

CALL FOR PAPERS – Deadline for abstract submission: 15th of March 2014

IMISCOE 11th Annual Conference “Immigration, Social Cohesion and Social Innovation”, Madrid, Spain, 27-29 August 2014

‘Ageing Migrants’ Research Initiative

Research panel: **CARE BY AGEING MIGRANTS: INTER-GENERATIONAL TRANSFERS FROM GRANDPARENTS TO THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS**

Organized by: **Dr. Ruxandra Oana Ciobanu**, Researcher, University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland and **Dr. Mihaela Nedelcu**, Associate Professor, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Referring to “care by” ageing migrants, the literature on active ageing underlines that older migrants engage in intergenerational transfers within and outside their families. Taking care of grandchildren or of the children of acquaintances can assure an active life and make ageing persons feel useful. Thus, on the one hand, ‘ageing-in-place’ migrants are assuming active roles within younger generations in host countries (Dimova and Wolff 2008)¹. On the other hand, transnational intergenerational solidarities increasingly involve short and frequent back-and-forth mobilities of the ‘stayed-home’ grandparents – the so-called “Generation Zero” (Nedelcu 2009)² – in spite of immigration, age or gender constraints.

As Kilkey and Merla³ (2013) showed, care arrangements within transnational families are embedded in complex systems of interaction between (1) mobility/immobility of care givers and care receivers; (2) existent resources such as mobility aptitudes, time, finance, education, social relations, technology, etc.; (3) and national and transnational institutional frameworks (migratory and gender regimes, Nation-State regulations, transportation and communication regimes, etc.). Moreover, care within transnational families does not presuppose physical co-presence as information and communication technologies largely facilitate “virtual intimacy” (Wilding 2006)⁴ and “virtual co-presence” (Baldassar⁵ 2008, Nedelcu 2009). New innovative ways to express intergenerational solidarities at a distance emerge, and grandparents are significant actors of these dynamics. By providing various types of care and support (childrearing, housework, ethnic food, cultural continuity, moral support, etc.), both in situations of co-presence or physical separation, they are heavily contributing to the success of the migratory project and the integration of their adult children. Migrant seniors ‘ageing in place’ also develop active lifestyles, and take significant roles within enlarged family, as well as ethnic communities. Nevertheless, the social contribution of these populations is rather invisible in migration studies as well as political discourse.

¹ Dimova R. and Wolff F.-C. (2008) “Grandchild Care Transfers by Ageing Immigrants in France: Intra-household Allocation and Labour Market Implications”. *European Journal of Population* 24: 315–340.

² Nedelcu M. (2009) “La generation zéro: du sédentaire à l’acteur circulant. Effets de mobilité sur la génération des parents des migrants roumains hautement qualifiés à Toronto à l’ère du numérique », in G. Cortes et L. Faret (eds) *Les circulations transnationales. Lire les turbulences migratoires contemporaines*. Paris_Armand Colin, pp. 197-198.

³ Kilkey M. and Merla L. (2013) “Situating Transnational Families’ Care-Giving Arrangements: the Role of Institutional Contexts”. *Global Networks*.

⁴ Wilding R. (2006) “Virtual intimacies: family communications across transnational borders”. *Global Networks*, 6:125-142.

⁵ Baldassar L. (2008) “Missing Kin and Longing to be Together : Emotions and the Construction of Co-presence in Transnational Relationships”. *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 29 (3): 247-266.

This session invites papers from various disciplines (sociology, anthropology, social work, psychology,...), based on recent empirical research, that question and discuss the role of the grandparents as actors of (transnational) migrant family dynamics and care arrangements. More specifically, they should address questions such as: how intergenerational transfers from grandparents to younger generations express in migratory contexts and what kind of material and non-material support are they offering? What kind of care arrangements generates this type of solidarity within (transnational) migrant families? How are grandparents and adult migrants adapting and adjusting (their lifestyles, ones to another's needs, to societal expectations and constraints) to put into practice these solidarities? How are information and communication technologies contributing to deal with alternate situations of co-presence and separation? What are the institutional facilities or constraints which impact on these intergenerational transfers?

To submit a paper for this session, please send a proposal with the paper title and an abstract of max. 250 words, together with your name and institutional affiliation to Ruxandra Oana Ciobanu (oana.ciobanu@hesge.ch) or Mihaela Nedelcu (mihaela.nedelcu@unine.ch) no later than **15th of March 2014**.

Accepted participants will be notified by 20th of May 2014. They are required to upload full-length papers (no more than 60'000 characters) through the conference website no later than 1st of August 2014. To facilitate discussion and exchanges, these papers will be circulated in advance to the session's participants and each paper will be assigned a discussant.