

## Re-thinking Narrative Methods of Intersectional Research Gender, Migration, and Age(ing) in the Context of Care Practices

Workshops and Keynotes, 14-15 June 2023

In feminist research, it is standard practice to investigate experience-related knowledge in order to represent the lived realities of women. However, such knowledge can only be gathered using an intersectional perspective which allows for making diverse attributions of differences and social inequality.

Especially when considering the possibility of cultural and language barriers, both of which are hard to overcome for researchers socialized in Western Europe, the methodological diversity and participatory modality of *Narrative Inquiry* provides opportunities for creative exchange and transfer of knowledge(s) (Caine 2010).

Against this backdrop, this workshop on methodologies of aging and care research opens up a space for junior researchers (Pre-Doc and Post-Doc) getting to know each other and to have in-depth discussions on their research.

The first day workshop focuses on research projects in the field of Age(ing), Care, and Migration Studies which will be presented from a methodological viewpoint. Day two is dedicated to *Narrative Inquiry* as a practical research method.

On the evening of day one, the talks by **Prof. Mark Schweda** (University of Oldenburg, Germany) and **Prof. Vera Caine** (University of Victoria, Canada) will be open to public.

### Workshop - Day One

Wednesday, 14 June 2023, 10:00-17:15

GEWI Sitzungszimmer, University of Graz

Presentation of research projects in the field of Age(ing), Care, and Migration Studies.

### Evening Keynotes - Day One

Wednesday, 14 June 2023, 18:00-19:30

GEWI Sitzungszimmer, University of Graz

Moderation: Helen Kohlen (Vallendar, Germany)

**Vera Caine (Victoria, Canada):** *"Recollecting my father's life: Reconsidering the taken-for-granted in my work as a narrative inquirer"*

My interest in identity making and relationships has been long standing and has been shaped by my work as a narrative inquirer. I have come to recognize that imagination and a pull towards possibilities is inextricably intertwined with my life. As my father has developed dementia over these last few years, our ways of staying in relation have changed; they have been impacted by the cultural, social, familial, and institutional stories we live within. In this keynote, I lay out more clearly the ontological and epistemological commitments that underlay the methodological promises of narrative inquiry; commitments that also shape who I am in relation to my father and the experiences that bring us together. I describe how I have come to learn of my father's life and how this in turn has helped me to reconsider the taken-for-granted.

**Mark Schweda (Oldenburg, Germany):** *"Narratives of 'otherness' in the context of eldercare: Empirical findings and ethical implications"*

Discussions of care are often framed by an "ethics of proximity" highlighting the moral value of aspects like empathy, intimacy, and (familial) relationality. Especially in the field of eldercare, however, trends towards migrant care work, animal companionship, and technological assistance increasingly promote narratives of cultural, biological, or even ontological "otherness." The talk offers empirically informed ethical considerations on the dialectic of proximity and otherness in the context of care for older people. In doing so, it draws connections to postcolonial perspectives on the "othering" of advanced old age and associated experiences like frailty or dementia.

## **Workshop - Day Two**

Thursday, 15 June 2023, 10:00-17:00

GEWI Sitzungszimmer, University of Graz

**Vera Caine (Victoria, Canada):** *Introduction to Narrative Inquiry*

This workshop will assist those interested, or engaged in, narrative inquiry. The focus is on developing participants' understandings of, and commitment to, narrative inquiry as a complex relational research methodology. In conversation and through hands on explorations, participants will engage in writing, reading, and response groups throughout the workshop. Interactive activities will highlight the different components of narrative inquiry. The focus is on exploring various forms of field texts and possibilities for research texts, with particular attention to relational and ethical considerations in the inquiry process.

## **Concept and Organization**

- Mag. Anna-Christina Kainradl MA (Graz)
- Prof. Dr. Helen Kohlen (Vallendar, Germany and Graz)
- Prof. Dr. Ulla Kribernegg (Graz)
- Stefan Schweigler BA MA (Graz)
- Dr. Merle Weßel (Oldenburg, Germany)

Registration: [cirac@uni-graz.at](mailto:cirac@uni-graz.at)

The two workshops and the evening keynotes are part of the Elisabeth List Fellowship Project "Gender Matters: Aging, Care, and Migration."

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care (CIRAC)  
Schubertstraße 23/1, 8010 Graz, Austria  
phone +43 (0) 316 / 380-3670  
e-mail [cirac@uni-graz.at](mailto:cirac@uni-graz.at)