

## THE LETS-CARE DISSEMINATION APPOINTMENTS

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### [ESPANET Annual Conference 2025](#)

University of Milan (Italy), 27-29 August, 2025

Participants from the LeTs-Care Consortium: **Virginija Poškutė, Rūta Kazlauskaitė** (ISM)

Contribution: **“Unpacking the Meaning of Long-Term Care Needs: A Cross-Country Comparison”**

\*The presentation will be in the section: *Care Configurations: Welfare reform to address contemporary care challenges*

*The article provides a comparative cross-country analysis of LTC needs definitions, indicators used to forecast future LTC needs, and current most critical debates revolving around LTC needs in seven European countries representing different welfare state and long-term care models. The countries covered in this comparative analysis include Austria, Denmark, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. To provide a comparative cross-country analysis, we build on the document analysis and qualitative data collected through interviews with 121 LTC stakeholder representing national and regional level LTC policy makers, care organisers and providers in the above seven countries. This research is part of a larger Horizon “Learning from Long-Term Care practices for the European Care Strategy” (LeTs-Care) project.*

*Our paper starts with the analysis of LTC needs definitions in the seven countries. Our findings show that most of the “needs” definitions are related to a person’s ability to perform necessary daily tasks, including personal care. However, some countries are more “generous” in defining the needs in an older age: along with social and health care needs of older people, housing and financial support needs are mentioned as well. In addition, our research also disclosed that even though all countries under this study, irrespective of their LTC model (oriented to formal or informal care provision), are reliant on informal care of older people in, the needs of informal carers are not considered as “LTC needs” in all of them. Next, our paper discusses indicators used to evaluate current and future needs for long-term care at older age (mostly age and health related). The paper concludes with the discussion of current debates revolving around LTC needs (mostly related to unmet LTC needs, future growth of needs driven by population aging and the changing nature of LTC needs) in the selected countries.*

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### [Medical Anthropology Europe Conference](#)

University of Vienna (Austria), 16-19 September, 2025

Participants from the LeTs-Care Consortium: **Kristine Krause, Jeannette Pols, Sabya van Elswijk** (University of Amsterdam - UvA)

The UvA team is hosting **three panels**:

#### **10. Exploring healthcare and research as creative practices** (Conveners: **Annekatriin Skeide, Jeannette Pols**)

- *Explore socio-material approaches to conceptualizing health care practices and research as situated creative practices. How can we thoughtfully 'create' these practices through our research? What are conditions needed to make this creativity flourish, both in practice and research? What epistemologies can be developed with creativity as a starting point, and how do these relate to more standardized views of care and research? How can we engage with artistic forms of output? How can artistic methods be fruitfully used, and to what ends? How can creative methods allow for collaborations that invite research subjects to participate in ways they find acceptable, or even pleasant, while shifting or reframing researcher-research subject hierarchies?*
- *Examine the potential results of foregrounding creativity in healthcare. For instance, how does this focus blur the boundaries of what constitutes a healthy or sick individual physical body? How might it encourage us to conceptualize health and wellbeing in terms of navigating the complexities and enjoying the pleasures of everyday life? What are the socio-material consequences of creative healthcare practices? What role does creativity play in shaping ideas of the good life within medical anthropology? How might 'a good life' be defined, and how does this align with or diverge from medical understandings of health? Finally, what does creativity signify in this context?*

#### **34. Organizing Care as a research practice: Imaginative approaches** (Conveners: **Sabya van Elswijk, Matouš Jelínek**)

*Care is both a practical and theoretical matter. Practically, as Annemarie Mol suggests, someone must organize it, ensuring people and resources are in the right places to meet care needs. Theoretically, care involves understanding the underlying ideas, determining what constitutes right or wrong care, and its goals. Care policies and practice are often seen as dichotomous entities, but we propose viewing organization as a process that bridges theory and practice, making them adapt to each other. Inspired by Jeannette Pols work on "hanging out" and generative research as relational, participatory methods, there is a search for approaches that dismantle hierarchies, amplify marginalized voices, and co-produce situated knowledge. This session invites papers on the organizational aspects of long-term care, focusing on imaginative methodologies and critiquing the dichotomy between practice and policy. We welcome research that explores methodologically: - How care professionals organize care both theoretically and practically, and strategies to align policies with practice. - How practice and policies influence each other. - Organizational differences at various levels—managers, care workers, and middle persons—and their approaches. - Organizational hierarchies and structures within care institutions, their impact on care practice, and vice versa. - Necessary methodological innovations and novel approaches in social science for researching care organization. We seek contributions that share novel and imaginative approaches to fieldwork on care as a matter of organization, aiming to dismantle the dichotomy between practice – policy and push disciplinary boundaries.*

