



The Research Network “Welfare Societies” invites to:

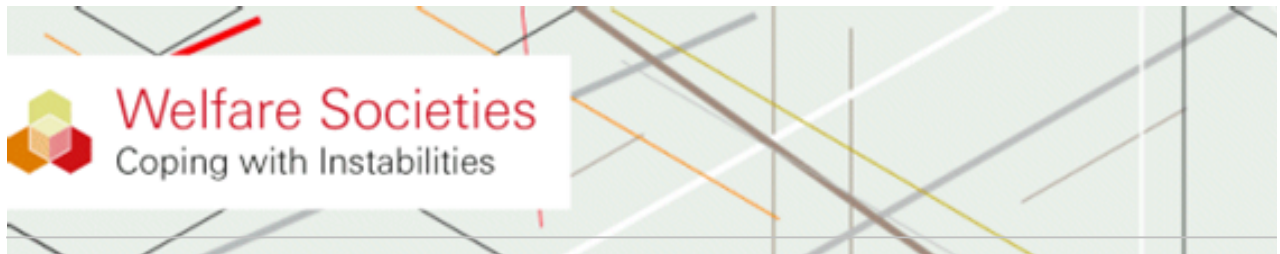
Workshop
“Relationistic Sociology and Care Relations in a Changing Welfare State”

Organized by:
Sigrid Graumann/Gesa Lindemann (University of Oldenburg)

Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg, Delmenhorst, July 28-29, 2011

Invited Experts

Prof. Dr. Frank Nullmeier, Bremen
Dr. Jan Fuhse, Bielefeld
Dr. Rainer Greshoff, Oldenburg
Dr. Gregor Fitzi, Oldenburg
Dr. Helen Kohlen, Vallendar
Prof. Dr. Jack Levinson, New York
Prof. Dr. Frieder Lang, Erlangen-Nürnberg
Prof. Dr. Norbert Ricken, Bremen
Yeyang Su, Beijing
Prof. Dr. Heinz Rothgang, Bremen
Prof. Dr. Anne Waldschmidt, Köln



Program

In the past, care for dependent persons was provided mainly within families. The social trust in adequate care for those who need it was based on the belief in the altruistic motivation of those caring (mothers, sisters, nurses, ...) and thus on gendered role expectations. However, the societal context of care is dramatically changing due to changing gender relations, family settings and welfare policies. Hence, the concepts and models of care are fundamentally changing as well. Two examples for this development are the new concept of personal assistance for persons with disabilities and the development of robots that care for elderly persons. The aim of personal assistance is to enhance the autonomy of persons with disabilities. Robots that care shall alleviate the pressure on health care systems. Both concepts can illustrate the changing character of care relations. Empirical research that is aimed at investigating such new concepts needs an adequate theoretical basis. However, this is not so easy to find.

Traditional sociological theory is usually based on the idea of interacting individuals and thus on more or less equally competent actors. The ideal type of interaction between such competent actors is marked by symmetry of freedom and power and by the reciprocity of expectations and of taking and giving. However, care relations are usually asymmetric and non reciprocal, particularly, if one partner is limited in her or his capacity to act or communicate and if she or he is dependent on the help, assistance or care provided by the other partner. This might not only make sociological research difficult but also lead to inadequate new concepts and policies of care. Therefore, alternative sociological concepts are needed to understand the character of such care relations.

Recent developments in sociological theory promise to address the problem of dealing with asymmetrical relations. Instead of equally competent actors, relationistic sociology focuses on relations as the elementary unit of methodological reduction. The workshop will explore the theoretical and methodological scope of relationistic approaches as well as their fruitfulness for empirical research in the field of care relations.



Time Table

Thursday, 28th of July

9:30 – 11:00	<i>Frank Nullmeier</i> : Basics of Social Theory – Between Action and Behavior, Practice and Relations
11:00-11:30	Coffee
11:30 – 13:00	<i>Jan Fuhse</i> : Relational Explanations in Quantitative Research Commentary: <i>Rainer Greshoff</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<i>Gesa Lindemann</i> : Relationistic Sociology and Care Relations
15:30 – 18:30	<i>Jack Levinson</i> : “Theorizing Care Relations” Commentaries: <i>Helen Kohlen</i> : “Ethics of Care” <i>Yeyang Su</i> : “Caring from a Chinese Point of View”
18:30	Dinner

Friday, 29th of July

9:30 – 11:00	<i>Heinz Rothgang</i> : “Changing Welfare Policies and Care Relations” (requested): <i>Anne Waldschmidt</i> : “On an Equal Basis with Others? Care and Personal Assistance from a Critical Disability Studies Perspective”
11:00-11:30	Coffee
11:30 – 13:00	<i>Frieder Lang</i> : “Societal Conditions of Aging”



Gregor Fitzi: "The Development of Robots That Care"

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Norbert Ricken: "Care Relations, Recognition and Power"

Sigrid Graumann: "Care Relations, Recognition and Dependency"

15:30 – 16:30

Round table: "Theorizing Care Relations"

Contact & Registration

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