

International Workshop 23.06.2025

Migration and intergenerational care: Local and Transnational Perspectives

International migration has given rise to the phenomenon of transnational families, where members, despite geographic distance, maintain ties that engender a sense of unity and belonging (Bryceson and Vuorela, 2002). A salient challenge for these families pertains to transnational caregiving, particularly for those who remain in the countries of origin. This predicament is particularly pronounced for older adults, who are often unable to migrate and are reliant on their migrant children to ensure their well-being.

This situation is further exacerbated in contexts of forced migration resulting from protracted humanitarian crises or irregular migration, which make it difficult to acquire legal status in host countries. Even after settling in 'safe' countries, forced migrants face numerous challenges, including restrictive immigration regimes, economic and political insecurity in both host and home countries, and difficulties in meeting the care needs of ageing parents at home and of their own family in an immigrant context.

Concurrently, in countries grappling with a care crisis, migrant women play a pivotal role in the provision of reproductive labour. The externalisation of these tasks to "other" women, predominantly migrants with precarious residence permits, can be attributed to the commodification of care work in industrialised countries (Lutz, 2017). These workers, who often operate in unstable conditions with limited social protections (Ricard-Guay, 2016), simultaneously serve as local and transnational caregivers, providing support in the households where they work while also caring for their own families in their countries of origin.

This international workshop addresses these dynamics through two interconnected axes:

Transnational caregiving for older adults in contexts of humanitarian crises: The workshop explores the experiences of Venezuelan migrants in South America and Syrian migrants in Europe, revealing the complexities and similarities of transnational caregiving strategies in situations of vulnerability. This approach seeks to decentralize traditional migration studies by fostering a dialogue between South-South and South-North experiences.

Dealing with vulnerability in local (and transnational) caregiving contexts: The workshop examines the experiences of migrant caregivers in host countries who play a central role in addressing the care deficit in industrialised countries. These women, often from crisis-affected or third countries, provide essential care under precarious working conditions, with minimal legal protection and limited social recognition. Moreover, the challenges faced by migrant mothers within the host context are examined. The analysis highlights the intersections of gender, race, class and precarity in care work, and strategies for coping with these precarious situations and securing wellbeing and the care of families are presented.

The event aims to provide an integrated perspective on the local and transnational dynamics of care, emphasising both family strategies and the structural implications underpinning these processes.

Program

09:30 - 10:00 Welcome coffee & Introduction: Myrian Carbajal, HES-SO//HETS-FR & Nadia Baghdadi, Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences OST

10:00 - 10:45 Keynote "Research on Transnational Care in Vulnerable Contexts: Ethics, the Power of Representation and Reciprocity": Yvonne Riaño, Université de Neuchâtel

11:00 - 12:00 Session 1: Transnational caregiving practices in protracted humanitarian crisis contexts

Chair: Robin Cavagnoud, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP)

- Decentering Liminality: Transnational Caregiving among Syrian Refugees in Switzerland and Their Parents in Syria. Myrian Carbajal, HES-SO//HETS-FR, Ihssane Otmani, HES-SO//HETS-FR, Nadia Baghdadi, OST.
- Challenging Borders and Roles: The "Sandwich Generation" in Venezuelan Migration to Peru. Robin Cavagnoud, PUCP, Aroma Calderón, PUCP.
- Caring for parents in Venezuela from the precarious situation of migration in Chile. Carolina Ramírez, Universidad Central de Chile, y Carolina Stefoni, Universidad de Tarapacá-Chile
- Care in Venezuelan Transnational Households: An Approach from the Perspective of Those Who Stayed in the Country. Anitza Freitaz, Universidad Andrés Bello Venezuela

12:00 - 12:30 Discussion

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch time

13:30 - 14:15 Poster Session: Amplifying the Voices of Migrants and Parents

Chair: Ihssane Otmani, HES-SO//HETS-FR

- Young Refugees and aspirations in Switzerland. Ihssane Otmani, HES-SO//HETS-FR
- Older Migrant Domestic Workers. Emma Gauttier, HES-SO//HETS-FR
- Venezuelan migrant youth and transitions to adulthood. Between the negotiation of transnational care and the construction of individual aspirations. Melissa Villegas, PUCP.
- Family well-being & migration in Switzerland. Irini Papaioannou, OST.
- Cuidar a los padres y madres desde lejos: circulación de cuidados emocionales, materiales y prácticos en contexto de envejecimiento y migración Sur-Sur. Carolina Stefoni, Universidad de Tarapacá-Chile, Carolina Ramirez, Universidad Central de Chile, Robin Cavagnoud, PUCP, Myrian Carbajal, HES-SO//HETS-FR.
- Giving voices to migrants and parents: quotations or narratives of interviews in Chile, Peru, Switzerland, Venezuela SNSF-SPIRIT Project ["Transnational caregiving in protracted humanitarian crisis migration: Syrian migrants in Switzerland and Venezuelan migrants in Chile and Peru"](#).

14:15 - 15:00 Session 2: Dealing with vulnerability in local (and transnational) caregiving contexts

Chair: Carolina Ramírez, Universidad Central de Chile

- The Dual Burden in Times of Covid-19: The Case of Migrant Domestic Workers in Switzerland. Myrian Carbajal, HES-SO//HETS-FR; Emma Gauttier HES-SO//HETS-FR, Christina Mittmasser, HES-SO//HETS-GE; Milena Chimienti, HES-SO//HETS-GE.
- Transnational live-in careworkers in Switzerland: persisting challenges and potential ways forward. Karin Schwiter, Labour Geography Research Group, University of Zurich
- The Complexities and Challenges of Immigrant Motherhood. Nadia Baghdadi, OST – Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences

15:00 - 15:30 Discussion

15:30 - 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 - 16:30 Round Table: Tensions between Care and Migration regimes: Future Directions

Chair: Ihssane Otmani, HES-SO//HETS-FR

- Claudio Bolzman, HES-SO//HETS-GE
- Marion Repetti, HES-SO//Valais-Wallis
- Sarah Schilliger, SPUR, ETH Zurich
- Carolina Stefoni, Universidad de Tarapacá-Chile

16:45 – 17:00 Wrap-up and perspectives: Myrian Carbajal, HES-SO//HETS-FR , Nadia Baghdadi, OST, Robin Cavagnoud, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP)

This workshop is organized by the Swiss team of the SNSF-SPIRIT Project [“Transnational caregiving in protracted humanitarian crisis migration: Syrian migrants in Switzerland and Venezuelan migrants in Chile and Peru”](#):

Prof. Dr. M. Carbajal, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO), School of Social Work Fribourg (HETS-FR), myrian.carbajal@hefr.ch

Dr. I. Otmani, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO), School of Social Work Fribourg (HETS-FR), ihssane.otmani@hefr.ch

Prof. Dr. N. Baghdadi, OST – Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work, nadia.baghdadi@ost.ch



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