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**42. History in Care: Tracing Historical Entanglements** (Conveners: **Kristine Krause**, **Monika Palmberger**)

*This panel explores the lingering presence of history in spaces, practices, and narratives of care, challenging the tendency to focus only on the ‘new’ in moments of health and care crisis, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. This panel invites contributions that interrogate when and how history lingers on or returns in unexpected ways. Health crises such as Covid have exposed the often invisible role of care, revealed hidden hierarchies and prompted redefinitions of health and well-being.*

*Care practices - how, where, and by whom they are delivered - are shaped by historical legacies of interconnectedness and hierarchy, including colonial and imperial histories. These pasts not only influence individual experiences but also embed care within broader collectives, marked by status, gender, and racialized inequalities.*

*Bringing "historicity" back to medical anthropology and the anthropology of care, this panel invites papers that build on and expand seminal work in medical anthropology and care studies (e.g., *Medical Anthropology* 2018, 37(8), and *History and Anthropology* 2021, 32(4)). The focus is on the historical dimensions of:*

- *Spaces (regions and buildings) where care occurs,*
- *Practices, routines, and protocols of care,*
- *Entitlements, relationships, and belonging,*
- *Narratives and subject positions.*

*Privileging “history in care” over “history of care”, we understand care as a central element of social organisation (Thelen 2015) that can make historical entanglements visible in particular ways. We welcome contributions that address questions of who provides care, where care takes place, and how practices and narratives related to pasts evolve around care relations.*

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### [RC33 - 11th International Conference on Social Science Methodology](#)

University of Naples (Italy), 22-25 September, 2025

Participants from the LeTs-Care Consortium: **Lisa Waldenburger, Bernhard Weicht** (University of Innsbruck)

Contribution: **“Investigating Expertise: Navigating the Complexities of Analyzing Expert Interviews”**

*The expert interview as such is an essential qualitative method in sociological research. They provide insights into specific contexts and help to see it through the eyes of the experts. In addition, strategic arguments are also placed in expert interviews and trained narratives are replicated. Furthermore, divergent roles often arise when the expert detaches himself from his function as an expert and talk privately. This holds many potentials but also challenges for the analysis of expert interviews, which we want to elaborate in more detail.*

*The main point of reference so far in the analysis of expert interviews is the research interest and the associated methodological decision for the expert interviews themselves. Do I interview experts to gain deeper insights into the field? Or am I trying to grasp the power dynamics and positioning in the field? The first approach would probably lead to a qualitative content analysis in the evaluation, whereas the second would favor a critical discourse analysis or frame analysis. However, the specific approach then loses sight of the other.*

*Based on these considerations, we would like to address the existing blind spot in the analysis of expert interviews. So far, there have been few considerations that differ from the analysis of non-expert interviews. The rigid use of specific analytical methods can also be questioned in view of the richness of expert interviews. By using empirical findings from the LeTs-Care project, we want to present practical research considerations for the analysis of expert interviews. In the EU-Horizon-project, more than 100 expert interviews in the field of long-term care were conducted. We want to focus on the Austrian context and aim to provide an integrative approach to analyzing expert interviews that does justice to the richness of the data collected and strengthens the method as such.*

Participants from the LeTs-Care Consortium: **Pamela Pasian, Barbara Da Roit** (Università di Venezia Ca' Foscari)

Contribution: **“Sensing a nursing home. Reflections on emotions in a multi-sited ethnographic study of long-term care facilities”**

*The ethnographic immersion in a long-term care facility for older people encompasses participating in an emotional and bodily experience through all senses: the sight of aged and impaired bodies, the hearing of voices, cries, recognizable smell. Considering that emotions are a constitutive element of the reflexive process and its feeding, in this contribution we reflect on how this “sensing” and the associated emotions condition our work as ethnographers in the way we construct and analyze our data.*

*We adopt an emotional reflexivity approach (Holmes, 2010, 2015; Burkitt, 2012) to analyze the embodied and relational process through which social actors become aware of their emotions and make them an integral part of their own reflective processes. The underlying assumption is that all*

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*emotions are relational phenomena generated in the exchange and interactions in which we researchers are involved (Denzin, 1984). We assume that the relational aspect is also decisive in the analysis and interpretation of the data, since the memory of the emotions felt during interviews or participant observation will inform the process of data analysis.*

*The reflection we propose based on these premises draws, first, on the experience of the author with immersion in similar observational fields and on the exchange and discussion of the relative fieldnotes. In addition, we include the discussions of results with a team of researchers engaged in a cross-national multi-sited ethnographic project.*

*We find that acknowledging and widening emotional repertoires is essential not only to enlarge the scenarios and possible interpretive frames in attempts to understand the complexity of the social (Sclavi, 2003), but also to identify new methodological and epistemological frameworks.*