

The Carework Network

presents

"Carework: Research, Theory, and Advocacy"
a pre-conference of the American Sociological Association

August 11, 2000
Howard University
Washington, D.C.

WELCOME!

The Carework Conference Steering Committee welcomes you to "Carework: Research, Theory, and Advocacy", a conference sponsored by the Carework Network. The Carework Network is an organization of researchers, policymakers, and advocates involved in various domains of care work. Participants from all academic disciplines and advocacy organizations who take various approaches to the study of care work and care work policy are invited to participate in the Carework Network.

The Conference Steering Committee:

Francesca Cancian, University of California, Irvine

Sheila Jones, Catholic Charities USA

Demie Kurz, University of Pennsylvania

Andrew London, Kent State University

Rebecca Reviere, Howard University

Mary Tuominen, Denison University

SPECIAL THANKS TO

- Florence Bonner for donating conference space at Howard University
- Odette Davis for coordinating conference registration
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- Amy Armenia for serving as the carework network list serve administrator
- Meeta Advani for coordinating the conference website
- Paula England and Jackie Litt for coordinating plenary speakers
- Sally Bould and Jackie Litt for coordinating lunch table discussions
- Hanna Wartenberg for coordinating the publications table

TO SUBSCRIBE THE CAREWORK NETWORK LISTSERVE

Contact Amy Armenia, the Carework Network listserv administrator at:
careadm@soc.umass.edu.

TO ACCESS THE CAREWORK NETWORK WEBSITE

For continuing activities of the Carework Network log on to
www.sas.upenn.edu/wstudies/carework

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION

Fine Arts Building

9:00-10:30 PLENARY

Evelyn Nakano Glenn, University of California, Berkeley
"Reproducing Inequality: Race, Class and Caring Labor"

Vivian Gadsden, University of Pennsylvania
"Constructing Caregiving within Families: The Tension between Policy Mandates and the Cultural Need for Difference and Integrity"

Kari Waerness, University of Bergen, Norway
"Care work in the Scandinavian Welfare State - How is it Changing in Late Modernity?"

10:30-10:45 BREAK

10:45-12:15 MORNING PANEL SESSIONS

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Panel 1. Caregiving, Politicization and Activism

Panel Organizer: Lynet Uttal, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Presider: Irene Kyle, Family Day Care Services, Toronto

Pam Herd and Madonna Harrington Meyer, Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, "Care work: Invisible Civic Engagement"

Theoretically and with reference to literature on caregiving work, (demographic and theoretical), Herd and Meyer emphasize that care is not a woman's issue but a citizenship issue. They argue that care work not only energizes, but in fact, is civic engagement.

Mary Tuominen, Denison University, "The Politicization of Paid Care Workers: Organizing and Activism Among Childcare Providers"

Tuominen's ethnographic analysis of childcare organizing 1) reveals the limitations of theories of political, economic and labor sociology in explaining political consciousness and activism among paid care workers; and 2) contributes to the development of new theories and models to facilitate effective organizing among the diverse women who comprise the childcare workforce.

Nancy Naples with Marnie Dobson, University of California, Irvine, "Care, Community Activism, and Citizenship: Towards a Multiracial Feminist Social Democratic Praxis"

Comparative research on Aboriginal women and African American and Puerto Rican women employed by the state leads to a reconsideration of the politics of community caretaking. These community caretakers were drawn to community work based on their commitment to further social justice and oppose institutional racism in their communities.

Panel 2: Networks of Care

Organizer/Presider: Andrew S. London, Kent State University

Sally Bould, University of Delaware, "Families in Suburban Neighborhoods: Are There No Helping Networks?"

The suburbs have been characterized as neighborhoods lacking in connectedness. This paper analyzes information from 296 suburban neighborhoods in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States in order to identify those neighborhoods with extensive helping networks. This paper focuses on the nature of helping networks in these cohesive neighborhoods in terms of building a more connected family life style.

Rebecca Glauber, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and Amy Armenia, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "In Sickness and in Health: Gender Differences in Caring for Well and Disabled Parents"

Using nationally representative data, this paper examines gender differences in caregiving to parents, including the provision of financial, emotional, and practical care, and the intensity of such care. Furthermore, we aim to situate differences in caregiving within larger systems of inequality, as well as within differences in employment and family characteristics.

Rannveig Traustadottir, University of Iceland, "Rejected Carers: Gender, Caring and Marginalization"

Traustadottir uses an ethnographic approach to examine the experiences of women with disabilities, lesbians and immigrant women who are often marginalized with respect to gender and caring.

