

Day One (15th January, 15:30-17:30)

Prof. Helma LUTZ

GOETHE-UNIVERSITÄT FRANKFURT-AM-MAIN

The Universal Employer?

A Critical Inquiry into Migrant Domestic and Care Work and Cash-for-Care Policies

Abstract

In her article *After the Family Wage: A Post-industrial Thought Experiment* Nancy Fraser (2013; 1994) questions the common logics of capitalist societies' organization of work and (private/family) life; she criticizes in particular that employment conditions in waged work have developed into a situation where the demands (time, flexibility and mobility) of the workplace have become the pacemaker for private/family life. This is also true for middle class dual earner families, the most important group of migrant domestic and care workers' employers in Europe. In my talk I will demonstrate with some examples from my own research the complex employer-employee relationship in the private household; I will then critically inquire the logic of neo-liberal 'cash -for-care' policies which ultimately leads to a situation where every person in need of care can potentially become a private employer.

By using feminist interventions – as those of Fraser, Williams and others – I will show that there are – at least in theory - alternatives to the Universal Employer Model; these, however, require a re-conceptualization as well as a re-evaluation of care work, a redistribution of resources and a new way of representing the work-life balance.

Bio

Helma Lutz is Professor of Sociology with special focus on Women's and Gender Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Goethe University Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany.

Professor Lutz is a co-director of the Cornelia Goethe Center for Women and Gender Studies at Goethe University; she is also board member of the Research Committee Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations (RC05), former Vice President of RC 38 (Biography and Society) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), and the current president of the German Research Committee Biographical Research of the German Sociological Association.

She is also associate editor of the *European Journal of Women's Studies* and member of the advisory board of *Feministische Studien* and of *Feminist Review* as well as co-editor of the book series *Geschlecht und Gesellschaft (Gender and Society)* with Springer Press.

Her main research topics are women's and gender studies, migration, intersectionality, racism and ethnicity, qualitative research methods and biographical research.

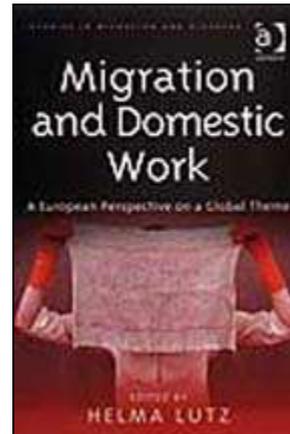
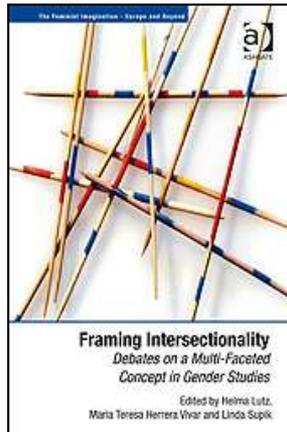
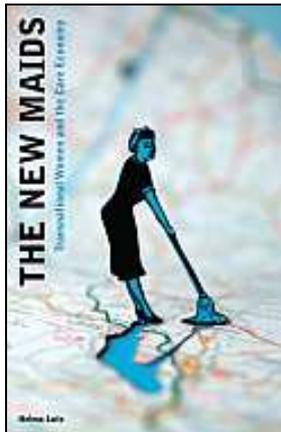
Abstracts & short bio of our Keynote speakers

Her publications include:

Helma Lutz (2011), *The New Maids. Transnational Women and the Care Economy*, London: Zed Books.

Helma Lutz, Maria Teresa Herrera Vivar & Linda Supik (2011) (eds), *Framing intersectionality: Debates on a multi-faceted concept in gender studies*, Farnham: Ashgate.

Helma Lutz (2008) (ed.), *Migration and Domestic Work. A European Perspective on a Global Theme*, Aldershot: Ashgate.



Day Two (16th January, 9:00-10:00)

Prof. Anna TRIANDAFYLLIDOU

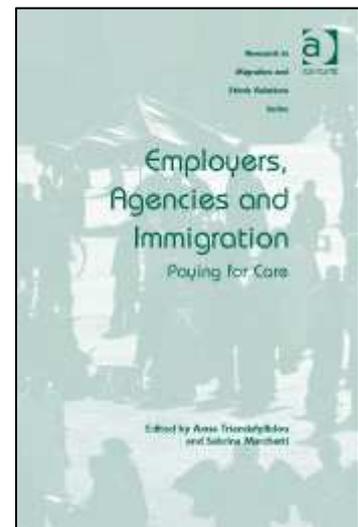
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

Paying for care: the changing role of employers in the domestic work sector.

Abstract

Employers of migrant domestic workers and home-careers are not employers like any others. They are a very special type of employers as they hire a worker in their own home, without necessarily being entrepreneurs or business owners. They often have not employed anyone in the past and are not aware of the employer-employee dynamics, nor have they received any training in business management. In addition, the home is a very special place of employment where the boundaries between the private relations of affection and the public relations of labour are closely intertwined. The migrant domestic worker or home-carer is called to perform tasks that pertain to the private sphere of the family including the caring of elderly or disabled people, their daily hygiene, cooking and cleaning, or the caring of young children and other house chores. Thus often the “place” of the work, the tasks involved and the working hours are, to say the least, flexible. In addition, the care work of looking after elderly people or young children in particular, has a strong affective dimension that skews domestic work towards the intimate sphere of family relationship rather than proper employment.

