. Care arrangements are organized most often by combining informal and formal care, in and outside the house, in a complementary form.

The paper will also present how caring while working is highly challenging and has important repercussions on carers' personal and social lives, as well as on their professional lives. However, most often family plays a central role and is willing to assure this crucial task even when working. In fact, although working induces constraints, it is also mentioned as a resource to face the caring situation.

### WORKING CAREGIVERS AMONG POLISH POPULATION 50+

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*Abstract:* The presentation focuses on the group of carers aged 50 and more, with a special regard paid to the group of working carers in comparison to the non-working cares.

Poland may in the future face a serious problem of provision of informal (via family networks, family members) and as well formal care services (not sufficient system of institutions providing elderly care, which additionally are not very positively perceived by the society) for older people on sufficient level. The presentation joins to the discussion about the role of individuals 50+ in adult care and elderly care in Poland, the effects of caregiving for carers and how it might evolve in the future while care demand will increase. What impact do the care responsibilities have on the labour market participation of caregivers aged 50-plus in Poland? What impact do care responsibilities have on everyday life of the caregivers? In what way does the reconciliation of work and care influence the psychical and psychological wellbeing of the carers?

The analysis shed some light on better comprehension of the situation of working caregivers and the problem of reconciliation of work and care in Poland. Regression modeling provides clear conclusion that the likelihood of being sad and depressed is much higher in the situation of dual burden or work and care, rather than in situation of single burden - either work or care. As many working carers are not able to quit work or care, the direction for improvement of their situation would be to introduce solutions helping them combine these obligations. Such improvements could be introduced by employers, local and central governments, welfare care systems, health care institutions, or private companies.

The presentation presents data and results (for Poland) of few international projects. Firstly, it refers to the results of qualitative project "Carers @ Work" (aimed at working carers). Secondly, it uses data from ASPA quantitative survey (first such big, nationwide survey among Polish employers about older workers). Thirdly, it bases on data from SHARE survey (international survey on population 50+).

### THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL CAREGIVERS: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE FAMILY AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXTS

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*Abstract:* Population aging has become an emerging problem in society. The combination of several factors led to an increase in life expectancy, which is reflected in a number of people with a more advanced age and therefore more dependent. Thus, this led to greater demands for formal and informal support. In this sense, with this study we aimed to (i) know the type of care which are provided to the older people, by Formal and Informal Caregivers; (ii) understand the perspective of Formal and Informal Caregivers about the care provided, in family and institutional contexts; (iii) identify the main difficulties involved in providing care for the Formal and Informal Caregivers and (iv) identify the support (e.g. social, technical) that are delivered to the caregivers.

This study used two questionnaire surveys. A survey consisting of thirteen closed questions was applied to ten Formal Caregivers (FCs), employees of a Private Institution of Social Solidarity, in a city of the north of Portugal. Both were female, aged between 20-59 years. The second survey consisted of fourteen closed questions and was applied also to ten Informal Caregivers (ICs), living in the rural area of the same city. Nine were female and one was male,

aged between 40-65 years. A comparative statistical analysis was used.

Results had show that the FCs provides social and physical care, while the ICs provide emotional and physical care. Participants consider as priority care, physiological, psychological and social care. FCs appointed two reasons to exercise this function: like to work with older people and like to feel competent. For the ICs, the reasons are being familiars of the elderly and therefore feel they have the obligation and duty to exercise that function. Both indicated that the main difficulty is the physical fatigue. Moreover, the FCs point to a lack of cooperation from the elderly and ICs indicate the lack of housing conditions and technical support. Despite these issues, they consider institutionalization as an alternative. They believe that the elderly are satisfied with the care provided.

### **PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE ACTIVITIES AMONG PORTUGUESE OLDER ADULTS**

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*Abstract:* This paper explore the impact of social networks on the uses of free time on leisure and social activities throughout the aging process, giving particular attention to the processes of transition, particularly in the transition to retirement, widowhood or even for situations of dependency caused by health problems.

The data were collected from eight focus groups and from a representative survey of the Portuguese population over 50 years, conducted within the research project: *Ageing processes in Portugal: time use, social networks and living conditions* of the Institute of Aging, University of Lisbon.

The analysis identifies the diversity of trajectories and transitions to retirement, as well the differential impact on the reconfiguration of recreation and leisure occupations of individuals from different social groups. The survey shows that the practice of leisure and social activities varies depending on the configuration of their social networks, which result are related with social demographic attributes, such as gender, education and social economic status. Finally, the results suggest a strong association between engaging in leisure activities and social activities and quality of life of individuals.

### **RETIRED WOMEN IN FRANCE : BETWEEN VOLUNTEERING AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

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*Abstract:* In the collective imagination, the world of women is one of giving and relationships. This quality as donor, women are traditionally confined to the domestic sphere. This way of thinking was imported into the public sphere and they are now expected to act through volunteering. At retirement, the individual is faced with a hand full of time, and may, if desired, adjust his time by incorporating various activities, including volunteering and helping relatives.

The communication will aim to tackle the question of structuring the time of retired women, whose gift is one of their characteristics, both in terms of the public sphere with the volunteering as

well as the private sphere with the family involvement. The time for retired women is likely to be organized around these two forms of engagement and new forms of interaction they prefer.

We ask ourselves the daily impact volunteering has on retirees, and how they articulate and reconcile that commitment with potential family involvement. By examining their life course and the organization of their time, we seek to answer these questions.

### **SOCIAL CAPITAL OF THE ELDERLY IN POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ON THE EXAMPLE OF POLISH ACTIVISTS IN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS**

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*Abstract:* Engagement in various community organizations may expand social network of the elderly and contribute to reduction of their social isolation. The problem is of increasing importance in the face of demographic tendencies emerging in the western world.

Social networks may be examined in view of the support and care that they may provide for the elderly free of charge (where the elderly appear to be recipients). Application of the perspective of the social capital allows to notice that the elderly perceive themselves as members of partnership networks that transgress in their intentions (and sometimes in their consequences) particular interests of individuals and their nearest environment, and expectations that they have of religious movements, community groups and organizations concern mainly other cases.

Situation of the elderly in Poland differs from that of their peers in western countries: (i) Although they are equal in their level of education, their education activity is less intensive. Reasons for the situation do not pertain to legal regulations, but social norms – it is said that youth is the appropriate time for studies. (ii) The engagement in local communities of the elderly in Poland is typically rather low, they hardly enter the public space, save for healthcare related institutions (medical centers, hospitals). (iii) Problems of this group are rarely presented in media, and even if they appear, they are influenced by the old age negative stereotype. (iv) Their problems rarely become a focus for politicians.

Since religion and religious structures – related to the Church or religious denominations – are one of the enclaves of public space, where presence of the elderly seems – also to themselves – natural, I am going to analyze: (i) the process of the social capital emerging as a result of participation of the elderly in religious organizations; (ii) social consequences of that process (for the participants, local communities, the society).

### **THE ACTIVATING AND MARGINALIZING FUNCTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE. THE POLISH CASE**

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*Abstract:* Nowadays, the Universities of the Third Age (UTA) are one of the most popular forms of continuing social and intellectual activity in retirement. Currently, only in Poland there are