PANEL 3: Structuring Carework: The Welfare State and the Sites of Carework

Panel Organizers: Judith Wittner, Loyola University and Naomi Gerstel, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Presider: Judith Wittner, Loyola University, Chicago

Discussant: April Brayfield, Tulane University

Jackie Litt, Iowa State University, "The Public Mother: Visibility and Regulation in the Lives of Low-Income Mothers on Public Assistance"

In soliciting government services for their families, poor mothers are regularly positioned as potential offenders to child safety. Through ethnographic interviews

with low-income women, I examine the signs that public welfare officials use to measure maternal harm (e.g. "bad" housekeeping and "lax" discipline) and women's responses to them.

Heather M. Fitz Gibbon, The College of Wooster, "Child Care Across Sectors: A Comparison of the Work of Child Care in Three Settings"

This paper compares child care work across three sectors of the industry--for-profit centers, non-profit centers, and family day care. Through interviews and participant observation, I examine the relationship between the structure of the child care operation and the nature of care provided.

Stacy Oliker, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, "Challenges for Studying Care after AFDC"

Mandatory work after the end of AFDC may propel changes in the care of children and elders of single mothers. Using social network analysis and data on families under AFDC, this paper suggests how changes in norms and beliefs about care may make it difficult to discover changes in practices.

Panel 4: Cultures of Care

Organizer/Presider: Elaine Bell Kaplan, University of Southern California

M. Rivka Polatnick, Center for Working Families, University of California at Berkeley, "Issues of After-School Care at the Middle School Level"

Based on research in a California urban area, this study addresses the challenges of providing school-based after-school care for middle school students. The focus is on the different agendas, attitudes, and needs of students, their diverse working parents, school and after-school staff, and funding agencies.

Linda Ann Treiber, North Carolina State University, "The Care-Cure Dilemma: Straddling the Faultline Between Nursing's and Medicine's Way of Knowing"

This paper critically examines dichotomous thinking and its effects on the gender based division of labor in the health care profession where "curing" is the province of male physicians and "Caring" is associated with women's work. The analysis will show that health care has been distorted, producing an unequal relationship between curing and care.

Panel 5: Revaluing Care Work

Panel Organizers: Judith Wittner, Loyola University and Naomi Gerstel, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Presider: Naomi Gerstel, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Discussant: Margaret Nelson, Middlebury College

Christine Morton, University of California, Los Angeles, "From Private to Public: The Emergence of Labor Support Professionals within Maternity Care"

This paper examines the contours of woman-supported childbirth as it is transforming from a community based practice into a newly defined caring profession. The doula, or labor support person, provides emotional and physical support and information advocacy as a paid caregiver to birthing women in home and hospital settings.

Cameron Macdonald, University of Connecticut. "Love and Money: Recognizing and Valuing Care Work"

Macdonald presents a comparative analysis of work re-valuation strategies among childcare workers and nurses. Workers use a variety of approaches that ultimately reinforce the gendered binaries of love /money, instinct/skill, and altruism/selfishness. She considers strategies that re-frame this binary to recognize all aspects of paid care work.

Lynet Uttal, University of Wisconsin, Madison, "Going Public: Why Child Care Work is still Women's Work"

Feminists assumed gendered divisions of reproductive labor would disappear when reproductive labor was socialized. Yet, childcare work remains highly gendered even in the form of a market-based service. This paper will examine why caregiving in childcare arrangements remain the primary responsibility of women, both as mothers and as childcare providers.

12:15-1:30 LUNCH

with table discussions of care work issues

1:30-3:00 AFTERNOON PANEL SESSIONS

PANEL 6: Defining the Quality of Care in Childrearing

Panel Organizer: Lynet Uttal, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Presider: Marjorie DeVault, Syracuse University

Francesca Cancian, University of California, Irvine, "Conceptualizing 'Good' Childcare: Pitfalls and Possibilities"

A shared standard of good care is necessary, if caring is viewed as "skilled" work. Existing standards of care used by experts and others usually reflect white middle class values and life situations. In particular, responsive nurturance has become a hegemonic standard that undermines standards of working class and many immigrants and non-caucasian groups. An alternative standard of care is suggested.

Mignon Duffy, Sociology Department, Brandeis University, "The Destiny of Biology: An Exploration of the Relationship Between Biological Reproduction and Parenting Care Among Lesbian Couples"

Duffy uses in-depth interviews with lesbian parents to explore the connection between biological relationship and care relationship. The meanings of biology in relationships with birth mothers, non-birth mothers, and male donors are examined, focusing on the implications for care work obligations and privileges. Duffy argues that these families are redefining the relationship between biology and care, undermining the notion that “biology is destiny”.

Scott Coltrane and Michelle Adams, University of California, Riverside, “Gendered Carework in Mexican American Families: Predicting Men’s Empathetic Parenting”

Interviews and multivariate data analysis suggest two general patterns of men’s involvement in Mexican-American working-class family life: paternalism and egalitarianism. Fathers’ empathetic and supportive care work is embedded in social contexts and is inversely related to mothers’, suggesting a compensatory rather than emulative model of couple parenting behavior.