This presentation provides insights from different European countries as to how employers make sense of their caring and cleaning needs, how they relate to their ‘employees’, how they negotiate tensions in their daily family and working lives (such as tensions between perceived models of parenthood and long working hours, tensions between normative expectations of an adult daughter that cares for her elderly parents and the desire to break free from such family obligations). The presentation also discusses how the formal arrangements of paid domestic work are developing in different European countries, through the mediation of employment agencies, the emergence of specific legal and policy frameworks which frame domestic work relationships, and the transformation of the ‘employer’ from a care provider to a care manager and hence employer of a domestic worker. It is our contention that we can fully appreciate the issues and challenges involved in paid domestic work for citizens, migrants and policy makers, only if we include in our study a focus on employers, and not just on workers or policies as has been hitherto the case.



The presentation is based on the book (just published on 7 January 2015!): **Triandafyllidou, Anna and Marchetti, Sabrina (2015) (eds) *Employers, Agencies and Immigration. Paying for Care*. Aldershot: Ashgate.**

Bio

Anna Triandafyllidou is Professor at the Global Governance Programme (GGP) of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), European University Institute. Within the GGP she coordinates the Research Area on Cultural Pluralism. Before joining the Programme, she was part time professor at the RSCAS (2010-2012). During the period 2004-2012, she was Senior Fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) in Athens where she headed a successful migration research team. She has been Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges since 2002, and is a member of the Spinelli Group. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies. Professor Triandafyllidou received her PhD from the European University Institute in 1995 and held teaching and research positions at the University of Surrey (1994-95), the London School of Economics (1995-97), the CNR in Rome (1997-99), the EUI (1999-2004) and the Democritus University of Thrace. She was a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at New York University in 2001, and a Colston Fellow at the University of Bristol (2001-2002). She serves as national expert in the OECD Network of International Migration Experts (formerly SOPEMI) and acts as an evaluator of research projects for the European Research Council (Advanced and Consolidating Investigator Grants), the Research Framework Programmes of the European Commission (FP5, FP6, and FP7), the European Science Foundation, the Norface ERA-NET network, and several national research agencies (of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland).

Her main areas of research and teaching are the governance of cultural diversity, migration, and nationalism from a European and international perspective. Over the past 15 years, she has raised approximately 12 million Euros in research funds from European, international and national sources, and coordinated 30 international research projects in these research fields.

Her publications include more than 120 articles in refereed journals and chapters in collective volumes, five authored books and 19 edited and co-edited volumes. For a full list see www.annatriandafyllidou.com.

Day Two (16th January, 14:00-15:00)

Prof. Anna AMELINA

GOETHE-UNIVERSITÄT FRANKFURT-AM-MAIN

Female Migrant Care Workers as ‘Prisoners of Multiple Obligations’? Transnationalized Boundaries within the Assemblage of Care

Abstract

The presentation begins with the premise that the theory of global care chains requires a specification, if it should be used, to address the nexus between waged and non-waged care work provided by female migrant care workers in a cross-border realm. Using the results of the author’s empirical qualitative study on migration between Ukraine and Germany, the presentation analyses multi-local care commitments of female Ukrainian migrants: i) to their employer in the employer’s household, ii) to their husbands who live and work in Germany and iii) to their kin (usually older parents) who still live in Ukraine. Building the theory of assemblage, the presentation provides a conceptual framework, which allows bringing together subordination in the context of both waged care work and non-waged familial care obligations.

In essence, the talk provides insights in the central inequality mechanism behind the accumulation of disadvantages within the transnationalized assemblage of care, defined as the regime of intersection. ‘Regime of intersection’ is the nexus between knowledge, power and inequality, which temporarily stabilizes an interplay between various ‘axes of difference’ including gender, ethnicity/race, class, space etc. Using the results of the empirical study, the presentation indicates that on the one hand, the gendered narrative of ‘Making it Abroad’ (interviewees referred to) functions as the regime of intersection, which reproduces multiple forms of exploitation in both waged and non-wage contexts of care work. On the other, the narrative of “Making it Abroad” encounters specific political regulations of migration (i.e. the restrictions on residence and work permits) in the receiving country. Taken together, both regimes contribute to accumulation of disadvantages of the interviewed female migrants care workers.

Bio

Anna Amelina is Junior-Professor for Sociology with the focus on migrations studies at Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main. Her research interests include migration and mobility in the enlarged European Union, transnationalization of social inequalities and intersectional studies. She is also interested in the nexus between migration and welfare and the methodologies of transnational studies. Her current publications include:

Amelina, A., and A. Vasilache (2014): Mobile Inequalities in a Mobile Europe, Special Issue, *Migration Letters* 11(2) <http://tplondon.com/journal/index.php/ml/issue/view/12>

Amelina, A., and A., Vasilache (2014): The Shadows of Enlargement. Theorizing Mobility and Inequality in a Changing Europe, *Migration Letters* 11(2): 109-124
<http://tplondon.com/journal/index.php/ml/article/view/341> .