

Symposium: Transnational Social Support: Care, Social Policy and History in a transnational world

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Transnationalism has received increasing attention in social sciences and other disciplines in recent years. The concept reflects the growing incidence of border crossings by migrants, the transnationalization of care, education, cultural practices and work opportunities, as well as the political, social and cultural influences of transnational organizations and networks. Nation states and their key institutions are losing their importance as these social flows transcend national boundaries and connect formerly separate social worlds. Social work and other social support systems are highly influenced by these developments. They can no longer be understood and analyzed through relationships and structures that are based solely on individual nation states. Yet, social work is only just beginning to systematically reflect on these new developments.

Therefore, the International Research Cluster "Transnational Social Support" (TSS) aims to contribute to the transnational opening and development of social work and related fields. Its main objective is to make the concept of transnationalism part of their knowledge structure and practice, in order to extend and transform their current nationally-shaped concepts, research and methods.

The symposium aims to present and especially discuss central research interests of the Cluster TSS by focusing on three fields:

- The Transnational Organization of Care
- Transnational Social Policy and
- Transnational Histories

Thereby we want to elaborate in which way these fields are interwoven and are influencing social support systems and social work practices as well as theories.

Keywords: Social Work, Social Support, Care, Social Policy, History, Transnational