Irene Kyle, Family Day Care Services, Toronto, “Contradictory Constructions of Carework: Contrasting Public and Private Notions of “Good” Caregiving”

Kyle looks at the definition of quality in family day care based on comments of Southern Ontario providers. Providers’ accounts expand the definition of quality beyond the usual professional focus on child development to a consideration of the circumstances of the careworker. Providers’ definitions also suggest many carers bring a sense of personal agency and “ethics of care” to their understanding of carework.

PANEL 7: European and North American Childcare and Elder Care: Cross-National Perspectives

Panel Organizers: Sally Bould, University of Delaware, and Michaela Schunk, University of California, San Francisco
Discussant: Sally Bould, University of Delaware

Katrin Kriz, Brandeis University, “A Tale of Two Countries: How Family Policy Shapes the Distribution of Childcare Work in German and British Families”

This paper explores the role that German and British family policies play in shaping the distribution of childcare work in middle-class and working-class families. In particular, this study, which is based on in-depth interviews with parents with preschool-age children, analyzes how gender and class are implicated in the impact of family policies on the distribution of childcare work.

Mary K. Zimmerman, University of Kansas, “Care Work as a Production of State-Market-Family Relations in Finland and the U.S.”

This paper compares social policies in Finland and U.S., arguing that the scope and content of carework is adjudicated by the state-market-family nexus. Data from 80 families with chronically ill children in both countries are used to examine carework,

the impact of serious illness on the family, and variation in illness experience according to state-market-family configurations.

Michaela Schunk, University of California, San Francisco, "Welfare States, Institutional Environments And Cultures Of Care: The Cross-National Comparison Of Care Delivery And Pathways Through Care For Older People"

With data from local case studies of care delivery for older people in the US, Germany and Britain, Schunk explores the benefits and limitations of two methodological approaches for the cross-national comparison of care, (1) model cases of pathways through care and (2) institutional ethnography.

Nancy Guberman, University of Quebec, Montreal, "Caregivers and Caregiving: New Trends and Their Implications for Social Policy and Practice"

Panel 8: Social Policy Meets Carework

Organizer/Presider: Nancy Marshall. Wellesley College

Andrew S. London, Kent State University, Ellen K. Scott, Kent State University and Kathryn Edin, University of Pennsylvania. "Health-Related Caregiving and Welfare Reform: The Choices Welfare-Reliant Women and Policy Makers Face"

This paper examines the experiences of welfare-reliant women who are providing community-based care to sick children or other relatives in the era of welfare reform. Data come from longitudinal, ethnographic interviews with women in Cleveland and Philadelphia, which were conducted as part of MDRC's Project on Devolution and Urban Change.

Karen Christopher, University of Arizona, "Single Mothers, the Welfare State, and Poverty: A Cross-National Analysis"

This paper combines theoretical arguments from the gender and the state literature with methods from the cross-national literature on poverty. Using data from the Luxembourg Income Study, this paper examines how welfare states based on different assumptions regarding mothers' care work affect mothers' economic outcomes in nine Western nations.

Melanie Peele, University of Connecticut, "A Hospice Ethic of Care? A Case Study of Ideology and Practice"

Based upon ongoing ethnographic research at a northeastern hospice I explore how typical interpretations of a "hospice ethic of care" are consistently and paradoxically defined and practiced by hospice staff and volunteers. My findings show that organizational changes within hospice transform both the "hospice ethic of care" and in-patient care.

Panel 9: Doing Carework in Families

Organizer: Andrew S. London, Kent State University

Presenter: TBA

Bonnie Fox, University of Toronto and Christa Kelleher, Brandeis University, "Changing Diapers and Changing Men: Differential Parenting Roles in Infant Care"

This study poses two main questions: What are the strategies women and men employ to manage infant caregiving within a context of privatized caregiving?; and Do women work to create an accommodating, comfortable atmosphere for men to participate in childcare, and if so, how? Data come from approximately 70 unstructured or semi-structured interviews conducted in the context of two distinct but intersecting studies of parenting and postpartum care based in Toronto, Canada. This research aims to enhance our understanding of the social dynamics of baby care in the home, the processes, structures, and institutions that underlie gender inequalities in caregiving, and the extent to which women and men are agents in shaping differential parenting roles.

JoAnn DeFiore, University of Washington, Bothell, "Comadres en el Barrio: The Cultural Practice of Co-Mothering in a Rural Paraguayan Neighborhood"

Two cultural practices that exist in Paraguayan culture serve to assist women in managing their day to day lives: comprazgo or godparenting, and its companion, comothering, a ritualized type of co-parenting. I examine the complexities of the two systems illustrating how they serve to increase women's power locally.

