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Transnational Care Markets: European Care Regimes in the Age of Migration

Conveners:

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Abstract:

Migrant family carers in Austria and Germany: The interplay of policy developments related to long-term care, migration and Europeanisation

During the 1990s Austria and Germany established long-term care schemes to provide support in situations of care dependency. Despite significant differences, the new policies in both countries combine universalism with a medium level of support and an emphasis on family or informal care provision, respectively, based on unregulated cash benefits. Recently, in both countries migrant carers have emerged within the family context. The development can be explained by the interplay of certain dimensions of long-term care policy designs, EU-policies, migration policies and efforts to regulate domestic work. Against the background of the migrant care work situation in both countries, the paper aims to analyse the processes of policy development in the relevant policy fields, their interplay and their results.

The paper combines conceptual approaches related to international comparative research on care policies, migration policies and Europeanisation in order to define the logic and the dynamics of the policy fields. New-institutionalist approaches with their emphasis on ideas, actors and institutions are used to exam the policy processes. The findings show the complex interrelationship of ideas, actors and institutions in the different policy fields and the related dynamics. Germany and Austria are selected as two case studies relevant to the development of policy processes with distinct patterns. The data sources include mainly information on policy designs and research findings on the care situation and on processes of policy development.

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