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Immigrant Care Workers and the Invisible Welfare: Why the Social Order Depends on Alien Labour

Elderly care is a fundamental societal challenge in developed countries, as the progress of health care has prolonged human life, and care systems have to be adapted to assure suitable assistance for frail elderly persons. The Italian welfare regime has responded to the challenge of a growing demand for elderly care without changing its main features (i.e., the central role of households and domesticity), but incorporating immigrant women as care workers in domestic settings. Here a 'triangle of care' is established, involving frail old people, relatives as 'care managers' and immigrant 'careworkers'. As these immigrants at the beginning very often were irregular from a legal point of view, Italian families have played a crucial role in regularization campaigns for unauthorized immigrants. The recent amnesty (2020) confirmed this trend. The article highlights the importance of immigrant labour for Italian (and Southern European) society and families. This issue could not be more evident than in the case of assistance to the elderly: here the beneficiaries are not conventional employers eager for profit, but traditional families with care needs. The effort to improve the working and living conditions of immigrant workers, however, should not be dismissed. In the conclusions, the article develops some proposals to improve this aspect.

Maurizio Artero, Senyo Dotsey

Domestic Care Work: Problems and Requests Emerging from the ‘Triangle of Care’

In Italy, like in many post-industrial societies, eldercare has gone through a profound transformation. Today, the elderly are increasingly assisted in their homes by external workers, who often hail from abroad. Many scholars tend to see this eldercare arrangement, also named ‘migrant-in-the-family model’, as intrinsically inegalitarian. Within this context, we look at three intertwining questions: the disposition toward alternative forms of eldercare; the main issues emerging within the ‘migrant-in-the-family’ model; and the possibility of revising the eldercare model. To address these questions, we built on an archive of in-depth interviews within the so-called ‘triangle of care’ – care managers, the elderly care recipients, and migrant domestic eldercare workers. Our findings reveal that the elderly home care, via the ‘migrant-in-the-family’ model, still remains the preferred approach to providing Long-term Care in Italy. Though bedevilled with problems, domestic eldercare represents a strategic choice for Italian families as well as migrant workers. Based on the findings emerging from the study, we proffer four practical policy recommendations to improve the model in the future: better and easier financial assistance; increasing the role of the welfare state; introducing holistic help-desks; and reviewing policies on qualification and its valorization

Minke Hajer, Claudia Zilli

Constraint or Vocation? Changing the Narrative of the ‘Familization’ of Employment Relations between Migrant Live-in Care Workers and their Employers

The Italian system for Long-term Care for the elderly relies heavily on live-in care work, mostly performed by migrant women. There is a complex and ambiguous system of informal relationships between the care workers and their employers. Care workers often describe their employers as ‘family-like’ persons, and vice versa. When the relationships between care-workers and their employers become more familiar the line between formal job requests and personal favours can blur. Literature regarding care work identifies this as a potential cause of exploitation of care-workers by their employers. In this article, however, we suggest that creating family-like relations between care workers and their employers is a deliberate strategy of both Italian families and care-workers themselves. For families it is a way to cope with the fragile

health or closeness to death of their elderly family member. Yet, family-like relations can also be particularly important for care workers. While they are usually perceived as victims of this type of ‘unbalanced’ employment relationship, we argue how they can use these relations to develop forms of agency and empowerment.

Ilaria Madama

Social Innovation and Long-term Care Policies: A Place-Based Conceptualization Drawing from the Italian Case

Over the past fifteen years, the concepts of innovation and social innovation have acquired increasing importance in public discourse and in the reform agendas at the European level and in several member states. The interest has become even more central in the decade following the Great Recession, when social innovation appeared capable of satisfying the need to make social protection systems not only more adequate in dealing with new and old social risks, but even more sustainable in terms of costs. The rapid aging process underway in Europe and the condition of non self-sufficiency among elderly people are among the most frequently cited challenges - alongside long-term unemployment, social exclusion and poverty - to justify the need to stimulate the processes of social innovation.

In this context, the article has a twofold goal. Firstly, drawing from the results of the InnovaCARE research project, the analysis proposed here intends to clarify the contours of the concept of social innovation and, in particular, its meaning in the specific context of long-term care (LTC) policies targeted to frail elderly people. Secondly, the article has the ambition to take a further step in the conceptualization of social innovation in the context of LTC, contextualizing it with specific reference to the Italian case. To this end, the article offers a place-based empirical validation of the concept of social innovation in the field of LTC in Italy, suggesting lines of action aimed at overcoming some of the key weaknesses that affect the current policy scenario.

Beatrice Magni

Vulnerability and Agency: The Case of Ageing

A common understanding of vulnerability is generally assumed in our everyday discussions of ethical problems as well as in philosophical dealings with questions of ethical and political relevance (Straehle 2016). Insofar as

vulnerability is presumed to be a pervasive feature of the human condition, it underlies our notions of harm and well-being, interests and rights, equality and inequality. Simply put, it is only because one is vulnerable that one can be harmed (or benefited). Yet, given its status as an inevitable condition of human existence, the aim of this paper is, firstly, to provide an overview and analysis of the concept of vulnerability. The second part of the paper will identify some normative proposals to replace the conventional conceptions of vulnerability, with special attention to the relationship between vulnerability and agency (Harrosh 2012; Martin et al. 2014; Sangiovanni 2017; Giolo 2018), and the relational dimension of vulnerability (Mackenzie 2014). Recognizing that those persons considered to be most vulnerable, such as the elderly, can also exercise agency, might eventually suggest that we can defend a new, unconventional and more normative use of vulnerability itself.

Franca Maino, Federico Razetti

Beyond Immobility: In Search of Innovation in LTC Policies

Available analyses agree on the opportunity to follow some clear lines of innovation to address growing functional pressures exerted by demographic transformations on welfare systems' sustainability. In spite of that, a sort of paralysis characterizes Italian national policies for the elderly, based on the ongoing centrality of the family and direct cash transfers. At the subnational level, however, some innovations can be singled out. This article presents, on the one hand, some innovative projects developed in Lombardy since 2015. On the other hand, based on the evidence emerged from two focus groups among experts organized within the *InnovaCare* research project, it explores some possible factors hindering or facilitating the innovation itself. The analysis highlights three sets of conditions – policy-making style, political and instrumental resources available to the actors – likely to expand or reduce the room for innovating LTC policies at the subnational level.

Guido Travaini, Chiara Mellace

Criminological Consideration on Aging Care. A Review of Different Studies between Risks and Opportunities

World's population is aging rapidly. This growth in the share of older people goes with a decline of the global average fertility rate, and, on the other hand, with the spread of a new family structure, the so-called nuclear family or single-person household. In order to face these changes and the related problems

for the healthcare system, living arrangement and care support for older people have become increasingly important.

Especially in the past decade, new devices have been developed with the aim of improving assistance for the elderly. One example are assistive robots, machines provided with artificial intelligence and human resemblance, which are able to interact with its owner. The use of these kind of robots for assistive purpose is the subject of philosophical and bioethical debate. Nevertheless, we believe that some additional criminological considerations could be useful. Indeed, robots like these, though potentially useful, can be exploited for non-ethical and illegal intents.

In this paper, we will attempt to give a description of assistive robots and of the risks associated with the use of these devices. After this, we will conclude that with the befitted prevention strategies it is possible to stem the tide of criminal misuse of these robots.