Demie Kurz, University of Pennsylvania, "Caring for Teenage Children: Issues and Dilemma"

The focus of this paper is parents', primarily mothers' management strategies in caring for their teenage children. The paper focuses on: their negotiations with their teenage children over a variety of social issues; the work they do in relation to their teens' schooling; and their conceptions and beliefs about the nature of this work.

Elaine Bell Kaplan and Christopher Davidson, University of Southern California. "Doing Care on the Run: How Working Parents Negotiate the Care of Young Adolescent Children"

Drawing on theories of care and in-depth interviews, this study identifies how working parents of young adolescents participate in a division of physical and emotional labor. The parents develop complex strategies that rely on gender and racialized experiences, and that have consequences for the emotional life of these families.

PANEL10: Theorizing Caring Labor: Inequality, Power & Invisible Value

Panel Organizer: Lynet Uttal, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Presenter: TBA

Paula England, University of Pennsylvania, "The Public Benefits and Private Costs of Caring Labor"

Caring labor that develops human capabilities has diffuse benefits to many members of society. The theoretical analysis suggests that because of the limited resources of those that most need care, and the fact that there is no way to make all the indirect beneficiaries of caring labor pay the care worker, this work, when paid at all, often has low pay. National data are used to show that, net of many other variables, there is a wage penalty for doing caring labor.

Allison J. Pugh, University of California, Berkeley, "What Sleep Can Tell Us About Care: Power, Ideology and Practice"

Pugh argues sleep is a form of care - of others and ourselves. People use sleep to express their ethos of care, and to organize dependence and autonomy. Relying on a notion of power as diffuse and mutable, Pugh analyzes varieties of sleep practices as communicating and contesting power in families.

David Merrill, University of Connecticut, "The Value of Care: Discourse and Nurses"

Based on a content analysis of hospital management literature, David Merrill argues that the medical and bureaucratic discourses genders and devalues nurses' work and overlook much of the important work that nurses do.

Andrea Sankar, Wayne State University and Emily Abel, University of California, Los Angeles, "Beyond Personal Experience: An Analysis of Caregiving Practice"

Based on in-depth interviews with caregivers of dying parents with dementia and people dying at home, Sankar and Abel use practice theory to analyze the content of caregiving work. They discover that caregiving practice creates a legacy for the care receiver, and enacts core cultural values through a) preserving life, b) sustaining social roles and resolving conflicts, c) providing care recipients opportunities to embody core values, and to provide a legacy for the caregiver. These activities explain why caregivers find their caregiving profoundly meaningful.

PANEL 11: Care Work in Extended Families

Panel Organizers: Judith Wittner, Loyola University and Naomi Gerstel, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

President: Sally Gallagher, Oregon State University

Discussant: Anne Roschelle, State University of New York, New Paltz

Shelley J. Eriksen, California State University, Long Beach. "Adult Siblings and Carework: The Effect of Gender, Parenthood, and Employment"

Based on original data, this paper analyzes the effect of gender, parenthood and employment on the amount and kind of help adults provide to siblings within and

across families. In so doing, it aims to reposition adult sibling relationships within the broader context of care work and kin resources, and to assess the structural constraints on such care that work and family often imposes.

Natalia Sarkisian, Mariana Gerena, and Naomi Gerstel, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. "More or Less Kin: Addressing Debates on Care Work in African American Communities"

Many argue that African American communities include abundant ties that ensure survival under conditions of economic hardship. Others suggest that recent changes destroyed these communities, leaving African Americans with fewer ties than Euro-Americans. To address this debate, we use NSFH to compare African and Euro-Americans co-residence and caregiving patterns.

Mariana Gerena, Natalia Sarkisian, Rachel Munoz, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "Detecting Distinctions: Latinas, Latinos, and Care Work"

Carework literature either conflates Latino/a groups into a single category or treats them separately, regardless of the questions posed. Question-specific and gender-sensitive analysis is required. Using the NSFH II, we compare the carework of Latina/o groups to each other and to Euro-Americans, stressing differences and similarities overall and by gender.

3:00-3:15 BREAK

3:15-4:30 PLENARY

Emily Abel, University of California, Los Angeles,
"Hot Teas, Hot Flannels, and a Great Deal of Care: American Women Caring for Kin, 1850-1940"

Nancy Folbre, University of Massachusetts, Amherst,
"The Invisible Heart: Economics and Family Values"

Demie Kurz, University of Pennsylvania
"The Study of Carework: Current Issues and Future Directions"

4:30 THE FUTURE OF THE CAREWORK NETWORK

Mary Tuominen, Denison University

4:45 RECEPTION

5:30 CONFERENCE CONCLUDES